



## Recovery Board

O F W A Y N E A N D H O L M E S C O U N T I E S

The Honorable John Kasich  
Office of the Governor  
Riffe Center, 30th Floor  
77 S. High St.  
Columbus, OH 43215-6117

February 6, 2013

Dear Governor Kasich;

As the executive director for the Mental Health & Recovery Board of Wayne and Holmes Counties, I want to provide you with my feedback regarding your Governor's Budget released on Monday, February 4, 2013.

Your decision regarding expanding Medicaid to 138% of poverty is a decision that results in increased revenue for the state of Ohio and increased services to the citizens in need. I realize that not all Republican Governors have your broad perspective.

In our community, the Wooster Daily Record, included an opinion editorial submitted by our Sheriff and our Mental Health & Recovery Board, requesting your approval of the Medicaid expansion. Our local community needs this Medicaid expansion support to assure that appropriate mental health and substance abuse treatment services are provided to our citizens. As you know, our area, as other areas of the state, was hit hard by the economic crisis. This funding will enable people to receive essential treatment to increase available employee's readiness for available jobs, thus supporting your Ohio Jobs Budget 2.0.

As you know, our local Mental Health & Recovery Board of Wayne & Holmes Counties continues to need additional funding to provide critical services; however, the GRF funding in the budget, supplemented by Medicaid expansion, provides a stable platform for further discussion. We acknowledge these decisions as critical steps taken to assure the stability of our behavioral system of care.

I appreciate your bold decision regarding Medicaid expansion, reflecting your business strength in utilizing available federal revenue and, your administration's planning for the needs of Ohio citizens by providing essential health care services through funding.

Sincerely,



Judy Wortham Wood  
Executive Director

Cc: Steve Glick, MH&R Board Chair  
Tracy Plouck, Director - ODMH  
Greg Moody, Director - Office of Health Transformation  
Cheri Walter, Director - OACBHA