



Promoting wellness and recovery

John R. Kasich, Governor • Tracy J. Plouck, Director • 30 E. Broad St. • Columbus, OH 43215 • (614) 466-2596 • mha.ohio.gov

To: ADAMH Boards and other stakeholders
From: Director Tracy J. Plouck
Date: July 11, 2014
Re: Board Allocation Guidelines and Block Grant Information for State Fiscal Year 2015

The past year has included a great deal of change for the field of mental health and addiction services. In addition to the creation of a new state agency to serve the behavioral health needs of Ohioans, together we succeeded in helping to implement one of the greatest system reforms in many years: Medicaid Expansion. As a result, eligible Ohioans served by the behavioral health system will be able to access physical and mental health and addictions services worth an estimated \$557 million annually. OhioMHAS also estimates that as much as \$70 million will be freed up annually in county-funded clinical services and made available for new purposes. I am thankful for the teamwork shown by all of you to advocate for needed health coverage which will help meet the prevention, treatment and recovery needs of this state.

On the whole, much is unchanged in the attached allocation amounts. You will find that the amount in most funding categories is close to, if not the same as, the amount for Fiscal Year 2014. There are some important exceptions to this general rule:

1. The recent Mid-Biennium Review (House Bill 483) made significant changes to the distribution of funding in GRF line 507. These adjustments were made in response to a changing environment as a result of the expansion of Medicaid benefits, as I discussed in last year's allocation guidelines cover memo. You can read more about the MBR changes on the [OhioMHAS website](#).
2. OhioMHAS is moving forward to correct the timing delay issues with the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) block grant by spreading the Federal Fiscal Year 2015 payment over six quarters instead of four. This is one of the first issues that needed to be tackled by the new department. Much work was done with stakeholders to determine the best course. Implementation was delayed six months ago and it is important to move forward now to better position the department, boards and providers to have a consistent funding source in the next state budget biennium (FY 16-17). OhioMHAS is directing \$4,363,000 (including \$3 million identified during the MBR) to shore up funding for smaller direct-funded and pass-through grant providers to assist with cash flow challenges. You can find more information on the SAPT block grant realignment plan via [fact sheet](#) or on the OhioMHAS [website](#).
3. The current hospital incentive program has been discontinued for FY 15, as previously discussed with boards. OhioMHAS continues to be interested in creative approaches

ensure access to state hospital services, but the incentive program that has been in place for the past two years did not lead to an overall improvement in access at the state hospitals, as hoped. While some boards were able to significantly reduce their bed days and admissions in the last three years, overall the total number of bed days and admissions by all boards increased. From FY 2011 to FY 14, bed days rose by 15,000 days (4%) and admissions by 2,000 (35%).

Included with the release of the allocation guidelines this year as separate attachments are the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) and Mental Health Block Grant amounts. Additionally, please note that the PATH program amounts have been moved off of the allocation guidelines because the program is oriented as a grant. However, there are no significant changes to this important program.

We have a great deal of good work ahead of us as we begin planning for the FY 16-17 budget very soon. I always appreciate your thoughts and ideas. Feel free to contact me with questions or comments.

Attachments: OhioMHAS SFY 15 Allocation Guidelines with distribution spreadsheets
Community Mental Health Services Block Grant distribution
Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant distribution