



**A Network of Care for All Generations**

**Providing a foundation for a county's worth of services**

In every city, village, school district and township of Portage County, the Mental Health & Recovery Board is at work improving lives.

The MHRB provides the dollars that make possible counseling, psychiatric services and 24-hour crisis intervention for more than 7,000 county residents each year. The Board commits funding annually for education, especially for youth to prevent substance abuse. The MHRB is one element of a local network that is operating every day of the year to keep individuals and families who live in Portage County healthy.

Other important components of the network are the community-based agencies whose staff include counselors, psychiatrists, case managers, peer volunteers, crisis intervention specialists, nurses, therapists, support staff and agency board volunteers. They work for or volunteer with Coleman Professional Services, Children's Advantage, Townhall II, Family and Community Services and its Safer Futures program, The Bair Foundation and Compass Recovery.

The difficult state of the economy in Ohio has the potential to reshape how the Board funds services and how much care will be available. The MHRB and its network agencies are looking at how to best serve the residents of Portage County and provide quality services that improve lives and strengthen communities in a tough economic environment.



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- Daniel Todd, Streetsboro
- Beth Wildman, Ph.D., Kent
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**How we helped Portage children and adults in 2009**

<b>Children and teens receiving treatment for abuse, mental illness, emotional problems and/or chemical dependency.</b>	<b>2,655</b>
<b>Adults receiving treatment for abuse, mental illness, emotional problems and/or chemical dependency.</b>	<b>4,569</b>
<b>24-hour crisis calls, information calls, incidents of walk-in counseling, crisis outreach and screening for hospitalization.</b>	<b>36,194</b>
<b>Youth and adult education &amp; prevention contacts.</b>	<b>9,435</b>
<b>Days of hospitalization for mental illness.</b>	<b>1,963</b>
<b>Days in the 11-bed Crisis Care Unit funded by the MHRB at Coleman Access.</b>	<b>3,746</b>

**Our Mission**

The mission of the Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County is to develop, manage and sustain a community-driven system of behavioral health treatment, prevention and recovery services. A county government agency, the Board works to keep community life in Portage County healthy by investing in services that help adults be productive; students achieve success in school; and families survive difficult times. Last year, the mental health and substance abuse treatment funded by the Board reached more than 7,000 residents. Funded partly by levies, the board coordinates a system of services that includes comprehensive crisis intervention and prevention education. Services are planned, funded and monitored by the Board through a network of community agencies whose members are: Coleman Professional Services, Children's Advantage, Townhall II, Family and Community Services, Inc., and its Safer Futures program, the Bair Foundation and Compass Recovery.



## Accomplishments

**Numbers served continue to increase while budget shortfalls begin...** The number of Portage County adults and youth receiving treatment services continued to rise in 2009 by 5 percent. More adults were treated for depression, bipolar disease, alcohol dependence and anxiety disorders. More young consumers received care for behavior that disrupted family life and education, conduct disorders, bipolar disease and ADHD. This was the first year in several decades where due to state cuts, the MHRB had to use reserve funds to balance its budget. Subsequently the Board began implementing budget cuts which has meant less funds for services in the current Fiscal Year of 2010. The Board went through a retrenchment of its own administrative budget, reducing staff and limiting expenses.

**Crisis Intervention Team advances...** CIT, a local intense training program for law enforcement professionals overseen by the MHRB with the help of the Portage County Sheriff's office, continues to expand into new areas. A class was developed for school personnel and dispatchers. The programs all provide participants with skills and knowledge to work effectively and safely with persons in crisis. Nearly 200 professionals who work with the public in law enforcement, education, the courts and agencies have been trained.

**CIT Officer of the Year...** Officer Michquel Penn of Kent State University Police Services was recognized by the Portage County Police Chiefs' Association and the Mental Health & Recovery Board as CIT Officer of the Year for Portage County.

**Suicide prevention awareness project...** The MHRB and Portage County Suicide Prevention Coalition with the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation, the Coleman Foundation, Townhall II, Kent State University and the Delta Tau Delta fraternity sponsored a talk by former NFL Quarterback Eric Hipple, whose son completed suicide. Hipple's message of hope focused on how communities can become more educated about how depression affects men and those around them.

