



## 2018 ADAMHS Board Budget

Valeria A. Harper, Chief Executive Officer of the ADAMHS Board presented the **Calendar Year 2018 funding recommendations to the Board on November 15**. This **proposal was a working document that contained information our Board will need to make an informed decision** on whether to approve the document as is or with recommend changes. This decision will be made by the end of the year.

The **Board's overall budget remains slightly over \$67 million**. However, the **Board will be strained to continue to support individuals in need of mental health and addiction recovery services at the current level**, particularly for services that are not covered by insurance, during the midst of combating this opioid epidemic.

In preparing the 2018 budget recommendation, the following was considered:

- The **County Executive has designated \$39 million in funding from the Health & Human Services levies for Calendar Years 2018 & 2019**. This is the **same level of funding** that the Board received in Calendar Years 2016 & 2017.
- The **\$3.5 million in discretionary State funding** for prevention, mental health and addiction treatment and recovery support services, is **\$5 million less than we were receiving four years ago**.
- There is **\$6.8 million in discretionary Federal grant funding** available to the Board.

For these reasons, a **recommendation was made to our Board to only enter into one-year contracts with provider agencies** for Calendar Year 2018. Even after **reducing our administration budget by \$300,000 or 5.3%**, it will not be possible for the Board to support all of the programs previously funded in 2016 & 2017.

The **Mental Health and Addiction Advocacy Coalition (MHAC)** organized a variety of **providers, clients and family members to provide testimony to Cuyahoga County Council** on November 27. The **advocates spoke on the importance of funding to the ADAMHS Board** to maintain valuable recovery support services.



Valeria A. Harper, CDCA, CEO, ADAMHS Board (center) with (l-r) A. J. Groeber, Executive Director, State Medical Board of Ohio; Thomas P. Gilson, MD, Medical Examiner of Cuyahoga County; Mark Hurst, MD, Medical Director, Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services; Clint Koenig, MD, Medical Director, Ohio Department of Health; Merle R. Gordon, Director, Cleveland Department of Public Health and Farid Sabet, MD, Chief Clinical Officer, ADAMHS Board at the Take Charge Ohio Kick-off.

## Take Charge Ohio Campaign Launched at ADAMHS Board

Valeria A. Harper, Chief Executive Officer of the ADAMHS Board was **pleased that the Ohio Department of Health selected the ADAMHS Board offices to launch the Take Charge Ohio Campaign in the Cleveland area**. As she opened the press conference on November 28, she stated **"It is only fitting that we are able to host this launch since the Board is a partner in combating the opioid/heroin crisis in our community."**

Ms. Harper briefly **shared some highlights** of the efforts that the ADAMHS Board is doing here in Cuyahoga County to address the crisis. After touching on the highlights she mentioned that the **Board is equally eager to be a partner**

**with the Ohio Department of Health to spread the word through the Take Charge Ohio Campaign** to inform our residents about the dangers of misusing prescription pain medication and how to safely manage pain.

**Mark Hurst, MD** -Medical Director, Ohio Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Services; **Clint Koenig, MD** - Medical Director, Ohio Department of Health; **A.J. Groeber** - Executive Director, State Medical Board of Ohio; **Merle R. Gordon** - Director of Cleveland Department of Public Health; **Thomas P. Gilson, MD** - Medical Examiner of Cuyahoga County and **Farid Sabet, MD** - Chief Clinical Officer, ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County also participated in the press conference.

The **Take Charge Ohio Campaign** was **developed to help opioid prescribers educate their patients and the public about the dangers of misusing prescription pain medication and how to safely manage pain**. The campaign is **grant funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** and was developed in partnership with several state agencies and boards that are members of the Governor's Cabinet Opiate Action Team. To find out more and download campaign materials, visit [www.takechargeohio.org](http://www.takechargeohio.org).

## ADAMHS Board Employee Highlight: Tom Williams

**Tom Williams** is the Evaluation and Research Officer for the ADAMHS Board. He began working with the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board (ADAS Board) in January of 2002 and became part of the ADAMHS Board after the 2009 consolidation. Tom is a dedicated employee, whose expertise in data evaluation of program outcomes helps the Board identify best practices and areas with room for improvement.



