

**Board Members**

Carolyn Copus, Chair  
*OhioMHAS Appointment*

Dr. William Kose, Vice-Chair  
*OhioMHAS Appointment*

*County Commissioner Appointments*

Dennis Bash  
Michael Brand  
Thomas Buis  
Carl Etta Capes  
Brian Clark  
Steve Edmiston  
Jane Heminger  
John Kissh  
Gene Lauck

*Ohio Department of Mental Health  
and Addiction Services*

*Appointments*  
Todd Coffman  
Nancy Hutchinson  
Jim Martin  
David Scruggs  
Ginny Williams

**Staff Members**

Precia Stuby,  
*Executive Director*

Rob Verhoff,  
*Fiscal Director*

Cheryl Preston,  
*Office Manager/  
Executive Assistant*

Zachary Thomas,  
*Director of Wellness and  
Education*

Clara Harrod,  
*Property Manager*

Amber Wolfrom,  
*Director of Planning and  
Accountability Systems*

## Amidst Turmoil in Health Care A Community Finds Its Compass

*Michael T. Flaherty, Ph.D. — Health Care Consultant*

In late Fall of 2012 Precia Stuby, Executive Director for the Hancock County Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS), contacted the Great Lakes Addiction Technology Transfer Center's Director, Ms. Lonnetta Albright, for guidance in strengthening the substance abuse treatment services provided to its citizens. Over the next few weeks that inquiry brought Precia and I together. What Precia was seeking however was more, much more. In addition to simply strengthening Hancock's clinical continuum of care for those suffering from the misery of addiction, she wanted something for the entire community, i.e. while addressing the medical needs of each person she also wanted to assure the community it was improving the quality of life for all. She wanted measureable individual, family and community recovery.

After several discussions a plan emerged that would attack the problem from two angles: first-build a complete continuum of medical services for each person that would be recovery focused; second-involve the community and its leaders in every step of development not only as "participant guides" but as actual stakeholders, shapers and eventual trustees of what would be designed and implemented for the recovery of the individual, family and community.

Why this approach?

In early meetings with ADAMHS and its

Board and community medical and legal leaders it became clear a certain core values were already deeply in place. The community wanted to be involved and whatever came forth must subsequently represent not only best science and practice but the expressed values of the community if it was to have its support and, ultimately, its stewardship. In short, the community wanted to be involved... then, now and in the future.

With a Vision of 'recovery' as the "True North" of all care to be provided, a definition of recovery was debated and adopted. Focusing on individual, family and community wellness and recovery would mean supporting health care and those supportive services that are comprehensive and offer a process of change through which individuals can improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and can strive to reach their potential in four areas: health, home, purpose and within the community. Topical treatment would not do. After examining previous analyses, concept papers, needs assessments, usage data, trends and funding itself a plan "Building a Model for Recovery Focused Care in Hancock County" was produced. Clinical gaps were identified and financial solutions were examined, adjusted and/or sought. Guiding all would be a community endorsed "Preamble" of twelve principles and fourteen elements of care if community support was to be claimed. From this Preamble a coordinated network of community based services and supports would be designed that while

## THE HIGHLIGHTER

being person-centered would simultaneously build a better community through the gained strengths and resiliencies of each individual, family and the community at large. Improved access to care, abstinence, wellness, measured recovery and quality of life would be a few of the early markers of success within Hancock's recovery oriented system of care. Community education, involvement and oversight would be ongoing.

As implementation has begun new and improved clinical services are emerging to strengthen the clinical fabric of all care. A community "Crisis Center" is being designed to allow increased and timely access to urgent and emergent MH and SU assessment, intervention and brief treatment outside of the hospital ER. Hospital services, aligned with this Center, are establishing a more refined MH/SU acute care unit for those with such need. Assisting all will be newly created intensive outpatient and expanded medication supported treatment; and new residential care beds – thereby completing a comprehensive SU continuum of care. ADAMHS also began working with its local judges to examine ways to strengthen clinical services within the jail while simultaneously seeking to reduce costly incarceration overall via alternative strategies to divert from jail and strengthen community re-entry through enhanced clinical services and accountability. To augment existing and new clinical services

those in sustained recovery themselves are being sought and trained for supportive roles at all levels of care. These peers will be asked to strengthen what existing professional services provide while experientially assisting in long-term personal wellness and recovery. This Peer Support Network in MH and SU is envisioned to be the way for the community to enhance its resilience over time. Peers can support individual recovery while simultaneously building community recovery capital and wellness.

