



Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

OVERVIEW

John R. Kasich, Governor
Tracy J. Plouck, Director

Our mission is to provide statewide leadership of a high-quality mental health and addiction prevention, treatment and recovery system that is effective and valued by all Ohioans.

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) was established on July 1, 2013, with the consolidation of the former Ohio Departments of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) and Mental Health (ODMH). The transition to a single agency has resulted in greater value to taxpayers, better alignment in community planning and more coordinated services to Ohioans.

Through a behavioral health system of county boards and local providers, OhioMHAS works to support evidence-based prevention efforts, quality treatment and access to recovery supports in communities statewide. This public system serves as a safety net, providing for the uninsured, people of poverty and those who require specialized care.

Ohio's publicly funded mental health and addiction service system provides care to approximately 500,000 adults and children each year. Each day, approximately 1,000 adults with the most acute mental health needs are receiving inpatient treatment in our six state-run regional psychiatric hospitals, a high percentage of whom have co-occurring addiction issues. These large numbers represent only those receiving direct services and do not include the thousands of Ohioans who benefit from education and outreach.

Investments in prevention, treatment and supports for recovery are cost effective. Treatment outcomes for severe mental illnesses, including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder or major depression, are equal to or better than those achieved in physical health. Treatment approaches that are tailored to a patient's substance abuse patterns and any co-occurring medical, psychiatric and social problems can lead to sustained recovery. The bottom line: Treatment works and people can recover to live fulfilling lives despite the presence of an illness.

The economic impact of not treating mental illness or addiction is great, costing the state's businesses, communities and families through lost productivity, homelessness, increased medical care and early deaths. OhioMHAS supports access to treatment options that we know are effective, while also balancing efforts toward prevention and recovery supports so that our intervention upstream may avoid problems before they escalate and investments downstream can help people in recovery remain healthy and productive.

A community-based system of care

OhioMHAS supports the concept of community treatment rather than institutional care for those people who have the ability to live more independently. Since 1990, as local systems have increased the number and types of services

they provide, the inpatient population of public state hospitals has decreased significantly and hospital staffing has been reduced. Efforts to further enhance local systems of care are supported by OhioMHAS through state allocations and federal grants.

The Department funds, reviews and monitors community mental health and addiction programs, in part, through county-level boards. These boards do not directly provide services. They act as local authorities, contracting for services provided by private organizations and the public psychiatric hospitals operated by OhioMHAS. These local systems of care contract with hundreds of local agencies.

A lack of safe housing is a huge challenge to the recovery of individuals with mental illness or addiction. Supportive housing can provide the stable environment people need to successfully work toward positive goals. OhioMHAS is dedicated to enhancing supportive community living options for people in recovery. Working with federal, state and local

Responsibilities

- *Support and monitor local systems of care.*
- *Provide quality inpatient services.*
- *Develop strategies to prevent alcohol, drug and gambling addictions.*
- *Improve services to children/adolescents.*
- *Improve linkages with criminal justice system.*
- *Conduct research to address system priorities.*
- *Provide training and technical assistance.*
- *Procure pharmaceuticals for state-run and community-based entities.*
- *Protect rights of people receiving services.*



partners, OhioMHAS leverages funds to invest in building new community housing or maintaining current housing stock for the recovery and community integration of people with mental health and addiction disabilities.

Appropriate housing is also a key to rebalancing Ohio's long-term care options, saving taxpayer dollars and increasing independence for people who do not require institutional care. OhioMHAS advocates for individuals diagnosed with serious mental illnesses through federally mandated Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review. These evaluations ensure that individuals are placed in the setting that is most appropriate for their needs.

For individuals who are at risk of premature or unnecessary institutionalization, the Residential State Supplement Program provides financial assistance for adults with low incomes who have disabilities and/or are at least age 60, but do not require long-term care at nursing facilities. Through other programs, OhioMHAS assists people diagnosed with mental illness to move to and remain in community housing by paying for goods and services not covered by other funding programs.

Treatment in public and private settings

The state's responsibility to provide public hospital care is defined in Ohio's constitution. Formerly focused on long-term institutionalization, state hospitals have become specialized facilities providing short-term, acute inpatient care as requested by local systems. The OhioMHAS regional psychiatric hospitals provide comprehensive inpatient care at six sites around the state to approximately 7,000 people each year. The typical acute care stay is 8-10 days, depending upon a person's response to treatment. The hospital system also provides outpatient services in a community-supported environment. Hospital Services focus on maximizing the potential for recovery so people will be successful and satisfied upon discharge. Each hospital is fully accredited and in compliance with the national standards set by The Joint Commission and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Forensic patients (those sent for evaluation or committed by criminal courts) account for more than 60 percent of the in-patient population at any time. If legal charges are pending, a length of stay can vary between a few weeks to several months to determine if that person is competent to

stand trial. If the person cannot be restored to competency or is found not guilty by reason of insanity, Ohio courts may order that patient to undergo hospitalization for many years. Patient progress toward recovery is evaluated regularly by the

hospital clinicians to coordinate the patient's treatment with the committing courts that maintain jurisdiction over the patient's movement. Staff members work with families, patients and community agencies to ensure the safety of the patient and the community throughout all stages of treatment.

OhioMHAS also supports innovative approaches to help communities deal with the high volume of people with addictions who commit low-level, non-violent offenses. Those who receive treatment for their addictions have much lower recidivism rates than those who do not receive such services. Creating specialized dockets in the community courts and an

improved interface with the prison system, we can address behavioral health issues among these offenders for improved long-term recovery and rehabilitation success.

Regulation to assure safety and quality

OhioMHAS oversees a statewide mental health and alcohol, drug and gambling addiction services system that consists of more than 1,800 community entities. Our Office of Licensure and Certification is responsible for regulatory oversight of addiction prevention and treatment providers, community mental health agencies, private psychiatric hospital inpatient units and community residential programs. In addition, OhioMHAS provides licensure and oversight of adult care facilities and adult family homes.

Federal, state and local funding

Funding for community mental health services comes from federal, state and local sources. Federal Block Grants are passed on to the community through OhioMHAS.

Funds are invested into important services that can help save individuals in crisis, divert our youth from the dangers of addiction and ensure a high-quality continuum of care. Our partnership efforts with local communities have raised awareness about the problems of mental health and addiction, and the value of assessment and treatment. Together we can support the recovery needs of all Ohioans.

Beliefs

People can and do recover from mental illness and addiction.

Integration of behavioral and physical health care will achieve better health and cost savings.

Nurturing resiliency and self-determination helps children, youth and families meet life's challenges.

Consumer and family involvement in the planning, evaluation and delivery of services is vital.

Services are most effective when delivered in a culturally competent way with respect for the unique beliefs, values, customs, languages and traditions of individuals.

The impact of trauma is a public health concern and all services should take into account the potential scars of a person's past experience.

A focus on quality, safety and continuous improvement is essential.