

Mental Health & Recovery Board

OF PORTAGE COUNTY *NEWSLETTER*



A publication to increase awareness of mental health and substance abuse services in our community

A Network of Care for All Generations!

Mental health, alcohol treatment services cut 5 percent; more cuts in store for 2010-11

The Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County will absorb \$900,000 of a \$1.25 million cut in state funding by using reserves but must pass on the remaining \$350,000 in revenue loss to its network agencies.

“Our system will weather the current downturn. Counseling, crisis and all other services will continue to operate for Portage County residents. But we anticipate there will be fewer services available because agencies are reducing staff or cutting back on programs,” said **Hal Farrier**, board executive director.

Earlier this year, the board’s state funding was reduced by \$437,000 which it also covered by digging into its reserves. This brings the total shortfall in state funds for 2009 to more than \$1.6 million.

Mental Health & Recovery Board members are talking with network agencies about the possibility of a cut in funds for Fiscal Year 2011, which could top 20 percent of the state and local money agencies receive from the board.

At least six employees who work in counseling, psychiatry, crisis and residential treatment for the agencies will be laid off or not replaced. Agencies affected include Coleman Professional Services, Townhall II, Children’s Advantage and Family and Community Services, Inc. The board has annual contracts with the organizations whose professional staff provide direct services to residents.

“Mental Health & Recovery Board members want to preserve services as much as possible for as long as possible in light of the increased need we are seeing for counseling and crisis services. This is the absolute worst time for us to be cutting, but we cannot continue to operate with a deficit next year,” Farrier said.

The board was able to keep the cut to the agencies at five percent. Board officials attribute that to conservative growth of services and voter support for local levies. But with no relief in sight from the state, local levies which are less than one third of the board’s revenue will not be able to cover future shortfalls, Farrier explained.

“We also may not have seen the last of the state cuts,” he added.

Continued on page 2

Your calls, e-mails make a difference!

At press time, the Ohio Senate Finance Committee is working on proposals to fill the \$851 million hole in the current state biennial budget.

It appears that intensive lobbying by advocacy groups and press releases from business interests, such as the Ohio Business Roundtable encouraging adoption of the delay in income tax cuts, may have had an impact on the direction of Senate deliberations. Keep updated on the budget corrections legislation at the Web site of the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities, www.oacbha.org.



Thanks for a great idea!

Mantua Township Fiscal Officer and CPA **Marie Stehli**, left, was the first to receive a new poster with pocket-sized mental health and recovery referral cards that can be torn off. Marie, who also serves as president of the Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce, displays the new information tool with **Melissa Lyle**, center, chamber secretary and owner of the downtown Mantua store *Footprints* and **Christine Pitsinger**, editor and publisher of *The Community Journal* and the chamber newsletter editor. Marie suggested the idea so that area businesses and offices could post the tool on bulletin boards to make it easier for residents to access. Cards contain information and phone numbers for crisis and treatment services. The 4 by 8 inch poster is free. Call 330-673-1756, ext. 201, to have one sent to your business, organization, church or office.

...Cuts continued from page 1

The Mental Health & Recovery Board has operated with a reserve fund for the past decade in order to keep the system stable in times of low cash flow and funding reductions and to provide agencies with small but steady growth in services.

Farrier pointed out that the board is still investing more than \$15 million for the current financial year to fund services for Portage County residents. Services include treatment, such as counseling for more than 4,000 adults and 2,500 children, as well as funding a 24-hour crisis system that handles more than 30,000 calls and incidents per year. Prevention education, psychiatry and mental health inpatient services are also supported by board funds.

In fact, agency budgets appear not to be affected by the cuts because they are receiving an increase in Medicaid reimbursements fueled by federal stimulus dollars passed through the board to the organizations. The increase will be discontinued at the end of 2010.

But the decrease from board funds will cause changes in the agencies' staffs in part because Medicaid dollars are restricted to cover certain services. The funds that are being reduced support mental health services for people who do not qualify for Medicaid and for those services that aren't covered by Medicaid.

Farrier said the agencies worked with the board to implement the cuts. "It has not been easy for the agencies and their staff. We appreciate that they are looking out for those who need their services while also trying to cause the least impact to their employees," Farrier added.

Approved at the board's Sept. 14 meeting, the cuts were: Children's Advantage, \$51,037; Coleman Professional Services, \$214,527; Townhall II, \$68,265; and Family and Community Services, \$11,128.

