



Ohio Senate Community Revitalization Committee

Proponent Testimony on Sub SB105

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Chairman Landis, Vice-Chair Chavez, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Community Revitalization Committee thank you for this opportunity to provide this testimony in support of Substitute SB 105. My name is Liz Henrich, and I am an Associate CEO with the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities. We represent Ohio's local Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health (ADAMH) Boards.

Ohio's 50 Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health (ADAMH) Boards, are the local governmental authority covering all 88 counties, providing community members with access to a statutorily defined continuum of care, inclusive of prevention, treatment, and recovery supports, in communities throughout the state.

Local ADAMH Boards are charged with establishing a unified system of prevention, treatment, and community supports for individuals impacted by mental illness and/or addiction. Boards, through contracts with community provider agencies, encourage and foster the development of high-quality, cost effective, and comprehensive services and supports. Local Boards are uniquely positioned to rapidly identify and effectively respond to evolving community needs, while ensuring the accountable use of public funds.

Today, I'm joined by a panel of ADAMH Board Directors who will share their local experiences and provide additional insight into why we are supportive of Substitute SB 105.

Within this bill you will find statutory changes that:

- modernize contracting language and shorten the timeline when a party intends not to renew the contract;
- promote collaboration between OhioMHAS, ADAMH Boards, and stakeholders to develop a data sharing and integration plan with the goal of sharing data to improve programs and ensure essential services and supports are available to persons seeking or receiving services;
- add additional specificity to Boards' roles and responsibilities in regard to client rights and grievances to ensure the safety of persons seeking or receiving services and supports; and
- clarify audit requirements and responsibilities for OhioMHAS and ADAMH Boards.

We are grateful to Senators Johnson and Sykes for their diligent work on this bill and their ongoing support for the work of ADAMH Boards throughout Ohio.

We know that some of these provisions have generated a great deal of discussion and concern, and we remain open to conversations with OhioMHAS and provider groups as we collectively work to develop sustainable policy solutions that will result in lasting changes to Ohio Revised Code that will promote the ability to procure, contract for, and deliver high-quality, cost effective services and supports in communities throughout our state.

We look forward to the opportunity to partner with OhioMHAS, providers, family members, and other stakeholders to continue collaborating to ensure that all Ohioans have access to a complete continuum of care from prevention through recovery supports.

I want to thank you all for your ongoing focus on helping Ohioans impacted by mental illness and addiction. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. At this time, I will hand it over to our panel of Board Directors who will share how these proposed changes will modernize how they are able to serve their communities.