

Treatment Works – People Recover

HORIZON

NO NEW TAXES!

‘Continue the Caring’ by renewing 10-year mental health levy on Nov. 2

Voters in Columbiana County will be asked to approve a 1.3-mill, 10-year renewal levy on November 2.

“This is not a new tax,” explains **Susan Zehentbauer**, Levy Chair and Board member, “but the need is even greater because of the state budget cuts.” Over the past 18 months, state funding reductions have forced the MHRS Board to cut more than \$1 million from its budget.

“It’s tragic that in these tough economic times, we have fewer services for the people who need them more than ever,” Zehentbauer says. “Columbiana County residents, including children and teens with emotional problems, have to wait longer for services or go without the supports they need.”



About the Mental Health Renewal Levy

What is it?

In order to meet the growing mental health and substance abuse needs of children, adults and families in Columbiana County, voters will be asked to approve a 1.3-mill renewal levy on November 2. **This is NOT a new tax.**

Why is it needed?

Citizens of Columbiana County have long supported the pressing mental health needs in our community. This levy is needed to ensure that individuals with mental illnesses and substance abuse problems continue to have access to care, treatment and prevention services.

How will funds be used?

- To operate a 24-hour emergency hotline for all Columbiana County residents.

- To continue providing a safety net for people of all ages who cannot afford mental health and recovery services and those in need of help for problems with substance abuse.
- To offer treatment for children with severe emotional disabilities and their families.
- To provide community-based care in a supervised and supportive environment for individuals with serious mental illness, as well as peer support and opportunities to work.
- To offer support to families of persons with mental illness.

What is the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board?

The 18-member MHRS Board oversees the county-wide service system and the use of public funds for mental health and addiction services. The Board collaborates with local providers to help meet the needs of county residents.

A message from the Executive Director

As I make plans for my retirement early next year, I want to thank the many recovery leaders, provider staff and community members who have collaborated so well for the betterment of Columbiana County residents over all these years. I have worked with many wonderful people who have contributed to our community and made this a better place. I consider many of you my friends, and I will miss working with you.

My number one concern is that we pass the 1.3-mill, 10-year renewal levy on November 2. As I reflect on my many years working in mental health and drug and alcohol addiction services in Columbiana County, funding for the community-based behavioral health system in Ohio remains a huge issue. Last year, decreases in funding from the state forced us to reduce our services at a time when needs are the greatest. I believe the reductions in federal and state support could result in disaster for our system, especially our innovative programming. Your support of the renewal levy (no new taxes!) is absolutely crucial. Thank you for your support on November 2 and throughout my career in Columbiana County.



Patricia A. Baumgarner
Executive Director

Patricia Baumgarner announces retirement

After 34 years of service, **Patricia Baumgarner**, Executive Director of the Columbiana County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, will retire in February.

"It would never be easy to leave," Baumgarner says, "but I think it's time."

Baumgarner was appointed to the director's position in 1999 after working at the Counseling Center and the MHRS Board as Associate Director. She holds a master's degree in social work from the University of Pittsburgh and a master's degree in sociology from Texas Tech University.

Baumgarner said she is most proud she had the opportunity to support and encourage recovery for persons with mental illness and those suffering with addictions. "This has been a collective effort with many challenges and rewards," she explains.

During her tenure, Baumgarner has been instrumental in writing grants which helped fund the building of the Counseling Center and Kendall Home, as well as the PATH homeless outreach program and the Mental Health Recovery Systems Initiative. The

Board is responsible for most of the public funding for mental health and drug and alcohol services in the county.

In addition, Baumgarner says she is proud of the progress made in addressing the needs of children and families.



Patricia Baumgarner

"Pat has been an extremely knowledgeable and resourceful person who has been a wonderful partner to our agency," says **Eileen Dray-Bardon**, Director of the Columbiana County Department of Jobs and Family Services. "She has been able to bring services, especially for children, home to the people of our county," says Dray-Bardon, a lifelong friend and classmate of Baumgarner's at Beaver Local Schools.

"Pat's professionalism and skills have exceeded the MHRS Board's expectations," says Board President **Karen Bertolasio**. "Pat has maintained a high quality of mental health and addiction recovery services for the

citizens of Columbiana County with a fearless drive towards fiscal responsibility and maintaining our programs. To say we regret Pat's retirement is an understatement."

New Board member brings medical experience



Pamela Puorro RNC

Pamela Puorro RNC, who was recently appointed to the Columbiana County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, brings nearly 20 years of experience in psychiatric nursing to her new volunteer position.

