

**THE HIGHLIGHTER***A publication of the Hancock County ADAMHS Board and Community Partnership***Volume 19, Issue 2**

## *Drastic Cuts Affect Local Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services - Help Still Available*

Over the past 24 months, our local community mental health and substance abuse system has received State funding cuts totaling more than \$913,000, taking our system back to funding levels of 1994. The ADAMHS Board, along with contract agencies, have been working hard to preserve services for those who are in the most clinical and financial need. In anticipation of State budget cuts, the ADAMHS Board organized a planning retreat in January to develop a Budget Reduction Plan. At its Board Meeting on August 20, 2009, cuts were enacted that went into effect September 1, 2009.

### **Can residents still get help?**

The Board will continue to fund treatment for those residents with limited financial resources and those residents with severe and chronic addictions and/or mental illnesses.

### **What about everyone else?**

ANYONE, regardless of income, who seeks help, can receive a diagnostic assessment from a behavioral health professional at Century Health or Family Resource Centers. Board subsidies will be used to defray expenses for this assessment service which are not covered by health insurance. While the assessment will be subsidized, treatment services were cut and as a result, Board subsidies are no longer available to help defray ongoing treatment expenses for residents without chronic conditions or those with a household income above 200% of poverty. Residents with incomes higher than this are still encouraged to seek help and work with agencies to establish affordable payment plans for their treatment. In

addition to the cuts in treatment services, reductions have been made in early intervention and prevention services.

### **What does this mean going forward?**

The Board depleted its reserve and reduced the amount of funds it holds back to address emergencies, however additional cuts were still needed in order to balance the budget. Cuts were made in Board administration, and with the upcoming retirement of the housing and property manager, Board staff will be taking on the administration of our local housing program.

### **What can I do to help?**

Additional cuts may be needed in order to keep the Board budget balanced and will definitely be needed in FY'12 unless there is a significant positive change in our economy and State allocations. Your advocacy is needed to help prevent further cuts and to restore funds that were earmarked for mental health during the Budget Conference Committee. Please consider contacting our legislators: Representative Cliff Hite at 614-466-3819 and Senator Steve Buehrer at 614-466-8150.

### **Special Thanks from the ADAMHS Board**

*"If it were not for the local support received from Hancock County residents through the passage of our levy, cuts to our system would be deeper. Your support has been critical in our ability to sustain essential services to Hancock County residents."*

## Groups Offer Support



As a result of the current economic climate, services and programs are being stretched and/or eliminated while at the same time there is an increase in depression, stress, anxiety and substance abuse. Don't let financial pressures prevent you from seeking help.

Hancock County is fortunate to offer many different supports. Below is a listing of a few of the support groups for mental health and substance abuse. If you or someone you know would benefit from these please feel free to attend.

*National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)* provides mutual support, education and advocacy for individuals and families affected by mental illness. The group meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 2330 S. Main Street, Findlay.

*Depression/Bi-Polar Support Alliance (DBSA)* provides self-help, acceptance, and education for individuals, family members, or friends who are dealing with depression or bi-polar disorder. The group meets the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, 2330 S. Main Street, Findlay.

*Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)* is a voluntary fellowship of men and women from all walks of life who meet together to attain and maintain sobriety. Look for the daily schedule in *The Courier*. Meetings designated as "open" are open to the public.

*Focus on Friends* is a drop-in center for people who have been diagnosed with a mental illness. Members receive peer support, education, activities and friendship. The Center is located at 509 Trenton Ave., Findlay. The phone number is 419-423-5071.

For more information about these and many other local support opportunities please call 2-1-1 or click on [www.hancock.oh.networkofcare.org](http://www.hancock.oh.networkofcare.org) or [www.paragonapproved.org](http://www.paragonapproved.org)



## ELECTRONIC UPDATES

In an effort to reduce costs, the ADAMHS Board has decided to end the printing of the bi-monthly newsletter. Starting with the November/December edition, the newsletter will be sent and published electronically.

