

**ALCOHOL, DRUG ADDICTION & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY
RESOLUTION NO. 09-03-03-J**

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO HOUSE BILL 1

WHEREAS, the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County (ADAMHS) is grateful for the attention that the Ohio General Assembly is paying to HB1 to ensure Ohio's alcohol, drug addiction and mental health funding, and that HB 1 is striving to return Ohio's behavioral health system to SFY 09 funding as originally allocated in the 08-09 biennial budget; and,

WHEREAS, Ohio is in an economic crisis and the number of uninsured and underinsured residents of Ohio are seeking alcohol, drug addiction and mental health treatment and support services from local Board is on the rise, and are largely Ohio's working poor, many of whom are not eligible for Medicaid coverage; and,

WHEREAS, as the local government to which the General Assembly has delegated ultimate responsibility to provide a community system of care for the seriously mentally ill and addicted in our community, the CCCMHB would like to take this opportunity to request help to address several issues viewed as problematic in HB1; and,

WHEREAS, attached to this resolution is a document explaining our language concerns and recommendations that we believe the General Assembly will find reasonable and constructive suggestions reflective of the economic conditions we are facing and align with the categories of 1. Making the most of limited resources; 2. Language changes to protect our local community system of care, and 3. Tools to improve efficiency and effectiveness; and,

WHEREAS, it is imperative that we ensure that ALL Ohioans have access to community based alcohol, drug addiction and mental health services, and that the evidence is irrefutable - in the absence of access to community based behavioral health services, Ohio pays more in other GRF funded systems such as state hospitals, adult and youth prisons, child welfare, and physical healthcare funded through Medicaid, and if the goal is to invest wisely in times of economic difficulty, adequately funding and managing publicly funded behavioral health services is a wise fiscal choice to make.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The ADAMHS Board of Directors strongly encourages Governor Strickland and the General Assembly to review the document explaining our language concerns and recommendations regarding HB 1.

2. A copy of this resolution will be provided to Governor Strickland; John Haseley, the Governor's Chief of Staff; Pari Sabety, Director of Ohio's Office of Budget Management; ODMH Director Sandy Stephenson, ODADAS Director Angela Dawson, Speaker of the House Armond Budish, Vernon Sykes, Chair of the House Finance Committee; Members of the Cuyahoga County State Delegation, and Cheri Walter, Director of OACBHA.

On the motion of Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., seconded by Mary R. Warr, the foregoing resolution was adopted unanimously.

AYES: R. Fowler, K. Gambatese, B. Gohlstin J. Hnanicek, A. Leopard, M. McElrath, C. Miller, H. Snider, C. Still Noble, L. Thomas, E. Thoms, M. Warr, A. Williams

DATE ADOPTED: March 19, 2009