



Mental Health and Recovery Services Board

1200 North State Route 53 • Tiffin, Ohio 44883-9799 • Tel.: 419-448-0640 • Fax: 419-448-8743

Chairman Bacon, Vice Chair Dolan, Ranking Member Thomas, and Members of the Judiciary Committee. Thank you, for allowing me to present proponent testimony on House Bill 354.

My name is Mircea Handru and I'm the Executive Director of the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Seneca, Sandusky and Wyandot counties. The main role of my organization is to monitor, evaluate, assess, prioritize and plan for mental health and addiction services in the counties it serves. Many times, the Board proposes and plans for new services to be made available or to expand on current services.

Because of limited resources in rural communities like Tiffin and Fostoria, a one, multijurisdictional drug court will allow us, as a Mental Health Board, to better coordinate, monitor and link clients to available resources.

Right now, there is an outstanding collaboration in Seneca County to fight the current drug epidemic. The common goal is to keep the community safe, keep individuals out of jails, and provide resources to help them recover. PIVOT and this collaboration is an example of the county-hub collaboration that was written by the legislators in ORC 340.30. The purpose of PIVOT is to strengthen county and community efforts to prevent and treat opioid addiction.

Our Board believes the PIVOT Program will provide the following three enhancements in our efforts to ensure mental health and addiction services are available in our district:

#1 The PIVOT Program will be a multidisciplinary team made up of key members including the courts, public agencies and community-based organizations that pool resources and enhances the drug court's effectiveness. This is essential in a rural community as resources at times can be limited.

2 The PIVOT Program will allow for early identification and prompt access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, and other related treatment and rehabilitation services.

#3 The PIVOT Program will offer comprehensive case management services that assist with referrals, linkage and monitoring of each eligible participant. The case manager will monitor and evaluate the measurement of achievement of program goals for each participant according to their Individualized Program Plan, and also will work directly with the court personnel to help deliver appropriate incentives or sanctions as needed.