*Tom Williams,  
Evaluation & Research Officer*

In his day-to-day duties, Tom evaluates programs based on results; works with a “great team” of people to integrate the SHARES system; and, provides technical assistance to providers as they work with program data. Once a math teacher, Tom enjoys helping people understand data and how it can be used to enhance programming. He recalled a time when the data at a Detox Center showed marked improvement in retention rate of its clients. He shared the data with the organization and asked what they had done differently during that time frame. It turned out they were physically walking the clients down the hall to their next level of treatment. That small change made a significant positive outcome change for the program. It is examples like that one that Tom said are the best rewards for his work.

Tom said the most challenging part of his job is helping people see the value and importance of data collection and evaluation. To help overcome that barrier and improve his evaluation skills, Tom is a member of the American Evaluators Association (AEA) and sits on the Board of its local affiliate, the Ohio Program Evaluators Group. He also serves as the Co-Chair of the AEA local working group that is helping bring an international conference to Cleveland next year to cover issues on program evaluation design, data collection, evaluation implementation, results presentation and its practical use.

Tom’s supervisor, **John Garrity, Ph.D.**, Chief Quality Officer says, “Tom is always positive in outlook, and is extremely dedicated. He is a thoughtful listener; patient and collaborative. He is respected as a skilled data analyst and evaluator within our local system and throughout the state. His contributions are a great asset to the ADAMHS Board, and he’s a great person to work with!”

In his spare time, Tom is an assistant Scout Master with the Boy Scouts of America; enjoys hiking and backpacking in the mountains; and gardening. His proudest personal achievements are his children and grand son; and his greatest achievement at work is when he helps providers realize how the data can be used to assist clients and manage their organizations. He was honored with the 2016 Roberta O’Keefe Award by the Ohio Program Evaluator’s Group (OPEG) for “Serving and Promoting OPEG in an exceptional manner.” When asked what motivates him, Tom replied, “Working with a dedicated group of co-workers, who put all else aside to best serve our clients and their families.”

**“A Kind Word is Never Wasted”**

- Unknown

## William M. Denihan Honored at Care Alliance’s 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Let’s Talk Turkey: A Masquerade Ball

Care Alliance honored **William M. Denihan**, former CEO of the ADAMHS Board, for his **commitment, compassion, dedication and years of public service in various capacities to the Cuyahoga County community**, during its **Masquerade Ball** on November 4. **Proceeds** from this black-tie gala benefit Care Alliance’s Substance Abuse programming.

**Eugenie Kirkland**, Chair of the ADAMHS Board; **Valeria A. Harper**, Chief Executive Officer of the ADAMHS Board and **Scott Osiecki**, Chief of External Affairs for the ADAMHS Board, attended this event to pay tribute to Mr. Denihan.

*Eugenia Kirkland, ADAMHS Board Chair, (l) displays the award given to William M. Denihan, former ADAMHS Board CEO, (standing right) by Care Alliance recognizing his many contributions to the community. Valeria A. Harper, CDCA, ADAMHS Board CEO and Scott Osiecki, ADAMHS Board Chief of External Affairs were also in attendance at this event honoring Mr. Denihan.*



## Client Holiday Party and Lunch-N-Learn: December 12

The **2017 Client Holiday Party and Lunch-N-Learn will take place on December 12** at the Cleveland Airport Marriott Hotel. There will be a plated lunch, music, dancing and so much fun! The theme of the Lunch-N-Learn portion of the party is **Coping with the Holidays**.

The ADAMHS Board is hosting this event to celebrate the holidays with clients, as well as offer tips to cope with the stresses of the season.

If you are interested in **finding out more about the Client Holiday Party, please contact Vicki Roemer**, Administrative Assistant II, at 216-241-3400, ext. 809.

### Board of Directors

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Valeria A. Harper, MA, CDCA, *Chief Executive Officer*



Lottie Gray, MSSA, LISW-S

## Lottie Gray Honored with Prestigious Sokolov Mental Health Leadership Award

**Lottie Gray** MSSA, LISW-S, Recovery Resources' Manager of the Conditional Release Unit and ACT Teams and Forensic Monitor, was **awarded the Howard Sokolov Forensic Mental Health Leadership Award** at the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addictions (OhioMHAS) Forensic Conference on November 1.

