

County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Resolution No. R2011-0106

Sponsored by: County Executive FitzGerald and Councilmembers Brady and Jones	A Resolution opposing the decisions of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Governor John Kasich to close the Cleveland Campus of Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare and to abstain from construction of a new state mental health hospital in Cleveland; urging the Governor and the Director of the Department of Mental Health to reconsider these decisions, and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.
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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 to build a new State Mental Health Hospital in Cleveland – by instead expanding 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 bad for consumers of mental health services for the following reasons: (1) 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, (2) 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, (3) 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, (4) interaction and treatment planning with families is important to mental health recovery, (5) the

cost of transporting patients from Cleveland to the Northfield Campus by ambulance or police will be costly; and,

WHEREAS, closing of the Cleveland Campus and not building the new State Hospital in Cleveland will also damage the economy of Cleveland and of Cuyahoga County for the following reasons (1) 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, (2) with the closing of the Cleveland Campus, Cleveland will actually lose nearly 200 jobs, (3) building a new hospital would have created construction jobs for several years, (4) 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; and,

WHEREAS, it is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective.

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

SECTION 1. Council respectfully requests ODMH and Governor John Kasich to reconsider their decisions to close the Cleveland Campus of Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare and to abstain from construction of a new state mental health hospital in Cleveland, and urge them to keep the Cleveland Campus of Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare open, and build the new state mental health hospital in Cleveland as originally agreed.

SECTION 2. Council hereby directs the Clerk of Council to send this resolution sent to Governor John Kasich, Director of ODMH Tracy Plouck, to each member of the Cuyahoga County delegation in the Ohio House and Senate, to Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson, and to each member of Cleveland City Council.

SECTION 3. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective in order that Governor Kasich, Director Plouck, and the Ohio Legislature are made aware of the grave concerns of Council and County Executive Ed FitzGerald regarding this matter. Provided that this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of eight members of Council, this Resolution shall become immediately effective upon the signature of the County Executive.

SECTION 4. 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.

On a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Simon, the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted.

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

Nays: Greenspan

County Council President

Date

County Executive

Date

Clerk of Council

Date

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March 15, 2011