The Board office reduced its expenses by \$62,000 for the current fiscal year. As part of its cost cutting, the Board will be eliminating one of three annual community newsletters and will discontinue a one-page newsletter for educators.



MHRB provides match funds for housing that will be homes for persons with mental illness

Construction of the Walter Capling Apartments in Franklin Township was supported with a \$120,000 match grant from the Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County. The 11-unit apartment building is a project of Coleman Professional Services and the Coleman Foundation for low income Portage residents with mental illness and who are homeless. With a critical shortage of safe, affordable housing for persons with mental illness, the MHRB supports Coleman's efforts to develop places for consumers to live and work on their recovery. The apartments are named for Walter Capling, who received services from Coleman from 1990 until his death in 2008.



Ron Burbick, left, president of the Coleman Foundation board of trustees, gets ready to unveil the new apartment sign with foundation board members **Suzanne Franks** and **Tamara Rynearson**; and **Nelson Burns**, president and CEO of Coleman Professional Services. The building is located at 1780 E. Main St., Kent.

KSU's Penn, community volunteers honored at MHRB Annual Dinner

Community members and organizations were recognized for their contributions at the 2009 Annual Dinner of the Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County.

Officer **Michquel Penn** of Kent State University Police Services was honored as the Crisis Intervention Team Officer of the Year by the board and the Portage County Police Chiefs' Association. CIT provides officers and other law enforcement professionals with education and hands-on training to deal effectively with persons in crisis situations, especially if those individuals have mental illness.

Penn was recommended by her supervisor **Lt. Paula Rossi** of the university force, KSU Officer and CIT County Coordinator **Jeff Futo** and KSU Director of Public Safety **John Peach**. They praised Penn for dedicating time to calls involving persons in crisis and following up with them to make sure they are receiving services such as counseling.

The Honorable **Barbara Watson**, judge of the Portage County Municipal Court, was the guest speaker. She discussed how the judicial system and the county's mental health and recovery system work together to help persons with mental illness and substance abuse problems who come before the courts.

The Mental Health & Recovery Board recognized the Portage County Suicide Prevention Coalition; **Zaki Hazou**, the assistant manager of the Kent State University Office of Safety and Security; the Coleman Foundation; the KSU chapter of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity; and Townhall II for their support of suicide prevention awareness projects for the county.

MHRB Executive Director **Hal Farrier** singled out **Karen** and **Phil Cox** of Atwater Township for their contributions in reviving the Portage County chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. **Karen Cox** is the group's president. She spends time talking with and advising families who have a member with mental illness. The couple has sought grants and set up fundraising projects for the organization.

Palmyra resident and Waterloo teacher **Carrie Suvada** was honored for her leadership in the development of the Crisis Intervention Team Education Collaboration training for school staff. Training helps school staffers see beyond the mental health issue to provide support and safety in crisis situations. The Portage County training has garnered attention from schools in other states and the headquarters of the National Alliance on Mental Illness.



Officer Michquel Penn of Kent State University Police Services, second from left, is congratulated after her recognition as Crisis Intervention Team Officer of the Year for Portage County. On hand for the award ceremony were, left, MHRB Chairman Ron Heineking, Sheriff David Doak representing the Portage County Police Chiefs' Association, Judge Barbara Watson, KSU Lt. Paula Rossi and Dean Tondiglia, assistant director of KSU Public Safety.



Community groups and agencies were honored at the dinner for their work in the area of suicide prevention awareness. Nelson Burns, left, accepted the award for the Coleman Foundation. He is the secretary/treasurer of the foundation and CEO of Coleman Professional Services. Townhall II Executive Director Sue Whitehurst, second from left, accepted the honor for her agency which was recognized for its coordination of the Portage County Suicide Prevention Coalition. Deborah Neuhart, second from right, is the current coalition coordinator while Dina Douglas provided the leadership to start the group.



From left, Anna Rosenfeldt of Mantua was recognized for her work as vice chairman of NAMI Portage County; Phil and Karen Cox of Atwater were praised for their volunteerism on behalf of persons with mental illness through NAMI. Dr. Stan Wearden, dean of the KSU College of Communication and Information, was recognized for his contributions as a member of the Mental Health & Recovery Board. Carrie Suvada of Palmyra, a teacher in the Waterloo Local School District, was lauded for her work to create the Crisis Intervention Training Education Collaboration.



