

## **What Ohio's behavioral health leaders and advocates are saying about Governor Kasich's Mid-Biennium Review budget proposal**

"We applaud the Administration's leadership and forward thinking in supporting evidence-based prevention in Ohio. Research shows an investment in prevention reaps substantial cost savings in every sector of our society and sets the stage for positive change by helping to prevent not only substance abuse, but also many other problems including undiagnosed/untreated mental disorders, child abuse and neglect, crime and violence, problem gambling and many other problems. It is time for Ohio to get out in front of the serious problems that plague families and workplaces. We thank the Governor for making this a priority."

### **• Marcie Seidel, OCPS I, Executive Director, Drug Free Action Alliance**

"The Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation is very grateful that prevention has gotten the financial support and policy commitment from Gov. Kasich. According to our partners at the Ohio Department of Health, 1,464 Ohioans died by suicide in 2011. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death for Ohioans, costing Ohio well over \$1 billion dollars a year. In fact, in Ohio, suicide outranks homicide two to one. Gov. Kasich's Mid-Biennium Review budget commitment of a \$6.5 million set aside for prevention is a blessing and will provide multiple avenues for restoring hope and promoting positive mental health for Ohioans."

### **• Carolyn J. Givens, Executive Director, Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation**

"Benjamin Franklin's adage is true: An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. While crisis and treatment services are an important component of the continuum of care, prevention is the foundation of significant, long-term reduction in substance abuse and other behavioral health problems. As the voice of prevention in Ohio, ADAPAO applauds our state's commitment to increasing prevention funding. Our communities, workplaces, schools, families, and citizens will experience fewer substance abuse and other behavioral health problems — and our state and taxpayers will ultimately save dollars — because of Ohio's growing investment in prevention."

### **• Jim Ryan, Executive Director, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Association of Ohio (ADAPAO)**

"NAMI Ohio could not be any more pleased with the decision to redirect state dollars to pay for housing supports, crisis services, prevention, and intense hospital discharge planning that makes more housing options available to those coming out of mental health hospitals. Gov. Kasich's proposed budget gives those living with mental illness and their families hope that they will get the services needed and enhance their quality of life. NAMI Ohio rarely supports a state budget so overwhelmingly as we do the MBR. We urge the General Assembly to act quickly in approving this budget which will ultimately save the lives of many Ohio citizens whose lives have been invaded by mental illness."

### **• Robert F. Spada, Board President, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Ohio**

"On behalf of the residents living in adult care facilities, the Adult Care Facility Association cannot thank Gov. Kasich and Director Plouck enough for addressing a major problem within Ohio's mental health system. Investing in housing supports for individuals with serious mental illness who cannot live independently is not only a sound business decision, it is a humanitarian decision. Without a roof over their heads, these individuals wind up on our streets, in our hospitals, and in our jails and prisons. The commitment to increase the Residential State Supplement funding will go a long way toward enhancing the quality of services these homes provide. We cannot adequately express our appreciation to Gov. Kasich and Director Plouck for recognizing that these Ohioans have been neglected for too long. Their action will literally save lives."

### **• Marty Falin, President, Adult Care Facilities Association**

"The Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Programs of Ohio (UMADAOP) are pleased at Gov. Kasich's commitment to the prevention field, including spearheading new prevention initiatives and making a financial commitment to prevention in his biennial budget. UMADAOPs are located in every major urban community in Ohio. We have seen prevention efforts help youth in high-risk communities overcome obstacles to lead healthy, drug-free lives. Youth are able to build the life skills necessary to avoid violence, do well in school, stay drug free, and contribute to the overall health of the community. Prevention helps parents learn how to lead by example, engage in healthy activities with their kids, and learn how to continue to invest in their lives. Prevention programs provide communities with healthy resources and excellent drug-free opportunities. We are pleased that the governor's commitment to prevention will help further these efforts."

