

THE HIGHLIGHTER

A publication of the Hancock County ADAMHS Board and Community Partnership

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ADOVOCATE! ADVOCATE! ADVOCATE!



*Cheri Walter, Chief Executive Officer
Ohio Association of County
Behavioral Health Authorities*

During these unprecedented times of economic difficulty, it is going to take a small army of advocates to convince policy makers that behavioral health services are an area that **can not** afford any additional cuts without hurting real people; people who have a disease, a disease of the brain and are in need of help and treatment!

Why should you become an advocate? Because all politics are local and constituents are listened to; their ideas are supported and respected. Additionally, you vote for both the Governor, and for local officials based on local issues, and the impact they have on addressing those issues.

Why is it important that you advocate? It is the best way to affect change, and it lets

the Governor and locally elected officials know that their constituents care; it's not just the lobbyist. Advocacy is also the best way to turn opinions into action by producing buy-in and awareness of the issues and needs of Ohio's behavioral health care consumers.

How should you advocate?

Write letters to the Editor of your local paper, meet with your local Legislators, write letters to the Governor, and your local Legislators, meet with your County Commissioners, and ask other leaders in your community to send letters, write letters to the editor, and speak with local leaders. Anything you can do to highlight the need for appropriately funded behavioral health services is helpful, and the more you do now before decisions are made the more likely you are to impact the process.

What should your message be?

Tell the story of the importance of behavioral health services, and that **TREATMENT WORKS and PEOPLE RECOVER**; give real examples of what alcohol, drug addiction and mental health services have done for your community, give real examples of what will happen

in your community if you should lose access to mental health and addiction treatment, and recovery supports.

As we look to start advocating during the state's biennial budget process, all of us with an interest in those who have an addiction and/or mental illness need to be working together and speaking with one voice. We all need to let the Governor and our local legislators know that behavioral health care **IS** health care, and we can **NOT** afford any further cuts. **NOW IS THE TIME TO START ADVOCATING**, and letting anyone and everyone who will listen know that by funding behavioral health services they will save in other areas like corrections, child welfare, and other health services.

Please remember to visit our website at www.oacbha.org for budget updates and additional advocacy tips.

For a listing of legislatures and their addresses please visit the website www.paragonapproved.org.

Never Doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

~ Margaret Mead

ADAMHS BOARD UPDATE

George Milligan Receives Unsung Hero Award

George Milligan was awarded the 2008 Unsung Hero Award given by the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA). The Unsung Hero award along with the Innovative Leadership and Consumer Advocacy are nominated by member boards and awarded yearly.

Precia Stuby, Executive Director of the Hancock County ADAMHS Board, nominated George for the award stating, "During George's time as Board Chair, the Board faced many challenges: a fire in a group home, a levy campaign, two floods, a tornado, and a capital project. His commitment to Hancock County has been demonstrated time and again."



Pictured Left to Right: Precia Stuby, Executive Director, George Milligan, Rev. Paul DeMoss, Board Chair

Congratulations George!



*You are cordially invited to attend the
Grand Opening and Dedication of the*

Hancock County Apartment Complex

Friday, March 27, 2009

*Building open at 12:30 p.m.
Ceremony begins at 1:00 p.m.*

*Light refreshments will be served.
Building and ceremony located at
2205 N. Blanchard Street, Findlay*

R.S.V.P. by calling 419-424-1985



CIT Officer of the Month

This month the Hancock County ADAMHS Board would like to highlight the efforts of Officer Kevin Spieker. Officer Spieker has been in law enforcement for six years. He graduated from the CIT program in 2003.

Since taking the course Kevin has used the information to understand the different disorders, the medications and the side effects associated with them. It has helped him to communicate better and understand someone in crisis.

An incident that Kevin was able to use his CIT training involved someone threatening suicide. When he arrived at the scene he observed the person inside the building with a large knife to their chest. Officer Spieker talked to the person and after a significant amount of time and using the skills learned during CIT was able to get them to put down the knife. Kevin was able to help this person get the services they needed.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP NEWS

Alcohol & Drug Problems?

Has alcohol or drug use invaded your life or the life of someone you love? Come learn about what you can do to bring help and hope.

WHEN:

Thursday, March 12th 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

WHERE:

Blanchard Valley Hospital Auditorium in the new Thomas B. and Kathleen M. Donnell Patient Pavilion

This program is free, confidential and open to the public. No registration is required.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call the Hancock County Community Partnership at 419-424-1335 or email khiett@bhg.org www.paragonapproved.org

SPONSORED BY:

Hancock County Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services/Community Partnership and the Blanchard Valley Hospital

NAMI presents *PEER TO PEER*

Free 9-week course taught to and by people with serious brain disorders or "mental illness". The program will give you information on how to navigate the mental health system, how to work with your doctor, teach coping skills and much more.

Date: Friday, March 6 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Focus on Friends, 509 Trenton Ave., Findlay
Questions: Call Gina at 419-429-1423

Save the Date

NAMI Walk
May 16, 2009

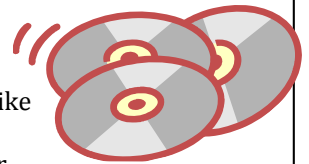


If you would like to be a sponsor, form a team or want to walk please contact Gina Lewis at 419-429-1423 or gl_nami@yahoo.com

De-escalation DVD available

In December of 2008 the Hancock County ADAMHS Board sponsored a de-escalation training for local agencies. Presenters were Joe Kizer and Gary Bright from Century Health, Inc.

A DVD was made of the training and is available for individuals and organizations. If you would like to have a copy of the DVD please contact Annie at 419-424-1985 or aaltman@bhg.org.



PRESCRIPTION DRUG ROUND UP

April 25th, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Findlay Municipal Building



Watch for more details on the web at www.paragonapproved.org

April is Alcohol Awareness Month

Check out www.paragonapproved.org for activities and events to be held during the month.

AGENCY NEWS



Family Resource Centers (FRC) announced the appointment of Josh Ebling as their new CEO at their November annual meeting. Jim Miller, interim CEO, shared that Ebling's leadership is part of the "new" FRC. Josh takes the executive's chair at FRC's new 530 South Main Street location in Lima.

With an extensive background in behavioral health and management, Ebling brings nearly 20 years of human service experience to the position. A graduate of Bluffton University and The Ohio State University, he has worked as a community support provider, coordinator of partial hospitalization/day treatment, and community services director. Most recently he was the Executive Director for The Arc of Allen County, an organization serving individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities, a position he held for over 10 years. He also maintained a private counseling practice during that time.

Ebling cited the important role that Family Resource Centers plays in the community and the benefit of their services as a reason for coming to the agency. "I was very involved in the Allen County Family and Children First Council and saw up close the value of FRC's services to children and families in our community," stated Ebling. Josh served as president of the Family and Children First Council for two years and maintains strong involvement.

He acknowledges that despite the great services there will be significant challenges. "The current budget crisis is on everyone's mind - but within crisis is opportunity. The challenge is for us to maintain and enhance services through creativity and efficiency to ensure kids and families are served."

The Board extends a warm welcome to Josh in his new position.

Hancock County Crisis Hotline - 1-888-936-7116 (toll free)

Hancock County ADAMHS Board
Hancock County Community Partnership
438 Carnahan Ave., Findlay, Ohio 45840
www.hancockadamhbd.org
www.paragonapproved.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Paragon says:

Start enjoying the
wonderful outdoors.

