



# BLUEPRINT FOR A NEW OHIO

GOV. JOHN R. KASICH'S FISCAL YEARS 2016-2017 BUDGET

## What Stakeholders are Saying about Mental Health and Addiction Services...

I was thrilled, but not surprised, to read in the paper on Sunday that Governor Kasich will include additional funding in the budget for children in need of mental health services. I've also been told that there will be continued funding in the Governor's budget for the Residential State Supplement program for adults with serious mental illness who are unable to live on their own. These programs, coupled with health insurance for low income Ohioans, some of whom struggle with untreated mental health disorders, will go a long way toward addressing the needs of many of our state's most vulnerable citizens. NAMI Ohio is grateful to Governor Kasich for prioritizing mental health during his first four years in office and right now it looks like the next four years will be much the same.

■ *Terry Russell, Executive Director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Ohio*

Governor Kasich's SFY 16-17 executive budget recommendation maintains health care coverage through Ohio Medicaid program for more than 450,000 low-income Ohioans. Investing in the health of our families and workforce is fiscally-responsible and has strengthened Ohio's economy. Ohio's Medicaid programs support healthy families and communities allowing people who need mental health and addiction services to find a path to health, wellness and recovery. We applaud Governor Kasich for his dedicated attention on the importance of behavioral health. Medicaid is an essential work support program that provides important access to mental health and addiction services in Ohio. Access to mental health and addiction services is essential to keeping Ohioans healthy, improving school success for our children, supporting families, building bridges to work and growing jobs and our economy. We as a society recognize that we need to improve access to mental health and addiction services so our children, families and communities and can thrive. We know that treatment works and people recover to lead productive and fulfilling lives. Health care coverage through Medicaid is a fundamental building block for families, employers and Ohio's economy.

■ *Hubert Wirtz, CEO, The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers*

Ohio Citizen Advocates for Addiction Recovery applauds Governor Kasich's continued emphasis on access to health care for Ohioans in his proposed state budget. Access to health care resulting from the 2014 Medicaid expansion has had a huge impact on individuals seeking recovery from addiction, many of whom had no coverage prior to the expansion. The Kasich Administration's plan to continue coverage for this population means a healthier workforce, healthier families and a healthier Ohio.

■ *Donna Conley, CEO, Ohio Citizen Advocates for Addiction Recovery (OCAAR)*

The members of the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities appreciate the Administration's continued focus on mental health and addiction issues. The continuation of increased access to health care coverage through Medicaid will allow more individuals to access life-saving treatment services. Additionally, the focused investment in needed treatment services and recovery supports for individuals with addiction involved with the criminal justice system will lead to increased health outcomes, decreased recidivism rates, and safer communities. We look forward to continuing to work with the Administration and the General Assembly as we roll out these initiatives while we work together to ensure that Ohioans have access to a comprehensive continuum of care. In alignment with our Blueprint "Recovery is Beautiful", this continuum of care will include prevention, crisis, and treatment services, along with a complete array of recovery supports including housing, employment services, transportation, and peer supports to help individuals achieve and maintain long-term recovery.

■ *Cheri L. Walter, CEO, Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA)*

We appreciate the focus on some important homelessness and housing issues in the Governor's biennium budget bill. We were pleased with the formation of a reserve fund for the Ohio Housing Trust Fund to help stabilize year-to-year funding fluctuations. The budget proposal also continues to target a combination of expanded state and federal resources to improve access to stable housing for vulnerable Ohioans. We strongly support the budget provisions to focus more job opportunities and supports to youth and others at risk of homelessness, and to use a portion of the governor's discretionary WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) funds to help homeless youth gain employment as they stabilize their housing. It is also critical to support the continued health care funding and coverage under Medicaid for homeless and other struggling Ohioans. While there is still more work to be done, we appreciate the awareness and support cabinet leaders have shown for Ohio's housing needs.

■ *Bill Faith, Executive Director of the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO)*

Drug Free Action Alliance extends its support for Governor Kasich's budget proposal. With an emphasis on not only the financial health of the state, but also the health of Ohio's citizens, we believe that this budget proposal can help improve the overall financial, mental and physical health for all Ohioans. Governor Kasich's budget calls for the re-authorization of Medicaid, which has already provided essential healthcare for over 470,000 additional Ohioans, so that children and families can reach their potential keeping Ohio's future bright. We also are in full support of the additional tax to tobacco products, which costs taxpayers \$289 billion in lost productivity at work and health-related consequences from tobacco products in the US, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Research has consistently shown that higher taxes on cigarettes and other tobacco products reduces smoking rates in adults, which leads to better health, and it also is a barrier to children taking up this deadly addiction.

■ *Marcie Seidel, Executive Director, Drug Free Action Alliance*

The Centers for Families and Children announced their praise of Governor Kasich's efforts on continuing Medicaid coverage in the state of Ohio. "We applaud Governor Kasich's continued support for those in need of services," said Chief Program Officer Jim Penman for The Centers for Families and Children. "At The Centers, we are seeing the transformation in the lives of our behavioral health clients. Not only are they gaining access to healthcare but they are utilizing the care more effectively."

■ *Jim Penman, Chief Program Officer, The Centers for Families and Children*

The Ohio Association of Community Health Centers applauds Governor John Kasich for his leadership and commitment to a healthy Ohio through the proposals in the 2016-17 budget unveiled today. Specifically, the value and benefits from continued funding of the Medicaid program will provide the supports to transform individual lives and keep all of Ohio healthy, competitive, strong and thriving. Every day we see how healthcare works to transform lives – from healthier newborns to better health outcomes for adults with chronic illnesses. Ohio’s Community Health Centers have a proven record of delivering high quality, low-cost care, coupled with a strong presence in urban neighborhoods, small towns and rural counties where poverty is often highest. Through our work, we have demonstrated that modern, coordinated health coverage improves health outcomes with lower costs because care is delivered in the patient's own neighborhood, not the emergency room or urgent care center. As more Ohioans gain health coverage, Ohio’s Community Health Centers are simultaneously building capacity with more locations and care providers. These healthcare homes offer better patient-to-clinician ratios, shorter wait times and more comprehensive care like oral, pharmacy, and behavioral health services all under one roof. Health coverage works to help transform how Ohioans more effectively use the healthcare system that used to be unavailable to them. Community Health Centers are proud to partner with the Kasich Administration and our legislative leadership to be part of the State's solution to increasing access to care for our most underserved populations.

■ *Randy Runyon, CEO, Ohio Association of Community Health Centers (OACHC)*