### **• L. Craig Comedy, Executive Director, Franklin County UMADAOP**

"The Federation of Ohio UMADAOP organizations commend Gov. Kasich and his administration for lending progressive voice and leadership to promote prevention in the State of Ohio. The evidence of the benefits of systemic prevention services has been proven to save lives and taxpayer dollars. The Ohio UMADAOP Federation believes that this administration's efforts toward promoting and funding prevention of mental health and substance use conditions are being given a much needed alignment on the State of Ohio's behavioral health agenda. According to an old African adage, "tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today." The prevention initiatives introduced by the administration demonstrate the State of Ohio's meaningful support to balance the opportunities and challenges impacting youth, families and communities."

• **Jessica Horne, Executive Director, Cleveland Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program**

"Prevention first ... because it works! Until more investment is directed into effective prevention, behavioral health issues will not be stemmed. Shifting to a health promotion and prevention focus provides the greatest cost benefit to altering chronic disease conditions such as addiction. In addition, working from a public health perspective to change the social environment must accompany individual strategies. The Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati supports the Governor's budget proposal to put 'prevention first' and take the lead in fulfilling the state government's role for healthy kids, families and communities."

• **Mary Haag, RN, BSN, OCPS II, ICPS, CEO/Executive Director, Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati**

"The Institute of Medicine describes the outcomes of community-based prevention in terms of three domains of value: health (both physical and mental), community well-being, and community process. The Governor's investment in Statewide prevention initiatives shows a commitment to community-based prevention in Ohio by empowering communities to take a larger role in primary prevention, supporting the use of evidence-based prevention practices, and creating a data tracking method to measure the progress of community change. Ohio's commitment to community-based prevention is forward thinking and highlights the critical role that nurturing environments play in substance abuse prevention and mental health promotion."

• **Holly Raffle, Ph.D., MCHES, Assistant Professor, Ohio University Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs**

"The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers applauds Gov. Kasich's proposals in the Mid-Biennium Review that support the development of a comprehensive continuum of care that meets the needs of individuals and families facing addiction and mental illness, promotes education and workforce training, and includes efforts to combat poverty. The MBR targets resources to help sustain existing addiction prevention and treatment services while simultaneously supports Ohioans in crisis with housing and recovery support. When individuals and families are in crisis, access to addiction and mental health treatment services along with recovery supports such as housing are essential to restoring family stability, fostering recovery, and improving health outcomes. Prioritizing resources for prevention is sound economic policy. Investment in statewide evidenced-based prevention provides tools to promote wellness, support youth academic success, strengthen families, and build thriving communities. This is a critical investment in today's youth who will be tomorrow's parents and workforce."

• **Hugh Wirtz, CEO, The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers**

"I fully endorse the MBR delivered by Gov. Kasich; specifically the areas outlining the needs of Ohioans struggling with addiction and mental health. At my agency, Community Health Center in Summit County, we witness firsthand the long-term, rippling effects addiction has on the individual, family and community. Community Health Center considers housing and prevention both crucial parts of our array of treatment. ... Addiction doesn't discriminate, and can take hold of anyone regardless of their age, race, gender or economic status. This could not be more true today as we face the largest opiate epidemic in decades. Support from the Governor for this important cause will further our chances of helping more people recover and will save families the heartache that comes along with losing a loved one to addiction. I look forward to the opportunity for Community Health Center to partner with the Governor to make a difference in these areas in Northeast Ohio."

• **Bob Stokes, CEO, Community Health Center, Akron**

"... I so appreciate Gov. Kasich's recognition of the importance of prevention on a statewide level. I started my career in prevention in 1985. That was the heyday of prevention funding nationally and in the State of Ohio. Since that time, I have seen support for prevention dwindle — until today. These funds will allow Pathways to expand its services back into all of the school districts in Licking County. It will allow us to expand our efforts to prevent prescription drug abuse. It will allow us to work to prevent substance abuse in senior citizens. I strongly support the Governor's MBR proposal and hope the legislature acts quickly to adopt it."

• **Kristin McCloud, Executive Director, Pathways of Central Ohio**