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State Opiate Director Orman Hall Announces Retirement, Lauds Progress *Former Franklin County Specialty Docket Court Administrator to Build on Momentum*

COLUMBUS – After more than three decades of dedicated public service as a tireless advocate for addiction prevention and treatment, Orman Hall, director of the Governor John R. Kasich’s Cabinet Opiate Action Team (GCOAT), has announced plans to retire at the end of November.

“It has been my great privilege to serve in the Kasich administration. From the very beginning, the Governor, his staff and Cabinet have worked with a sense of great urgency to decrease the excessive use of prescription opiates, close pill mills and expand addiction treatment,” said Hall, whose 36 years of public service includes several decades at the helm of the Fairfield County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board. “We have made important progress, but there is still work ahead.”

During his tenure as both the leader of the state’s opiate action team and as director of the former Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, Hall stood as a strong advocate for treatment and criminal justice reform. Under his watch, an unprecedented cross-systems alliance of state agencies, legislators, medical professionals, criminal justice officials, community providers and state and local leaders have fought to:

- Shutter pill mills in southern Ohio
- Create guidelines for the use of opiates in the treatment of chronic pain
- Make addiction treatment more widely available through Medicaid expansion
- Establish guidelines for the use of medications to treat prescription opiate and heroin addiction
- Ensure that drug courts and Medication-Assisted Treatment therapies are available to persons dependent on opiates in the criminal justice system
- Create widespread awareness about the dangers of opiate addiction through Start Talking! -- Ohio’s statewide youth drug prevention initiative championed by Gov. Kasich and First Lady Karen W. Kasich

Hall sees plenty of optimism and hope for the future as the state seeks to build on the momentum of the previous four years. “Ohio’s efforts to combat opiate addiction are in good hands,” he said. “OhioMHAS Director Tracy Plouck, and new Opiate Cabinet Director Andrea Boxill have the passion, expertise and commitment to spearhead Ohio’s ongoing fight against heroin and prescription opiate addiction.”

Boxill, who joined OhioMHAS over the summer and has served as GCOAT deputy director under Hall, brings a wealth of experience to the post. She previously served more than a decade as administrator of Franklin County Municipal Court’s specialty docket programs and as the Franklin County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board Mental Health Court coordinator. She holds a Master’s degree in Counseling from the Methodist Theological School in Ohio and has significant experience in implementing mental health and addiction groups for both adults and adolescents as well as extensive training in trauma-informed care and human trafficking.