Walkers hit the pavement for NAMI Portage County!

Portage NAMI supporters in the Annual NAMI Walks event raised more than \$2,600 for the organization. Thanks go to Nicole's Dream Team, the employees of Coleman Professional Services, Wal-Mart, Omnova Solutions Mogadore Plant, the Cox Family and the International Chemical Workers Union. Thanks also to NAMI Summit County for the amazing work to organize the event. NAMI PC uses the funds to provide support, education and advocacy for families who have a member with mental illness and persons with mental illness. Mental Health & Recovery Board Executive Director Hal Farrier waves to the crowd in the above photo. Thanks from NAMI to all of our walkers!

Suicide Prevention Coalition, Coleman Access and MHRB host National Survivors of Suicide Day

People whose lives have been affected by the suicide of a family member or friend gathered at Coleman Access in Ravenna in November for the National Survivors of Suicide Day event organized by the Portage County Suicide Prevention Coalition. The group included from left, **Amie Cajka**, on staff at the MHRB; **Joel Mowrey**, Ph.D., associate MHRB director; coalition members **Bev** and **Larry Cole** of Kent; **Becky Dempster**, chief officer of Access; and coalition member **Iris Angle** of Aurora. The coalition hosted a worldwide broadcast by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention that featured a panel of survivors, those family and friends left behind to cope. You can watch the broadcast by going to www.afsp.org. Portage County also offers other support resources to survivors of suicide. Information, a support group or one-on-one conversations are available through Townhall II in Kent. Call 330-678-4357. The Portage County Suicide Prevention Coalition offers information and opportunities to increase awareness about the causes and prevention of suicide. To learn more, call Townhall II at 330-678-3006.



Making the commitment to the Crisis Intervention Team



New CIT recruits finish intense week of training at Sheriff's Justice Center

The Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County graduated 20 law enforcement and behavioral health professionals in its 2009 Crisis Intervention Team Training class. Standing, left to right, Jason McCauley of the Portage County Sheriff's Office; Officer Charles Holloway of Ravenna Police; Eric French of Portage County Adult Probation; Officer Duane Kaley Jr. of Ravenna Police; Steve Steele of Adult Probation; Joe Kammer of Adult Probation; Deputy Katie Thomas of the Sheriff's Office; Brad Bailey of Adult Probation; Paul Dages of Townhall II; David Harper of Sheriff's Office; Officer Ann Spahr of Munroe Falls Police; Richard Jackson of Sheriff's Office; and Sgt. Dan Cardinal of the Sheriff's Office Corrections; seated, left to right, Heather Lanfranchi of Townhall II; Officer Brittnei Neely of Kent State University Police Services; Officer Patricia Wain of Streetsboro Police; Renee Doddy of Kent State University Residence Services; Officer Sharon Hissom of Robinson Memorial Hospital; Deputy Rachel Dillon of Sheriff's Office; and Officer Jason Fogelman of Streetsboro Police.

The Mental Health & Recovery Board introduced the CIT program in April 2006, and currently there are more than 150 officers, dispatchers, corrections and court staff trained. CIT is a national 40-hour training program through the National Alliance on Mental Illness designed to provide law enforcement officers with comprehensive education and skill for working with residents who have a mental illness or developmental disabilities.

Portage crisis intervention class focuses on prevention, de-escalation

Educators were trained in mental health crisis intervention this summer through the Crisis Intervention Team Education Collaboration. The teaching team was led by Waterloo teacher Carrie Suvada and her husband Officer Andy Suvada of the Streetsboro Police Department. Mrs. Suvada helped to create the program which was launched last year. Officer Suvada is a graduate of the law enforcement Crisis Intervention Team program in Portage County. He was named CIT Officer of the Year for the county and the state of Ohio in 2008. Joel Mowrey, Ph.D., associate director for the Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County, was also an instructor.

Family and Community Services, Inc., provided the space for the week-long class at its Ravenna offices. CITEC focuses on awareness of mental health issues and also prevention and

de-escalation of crisis situations. The training is open to all staff including classroom teachers, bus drivers, custodians, office staff, cafeteria employees and administrators, as well as guidance staff. Curriculum covers mental illness symptoms, suicide prevention, autism, domestic violence, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, legal issues, security plans, de-escalation principles, verbal techniques, role-plays and resources.

