



June 23, 2009

PRESS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT
12 noon press conference
Wednesday, June 24th
Statehouse west steps

ISSUE OVERVIEW

Hear from the people being harmed most by this budget plan. What does it mean to individuals, families, and communities to cut state funding by one-third? How many Ohioans will not get the healthcare they need? How many more jobs will be lost? How many more people will die because waiting lists are too long for care?

Based on the Governor's just-released 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 care for Ohioans with substance abuse. The Department of Mental Health (ODMH) will receive an overall cut of 17%, and combined with the ODMH PLAN TO HOLD MONEY BACK FOR STATE HOSPITALS, funds for community-based mental health services will be cut by an astounding 34%. That means thousands of people will go without services, and hundreds, if not thousands more jobs lost.

PRESS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities and our 54 member boards will host a 12 noon press conference this Wednesday, June 24th on the Statehouse west steps. The focus will be on the extreme budget cuts to community-based mental health (34%) and substance abuse services (28%) and the impact on consumers and their families. The Governor has specifically mentioned preserving services for our "most vulnerable, especially children, the elderly and

disabled." We want to show the Governor and the General Assembly that behavioral healthcare IS part of the safety net for Ohio's vulnerable citizens.

We know it's short notice, but please spread the word, plan to come to Columbus, and ask consumers, family members, advocates, providers, and consumer-operated services to do the same. We'd like people to bring signs with messages like:

BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE IS HEALTHCARE

INVEST WISELY: FUND MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTION SERVICES

FUND RSS - A HOME IN THE COMMUNITY FOR ALL

TREATMENT WORKS; PEOPLE RECOVER

If you hear of a group that wants to come but needs travel funds, let us know. Questions? Call Stacey Frohnepfel-Hasson at 614-224-1111 or email sfrohnepfel@oacbha.org.

**www.mhafc.org
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