



# News Now

John R. Kasich, Governor  
Tracy Plouck, Director

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## >>> **KEPRO Inc. Selected as Statewide Vendor for PASRR-SMI Assessments**

Per scheduled contract renewal guidelines, the Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS) has recently concluded the Request for Proposal process to select a contractor to complete statewide Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR)-Serious Mental Illness (SMI) assessments. The competitive bidding process resulted in the state contract being awarded to KEPRO Inc. This will result in a transition from Ascend Management Innovations, the vendor that has completed the statewide PASRR-SMI assessments during the past five years. In anticipation of the transition, we are developing a detailed timeline, a list of FAQ's, and a dedicated e-mail address for technical assistance. Further details of this transition will be forthcoming. Please visit the [PASRR Contract Change page](#) to follow the transition.

PASRR requires that all applicants to Medicaid-certified nursing facilities be assessed to determine whether they might have a mental illness or developmental disability. The PASRR Bureau at OhioMHAS works to make sure that individuals are placed in the appropriate environment when they need intensive treatment and services. Questions? Please contact [PASSRchanges@mha.ohio.gov](mailto:PASSRchanges@mha.ohio.gov).

## >>> **Planning Council Seeking New Members**

The [Ohio Community Support Recovery Planning Council](#) is recruiting new members to fill mid-year vacancies. The Council serves as an advisory board to OhioMHAS on planning for mental health and addiction services, and meets federal requirements for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Block Grants. The Council meets six times a year on Fridays and Saturdays in Columbus. Council membership is comprised of persons in recovery and family members of persons in recovery. Additionally, the Council includes representatives of state agencies, providers, statewide behavioral health organizations and a representative of the Ohio Association of Behavioral Health Authorities. OhioMHAS is currently seeking a person in recovery from mental illness, and a family member of a child under 18 who is being treated for addiction. As applicants for these seats represent persons in recovery and family members, applicants may not be employed by the state or a behavioral health provider. For an application, and additional information, please contact [Elizabeth.Gitter@mha.ohio.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Gitter@mha.ohio.gov) or 614-466-9963.

**In the News**

- 7.9.15 | *Akron West Side Leader* [County Council supports Stepping Up Initiative](#)
- 7.8.15 | *Columbus Dispatch* [Paralyzed water-skier finds redemption in sharing tale of mental illness](#)
- 7.8.15 | *Columbus Dispatch* [Wexner Medical Center intern creates app for recovering addicts](#)
- 7.7.15 | *Youngstown Vindicator* [Seven graduate CCA program](#)
- 7.7.15 | *Zanesville Times-Recorder* [Zanesville recovery house to help men stay sober](#)
- 7.7.15 | *Portsmouth Daily-Times* [Hughes talks impact of addiction](#)
- 7.6.15 | *WDTN-TV* [Ohio makes changes to help prisoners with drug addictions](#)
- 7.6.15 | *Toledo Blade (Editorial)* [Restoring hope](#)
- 7.3.15 | *Springfield News-Sun* [Mental Health Board to build \\$490K development in Springfield](#)

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