If you would like to have the newsletter sent directly to you please send your email address to Annie at [aaltman@bhg.org](mailto:aaltman@bhg.org). The newsletter will also be available on our websites: [www.hancockadamhbd.org](http://www.hancockadamhbd.org) or [www.paragonapproved.org](http://www.paragonapproved.org)

## Family Addiction Workshop

Tuesday, September 29 6:00-8:00 p.m.  
Blanchard Valley Hospital Auditorium

Speaker: Dr. Basanti Basu, Medical Director  
Century Health, Inc.

For more information please contact  
the Hancock County Community Partnership  
419-424-1335 or [www.paragonapproved.org](http://www.paragonapproved.org)

## *Cuts to the Prevention/Education System Impact Funds Available*

As a result of the significant cuts to the Hancock County Community Partnership, at the August Council meeting a decision was made to suspend mini-grant funding for a period of one year. The Community Partnership will continue to provide substance abuse and mental illness prevention, education, awareness and training opportunities for Hancock County. With the economic crisis that we are all facing wellness promotion is even more critical to everyone. The Partnership will heighten their awareness efforts for the support services that are offered in the community.

The Community Partnership is fortunate to have received a grant from the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services. This year the Partnership applied for a grant of \$40,000 but were allocated \$29,259. As a part of the grant the Partnership will contract with Family Resource Centers for the *Too Good For Drugs Program* (\$20,000). The *To Good For Drugs Program (TGFD)* is an in-school program that focuses on personal & interpersonal skills to resist internal & external pressures to use drugs. The program provides information on the negative consequences of drug use and the benefits of a drug-free lifestyle. *TGFD's* approach helps to increase protective factors & decrease risk factors in a child's life. Skills taught during *TGFD* include: goal setting, decision making, bonding with others, identifying and managing emotions, and communicating effectively.



Look What's Happening:  
September is Recovery Month  
Mental Illness Awareness Week is October 4-11  
Red Ribbon Celebration is October 23-31

Watch  
[www.paragonapproved.org](http://www.paragonapproved.org)  
for events and activities

### *Veterans Appreciation Night*



Friday, September 25  
6:00 p.m.

Hancock County Agency on Aging  
339 E. Melrose Ave., Findlay

Watch The Courier or  
[www.paragonapproved.org](http://www.paragonapproved.org) for more details.

Space is limited...R.S.V.P. early by  
Email: [DThom419@aol.com](mailto:DThom419@aol.com) or  
[breyes45@woh.rr.com](mailto:breyes45@woh.rr.com)  
Phone: 419-957-9423  
Please specify 1 or 2 people.



Event sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)  
Hancock County Chapter through a grant from NAMI Ohio

## *Medication Collection Day*

Saturday, October 24th  
9:00 a.m. - Noon  
Findlay Municipal Building  
Parking Lot

Watch [www.paragonapproved.org](http://www.paragonapproved.org)  
for more details.

## AGENCY NEWS

### *How Will You See These Cuts?*

*Family Resource Centers* will realize a cut of nearly \$200,000 from the ADAMHS Board. This cut will cause the Agency to do some scaling back of its services. The Agency will deal with the loss of revenue through two primary ways. The first being that several position vacancies will not be filled. While this results in no program loss or job loss for staff, families may feel the “trickle down” effect through increased wait times for initial appointments or in-between appointments. The second is that the Agency has also agreed to the discontinuation of the ADAMHS Board subsidy for children over 200% of poverty, who are labeled as non-SED (severe emotional disturbance). The Agency will also be implementing a variety of payment plan options to help alleviate any further burden this may place on families. As always, we will prioritize services for those most clinically and financially in need.

As of September 1, *Century Health* is facing a loss of approximately \$153,000 in ADAMHS Board funding due to reductions in the State budget. The largest part of this cut is in subsidized care to individuals with an income over 200% of Federal Poverty Level. The Agency will make every effort to preserve services to those who have the most severe conditions and will be working with affected clients on payment plans to the degree that is possible.

*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](http://www.hancockadamhbd.org)  
[www.paragonapproved.org](http://www.paragonapproved.org)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

