

RESOLUTION NO. 11-03-01

Call for the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Governor John Kasich to Reconsider the Decision Not to Build a New State Mental Health Hospital in Cleveland

WHEREAS, on February 18, 2011, the Ohio Department of Mental Health announced its decisions to close the Cleveland Campus of Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare by July 1, 2011, and not build the new State Mental Health Hospital in Cleveland – but instead expand its Northfield Campus in Summit County; and,

WHEREAS, Closing the Cleveland Campus and not building the new State Mental Health Hospital in Cleveland will force consumers requiring inpatient mental health services to be admitted to the Northfield Campus; and,

WHEREAS, There was an agreement between the City of Cleveland and ODMH since 2009 to build the new State Mental Health Hospital in Cleveland, and nearly \$84 million was set aside in the capital budget for construction, and the City of Cleveland spent over \$4 million to prepare the site; and,

WHEREAS, ODMH has also decided to use any remaining capital dollars from the expansion at the Northfield Campus to update other state hospitals throughout the State of Ohio; and,

WHEREAS, Closing of the Cleveland Campus and not building the new hospital in Cleveland is very bad for consumers of mental health services:

- Out of the 1,500 total admissions to Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare in FY 2010 and to date in FY 2011, 97% - or more than 1,470 - are residents of Cuyahoga County.
- Having residents of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County admitted to a hospital in Summit County will place another burden on the consumers' families by having to arrange for transportation to see their loved ones, as well as for discharge.
- ODMH's decision of not having a mental health hospital in the city takes mental health treatment back to the mid-19th century, when the belief was that people with mental illness should be isolated from their families and communities.
- We know today that interaction and treatment planning with family is important to a person's mental health recovery.
- The cost of transporting patients from Cleveland to the Northfield Campus by ambulance or police is also going to be costly; and,

WHEREAS, Closing of the Cleveland Campus and not building the new State Hospital in Cleveland is also bad for Cleveland's and Cuyahoga County's economic development:

- The hospital would have employed 300+ people (from Cleveland Campus and Northfield Campus) with good paying jobs that would produce over \$1 million in tax revenue.
- With the closing of the Cleveland Campus, Cleveland will actually lose nearly 200 jobs.
- Actual building of the hospital would have created construction jobs for several years.
- Businesses, such as restaurants, drycleaners, stores, etc., were anticipated to develop near the hospital to serve the workers and visiting families; and,

WHEREAS, ODMH's decisions do not actually save money for the State of Ohio since all of the capital dollars allocated for the new State Mental Health Hospital in Cleveland will be spent elsewhere.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ADAMHS BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, WITH THE BEST INTEREST OF CONSUMERS IN MIND:

1. Respectfully **requests that ODMH and Governor John Kasich reconsider the decisions and build the new state mental health hospital in Cleveland as originally agreed.**
2. Directs that this resolution be sent to **Governor John Kasich; Tracy Plouck**, Director of ODMH; each member of the **Cuyahoga County Delegation in the Ohio House and Senate; Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson**, each member of **Cleveland City Council; Cuyahoga County Executive Ed FitzGerald**, and each member of the **Cuyahoga County Council.**

On the motion of Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., seconded by David E. Biegel, Ph.D., the foregoing motion was adopted.

AYES: Rev. Iris Lynn Bailey, David E. Biegel, Ph.D., Reginald C. Blue, Ph.D., E. Cash, MSSA, Tatiana Falcone, M.D., J. Robert Fowler, Ph.D., Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., Pythias D. Jones, M.D., Rick A. Kemm, MNO, Rev. Charlotte Still Noble, J. Richard Romaniuk, Ph.D., Harvey A. Snider / NAYS: Mary R. Warr / ABSTAIN: None

DATE ADOPTED: March 23, 2011