A graduate of Kent State University, she is a registered nurse with certification in psychiatric nursing. Currently, Puorro is the

Nurse Liaison at Adkins Care Center in East Liverpool

where she handles community relations and marketing in addition to nursing duties. A lifelong county resident, previously she worked as a psychiatric nurse at East Liverpool City Hospital and Aliquippa Community Hospital in Pennsylvania.

"I thought I might have something to offer as a Board member because of my involvement in mental health issues in the county," Puorro explains. "I am anxious to learn more, but I am already happy to be a part of the Board. It is clear that many people on the Board and in the county give a great deal of time and effort."

Spotlight on recovery

Newest Fleming House employee comes full circle



Laura Martin

For **Laura Martin** being named Residential Case Manager of Fleming House is all about coming home. Martin and her children lived in the residential facility for women and children for two years as she worked to recover from drug and alcohol addiction.

Now, as a full-time employee of Family Recovery Center Martin

oversees all maintenance and repairs, completes reports to federal and state agencies and coordinates housing issues and concerns of residents. "I also offer support and life skills to the women who live here and help them in finding a level of balance in their lives," she says.

"I'm helping the people who helped me," she says. "I'm blessed because I have been able to turn my life around. It seems so fitting that I am working here."

One of the requirements for women living at the Fleming House is that they attend school. Some

finish high school by passing the GED, while others go to college. After being out of school for 30 years, Martin finished her associate's degree in Human Services Technology at Kent State Salem in 2009. Currently, she is a full-time, bachelors student at KSU.

In addition to her position at Fleming House, Martin also works occasionally at Horizon House, a treatment center in Portage County. She and her daughter live in Lisbon, and her son is a freshman at Kent State's main campus. Martin was recently appointed to the Drug and Alcohol Planning Committee of the MHRS Board.

According to **Eloise Traina**, Director of Family Recovery Center, "Laura represents the embodiment of what recovery is all about because she was able to capture what was provided to her through treatment and support systems and now is able to give back to the residents and their children."

Martin concludes, "I hope I offer a good example of tenacity and determination to the 10 moms and 12 kids who live here. I'm home."

Band Aid awareness campaign puts focus on health care

Through its Band Aid awareness campaign, the Coalition for Healthy Communities asks all Ohioans to stand up and advocate for individuals who must live with mental illness or addiction disorders. The Coalition is made up of 35 agencies which have joined together to ensure that behavioral health care is recognized as health care.

For more information, contact the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board at 330-424-0195, or visit the Board's website: www.ccmhrsb.org.



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Contract Agencies of the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board

The Counseling Center

Provides comprehensive mental health and substance abuse services.
330-424-9573

Family Recovery Center

Provides comprehensive counseling and treatment for chemical dependency and mental health problems.
330-424-1468

Help Hotline Crisis Center, Inc.

24-hours a day, 7-days a week
 Crisis Intervention.
800-427-3606 or 330-424-7767

National Alliance on Mental Illness of Columbiana County

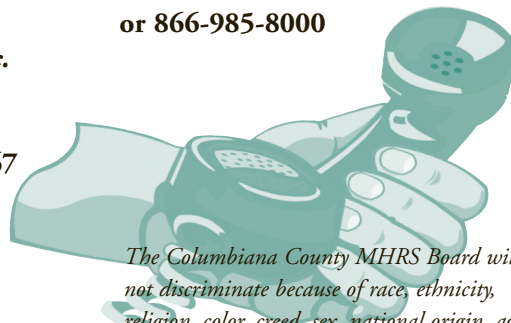
Provides support to families of persons with mental illness.
 Combats the stigma associated with mental illness.
330-332-4284

Neil Kennedy Recovery Clinic

Provides inpatient detoxification services and access to residential treatment.
800-228-8287

Shining Reflections

Provides consumers of mental health services with peer support and opportunities to work.
330-385-7000
or 866-985-8000



The Columbiana County MHRS Board will not discriminate because of race, ethnicity, religion, color, creed, sex, national origin, age, sexual orientation, lifestyle, physical or mental handicap, developmental disability, HIV infection, AIDS related complex, AIDS or the ability to pay.

Columbiana County Mental Health & Recovery Services Board

330-424-0195 • 330-424-8033 • bdmail@ccmhrs.org • www.ccmhrs.org

Serving Columbiana County Since 1969.

Thank you for continuing the caring. Services are supported by the mental health and recovery local tax levy.

This newsletter is available in PDF format by calling the Board office at 330-424-0195 with your email address.



Columbiana County Mental Health & Recovery Services Board

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