

# County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Resolution No. R2011-0004

<b>SPONSORED BY: Council President Connally and County Executive FitzGerald</b>	<b>A Resolution</b> calling 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, and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.
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WHEREAS, the Council of Cuyahoga County believes that the residents of Cuyahoga County can live healthier lives by having 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 because 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.

THEREFORE, be it hereby ordained by the Council of the County of Cuyahoga, State of Ohio that:

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY,  
OHIO:**

**SECTION 1:** The Council states its belief that *Behavioral Health Care IS Health Care*.

**SECTION 2:** The Council states its support of the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County, the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA), and The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers (Ohio Council) recommendation that the Community Behavioral Health Medicaid Match should be funded out of the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services (ODJFS) 525 line.

**SECTION 3:** Council states its support the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County, OACBHA and Ohio Council recommendation that Boards should not be required to utilize local levy funds to match Medicaid.

**SECTION 4:** The Council states its support for the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County, OACBHA and Ohio Council recommendation 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.

**SECTION 5:** The Council respectfully requests that the Ohio General Assembly accept the above recommendations as steps to begin adequately funding behavioral health services in Ohio.

**SECTION 6:** Requests that the Chief Executive send this resolution to the Governor of the State of Ohio, the Director of ODMH; the Director of ODADAS, the 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.

**SECTION 7.** It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective in order that critical services provided by Cuyahoga County can continue, and to continue the usual and daily operation of the County. Provided that this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of eight members elected to Council, this ordinance shall become immediately effective upon the signature of the County Executive.

**SECTION 8.** It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of the Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the

public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Yeas: Brady, Germana, Gallagher, Schron, Conwell, Jones, Connally, Rogers, Simon, Greenspan and Miller

Nays: None

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County Council President

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Date

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County Executive

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Date

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Clerk of Council Pro Tem

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Date

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January 11, 2011