The Mental Health Leadership Award, given in memory of the great forensic psychiatrist, Howard Sokolov, recognizes excellence in the Ohio forensic mental health system by honoring an individual or program involved in a direct practice, program, policy-making and/or planning role who influences forensic mental health services by consistently reflecting a commitment to excellence, recognition of dignity and worth of the client, the security and safety of the community and dedication to providing quality forensic mental health services.

**Congratulations** to Ms. Gray for receiving this prestigious award.

## Well-Wishes to Debra Rex on her Retirement

After 26 years at Beech Brook, with 12 years as Chief Executive Officer and four years with the added responsibility of President, **Debra Rex retired on November 17 -- or as she calls it, "letting go!"** Ms. Rex has been a vital leader in the health and human services industry in Cuyahoga County. Through her work, Beech Brook has made a positive impact on the lives of thousands and thousands of children and advocated for public policy changes that support children and youth and families, especially those who are most vulnerable.

Under her leadership, Beech Brook was an excellent community partner. All of us at the **ADAMHS Board wish Ms. Rex the best in all of her future endeavors and thank her for her tireless service to our community.**



Debra Rex, M.A., M.Ed.

## Congratulations to Thomas P. Royer, MPA



Thomas P. Royer, MPA

Beech Brook Executive Vice President **Thomas P. Royer, MPA, was named President/CEO of Beech Brook.** Mr. Royer has served the organization in many capacities since joining the staff in 1991, beginning in direct service positions with children and families and moving up through a number of leadership roles. Most recently, he has overseen all programs and services and represented Beech Brook externally with many groups and collaborators.

For Tom, Beech Brook has always been more than just a place to work. Caring for Beech Brook kids – as group home parents, cottage leaders, and adoptive parents to a residential child – has been a multigenerational mission for the Royer family.

**We congratulate Mr. Royer and look forward to working with him in this new position.**



## Ms. Harper's Views about President's Public Health Emergency Declaration

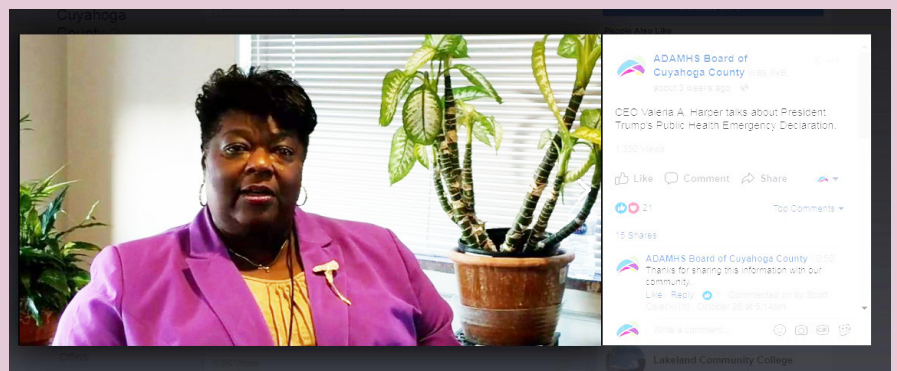
**Valeria A. Harper**, Chief Executive Officer, **shared her views via Facebook Live about the President's Public Health Emergency Declaration of the Opioid epidemic** and how it will impact Cuyahoga County residents. **This video reached nearly 3,000 people**, allowing the ADAMHS Board's voice to be heard in the midst of this epidemic.

**Positive highlights** include:

- Eliminating barriers to treatment, such as the IMD Rule, which doesn't allow facilities to have more than 16 treatment beds per location.
- Increasing prevention programs and awareness campaigns
- Additional funding to help combat the crisis.

**Areas that still need attention:**

- Details of the plan, including how and when the changes will come to prevention and treatment programs.
- When and how additional funding will be distributed.
- Any delay in fulfilling this plan is detrimental during this crisis and more lives will be lost, especially here in Cuyahoga County.



*Valeria A. Harper, CDCA, CEO of the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County shared her views on the President's recent Declaration of the Opioid Epidemic as a Public Health Emergency via Facebook Live. Her comments reached nearly 3,000 people. If you missed the live presentation, you can view it on the Board's Facebook page @ADAMHSBCC.*

## YouthMOVE Ohio in Cuyahoga County



In 2016, the ADAMHS Board was awarded a grant through YouthMOVE Ohio to begin developing a local youth council in Cuyahoga County. The goal is to involve youth and young adults ages 14-24 with lived experiences as key stakeholders to influence system changes. YouthMOVE Ohio is a statewide youth-led organization devoted to improving services and systems to support youth inclusion, mental wellness, positive supports and healthy transitions to adulthood.

The YouthMOVE Ohio Council of Cuyahoga County is comprised of 10 Youth Leaders who meet regularly at the ADAMHS Board to provide feedback, advocacy and raise awareness about issues impacting youth, including mental health, substance abuse and child welfare. ADAMHS Board staff, Maggie Spellman, LPCC-S, Children's Behavioral Health Specialist, and Myra Henderson, LISW-S, Adult Behavioral Health Specialist II, as well as staff from the Life Exchange Center serve as Adult Supporters to the Council.

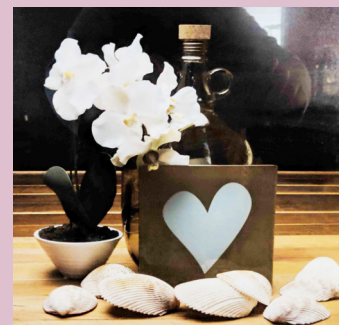
In November 2017, the YouthMOVE Ohio Council raised awareness of available crisis support services by distributing over 1,500 Crisis Text Line wristbands and other materials in eight high schools across Cuyahoga County. In 2018, the YouthMOVE Ohio Council plans to organize activities related to youth leadership development and Child Mental Health Awareness Week. Visit [www.ohioyouthmove.org](http://www.ohioyouthmove.org) for more information.

## Call for Artists: 2018 Client Artwork Display Program

The ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County is calling for artists to display their artwork as part of the 2018 Client Artwork Display Program. This Program:

- Showcases Client and Consumer Artwork
- Highlights Provider Agencies
- Recognizes the Benefits of Art Therapy
- Celebrates the Recovering Community

*Sample of Client Artwork Submission:  
Photograph by Robin D.*



Each month, two-dimensional artwork (paintings, sketches, drawings, etc.) created by clients within the ADAMHS Board system will be featured in the Ohio Room at the ADAMHS Board's offices. Artwork from different artists will be displayed each month and exhibit months are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. To participate in this program, please complete the application posted on our website: [www.adamhsc.org](http://www.adamhsc.org). If you have questions about this program, please contact Beth DeJesus, External Affairs Officer via e-mail to [dejesus@adamhsc.org](mailto:dejesus@adamhsc.org) or by calling 216-241-3400, ext. 812.

## More ADAMHS Board On the Go Highlights!

### October 26: 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Break The Silence... Break the Cycle Luncheon

The ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County attended the Domestic Violence & Child Advocacy Center's 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Break the Silence...Break the Cycle luncheon featuring domestic violence survivor and advocate, Melissa Dohmes.

### October 27: Crisis Intervention in the Courtroom Web Conference

Carole Ballard, MSSA, LISW, ADAMHS Board CIT Program Officer, and a team of magistrates held a web training conference for Ohio Municipal and Common Pleas magistrates and judges to help them identify signs of rising emotions in people within the courtroom setting; avoid or diffuse escalating behavior; and, effectively deal with people who are in crisis. The conference included a panel discussion with Chief Magistrate Barbara Reitzloff and Magistrate Sandra Lewis from Cleveland Municipal Housing Court. There were 70 participants from around the state. The training was sponsored by the Supreme Court of Ohio Judicial College.

### November 18: Careers in Health and Medical Professions (CHAMPS)

Twenty urban high school juniors and seniors interested in professions in the healthcare and medical professions attended a Saturday Workshop on Opioid Addiction as part of the CHAMPS program. This event was held at Cleveland State University. Beth DeJesus, ADAMHS Board External Affairs Officer, presented a PowerPoint about the signs and symptoms of opiate addiction.

### November 18: Suicide Prevention Fundraiser and Concert

A concert featuring 45 Spider, Johnny Elvis and the Crown Electrics and The Edgelords was held and proceeds support ADAMHS Board Suicide Prevention efforts. Special thanks to Rita Jermann for hosting this event that raised over \$800. Beth DeJesus, ADAMHS Board External Affairs Officer, represented the Board and staffed an information table.

As of November 29, Valeria A. Harper, MA, CDCA, has been the Chief Executive Officer of the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County for 121 Days!

Happy  
Holidays