

Ohio Senate Finance Health and Medicaid Subcommittee

**Testimony of:
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Chairman Hackett, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the Senate Finance Health and Medicaid Subcommittee.

My name is Brad DeCamp and I am the Executive Director of the Crawford-Marion Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services. I appreciate the opportunity to testify today.

I would like to start with some context from my two-county Board area:

- In 2017, 49 residents of Crawford County and Marion County combined died from an unintentional drug overdose in. In 2018, the combined number decreased slightly to 43. We are seeing more methamphetamine and cocaine in both counties and while we are seeing less heroin, we are still seeing fentanyl.
- In a report released Monday from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, fentanyl and other opioids were involved in nearly three-fourths of all cocaine overdose deaths and an increasing number of methamphetamine deaths.
- The CDC has reported that in 2017, 1,740 Ohioans died by suicide. From 1999 to 2016 Ohio's suicide rate increased by 36% making Ohio's increase the 19th highest in the country.
- Data from a report released Monday from The Ohio Alliance for Innovation in Population Health showed both Crawford County and Marion County have suicide rates below the state average. However, we still see suicide as a serious public health concern. Preliminary data from the Crawford County Community Health Assessment indicates that nearly 1,300 of the general population felt sad or hopeless for two or more weeks and 500 had considered suicide in the last 12 months.

I share all of these figures to show that there is still tremendous need in our communities for mental health and addiction services. We have to continue to provide prevention education, and treatment services while engaging clients in care, and support them as they work toward recovery. We also need to make sure we acknowledge that we are no longer just in the midst of an opiate epidemic, but rather a larger addiction crisis.

Our Board is very appreciative of the investments that the General Assembly made in our system during the last budget cycle. I would note the following:

- We have dedicated a large portion of the \$75,000 per county allocation to create Drug Free Coalitions in both Crawford County and Marion County.
- We are close to sending our 50th client for withdrawal management (detox) services. While this number might not be as impressive when compared to some counties, we have not previously had access to a dedicated funding source which allows us to make this service as readily available.

One example of how the Drug Free Coalitions have been working is around the area of prescribing practices. According to the most recent Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS) data for 2018, Marion County was well within the top 10 list of counties for per capita opioid doses dispensed. Only Adams, Perry, Vinton, and Scioto had higher rates during the same time period. In addition, from 2012 to 2018 no county in Ohio saw a lower decrease in per capita opioid doses than Marion County. We are now focusing our efforts around how to work to address this issue with our partners in the healthcare sector using a Structured Prevention Framework (SPF) planning process.

We know that with appropriate treatment and support, people can and do recover. As demand continues to surge, communities must ensure the existence of a full scope of care within the local Recovery-Oriented System of Care, including access to crisis stabilization services, as well as withdrawal management services. The targeted investments made in House's budget package will help communities who are struggling to meet the needs of their citizens provide additional access to services, thereby increasing the number of Ohioans who are able achieve and maintain recovery in their communities. By working together at the state and local level to prioritize and marshal all available resources and leverage all relationships we can end the addiction crisis in Ohio.

As I conclude my comments, I want to thank you again for your commitment to these issues and your focus on helping Ohioans with mental illness and addiction. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony, I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.