

Stakeholder Support for MBR Items

- **Improve job opportunities for people with developmental disabilities:**
 - “The Ohio Grocers’ Association supports Governor Kasich in his efforts to make competitive community employment more widely available to people with developmental disabilities. Our member businesses already successfully employ many talented and dedicated individuals with developmental disabilities and know first-hand the value in expanding our workforce diversity and bringing more independence and personal satisfaction to these citizens who have so much to offer our communities.” ***Nate Filler, President and CEO, Ohio Grocers Association.***
 - “The Ohio Provider Resource Association would like to commend Governor Kasich for showing leadership in the area of employment for individuals with developmental disabilities. The best way to support Ohioans with developmental disabilities is to make sure they have a good-paying job. OPRA looks forward to working with the Kasich administration to help implement this important employment first policy.” ***Mark Davis, Executive Director, OPRA.***
- **Simplify eligibility determination systems:**
 - “County job and family service agencies know firsthand the enormous complexity and challenges of determining eligibility for a multitude of programs designed to provide assistance to our most needy citizens. Building on Governor Kasich’s plan to simplify healthcare eligibility policy included in House Bill 153, we applaud the Governor’s proposal to further streamline and simplify eligibility for all public assistance programs included in the Mid-Biennium Budget Review. The successful implementation of the Governor’s plan will allow caseworkers to spend less time on unnecessary bureaucratic processes and spend more time focused on achieving positive outcomes for Ohio’s families, seniors and disabled populations. The simplified approach proposed by the Governor will save time, cut costs, speed up eligibility determination, reduce errors and avoid potential federal penalties. We look forward to implementing Governor Kasich’s simplified eligibility plan throughout the job and family service system.” ***Joel Potts, Executive Director of the Ohio Job and Family Services Director’s Association.***

- **Protect vulnerable individuals with developmental disabilities:**

- “I would like to thank Governor Kasich for keeping his word that folks with developmental disabilities would be a priority for his administration. Keeping individuals safe is critical and changes made in the MBR to the abuser registry highlight the Governor’s commitment. I look forward to working with the Governor on this important initiative.” ***Gary Tonks, Executive Director, The Arc of Ohio.***

- **Target regional "hot spots" in mental health service capacity.**

- **Terry Russell, Executive Director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Ohio (NAMI Ohio)**, was extremely pleased that the Governor recognized the need for more community mental health services. As the director of an advocacy organization who is often critical of Ohio’s mental health system, he stated that this was a good day and people’s lives will be saved because of this increase. Terry especially wanted to thank Tracy Plouck, Director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health, for her leadership on behalf of the 600,000 Ohio citizens represented by NAMI Ohio.
- “Improving outcomes for treating opiate addiction with the use of medication-assisted treatment is where we should continue to head in Ohio. The ability to purchase medication for Medicaid eligible Ohioans with addictive illness will mean that more people can return to productive lives and take care of their families.” ***Paul Coleman, JD. President & CEO, Maryhaven. Maryhaven is Central Ohio's oldest and most comprehensive behavioral health provider specializing in treatment for people with addictive illness.***

- **Modernize burdensome DD employment requirements.**

- "The Ohio Association of County Boards of DD (OACB) commends Governor Kasich's ongoing efforts to enhance the efficient operation of the developmental disabilities service system. The Governor's proposal to transfer the certification process from the state level to the county level for County Board of DD employees further demonstrates his commitment to give local employees the tools they need to eliminate administrative processes that do not enhance service quality. OACB looks forward to continuing our work with the Administration to enhance the lives of Ohioans with developmental disabilities." ***Dan Ohler, Executive Director, Ohio Association of County Boards of DD.***