It has been an unbelievable year for me since that first phone call in late 2012. Unbelievable in the sense of seeing Hancock County find its purpose and following through on it. But then with professionally diverse dedicated leadership, commitment to task, stated values and actual "get it done" attitude obvious to me as an invited consultant I should not be surprised at all. At a time when most of America is waiting and reacting (often poorly) to the uncertainty and complications of a health care change and reform, Hancock County has located its community compass and with that the realization that with change comes opportunity. Indeed, it's been an unbelievable year of accomplishment with community values and collaboration building improved care for all.



Dr. Flaherty is a clinical psychologist with more than 30 years experience in the prevention, intervention, treatment, research and policy development related to substance use, addiction and recovery. Prior to founding the Institute for Research, Education and Training in the Addictions in 1999 and becoming the Principle Investigator of its SAMHSA/CSAT funded Northeast ATTC, Dr. Flaherty was the Vice President of the St. Francis Health System and Director of its Institute for Psychiatry and Addiction Services, the then largest such facility in Pennsylvania. He has authored and overseen over 20 Federal and Foundational grants, more than 50 articles and books on topics ranging from pregnancy and addiction to the chronic disease understanding of addiction; how prevention is the cornerstone of wellness and recovery; and the need for a unified vision for prevention/intervention/ treatment, wellness and recovery in America. He regularly consults on the central role of prevention, wellness and recovery in addressing substance use. While currently dedicating himself to clinical practice he still leads key projects, prepares clinical monographs and researches the importance of understanding further the components of personal recovery. Dr. Flaherty is also committed to translating this knowledge into building a better work force through the building of skilled workers at all levels and in all disciplines addressing the prevention and treatment of substance use.

## THE HIGHLIGHTER

### State Representative Robert Cole Sprague Receives OACBHA Legislator of the Year Award

On January 28, 2014 State Representative Robert Cole Sprague received the 2013 Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) Award for Legislative Excellence for his accessibility and study of the issues impacting the community behavioral health system. OACBHA stated that Representative Sprague's leadership in dealing with Ohio's opiate epidemic has exemplified his dedication in ensuring that Ohioans with healthcare needs get the service necessary to help them recover.

Representative Sprague has become compelled to invest in our system because of his growing understanding of the devastation that is occurring across our state as a result of the opiate epidemic. Convinced that the state mental health and substance abuse system was underfunded, Representative Sprague drafted legislation to bring \$100 million dollars into Ohio's behavioral health system to help advance its services.

Locally, Representative Sprague has become involved with the Opiate/Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Task Force. He has worked closely with members of the Task Force to help him understand how the opiate epidemic is affecting our community. With this understanding as well as knowledge of the statewide epidemic, Representative Sprague drafted and introduced eleven bills which are aimed at combatting the opiate epidemic and provide more services for those suffering from addiction.

The ADAMHS Board congratulates State Representative Robert Cole Sprague on earning this award and his unwavering dedication to working collaboratively to combat the opiate epidemic.

### ADAMHS Board & Family Resource Center Earns Grant from 2013 LPGA Marathon Classic

The ADAMHS Board received a grant totaling \$10,000.00 from the 2013 LPGA Marathon Classic which will be used to help fund the *Above the Influence-Hancock County* youth-led prevention program provided by Family Resource Center (FRC).

Developed by FRC's Prevention Specialists, *Above the Influence-Hancock County* provides opportunities for students who wish to continue to promote an alcohol, tobacco, and drug free lifestyles while in high school. This program was created out of a need to provide educational opportunities and alternative alcohol and drug free activities for students who are not able to participate in a leadership capacity with H.A.P.P.Y. (Hancock Addiction Prevention Program for Youth).

The ADAMHS Board is excited to see the commitment Marathon has shown toward the development of healthy, alcohol and drug-free youth in Hancock County through this generous award.



