

Ohio House Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services
Testimony of:
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Richland County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board
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Chairman Romanchuk, Ranking Member West, and members of the Health and Human Services Subcommittee, good morning.

My name is Joe Trolian and I am the Executive Director of the Richland County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony this morning.

I would first like to share with you how the \$1,000,000 annually for Withdrawal Management and the \$250,000 annually for Crisis Stabilization were utilized in the Heartland Region. Over the course of the 2018-19 Biennium the Heartland Region was able to develop or expand Withdraw Management at 5 locations; Comquest in Stark County, Neil Kennedy Recovery Center in Mahoning, University Hospital in Portage County and First Step Recovery and Parkman Recovery Centers Serving Trumbull County. We were also able to develop or expand crisis stabilization in two locations; Coleman Professional Services in Stark County and the newest program, a Youth Crisis Stabilization Unit at Village Network in Wayne County. A significant amount of work went into developing a process that would allow us to utilize a regional approach to address gaps in service. We focused on collective impacts that can be beneficial regardless of where the bed is located. One impact for example being access to the state hospital. Richland County may not use a Crisis Unit in Stark County, but because Columbiana County is able to access this service, they have been able to divert and or step down individuals from Heartland Behavioral Health which has resulted in a significant drop in the number of indigent individuals that have to wait in an emergency department for a bed or have to be diverted to a different State Hospital through the overflow protocols.

We have made some significant strides, but we would like to see these efforts continue. We need to maintain the regional beds that have been developed and are also looking to bring additional beds on line. In Richland County, we will have a new 16-bed facility operational by September which will allow us to have Withdrawal Management in closer proximity to the western side of the Heartland Region. This limits the amount of time individuals need to travel to access care and keeps them where their family can still be a support.

We are also seeing a growing need for support services that are limited in coverage or are not covered through third party payer sources. These include; recovery housing, transportation for jobs and other non-medical needs, vocational services, jail-based care, community outreach, crisis access points, educational programming and other community supports. Most recently in Richland County, a student was abducted from the Ohio State Campus and later killed. The student-body impact far exceeded the on-campus behavioral supports and the supports that were sent from the main campus. We mobilized local crisis staff, as did Ashland County to assisted in the 72 hours following the incident. We set up some check ins in the subsequent weeks. These types of community impacts have increased along with other societal crises over the past few years. Financial supports are needed at the community level and need to be flexible enough to meet the varying needs of each Board area.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. I'm happy to be joined today by Kym Lamb, the Board Chair of the Richland County Mental Health and Recovery Board. I'll be happy to answer any questions you may have following Kym's comments.