- **Increase county JFS efficiency through shared services:**

- “The Ohio Job and Family Services Director’s Association is grateful for the Governor’s proposal to extend statewide legislative authority for county job and family service agencies to share services in the same manner as currently underway in a pilot project in Hocking, Ross and Vinton Counties. In light of severe budget cuts and increased demand over the past few years, state and county departments of job and family services have strived to find more cost effective mechanisms to administer agencies. By allowing all county agencies the same options as currently available to the pilot counties the Governor has paved a path for more counties to share services in a cost effective manner. Governor Kasich’s proposal will establish a new statewide strategy to share resources to help counties identify greater efficiencies, better utilize existing expertise in the system and ensure critical services continue to be available at the local level.” ***Joel Potts, Executive Director of the Ohio Job and Family Services Director’s Association***
- “The County Commissioners Association of Ohio fully supports expanding the permissive authority found in ORC 329 so it is applicable on a statewide basis. Counties are facing unprecedented budget cuts, and county departments of job and family services are faced with a continuing trend of increasing caseloads and decreased programmatic and administrative funding. We fully support giving counties the authority to explore if creation of a joint JFS department allows customers to be more efficiently and effectively served at the local level. We appreciate any additional options for counties to explore in responding to the finite resources they have in delivering services.” ***The County Commissioners Association of Ohio.***

- **Enhance gambling addiction treatment planning.**

- “The growth of gambling opportunities in Ohio will mean an increase in problem gambling for many Ohioans. As a provider of gambling addiction education, prevention and treatment, Recovery Resources wholeheartedly supports the addition of planning for gambling addiction services by the State.”
Debora Rodriguez, MRC, President & CEO, Recovery Resources, Cleveland.

- **Rebalance Ohio’s ICF program.**

- “Governor John Kasich’s Mid-Biennium Budget continues efforts to place the highest priority on the safety and welfare of individuals with developmental disabilities. I am particularly encouraged with the Governor’s decision to consolidate the licensure of homes under DODD. Such a move, not only cuts red tape, but will provide more care and more positive outcomes for those we serve.” ***Karla Rinto, Executive Director, Advocacy and Protective Services, Inc. (APSI).***

- **Transfer of oversight for manufactured home parks:**
 - “We are pleased to learn that the licensing of manufactured home parks in the State of Ohio will be moving to the Ohio Manufactured Homes Commission as a part of the mid-biennial budget review bill. Our partners in public health at the Ohio Department of Health have done a great job overseeing the 1,800 manufactured home park licenses; however this change will align the program with the experts in the field who have already demonstrated proficiency in the licensing of manufactured home park installers, dealers, brokers, and salespeople and the certification of inspection agencies and inspectors. With this transfer, all aspects of the manufactured housing industry will be under the umbrella of the Commission.”
Beth Bickford, Executive Director of the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners.

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF



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FOOD BANKS

THE *Ohio*
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neighbors helping neighbors

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Media Statement

The Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks (OASHF) commends Governor Kasich and his leadership team for their vision and commitment to eliminate barriers, improve program performance, and modernize and integrate health and human services eligibility systems. These visionary efforts will help to reduce red tape and bring services to our most vulnerable citizens.

Governor Kasich's proposals to enhance statewide data sharing and to streamline eligibility through the Agencies Without Walls initiative will eliminate silos and promote true solutions to some of our state's greatest challenges. OASHF and our members look forward to working with Governor Kasich and his administration to ensure all Ohioans can reach their full potential.

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March 15, 2012

Dear Mental Health Advocate,

Yesterday the Kasich Administration announced plans to add \$3 million more to the funds already set aside for community mental health services in Fiscal Year 2013. In addition, the Governor has identified \$10 million to be used to invest in housing for individuals with mental illness. These changes, which are part of the Mid-Biennial Review package, come as welcomed news to NAMI Ohio.

Make no mistake; \$3 million in general revenue funds will not fix the massive problems facing Ohio's \$1 billion mental health system. However, these dollars -- the only "new" dollars given to a state agency for community services -- represent Governor Kasich's recognition that our mental health system is in serious trouble.

The Governor has demonstrated his recognition of this fact in other ways as well. His Office of Health Transformation is focused intently on improving the quality of care for Medicaid recipients, especially for those with serious and persistent mental illness. Over time, savings from reduced hospitalization and other expensive forms of care will be reinvested in the system resulting in easier access to mental health services.

However, we cannot lose sight of the fact that people are hurting today. The \$3 million for community services to be targeted for those in greatest need will help. The \$10 million for housing will help even more, particularly if it is used to purchase transitional housing for those individuals with serious and persistent mental illness who are discharged from a hospital but are not yet ready to return home.

NAMI Ohio is grateful to Governor Kasich for listening to us, and we are grateful to *you* for joining in our chorus.

Your Friends at NAMI Ohio