Class members included, first row seated, from left, Audrey Kraynak of Crestwood Local Schools; Sue Widener of James A. Garfield Local Schools; Deborah Horner of Portage Geauga Juvenile Detention Center; Robin McKee of the Detention Center; Robin Kressly, an educator from Wisconsin; and Kristin Stambaugh of the Detention Center; second row, left to right, Christine Stroub of Maplewood Career Center; Diana Smith of Kent City Schools; John Hazlett of the Detention Center; Patricia Overfield of Kent City Schools; and Denise Craig of Kent City Schools. Not pictured is Nan Moore of Kent City Schools.

For information about next year's class, contact MHRB Associate Director Joel Mowrey at 330-673-1756, ext. 203, or email him at joelm@mental-health-recovery.org.



Thanking our CIT and CITEC instructors!

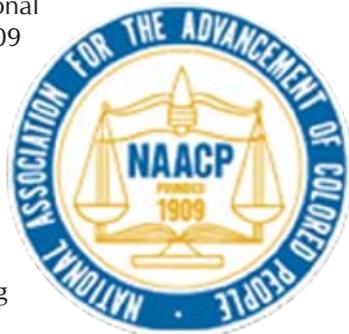
The Mental Health & Recovery Board would like to thank the following professionals who volunteer time to serve as instructors for or in some way support CIT and CITEC training. They are: Mary McCracken and Joyce Giovanelli of Children's Advantage; Officer Andy Suvada of Streetsboro Police; Officer Jeff Futo of Kent State University Police Services; Portage County Sheriff Dave Doak and Maj. Dennis Missimi; Carrie Suvada of Waterloo Local School District; Michael Yohe of Akron Police; Sue Reeves and Paul Dages of Townhall II; Becky Dempster, Emily Ribnik, Kim Kost and Bill Sullivan from Coleman Professional Services; Tracy Deep and Ann Lofaro of Family and Community Services Inc.; Judge Barbara Oswick and Theresa Spiker from the county court system; Denise Smith and Sean Scahill from the Portage County Prosecutor's Office; Laura Esposito and Kathi Guckelberger for the Portage County Department of Job and Family Services; Bill Whitacre from the Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities; Meryl Orlando, Ph.D., from Summit Psychological Services; Shelly Marsh from Safer Futures domestic violence shelter; family member Sonja Carnes; consumer Mary Homer; Pam Farer of KSU Psychological Services; Lucy Wagner of the Children's Advocacy Center; and Maureen Watson of United Way.

Visit our website at www.mental-health-recovery.org

MHRB receives diversity award

The Portage County Branch of the NAACP awarded the Mental Health & Recovery Board its Organizational Diversity and Inclusion Award at the 2009 Freedom Fund Dinner.

The honor is part of the NAACP's annual Dr. Martin Luther King Community Service Awards. The Board has worked with the NAACP to support the organization's education and advocacy of diversity through such projects as the annual Martin Luther King Prayer Breakfast.



MHR Board members out in the community

Board member **Terri McGuckin**, right, of Kent talked to community members at the Ravenna Balloon A-fair in September. MHR Board members attended numerous community events. These included Brimfest, the NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner, Kent Heritage Festival, the Streetsboro Business Expo, Kent Chamber Expo and the Garrettsville Business and Community Expo. Board staff also distributed information at Rootstown's Community Day and the Streetsboro Chamber Health Fair.

Board Members

Ronald Heineking of Kent, **Chairman**
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Jennifer Colgrove of Ravenna
Karen Cox of Atwater Township
Barbara Evans, M.Ed., of Rootstown Township
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Daniel Todd of Streetsboro
Beth Wildman, Ph.D., Kent
William Wisniewski of Ravenna

What is the MHRB?

The Mental Health & Recovery Board supports healthy communities by investing in services to help residents of all ages who need treatment for mental health or substance abuse dependence problems and to provide prevention education, especially for youths at risk for substance abuse. The Board's funds also support 24-hour emergency services to help residents in crisis and to provide assistance when communities experience crisis incidents. Supported in part by local levies, the Board funds services through a network of community-based agencies. Services help thousands of children, teens, families, adults and seniors each year. The network includes: Coleman Professional Services, Townhall II, Children's Advantage, Family and Community Services and its Safer Futures program, The Bair Foundation and Compass Recovery.