

ADAMH

2022

Policy Agenda



As the Franklin County community grows and its mental health and addiction service needs evolve the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County (ADAMH) is expanding legislative awareness and advocacy efforts at the local, state, and federal levels to support equitable access to high-quality mental health and addiction services. Through elected official and policymaker engagement, testifying on legislation, and enhancing advocacy specific communication with our provider network, ADAMH will positively influence and enhance the behavioral health environment of Franklin County.

Strengthen The Workforce Pipeline

Pursue policy actions that expand and strengthen a more diverse behavioral health workforce.

- **Build Educational Partnerships**
Enhance public/private educational partnerships to include secondary and collegiate levels to support a culturally diverse workforce pipeline.
- **Address Workforce Shortages**
Conduct a landscape analysis of the number of bilingual providers in Franklin County to identify gaps and inform targeted efforts towards building a diverse workforce reflective of community.
- **Assess Licensure and Certification Requirements**
Support and offer perspective for review of licensure and certification requirements for behavioral health professions to identify barriers to workforce entry and career advancement with key partners (e.g., Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities, and the Ohio Council).
- **Monitor Medicaid Reimbursement Rates for Mental Health Services**
Research and review current Medicaid reimbursement rates and codes in Ohio, as well as ADAMH's reimbursement rates, to understand impact to the ADAMH network.
- **Advance State and Federal Loan Repayment and Forgiveness Programs**
Advocate to establish a Mental Health Professionals Workforce Shortage Loan Repayment program.



Increase Service Delivery Access

Adapt policies that increase access to care for growingly diverse communities through ADAMH network providers.



- **Reduce Fatal Opioid Overdoses**
Partner with local organizations and entities – e.g., Columbus and Franklin County Addiction Plan and OneOhio – to advocate for and provide aligned harm reduction, prevention, treatment and recovery strategies to address opioid overdoses in priority neighborhoods.
- **Increase Funding Streams for Community Based Partners and Care**
Engage Franklin County Congressional and Statehouse delegations to share results and outcomes from State Opioid Response (SOR) funding.
- **Remove Barriers to Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment**
Encourage legislation and regulatory changes that remove administrative barriers for those seeking treatment.

Develop an Innovative Alternative Crisis Response

Improve how our community responds to individuals in times of crisis.

- **Continue Crisis Center Advocacy**
Partner with stakeholders to advocate for state regulatory changes supporting a seamless implementation of crisis services in Franklin County, in preparation for the opening of the Franklin County Mental Health and Addiction Crisis Center in 2024.
 - **Support Expansion of Alternative Crisis Response Model**
Initiate awareness and promote partnerships among Franklin County municipalities to review and adopt alternative response models that include clinicians and peers.
 - **Support 988 Implementation**
Collaborate with local partners on awareness and marketing campaigns to educate residents about the new 988 mental health crisis hotline number. Advocate for sustainable state and federal funding streams to support 988 program implementation.
Build cross-system partnerships with law enforcement to integrate 988 into existing crisis response structure.



Improve Board Governance

Optimize how Ohio's county behavioral health boards are able to conduct business for efficiency in planning and administering services.



- **Support Ohio Revised Code Modernization**
Advocate for changes to Ohio Revised Code Chapter 340 and Ohio Administrative Codes 5119 and 5122 to better align language that reflects current community needs and practices of county boards.
- **Obtain Virtual Meeting Permission**
Support legislation that would permanently allow public bodies to meet virtually under the Ohio Open Meetings Act.