



BUTLER COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

RESOLUTION / 2013-05-15-01

RESOLUTION to call for the Ohio General Assembly to pass the Expansion of Medicaid to 138% of poverty as allowable by the Affordable Care Act. The passage of Medicaid expansion will ensure additional access for Ohioans in need of mental health services.

WHEREAS, the members of the Butler County Mental Health Board are committed to assuring that residents of Butler County live healthier lives through access to quality mental health treatment and support services; and

WHEREAS, Ohio must address the fact that an increasing number of individuals across the state are in need of mental health services; and

WHEREAS, the expansion of Medicaid to 138% of poverty is an opportunity to start to rebuild the behavioral health system, to restore Ohio's status as a state of workforce growth and development, and to further address the impact of mental illness on our communities; and

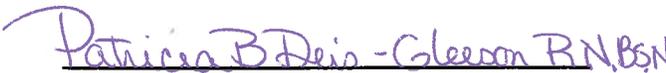
WHEREAS, fewer and fewer severely mentally ill clients are being provided services due to the past decade of erosion of the behavioral health safety net; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will provide treatment and services to many of Ohio's uninsured population. The infusion of Medicaid dollars will allow up to \$70 million dollars to be redirected for Non-Medicaid services once the expansion is fully implemented; and

WHEREAS, if no action is taken, the crisis facing the individuals in need of mental health services threatens to become so pervasive and acute that vulnerable Ohioans will continue to suffer needlessly.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, because treatment works and people recover, recovering people work, and working people pay taxes, by majority agreement, the members of the Butler County Mental Health Board respectfully request the Ohio General Assembly to pass the expansion of Medicaid to 138% of poverty in order to better serve Ohioans in need of behavioral health services.

Ratified on the 15th day of May, Two Thousand and Thirteen.


Patricia B. Deis-Gleeson
President


Scott D. Rasmus, PhD, LPCC-S, IMFT
Executive Director