

2023-2024 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.

Behavioral Health Workforce

Building and maintaining a diverse behavioral health workforce that is equipped to service the community's present and future needs

Strategic Workforce Development Plan

- Advance the policy recommendations of the ADAMH Behavioral Health Workforce Development Council to assist in recruiting and retaining a diverse local workforce, identify funding opportunities and services capacity, and strengthen career pathways in Franklin County

Licensure, Certification, and Credentialing Reforms

- Identify regulatory barriers to behavioral health workforce entry and career advancement

Recruitment and Retention

- Increase financial incentives to retain and recruit behavioral health workforce, including student loan forgiveness and repayment programs, scholarships, and retention bonuses, especially from underrepresented communities
- Increase access to culturally and linguistically responsive training

Funding

Ensure funding directed to community behavioral health providers is sustainable and reflective of the services needed by the community

Medicaid Reimbursement Rates

- Advocate to increase Medicaid behavioral health reimbursement rates to correspond with the increase in Medicaid inflation rate
- Advocate for Medicaid coverage and reimbursement of peer support services

OneOhio Opioid Settlement

- Lead Franklin County's abatement strategy and recommendations where opioid settlement dollars should be invested locally to prevent, treat and support recovery from addiction

Crisis Care

Develop the crisis care continuum to ensure individuals have someone to call, someone to come, and somewhere to go in Franklin County

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

- Work with state partners to develop a sustainable funding stream to fully support 988 infrastructure and implementation in Ohio

Crisis Care Regulatory Framework

- Advocate for new category of OhioMHAS licensure that supports ADAMH's vision on addressing the crisis care continuum, e.g., establishment of crisis receiving center and urgent care
- Secure qualified entity status for the Franklin County Mental Health and Addiction Care Crisis Care Center to ensure uninsured residents receive immediate health care services through Medicaid if they are presumed to be eligible
- Improve Medicaid billing codes, reimbursement rates, other funding mechanisms to sustainably support each component of the crisis care continuum

Access to Treatment and Support Services

Ensure individuals have access to get the help they need and the supports they need to live healthier, productive lives

Insurance Parity

- Advocate for stricter state-level enforcement of federal insurance parity regulations at the state level for mental health and addiction services.

Harm Reduction Measures

- Expand access to naloxone and other opioid reversal medication, as well as fentanyl test strips, to reduce fatal overdose deaths

Housing Stability

- Conduct landscape and gap analysis on the supportive housing supply for individuals living with a mental illness or addiction in Franklin County
- Collaborate with state and local partners on increasing housing supply as determined by gap analysis, including residential care facilities, supportive housing, and recovery housing

Board Governance

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

Ohio Revised Code Chapter 340 Modernization

- Advocate for changes to Ohio Revised Code Chapter 340 to allow ADAMHS boards to have more flexibility and local control to better coordinate services