



March 9, 2023

Madam Chair, Ranking Member, Distinguished Members of the Subcommittee:

I appreciate the opportunity to come before the Subcommittee today to share good news about nationally recognized work happening in Ohio that is included in the OMHAS budget. The Community Transition Program launched in 2017 to provide transitional supports, including housing and services to individuals exiting Ohio's prisons with substance abuse and co-occurring mental health challenges. These individuals have cycled through homelessness, hospitals, and incarceration and are at high risk of recidivism.

CSH has been fortunate to support the state's work by establishing the supportive housing component of the program across more than 60 counties, and to provide essential oversight and management since its inception.

The program works. Participants who receive housing and intensive supports, for an average of just under two years, have a 7% recidivism rate over three years. This is impressive, considering the program serves individuals at high risk, and ODRC's 3-year recidivism rate for all offenders is over 32%. All participants engage in case management and supports, and approximately 70% also engage in needed clinical, behavioral health services.

The success of this program is also be seen in the hundreds of people that have reunified with their children, returned to work, and recovered from their mental illnesses and addictions – however the costs have risen dramatically over the past three years.

The budget for this program has remained at \$3M, but our expenditures have gone up more than 20% in that time. Rents are soaring, labor costs are up, and we can no longer serve the same number of people. To put it clearly, we have to decrease the number of people we house and support.

We ask that you please consider increasing OMHAS's budget by just \$1M per year to enable the program to continue serving those who would otherwise have few or no options for a successful community reintegration.

In closing, I'd like to share a short story from one of our participants:

"In 2017 Stanley Frankart was released from prison, with a clear view of what he had to do. After his mother, his only support on the outside, passed away while he was incarcerated, he knew this time had to be different. Stanley had been in and out of detention facilities, jails, and institutions since the age of 10 and coming home at 26 years old the anxiety, fear, and uncertainty were present. But Stanley had changed and he knew that this change had to last. Stanley entered the CTP program through Rapid Rehousing, which is a short term assistance program to help give people who are in recovery and are transitioning home, a window of time to get stable as they acclimate back to society. After completing the CTP Rapid Rehousing program Stanley was able to maintain independent housing and continue his journey in recovery becoming a Certified Peer Recovery Supporter and a Master Facilitator for the Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services Peer Support Training. After 2 years of being able to



maintain stable, independent housing, and continuing to work in the field of Peer Support, Stanley Frankart came to work for one of the CTP and RHO Providers in Ohio, Licking County

Coalition for Housing. Stanley began his journey at Licking County Coalition for Housing as the Program Coordinator for CTP and RHO in January 2020. Throughout his time at the Licking County Coalition for Housing, Stanley has shown the value of resilience, commitment, and collaboration in the face of some of the hardest times, when it comes to housing and help people find supportive, stable, and permanent housing. Stanley has also continued to advocate for people with the same lived experience in many facets and continues to show us why this program works and how it empowers those with second chances, to truly make the best of every moment. Stanley is now a homeowner, a husband, and a father to 2 beautiful girls. He continues to be a hope and inspiration to those who in similar fashion are returning back to society, hopeful to make the best of their second chance!"

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of this important work.

Katie Kitchin, Director, CSH Ohio