



News Now

Mike DeWine, *Governor*
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>>> OhioMHAS PASRR Transitions to New Vendor July 1

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) will transition its Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) Level II - Serious Mental Illness (SMI) assessments to be provided by Ascend, a MAXIMUS Company beginning **next Monday, July 1st**. The Ascend team looks forward to building relationships with the state's provider community to ensure individuals receive the services and supports they need. As part of that goal, sharing helpful resources and fostering open lines of communication will always remain a priority. You will find some important updates below on the minor process changes you can expect post-transition, details on next steps, and more about Ascend.

WHAT IS CHANGING? Contacts & Assessor Network

Once the transition to Ascend is in place, Ohio facilities can expect minimal changes from the current referral process. These include:

- **Faxing Referrals**
If you need to submit a referral via fax, these will need to be sent using a new fax number which will be provided in upcoming communications coming on 06/30 and the morning of 07/01.
- **Support Resources**
When you have inquiries about a specific referral or general PASRR process questions, you will have new phone and email contacts to reach out to Ascend's Ohio PASRR Level II - SMI HelpDesk. The new contacts will be provided in communications coming ahead of the transition date.
- **New Assessors**
The other notable change will be the assessors coming to your facility for onsite visits. After July 1st, a network of qualified independently contracted assessors working with the Ascend team will schedule and conduct evaluations, whenever a Level II is deemed the appropriate next step.

WHAT IS REMAINING THE SAME? HENS Process

HENS will accept applications after the **July 1** transition date. Providers are encouraged to [continue using this established process](#) and submit their applications through the HENS system moving forward.

NEXT STEPS: Moving Toward July 1 Go-Live

What should you expect in the process ahead of the transition? You will receive additional communications on Sunday, June 30, and Monday morning, July 1, with more details on the following:

- HelpDesk Phone and Email
- Number for faxing referrals
- Link to Ohio PASRR Tools and Resources page

About Ascend

Ascend, a MAXIMUS Company, formerly Ascend Management Innovations, comes to its new PASRR Level II - SMI

assessments role with previous experience as Ohio's first centralized PASRR partner, from 2009-2015. The company has been nationally recognized for its work with states across the country to manage complex programs and ensure that individuals receive the appropriate care and supports necessary to improve their quality of life. Enduring commitment to process innovation and service excellence has led the company to a role as the industry's leading provider of high-quality, conflict free assessment services for persons with intellectual, behavioral health, and developmental disabilities, as well as older adults and individuals with physical disabilities and complex medical conditions.

>>> Free Online Cultural Competency Training for Behavioral Professionals

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health has announced a free e-learning program designed to increase providers' knowledge and skills around culturally and linguistically appropriate services (CLAS) and improve providers' abilities to work with diverse individuals and their families. As July is [National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month](#), this training is timely and a valuable resource in terms of addressing mental health disparities among diverse populations and promoting behavioral health equity. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

In the News

6.27.19 | *Lorain Morning Journal* [ADAS Board celebrates 30 years](#)

6.27.19 | *Columbus Dispatch* [Auditor: State should redirect \\$15M in mental health, addiction money](#)

6.27.19 | *Dayton Daily News* [How Children's new \\$12M mental health unit uses technology to save lives](#)

6.27.19 | *Elyria Chronicle-Telegram* [Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services boards merge Monday](#)

6.27.19 | *Akron Beacon Journal* [Lesbian, gay, bisexual high-schoolers more likely to be bullied, consider suicide](#)

6.26.19 | *WCPO-TV* [Addiction experts expect a meth epidemic in northern Kentucky soon](#)

6.26.19 | *U.S. News & World Report* [Suicide Rates Soaring Among Black Teens](#)

6.26.19 | *Delaware Gazette* [Helpline names new associate director](#)

6.26.19 | *The Wall Street Journal* [Overdose Deaths Likely to Fall for First Time Since 1990](#)

6.26.19 | *The Plain Dealer* [Front Steps to break ground on permanent supportive-housing facility in Ohio City](#)

6.25.19 | *Portsmouth Daily Times (Opinion)* [Helping parents help suicidal kids](#)

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