

## Behavioral Health Changes in House Bill 483 (MBR)

- In the four years prior to Governor Kasich taking office, mental health and addiction services were cut 20 percent, pushing Ohio into crisis. As a consequence, unmet needs increasingly showed themselves in families at risk and individuals without treatment, housing, or a path to recovery.
- Governor Kasich's first Jobs Budget increased state mental health spending 5.7 percent, reversing the downward trend since 2008. It also freed counties from Medicaid match responsibilities, allowing communities to offer more care to all Ohioans.
- The biggest gain occurred when Governor Kasich extended Medicaid coverage, infusing \$557 million in SFY 2015 into physical and behavioral health services for Ohioans living with mental illness or addiction, in addition to freeing up \$70 million annually in county-funded clinical services.
- The 2014 Mid-Biennium Review (MBR) continues the process of rebuilding community infrastructure for mental health and addiction services. Working together, the House, Senate and Administration prioritized the spending of \$47.5 million in one-time SFY 2015 state funds<sup>1</sup> to:
  - ✓ Prevent substance abuse statewide through evidence-based programs, including programs like *Start Talking!* that build the courage and strength in children to say no (\$6.5 million),<sup>2</sup>
  - ✓ Double the state's budget for licensed community-based housing through the Residential State Supplement program to create more safe places where people in crisis can achieve housing stability in a community setting (\$7.5 million),
  - ✓ Expand access to recovery housing, which is a necessary support for many people who are early in their sobriety and need to be in an environment that supports healing (\$5 million),
  - ✓ Defray payroll costs so local courts can hire additional staff to support a specialty docket to ensure offenders comply with treatment (\$4.4 million), and
  - ✓ Address gaps in care identified in consultation with boards of mental health and addiction services, with an emphasis on crisis services and housing-related challenges (\$24.1 million).<sup>2</sup>
- Additionally, the MBR includes provisions from House Bill 369 (Sprague) that establish a full array of services for opioid and co-occurring drug addiction, require local boards to support a full continuum of care across mental health and addiction services, and define recovery housing as a service and earmark \$5 million in OhioMHAS community capital funds to develop greater access.

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<sup>1</sup> The Ohio General Assembly appropriated \$47.5 million in SFT 2015 to support clinical services in lieu of extending Medicaid coverage. Medicaid was subsequently expanded to cover these services, such as counseling, partial hospitalization and medication-assisted treatment, creating an opportunity to reprioritize the one-time state subsidy to address other unmet needs, like community-based prevention and housing.

<sup>2</sup> Up to \$3 million from appropriated funds will be used to ensure Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment services are not disrupted while the state compensates for [cash flow problems created by the federal government](#).