

# State of Ohio

## Senate Finance Committee Budget Hearings

### Cordata Healthcare Innovations, Inc.

June 5, 2025

Chairman Cirino, Vice Chairman Chavez, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and all esteemed members of the Committee thank you for the opportunity to provide this public testimony.

My name is Dan Meloy, and I am here to represent Cordata Healthcare Innovations, based in Cincinnati, Ohio, as well as all of Ohio's Quick Response Teams. I have spent my career in public service. I am a veteran and a retired Police Chief. Today, I'm here today in support of the budget amendment that continues support for Ohio's Quick Response Teams through an essential case management platform.

As this is our third testimony supporting the continuation of QRT throughout communities in Ohio, I'll keep this short and to the point. If you don't know what QRT is, please see our written testimony provided to both the Agriculture and Finance committees.

Our amendment may be the last chance to save QRT in Ohio. A program that was born in Ohio and is PROVEN to save between \$17,000 and \$42,000 per person contacted by QRT per year. A program that is the best in the nation, as proven by states like WI and CT that are currently increasing funding to their communities to follow the "Ohio model" of addressing the mental health and addiction epidemics the nation continues to face. These programs are PROVEN to save lives, to reduce the burden on emergency departments and public safety resources and to reduce violent crime.

We have been supported by many House and Senate members, including the entire House public safety committee and several Senators that are doctors. I implore you to ask them about the impact these programs are having in the field. Ask them about how these epidemics, if we don't address them, will overload our emergency departments as well as our police, fire and EMS resources that are required to respond to the repetitive interventions these populations will create. We should really be expanding this work based on the data showing the cost savings and the efficacy while both saving lives and creating safer communities. It is the definition of a more efficient response.

In my career in public service, I have seen budgets fluctuate many times. We are in a time where budgets are lean. Our communities will have to do things differently; to be creative and efficient. I want you to know Ohio's QRTs are already carrying that torch. These programs don't cost money in aggregate, they save the state money. Again, this has been PROVEN in the last year. And because these savings are not realized at the local level, because they are primarily Medicaid savings, the sustainability of these programs needs to be funded at the state level. **We have pared our ask down to the absolute minimum of \$1.5M, just to continue the existing support of these programs locally.** I urge you to ensure that this amendment is in the final state budget so we can keep these programs alive. An inability to act on this amendment will increase Medicaid expenditures across Ohio as these teams shrink and/or die, and they will increase in many multiples of the budget ask we have provided.

I don't know what else to say. These programs do everything you purport to want; creates a more efficient system, lowers Medicaid expenses, makes Ohio communities safer, supports our first responders and law enforcement. We have yet to have a conversation with an Ohio lawmaker who doesn't support the work we are doing. We desperately ask you to include this amendment. To not include it will increase the costs to Ohio taxpayers and reduce the safety of our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of Ohio's Quick Response Teams.