



News Now

John R. Kasich, Governor
Tracy Plouck, Director

May 6, 2015

>>> Public Comment Sought on Implementing a Medicaid 1915(i) Program for Adults with SPMI

As a result of the new, single disability determination process proposed in the SFY 2016-2017 Executive Budget, Ohioans with income that will be above the Medicaid needs standard adopted under the new system will no longer be eligible for Medicaid. A significant number of these individuals are adults with severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI), and these individuals will have access to basic health care services through Medicare or private insurance. However, neither Medicare nor private insurance pay for a range of service coordination and community support activities currently covered in the Medicaid program. To ensure continued access to these services, Ohio Medicaid is preparing a [state plan amendment](#) under section 1915(i) of the Social Security Act to provide eligibility for adults with SPMI who meet specified financial, clinical, needs, and risk eligibility criteria.

The Ohio Department of Medicaid welcomes public comments regarding the plan amendment through **June 6**. Select the “public notices link” for additional details on this public comment opportunity.

[Summary](#)

[Detail](#)

>>> SFY 2016-17 Behavioral Health and Juvenile Justice Request for Proposals

OhioMHAS has partnered with the Ohio Department of Youth Services to release the [State Fiscal Year 2016 & 2017 Behavioral Health and Juvenile Justice \(BHJJ\) Request for Proposals \(RFP\)](#). **Proposals are due by 5 p.m. EST on June 15**. Click [HERE](#) for the BHJJ budget summary and budget detail worksheet. The BHJJ projects are required to provide evidence-based interventions (e.g. Multi-systemic Therapy, Hi-Fidelity Wraparound) and to engage the youth and their family/support systems in the treatment process. Many of the treatment services are provided in the youth’s home and are intensive interventions. Providers are required to address the cultural and ethnic population that their county has historically admitted to DHS. Although each program is different and based on local needs and resources, each program offers assessment, evaluation and coordination of appropriate services and supports for the youth and their family. Read more about this and other current funding opportunities on the [Funding section](#) of the OhioMHAS website.

>>> ENGAGE Webinar: Cultural and Linguistic Competency in Local Systems of Care: Brief Overview of Cultural Competency, Health Equity, and the Enhanced CLAS Standards

Join us for our introductory webinar on cultural and linguistic competency in local systems of care and the launching of Ohio's CLC Network. This webinar is an introduction to *the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health and Health Care* (the *National CLAS Standards*) and will be followed up with a full day training on the CLAS standards in August. The CLAS standards are intended to advance health equity, improve quality, and help eliminate health care disparities by providing a blueprint for individuals and health and health care organizations to implement culturally and linguistically appropriate services (HHS, Office of Minority Health).

- **May 20, 2015 (2 PM to 3:30 PM) Cultural and Linguistic Competency in Local Systems of Care: Brief Overview of Cultural Competency, Health Equity, and the Enhanced CLAS Standards**
- **May 29, 2015 (11 AM – 12 noon) Office Hours webinar: Q&A on cultural competency, health equity, the CLAS Standards and the Ohio CLC Network**

Click [HERE](#) to attend the webinar; pre-registration is not required. For more information, visit: <http://begun.case.edu/cip-webinar-cultural-competence>

>>> Two-Thirds of Voters Support Increasing Ohio's Cigarette Tax

A majority of Ohio voters (64.5 percent) favor [increasing the tax on tobacco products](#) in order to offset an income tax reduction, as proposed in Governor Kasich's [Blueprint for a New Ohio](#) (HB 64). Strong voter support and other benefits of increasing Ohio's cigarette tax by \$1 per pack and raising the other tobacco products rate to match are the subject of a coalition [fact sheet](#) published by The American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, American Stroke Association and American Lung Association. The coalition is encouraging the Senate to reinstate the cigarette tax increase, which was removed by the Ohio House during its consideration of HB 64.

In the News

(5.6.15) *WOUB-TV* [NAMI Video Shows Relation Between Mental Illness and Imprisonment](#)

(5.5.15) *Lorain Morning-Journal* [Lorain County's mental health system praised](#)

(5.5.15) *Globe Newswire* [Hopewell Develops New Assessment Tool; Indicates Whether Therapeutic Farm is Best for Individuals](#)

(5.5.15) *World Health Organization* [WHO/UNHCR issue new guide on mental health in humanitarian emergencies](#)

(5.4.15) *HealthDay News* [ER Doctors Cautious When Prescribing Narcotic Painkillers: Study](#)

(5.4.15) *Streetsboro Gateway News* [Students Travel to Ohio Statehouse to Rally Against Drugs](#)

(4.30.15) *Akron Beacon Journal* [Let's Talk: Cuyahoga Falls program tries to arm parents with tools to spot, tackle teen drug use](#)

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