

The Governing Board members of the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Tuscarawas and Carroll counties would like to pass this resolution supporting 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 and alcohol, drug addiction services. The following facts must be considered:

- Since 2002, State GRF **funding for Non-Medicaid** alcohol, drug addiction and mental health treatment, support services and prevention **has declined by \$140 Million dollars or 62.68%**.
- Governor Kasich, during his State of the State, said that supporting Ohio's mentally ill and addicted population is a priority for the State.
- The Behavioral Health support system in Ohio has crumbled and is in a state of crisis. Nearly every week our communities experience the tragic results of this fragile system and the people we serve.
- The 2014-2015 state budget is an opportunity to start to rebuild this system, to cement Ohio's status as a premier state in the nation for workforce growth and development, and to further address the impact addiction and mental illness have on our communities.
- **The Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Tuscarawas and Carroll Counties strongly supports the expansion of Medicaid in Ohio;** Medicaid expansion will provide treatment and services to many of Ohio's uninsured population. This infusion of Medicaid dollars will allow up to \$70 million dollars to be redirected for Non-Medicaid services once the expansion is fully implemented. As you can see, while Medicaid expansion will have a significant and positive impact on Behavioral Health Care, the amount of funding freed up, will only get us 50% of what has been lost since 2002.
- **The Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Tuscarawas and Carroll Counties supports investing additional state GRF funding in the ODMHAS budget, in order to fund Non-Medicaid services to recovering Ohioans.** Additional GFR dollars provide prevention, housing and employment services to our State's addicted and mentally ill; this will help individuals recover by providing critically needed Non-Medicaid services, and allows Ohio to keep its Medicaid cost down, and maximize the impact its Medicaid dollars have.

- With Medicaid expansion and additional GRF support for Non-Medicaid services together, we can begin to rebuild Ohio's alcohol, drug addiction and mental health safety-net system so our people can succeed, find employment and become contributing members of society...in turn promoting safe and prosperous communities.

The resolution was passed on the 27th day of February, Two Thousand and Thirteen.

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