

Ohio House Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services

Testimony of:

Dennis Baker, Executive Director

Mansfield UMADAOP

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Chairman Romanchuk, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Health and Human Services Subcommittee, good morning.

My name is Dennis A. Baker, and I am currently the Executive Director of Mansfield Urban Minority Alcohol and Drug Abuse Outreach Program, aka UMADAOP“. Mansfield UMADAOP is one of eleven such agencies located throughout Ohio that together form a Federation. The main goal of the Federation is to provide AOD Prevention Services to adolescents. However, most of the UMADAOP’s also provide Outpatient Treatment Services including Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT).

Mansfield UMADAOP has been providing Outpatient Treatment Services for the past ten years and has been specializing in MAT for the past three years. Prior to Medicaid Expansion we typically served approximately twenty clients a week. Now we currently have over two hundred (200) clients engaged in Outpatient Services with one hundred seventy (170) involved in Medication Assisted Treatment. The MAT has proven to be very effective in combating opiate addiction in the greater Richland County, Ohio communities. To date we have witnessed favorable outcomes with those clients involved in the recovery process. Ninety (90) % of our clients remain opiate free while engaged in the program.

We have found that homelessness is a huge problem for this population, as well as unemployment. Without stable housing one is doomed to repeat the same negative behaviors over and over again. This morning I want to focus on Recovery Houses and the vital role they play in the Recovery Process. We are currently operating two such houses (one Male, one Female) located in close proximity to our agency. We were able to purchase these houses for a minimal amount with some of the revenue gained from our MAT program. Some of our clients who had worked renovating/constructing homes actually helped with the renovation of the properties, which significantly helped to keep the labor cost down. Actually one of the houses had historically been a Drug House and a neighborhood nuisance.

We refer to our housing program as the “Genesis Project”, because it truly offers clients an opportunity for a new beginning. Those who seek housing have to be engaged in our MAT Program, and must adhere to other admission criteria. Those interested must signed a contract that they will remain opiate free, be engaged in our treatment services and adhere to House Rules. Clients are not required to pay anything as long as they adhere to the program rules.

The houses have been operating now for almost two years and has been highly effective in providing assistance to those clients in need of stable housing. The Richland County Mental Health and Addiction Services Board provides \$11.96 per Diem for these services. Additionally the agency receives Medicaid revenue from Outpatient Treatment Services, specifically Intensive Outpatient Treatment Services.

The houses are currently filled and we have a waiting list for those who remain opiate free and are in need of this service.

Thank You for allowing me the opportunity to be heard on this vital service that actually works to help clients maintain their sobriety, get jobs and once again become responsible tax paying citizens.