



A CALL TO ACTION

June 22, 2009

In announcing his budget framework this past Friday, Governor Strickland stated, *"I do not believe that we can, in good conscience, make cuts that would eliminate the essential safety net services that Ohioans need now more than ever. So, in order to balance the budget we must reduce services that Ohioans have needed and received in the past but the state can no longer continue to provide. But in reducing these services, we must minimize the impact on our most vulnerable, especially children, the elderly and disabled."*

However, based on the Governor's numbers the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services will be cut by an **unbelievable 28%**, all of which will come from dollars that were to go to the community to provide services for Ohioans with substance abuse.

The Department of Mental Health will receive an overall cut of 17%; however, it must be noted that WITH THIS CUT AND THE ODMH PLAN TO TAKE MONEY OFF THE TOP OF 408 FOR STATE HOSPITALS, **funds for community-based mental health services will be cut by an astounding 34%**.

How can the Governor say he is minimizing the impact on our most vulnerable and disabled citizens and then cut community-based services for the addicted by 28% and those with a mental illness by 34%? Frankly, these cuts are completely unbelievable and unacceptable!

DO NOT ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN!

Call the Governor's Office and Legislative leaders TODAY and tell them they must fund behavioral health services, as these are some of Ohio's most vulnerable and disabled citizens --- and they deserve better!

PHONE NUMBERS

Governor Ted Strickland 614-466-3555
Senate President Bill Harris 614-466-8086
Senator Tom Niehaus 614-466-8082
Senator John Carey 614-466-8156
Senator Mark Wagoner 614-466-8060
Senator Dale Miller 614-466-5123

Speaker Armond Budish 614-466-5441
Rep. Jennifer Garrison 614-644-8728
Rep. Jay Goyal 614-466-5802
Rep. Vernon Sykes 614-466-3100
Rep. Ron Amstutz 614-466-1474

Source: Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities