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Dear Ohio House, Behavioral Health, and Recovery Supports Committee,

My name is Jason Joyce, I live in Independence, Ohio and I am President and CEO of Hitchcock Center for Women in Cleveland.

I am here to support HB 523's language regarding data sharing with local ADAMHS Boards.

As an executive at a leading local non-profit, I want to share how important these changes are. The agency I lead provides intensive inpatient residential treatment which typically lasts 30-45 days, followed by onsite recovery housing which provides a safe dorm like setting for clients to receive ongoing outpatient services.

Coordination of care is crucial for clients as they transition between services. Open lines of communication are needed between parties so that clients receive the best care. Locally our ADAMHS Board provides many services that Medicaid does not provide. One of those is Recovery Housing. Recovery Housing is an essential service as people transition with Medicaid services into community care.

Having agreements with government programs that provide public benefits is a key factor in improving clients' social determinants of health. The more that all parties understand the ground rules for communication the better. Right now, the procedures for communication and oversight to access current community needs data are unclear. Medicaid Managed Care Organizations keep many aspects of the data they collect private from agencies and community supports. Granting a trusted community partner such as the ADAMHS Boards makes sense in that we are limiting this sensitive data to a trusted body that has significant history of oversight and handling confidential information.

Being that ADAMHS Boards are tasked with deciding where community funding and resources should be allocated, this data is crucial to understand where the gaps are, to make our limited dollars put to the best use.

As discussed in Governor DeWine's State of the State, the services we provide are critical to the care of the community. The State has made a recent significant investment of \$84 million to local hospitals and health care providers. Having the ADAMHS Boards as a trusted partner in the health care process only makes sense to the benefit of the community. I know some of my peers have stated that this could create an administrative burden. I would counter that if agencies do not take on the responsibility of coordinated care, we will only have the same results. We know coordinated care works and is better for all sorts of outcomes, including reducing hospital readmission and decreasing symptoms of mental health & substance use issues. It is the only right thing to do and as a behavioral health agency we can absorb any small administrative increases for the betterment of the clients we serve.

I urge you to support the language in HB 523 that improves coordinated care and access to Medicaid information.

Sincerely,

Jason Joyce LPCC-S, LICDC-CS

President and CEO of Hitchcock Center for Women



Hitchcock Center for Women is a contract agency of the ADAMHS BOARD of Cuyahoga County.