



February 2, 2015

Recovery Services Transition to OhioMHAS

As part of Governor Kasich's FY 16-17 budget proposal, we are announcing a partnership between the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation (DRC) and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) that will leverage the combined expertise of each agency in order to provide increased treatment within the prisons and ensure a better connection to clinical and recovery supports for offenders upon release. This partnership will include the transitioning of DRC recovery services staff to OhioMHAS effective July 1, 2015.

The mission of DRC's Division of Recovery Services is to provide evidence-based treatment so that offenders possess the necessary skills to remain drug free upon release from prison to the community. We know for individuals who successfully complete a recovery services treatment program during incarceration the recidivism rate is a low 10.4 percent. OhioMHAS has the resources and expertise to provide effective recovery services treatment in the community. It makes sense for DRC to partner with OhioMHAS in a manner that will promote a seamless continuity of care for offenders as they are released into the community.

This transition will enhance the current level of services within DRC prisons, while at the same time allowing OhioMHAS to put in place an unrivaled community care structure that will provide linked treatment opportunities for offenders upon release from prison. Some of the other added benefits of this transition will be:

- A significant expansion of the number of Recovery Services staff within DRC facilities,
- Continuation of the evidenced-based model of treatment currently provided by DRC Recovery Services,
- Increased treatment capacity and opportunities within DRC facilities,
- Development and implementation of a community network of designated treatment centers and other supports such as sober housing for released offenders so they can continue their treatment and thereby ensure continued stability.

As we embark upon this transformation there will be many questions from staff wanting to know how they will be impacted. This proposal will grow jobs within OhioMHAS dedicated to recovery services, especially in the area of linkage between the prisons and the community. Extensive and ongoing discussions with SEIU regarding the transformation of recovery services within our agencies are beginning.

Change can be difficult, but this is a momentous opportunity for both agencies as the expansion and transformation of services will allow more persons under our care to be identified and engaged in treatment within Ohio's prisons and communities. Both agencies are equally committed to the valuable staff who will take part in this transformation. As we proceed through the coming days, weeks and months, effective communication will be important to all of us. Recovery Services employees will have an opportunity to participate in town hall meetings with Directors Plouck and Mohr. Additionally,



you will begin to see information posted on the DRC intranet, such as FAQs and an email account (DRC.RecoveryServicesTransition@odrc.state.oh.us) has been established so that staff can submit questions regarding this process.

This transformation will be carried out by the dedicated individuals that are committed to the missions of both DRC and OhioMHAS. The result of this transformation will be effectively aiding those in need of services to better connect with solid support, reducing the likelihood that they will reoffend and thereby making a very real difference in Ohio communities.