

**ALCOHOL, DRUG ADDICTION & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY
RESOLUTION NO. 09-03-04-J**

**SUPPORT FOR FUNDING FROM THE STIMULUS BILL FOR
MENTAL HEALTH & ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County (ADAMHS) is grateful to Governor Strickland for recognizing the need to allocate \$100 million dollars of stimulus funds in the FY10 and FY11 state biennial budget to keep the Ohio Department of Mental Health's (ODMH) 505 line almost whole, and the \$6.47 million dollars to the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) that will keep its funding almost level; and,

WHEREAS, unfortunately, based on the final stimulus budget as passed, it seems that Ohio will not receive quite as much money as projected, leaving the Governor with difficult funding decisions, and the CCCMHB strongly believes that neither ODMH nor ODADAS can afford any reductions to the budgets as proposed; and,

WHEREAS, further reductions in services are especially devastating as our weakening economy truly has an impact on the population's mental health as people lose their jobs and homes, many will suffer with depression and the emotional strain of caring for their families; the loss of a job comes the loss of health insurance which further exacerbates the situation; and,

WHEREAS, the safety net of community mental health and alcohol and other drug addiction treatment services is unraveling due to prior budget cuts, and the behavioral health system should be the last to endure reductions to ensure that services are available for the community; and,

WHEREAS, more than 400,000 Ohio men, women and children received publicly funded services for mental illness and/or substance abuse disorders in SFY 2008, yet we know that many more went untreated and with the budget cuts to Ohio's system of community-based behavioral healthcare in FY09 even fewer people who need treatment and recovery support services will be able to access them; and,

WHEREAS, the evidence is irrefutable – appropriately funding alcohol, drug addiction and mental health care results in decreased pressure and costs in other tax-funded systems, such as state hospitals, adult and youth prisons, child welfare, and physical health care funded through Medicaid, and without this funding some of Ohio's most vulnerable citizens with addictions and/or mental illness face a bleak future without the treatment and supports they need in order to live healthy productive lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The ADAMHS Board of Directors strongly encourages Governor Strickland to ensure that a fair portion of funding from the Federal Stimulus Bill be allocated to ODMH and ODADAS so that community mental health and alcohol and other drug addiction treatment services will be available to the residents of Ohio.
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 Harvey Snider, seconded by Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., the foregoing resolution was adopted unanimously on March 19, 2009.

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