



February 22, 2013

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Executive Director

40 N. Sandusky St. Ste 301
Delaware, OH 43015

O: 740.368.1740
F: 740.368.1744
E: dmmhrs@ohioapps.org

www.dmmhrs.org

Governor John Kasich
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6117

Dear Governor Kasich:

We commend you for your leadership and initiative in including Medicaid expansion in the FY 2014-15 State Budget Bill, House Bill 59. Every day we see residents of Delaware and Morrow Counties with mental illness and addictive disorders unable to receive care due to lack of coverage. A significant number are unable to be gainfully employed or successful in school due to lack of services and supports.

At our February 21, 2013 Meeting, the members of the Delaware-Morrow Mental Health & Recovery Services Board unanimously adopted a resolution in support of expanding Medicaid coverage to 138% of poverty for the citizens of Ohio. Enclosed is a copy of our resolution urging members of the Ohio General Assembly to support the expansion.

We look forward to working with your Administration in extending coverage to more residents with mental illness and addictive disorders.

Sincerely,

Steve Hedge
Executive Director

Cc: Greg Moody, Director, Governor's Office of Health Transformation
Tracy Plouck, Director, Ohio Department of Mental Health
Orman Hall, Director, Ohio Department of Alcohol & Drug Addiction
Services

A community partnership for mental health and recovery services.

We are an equal opportunity employer and provider of services.



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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 alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services.

WHEREAS, the members of the Delaware-Morrow Mental Health & Recovery Services Board are committed to assuring that residents of Delaware and Morrow Counties live safe, productive and healthier lives through access to quality mental health, alcohol and other drug prevention, treatment and support services; and

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

WHEREAS, a significant number of persons are unable to be gainfully employed and/or be successful in school due to their untreated mental illness and/or addictive disorder; and

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

WHEREAS, if no action is taken, the crisis facing the individuals in need of alcohol, drug addiction and 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 unanimous agreement, the members of the Delaware-Morrow Mental Health & Recovery Services Board, respectfully requests 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 21st day of February, Two Thousand and Thirteen.



Lynn Stacy, Chair



Steve Hedge, Executive Director

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