



2025-2026 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) legislative awareness and advocacy efforts at the local, state and federal levels are critical to support equitable access to high-quality mental health and addiction services. Through engagement with elected officials and policymakers, testifying on legislation and enhancing advocacy-specific communication with our provider network, ADAMH aims to positively influence and enhance the behavioral health environment of Franklin County.

Crisis Care Continuum

Standardize Licensure and Certification for Crisis Care

- Ohio's current regulatory environment lacks the appropriate definitions in the Ohio Revised Code and Ohio Administrative Code that support best practices in the delivery of crisis care. The state should develop clearly defined service definitions and standards for Crisis Receiving Centers, Crisis Centers with Observation and Behavioral Health Urgent Care settings.

Expand Reimbursable Services within Crisis Care

- Advocate for the expansion of reimbursable services under Medicaid and private insurance to include a broader range of crisis care services that align with the actual cost of operating best-practice, facility-based crisis care.

Expand Regional Continuum of Alternative Crisis Response

- Engage with community stakeholders – including the City of Columbus – to develop and build out the community's non-law enforcement response options, providing better, more tailored responses to residents' needs.

Funding for Behavioral Health Services

Invest Marijuana Tax Revenue to Support Local Behavioral Health Services

- Advocate for the allocation of marijuana tax revenue to local ADAMH boards to fund local behavioral health services, including prevention, treatment and recovery support programs.

Increase Hospital Access Program Funding

- Support the continuation and expansion of indigent funds through the Hospital Access Program (HAP) to ensure that low-income and uninsured individuals can access critical behavioral health services without financial barriers in Franklin County.

Ensure Sustainable Funding for the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

- As 988 awareness and utilization continue to increase, it is critical that the state develop a sustainable funding stream to fully support 988 infrastructure in Ohio.

Preserve the Integrity of Line Item 336-421 Continuum of Care

- This line item represents the largest state GRF investment allocated to the ADAMH boards to fund the local continuum of care. However, in recent years, it has been used to fund program-specific earmarks. ADAMH boards should continue to receive at least the same base allocation in each year of the biennium.

Increase Investments in Affordable Housing

- As the Central Ohio region strategizes on addressing the housing crisis, there should be a greater focus on affordable housing investments for those making less than 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI).

Behavioral Health Workforce

Strengthen Insurance Parity

- Advocate for the stricter enforcement of mental health parity laws to ensure equal coverage for behavioral health services as for physical health services.

Maintain Medicaid Reimbursement Rates for Behavioral Health Services

- Support policies that maintain or raise Medicaid reimbursement rates for behavioral health services to ensure adequate compensation for community-based providers.

Sustain Workforce Investments

- The state has made needed investments to help build the behavioral health workforce pipeline with federal ARPA funding. It is essential that funding extend beyond 2025 to support leadership development, recruitment, retention, and funding of behavioral health workforce initiatives to help build and diversify the workforce pipeline. This includes efforts such as tuition assistance, student loan forgiveness, licensure and certification stipends, and employer retention initiatives.

Support Integration of Peer Support Specialists Across the Continuum of Care

- Peer support services are now eligible for Medicaid reimbursement for both substance use disorder and mental health. To expand the peer support workforce in Ohio, additional investments should be made to remove barriers to peer support certification, continuing education, and career advancement within the behavioral health system.

Board Governance

Board Access to Aggregate Medicaid Data

- The ability to receive macro Medicaid data on the types of services Medicaid recipients are receiving on a county-by-county basis will help ADAMH Boards identify trends and afford a greater ability to plan for needed services in the county. This type of data would also help analyze equity and disparity in the community.