

Written Testimony

February 27, 2018

Members of the Ohio House Finance Committee

Request of Support for ONE RECOVERY CENTER in Lorain County

Dear Members of the Ohio House Finance Committee,

On behalf of the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board of Lorain County (ADAS) and the Lorain County Board of Mental Health, we are writing to request your support of the application for capital funds for the **Recovery One – Lorain County Capital Project in Lorain County – Amherst Township**. This project as submitted by the Lorain County Commissioners, will renovate the building that used to house the Golden Acres Nursing Home so that development of a comprehensive recovery center may begin. Lorain County continues to struggle to combat an increasing rate of opiate related deaths as well as an unprecedented increase in the number suicides. The time has come to introduce alternative methods of saving lives and stopping preventable behavioral health related deaths.

The Golden Acres site is an ideal space to establish a recovery center that will allow for comprehensive and integrated care. The Nord Center, Firelands Counseling and Recovery Services and The LCADA Way, three of the largest adult-serving behavioral health providers in our county, have agreed to work together. The colocation of these services will allow for a more comprehensive and integrated support to clients with a wide range of behavioral health needs.

The component of this plan that most excites us is the shared understanding that behavioral healthcare needs are complex and individualized. The planning group that worked with Commissioners Lundy and Kokoski was united in the understanding that it is insufficient to develop an autonomous short term detox or crisis facility. It is clear to all that someone with a crippling addiction or an episode of depression that has led to suicidality, will not be cured by a short treatment stay that is followed by a return to the lifestyle that predated the crisis.

If Lorain County is awarded the capital funds required to renovate the Golden Acres space, The Lorain County Board of Mental Health will fund network agencies to provide mental health and co-occurring treatments on site. While it is understood that the development of a comprehensive system of integrated care will require additional time and resources, the commitment of the Nord Family Foundation to addressing the opiate crisis is apparent, and this foundation is highly likely to catalyze support from other local foundations to address what is now understood as the greatest need in our community. The requested capital funds would provide the essential first step to solving the problem of preventable behavioral health related death in our county.

The ADAS Board of Lorain County continues to coordinate the county Hub Program to combat opioid addiction, pursuant to HB 49. The partners in the Recovery One Project have continued to focus on ensuring that efforts to prevent and treat opioid addiction remains a cornerstone of our work. This project will certainly fill a longtime gap in our county - which includes a lack of localized detoxification services, which have not been in our community since 1997. This site offers the unique potential to save lives in our community. It will ultimately incorporate a continuum of services including triage, detoxification and withdrawal management, initiation of Medication Assisted Treatment and recovery supports and overdose prevention.

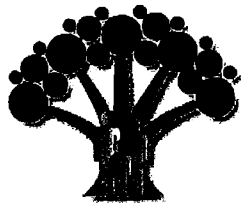
Please lend your support to this request.

If you have questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact either of us.

Warmly,

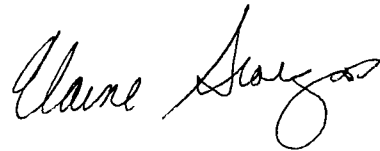


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