

Coalition for Healthy Communities

Behavioral health services in Ohio – at a critical crossroads

In the last budget cycle, cuts to Ohio's mental health and addiction services were extreme. The impact to communities has been dramatic. In the coming months, we'll tell you how these reductions have led to critical situations for families across Ohio as well as emergency departments, in workplaces and our court systems.

Good health isn't just about a strong body. A healthy brain is every bit as essential. Ohioans with mental illnesses and addictive disorders are challenged at work, at home

and at school. If they have access to treatment, life can be more productive and full. Without treatment, we see employers lose productivity and families lose loved ones. Our rates of suicide, incarceration, and disability go up. Two of every three Ohioans say they are impacted by a friend or family member with a mental illness or addiction problem. As you consider the upcoming budget, please remember that millions of Ohioans are counting on you for their health and stability.

Ohio's leaders need to ensure access to life-saving behavioral health services to:



IMPROVE HEALTH



SAVE LIVES



INVEST WISELY

Here's how:

Align Behavioral Health Care Medicaid Match Responsibility with Other Health Care

Unlike physical health care, the state's share of Medicaid match for behavioral health is paid out of the state allocations that go to local alcohol, drug addiction and mental health boards. Over time, state funding has decreased and Medicaid expenditures have increased to a breaking point. This has led to severe cuts in services and even the use of local levy dollars in some areas just to meet the state's share of the Medicaid match obligation. By moving the Medicaid match responsibility to the state's primary Medicaid match line item (ODJFS 525), behavioral health care would be aligned with other health care services covered under Medicaid, thus improving access to life saving behavioral health services.

Protect Local Levies to Support Locally Identified Needs

Local levies contribute about \$350 million to support programs and services that enable people with mental illness or an addiction to get the help they need where they need it most – close to home in the least restrictive setting.

These levy dollars should fund services that local residents consider important enough to support at the polls, not to pay the state's Medicaid match obligation. If local services continue to be cut because communities have to divert more and more resources to pay the Medicaid match, levy support is in jeopardy.

Keep the Remaining Funds in the Community Line Items Allocated to Communities

Many people with mental illness and addiction are not Medicaid eligible. Some people who are enrolled in the Medicaid program rely upon non-Medicaid eligible services and supports. Recovery from mental illness and addiction is about more than the treatment services covered by Medicaid. The Ohio Department of Mental Health line items 408, 505, and 404, as well as ODADAS line item 401, are necessary to fund both services to non-Medicaid eligible people along with treatment and recovery support services that Medicaid does not cover, such as housing, support groups, employment assistance, and other services that keep families together.



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- Men who received addiction treatment saw a 26 percent decline in total medical costs, a 35 percent decline in inpatient health care costs and a 39 percent decline in emergency room costs. (Kaiser Permanente)
- The recovery rate for individuals who have received treatment and medication is as follows:
 - Bipolar Disorder 80 percent
 - Panic Disorder 70-80 percent
 - Major Depression 65-80 percent
 - Schizophrenia 60 percent
 - Addiction 70 percent (with involvement in a self-help group) (NIMH, and National Advisory Mental Health Council)
- The total Medicaid cost for an individual with a substance abuse problem who receives treatment is 50 percent less than for an addicted individual who does not receive treatment. (Ohio Department of Job and Family Services)
- Only one in 10 people that need substance use treatment services ever receive them. (SAMHSA 2006-2007 Surveys on Drug Use & Health)
- Fewer than one-third of adults and half of children with a mental illness receive treatment. (NAMI)

SAVE LIVES

- Suicides in Ohio are at a 10-year high. According to the CDC, for Ohio the work loss costs per year connected to suicide is—\$921,766,767 (Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation)
- Deaths related to unintentional drug/medication overdoses are now higher than the annual deaths due to vehicular accidents. (Ohio Department of Health Vital Statistics 2009)
- In a recent statewide poll, two out of every three Ohioans stated that they were impacted by a friend or family member with an addiction and/or mental illness. (OACBHA Poll 2009)
- People with serious mental illness die 25 years earlier than the general population. (CDC Preventing Chronic Disease Vol 3:No.2, Apr. 2006)

INVEST WISELY

- The high frequency of depression in Ohio has a large impact on life, health and economics. The total economic cost of depression in 2007 was between \$4-5 billion. (Ohio Business Roundtable 2007)
- The indirect costs associated with mental illness and substance use disorders in the U.S. – excess turnover, lost productivity, absenteeism and disability – commonly meet or exceed the direct treatment costs, and have been estimated to be as high as \$105 billion annually. (“An Employer’s Guide to Behavioral Health Services,” National Business Group on Health, p. 68, November 2005)
- 15 percent of total state spending on criminal justice, Medicaid, transportation and public safety results from a failure to prevent and treat addiction disorders. (The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 2009)
- Untreated people with mental illnesses are four to six times more likely to be incarcerated, which increases expenses in the state’s justice system. (Journal of Behavioral Health Services & Research, 28, 177-87, 2001)



Coalition for Healthy Communities Membership Roster

Alcohol & Drug Abuse Prevention Association of Ohio
American Academy of Pediatrics-Ohio Chapter
Buckeye Art Therapy Association, Inc.
District 1199 SEIU - AFL-CIO
Mental Health Advocacy Coalition
Mental Health America of Ohio
Multiethnic Advocates for Cultural Competence
National Alliance on Mental Illness of Ohio (NAMI Ohio)
National Association of Social Workers-Ohio Chapter
Ohio Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare Association
Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities
Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies
Ohio Association of Residential Recovery Services
Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers

Ohio Citizen Advocates for Chemical Dependency Prevention and Treatment
Ohio Counseling Association
Ohio Empowerment Coalition
Ohio Federation for Children’s Mental Health
Ohio Mental Health Counselors Association
Ohio Nurses Association
Ohio Psychiatric Physicians Association
Ohio Psychological Association
Ohio School Psychologists Association
Ohio State Medical Association
Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation
US Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association, Ohio Chapter
Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio