



Susan Myers
Chairperson

Phillip Titterington
Executive Director

Ohio House Behavioral Health and Recovery Supports Committee

Proponent Testimony on Sub. HB 523

Phillip Titterington
Executive Director
Medina County ADAMH Board
May 19, 2022

Chairwoman Carruthers, Vice-Chair Pavliga, and members of the House Behavioral Health and Recovery Supports Committee thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of Sub HB 523. My name is Phillip Titterington, and I am the Executive Director of the Medina County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health (ADAMH) Board. I am writing to ask for consideration of three important topics for our local system of care; data access, 120 day contracting notices, and certification issues.

Firstly, it is of the utmost importance that ADAMH Boards are able to have access to all data for planning purposes. This bill provides for the much-needed exchange of health information among public benefit systems. Currently, Ohio's Medicaid and public behavioral health systems, which both provide public benefits to the same or similar population, do not exchange recipient information with one another. Many other states have legislation or policies in place that provide for the exchange of health information between their Medicaid and public behavioral health systems. There is also a national movement underway for providing health systems with better access to data and enhanced data-sharing to improve the provision of health care and outcomes for persons receiving health care. Please keep in mind that ADAMH Boards are required to plan for the entire local system of care, however without Medicaid data, this is a daunting task.

Regarding 120-day notices, Chapter 340 currently dictates certain aspects of how ADAMH Boards contract with community behavioral health providers for the provision of services. The bill provides for more local control on these decisions which gives ADAMH Boards the ability to make contracting and procurement decisions in the way that makes the most sense for the local system's needs while making the best use of the federal, state and local dollars they use to purchase behavioral health services and recovery supports. The changes proposed in the bill would allow Boards to make decisions about the services they purchase with public dollars based on their local assessment of what services are needed and which providers are best suited to provide quality services. The changes in HB 523 will bring contracting in line with how the state and other governmental agencies contract.

Lastly, language in this bill requires that Boards be in the conversation for certification, re-certification, and when there is an investigation of a community provider. We strongly believe that ADAMH Boards are in the best position to have information about the service providers operating in their local communities that may be of help with OhioMHAS' certification and investigation processes.

Sincerely,

Phillip Titterington, Executive Director

Madam Chairwoman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. Should you have any questions, I would be happy to answer them.