**Services in school districts...** Every school district in Portage County receives consultation services funded by the Mental Health & Recovery Board through Children's Advantage, the Board's contract agency that serves children and families. In 2009 the program provided screenings to 751 students ranging from pre-school to 12th grade. Nearly 65 percent screened were referred for services.

**BRIDGES to a new life...** The BRIDGES program—Building Recovery through Individual Dreams and Goals through Education Support—was re-established through the MHRB and Coleman Professional Services, the Board's contract agency that provides adult and youth treatment. The peer-to-peer program focuses on teaching adults with mental illness the skills to manage their recovery and build a support network.

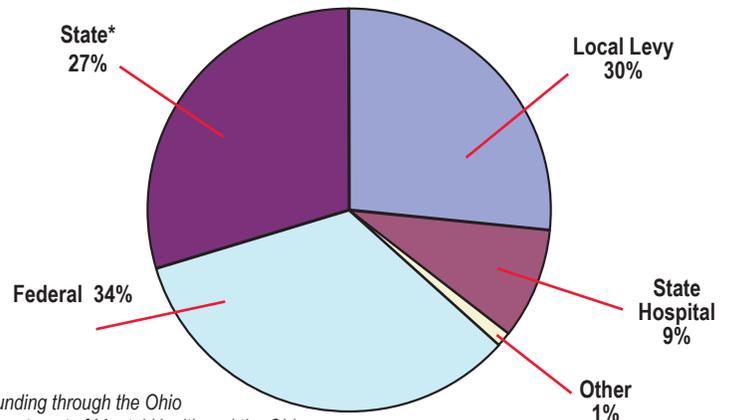
**On the path to employment...** The MHRB committed \$70,000 to the three-county Pathways project with Coleman Professional Services as the lead agency to provide services for Portage residents with disabilities who need support services to become or stay employed. The Board pooled funds with Stark and Trumbull county agencies to receive nearly a million in funds from the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission. The Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities also participated.

**A new horizon...** Townhall II moved Horizon House to its new location on South Prospect Street in Ravenna. Horizon House is one of a handful of halfway houses in the state for women on the road to recovery from addiction. The MHRB provides funding for the program which is part of a continuum of services available to local residents. The new space has room for the women and children if they are living with the parent in treatment. The facility keeps families from homelessness while a parent is in treatment.

**Recovery with help from peers...** The Board provided stipends for training and work experience for four new peer support specialists, persons who are in recovery and have been trained to support and work with other consumers. The new specialists assisted staff in the Options psycho-educational program run by Coleman Professional Services.

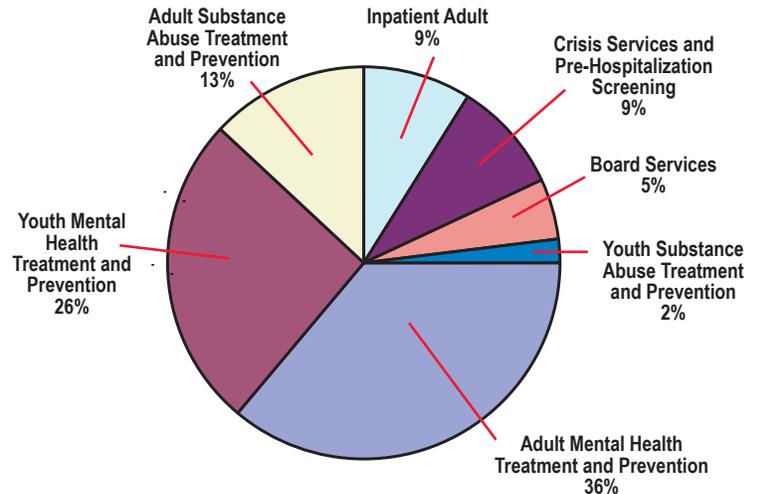
## Financial Report FY 2009

**Total Revenue for FY 2009: \$14,701,542**



\*Funding through the Ohio Department of Mental Health and the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services.

**Total Expenditures for FY 2009: \$14,891,503**



## 24-hour Numbers for Crisis

1-866-449-8518 ■ 1-877-796-3555

## How to contact us:

We are located at 155 E. Main St., Kent, Ohio 44240.  
 Phone: 330-673-1756 Fax: 330-673-1330  
 Board meetings are the second Monday of each month at 6:30 pm in the Board office and are public. The board provides equal service and employment opportunities.

[www.mental-health-recovery.org](http://www.mental-health-recovery.org)