Pictured L to R: Precia Stuby, ADAMHS Board Executive Director; Bill Conlisk, Marathon Administrative Services Manager (Ret.); Carolyn Copus, ADAMHS Board Chair at the 2013 LPGA Marathon Classic Award Reception on December 20, 2013



### NAMI of Hancock County Welcomes New Executive Director

#### MICHELLE HUFF

Appointed December 2013,  
Michelle will oversee the  
administrative duties of  
Hancock County's chapter  
of the National Alliance on  
Mental Illness



### Hancock & Putnam Counties Welcome New RSC Program Administrator

#### KATHY SCHROEDER

Appointed January 2014,  
Cathy will manage the local  
Recovery to Work/  
Opportunities for Ohioans  
with Disabilities employment  
program

### ADAMHS Board Receives OhioMHAS Community Innovations Funding Award

On December 19, 2013 the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) announced its Community Innovations Initiative at a press conference held on the campus of The University of Findlay.

Utilizing administrative savings achieved from the consolidation of state-funded agencies for mental health and addiction services, \$1.5 million dollars will be used to fund twelve projects serving twenty-four counties which help link non-violent offenders with community-based behavioral healthcare services.

“An overwhelming percentage of offenders involved with the criminal justice system have a mental health and/or addiction disorder and are in need of treatment,” explained OhioMHAS Director Tracy Plouck.

The Community Innovations Initiative encourages communities in Ohio to forge collaborative relationships between the behavioral health and criminal justice systems so that individuals with mental illness and/or addiction disorders receive the care they need. This, in turn, helps to reduce recidivism, increase public safety, and minimize harm to those who come in contact with law enforcement.

Hancock County received \$140,357.00 which will be used to advance the “Shared Framework for Reducing Recidivism and Promoting Recovery.” The framework aims to address specific individual needs based on criminogenic risk, substance abuse, and mental illness.

“This process will ultimately improve the lives of individuals by promoting recovery, reducing recidivism, improving public safety, and providing for more significant outcomes,” said Hancock County Sheriff Michael Heldman.

### Community Mental Health Fund

This fund was established through a collaborative effort of local mental health agencies to support programs and operations of nonprofit agencies providing services to improve emotional and mental health, including substance abuse prevention and services, to residents of Findlay and Hancock County.

To contribute to this fund, please contact the Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation at 419-424-1100.

### Governor John Kasich Announces Ohio’s Youth Drug Abuse Prevention Initiative

Drug abuse is a public health epidemic across the nation, and Ohio is not immune. In 2011, drug overdoses were the leading cause of accidental deaths in our state, with one Ohioan dying from a drug overdose every five hours. Under Governor John Kasich’s leadership, Ohio has made attacking the drug problem a priority: Efforts are underway to broaden public and professional education, particularly regarding the prescribing and abuse of opioids; law enforcement has ramped up interdiction efforts on our highways and in our communities; and treatment options and recovery supports have been expanded to help those struggling with addiction regain control of their lives. The next phase of this statewide, multi-pronged approach is the launch of *Start Talking!* - Ohio’s new youth drug prevention initiative.

*Start Talking!* is an effort championed by Governor Kasich and First Lady Karen Kasich aimed at preventing drug abuse among Ohio’s most vulnerable citizens—our children. Research has shown when children talk about substance abuse with parents and other adults, they are up to fifty percent less likely to use drugs. This initiative encourages Ohioans to embrace prevention-focused programs aimed at raising awareness and encouraging conversation, all in an effort to stop drug abuse before it starts.

To learn more, visit  
[starttalking.ohio.gov](http://starttalking.ohio.gov)

**Start Talking!**   
*Building a Drug-Free Future*

### Additional Resources

If you have any questions related to the topics presented in this edition of *The Highlighter*, please call 419-424-1985.

Be sure to visit the ADAMHS Board on-line for additional resources:

Web: [www.yourpathtohealth.org](http://www.yourpathtohealth.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/HancockADAMHS](https://www.facebook.com/HancockADAMHS)  
Twitter: [@HancockADAMHS](https://www.twitter.com/HancockADAMHS)