



Ohio Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee

Written Testimony on SB 71

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June 27, 2017

Chairman Burke, Vice-Chair Beagle, Ranking Member Tavares, and members of the Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony.

My name is Liz Henrich and I am the Associate Chief Executive Officer of the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA). We represent Ohio's local Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Boards. On behalf of the member boards of OACBHA, I am writing to express our support for SB 71, a bill designed to provide local Boards with flexibility when entering into local contracts.

The proposed legislation states that a board of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services may establish a rule, operating procedure, standard, or bylaw to allow the executive director of the board to execute contracts valued at fifty thousand dollars or less, as determined by the board, on behalf of the board without the board's prior approval.

In certain instances, circumstances arise that require this flexibility in order to a local ADAMH Board to enter into a contract to provide care for an individual in a timely manner. These circumstances are not common and generally Boards utilize a detailed contracting process to enter into contracts to provide ongoing care to members of their community. However, there are times that waiting for a meeting of the Governing Board to approve a contract could mean that a person in need of critical services is waiting to access them.

With this language change, the Governing Boards of local ADAMH Board will have the authority to prescribe the rule, operating procedure, or standard that will dictate how their Board will utilize this authority to allow the executive director of the board to execute contracts prior to seeking board approval. This will allow the 14 or 18 member Governing Board to make decisions about how, when, and for how much their local Board will allow the executive director to enter into contracts prior to seeking board approval.

The member boards of the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities voted to support this proposal and urge your positive consideration of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (614)224-1111 or ehenrich@oacbha.org.