



RESOLUTION NO. 10-09-01

Call for the Ohio General Assembly to Adequately Fund Behavioral Health Services to Ensure Access for All Ohioans in Need of Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services

WHEREAS, the members of the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County are committed to assuring that residents of Cuyahoga County live healthier lives through access to quality mental health, alcohol and other drug prevention, treatment and support services; and,

WHEREAS, two out of every three Ohioans are impacted by a friend and/or family member with a mental illness and/or substance abuse problem; and,

WHEREAS, behavioral health care is treatment of mental illness and addiction, and health care is the treatment of the body, and since the brain is an essential part of the body, Behavioral Health Care IS Health Care!; and,

WHEREAS, State General Revenue Funds for community based mental health and substance abuse services in Ohio were cut disproportionately in the last biennial budget; and,

WHEREAS, Ohio must address the fact that an increasing number of County Boards cannot meet the Medicaid match for behavioral health services within the existing Medicaid population; and,

WHEREAS, fewer and fewer severely mentally ill and addicted Non-Medicaid eligible clients are being provided services due to the continued erosion of the behavioral health safety net; and,

WHEREAS, the critical condition of community alcohol, drug addiction and mental health services has become so pervasive and acute that vulnerable Ohioans are suffering and dying needlessly.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ADAMHS BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY:

1. Believes that ***Behavioral Health Care IS Health Care.***
2. Recommends that the **Community Behavioral Health Medicaid Match is funded out of the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services (ODJFS) 525 line.**
3. Recommends that **Boards should not be required to utilize local levy funds to match Medicaid.**
4. Recommends that both the **Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) line items 408 and 505, as well as the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADS) line item 401, remain fully funded with the dollars being allocated to the Boards for services in the community.**
5. **Respectfully requests that the Ohio General Assembly accept the above recommendations as steps to begin adequately funding behavioral health services in Ohio.**
6. Directs that this resolution be sent to **Governor Ted Strickland ; Sandra Stephenson, Director of ODMH; Angela Cornelius Dawson, Director of ODADAS, Cheri Walter, CEO of the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA), and each member of the Cuyahoga County Delegation in the Ohio House and Senate.**

ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County

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On the motion of Reginald C. Blue, Ph.D., seconded by Rick A. Kemm, MNO, the following resolution was adopted unanimously.

AYES: David E. Biegel, Ph.D., Reginald C. Blue, Ph.D., Eugenia Cash, J. Robert Fowler, Ph.D., Pythias Jones, M.D., Rick A. Kemm, MNO, Rev. Charlotte Still Noble, J. Richard Romaniuk, Ph.D., Harvey A. Snider, Esq., Ericka L. Thoms, Mary R. Warr, Anngela Williams

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

DATE ADOPTED: September 29, 2010