

ALCOHOL, DRUG ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO. 10-06-05

SUPPORT OF FINANCE PLAN FOR SUSTAINING MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES

**WHEREAS**, the *loss in General Revenue Funding (GRF)* in the *State budget for mental health and alcohol and drug addiction services has been catastrophic* in the past several years, and without the Federal funds received through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), community behavioral health funding would have *suffered even further devastating cuts*; and,

**WHEREAS**, the insufficient funding for the Ohio Department of Mental Health's (ODMH) line items 408 and 505, seriously calls into question whether ODMH and the State of Ohio are meeting the mandates of the Mental Health Act of 1988, and the inadequate funding for the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) line item 401 fails to allow necessary services to be provided; and,

**WHEREAS**, conservative estimates indicate that in FY 2012, ODMH and ODADAS will not have sufficient funds to distribute to the local boards of community behavioral health to cover the Medicaid match unless the State of Ohio allocates additional GRF funds to cover the community behavioral health Medicaid match.

**THEREFORE**, in an effort to avert this financial crisis in community behavioral health funding, the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities proposes the following financing structure to begin in SFY 2012 and the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County Board of Directors supports its adoption and implementation:

- 1. The Community Behavioral Health Medicaid Match shall be funded out of the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services (ODJFS) 525 line.**
  - a. The State of Ohio must allocate more General Revenue Funds for community behavioral health.
  - b. Behavioral healthcare is healthcare, and there should be no distinction in how Medicaid match is funded for physical and behavioral healthcare services. The Federal Government has ensured parity for behavioral health services in healthcare reform, and Ohio should do so as well by funding behavioral health and physical health through the 525 line item.
  
- 2. Boards shall not be required to utilize local levy funds for the purpose of Medicaid match.**
  - a. Voters passed levies to support locally identified needs, not a state entitlement.
  - b. There will continue to be individuals without insurance and adequate income to afford treatment services. Additionally, there will always be a need for non-Medicaid eligible recovery support services that are essential in allowing individuals to live independently in the community.
  
- 3. ODMH line items 408 and 505, as well as the ODADAS line item 401, shall be fully funded, with the dollars being allocated to communities.**
  - a. A base level of mental health and addiction services must be available for all Ohioans whether they are Medicaid eligible or not.
  - b. Treatment services without support services are often minimally effective. To ensure the best outcome, individuals with a mental illness and/or addiction must have access to recovery support services in addition to treatment in order to achieve independence in the community.

The ADAMHS Board Chief Executive Officer is hereby authorized to advocate for and promote the above Finance Plan for Sustaining Mental Health and Addiction Service in the State of Ohio.

On the motion of Bob Fowler, seconded by Rev. Benjamin Gohlstin, the foregoing resolution was unanimously adopted.

**AYES:** R. Blue, C. Brown, E. Cash, B. Fowler, B. Gohlstin, P. Jones, H. Snider, E. Thoms, M. Warr, A. Williams

**DATE ADOPTED:** June 23, 2010