



Promoting wellness and recovery

John R. Kasich, Governor • Tracy J. Plouck, Director • 30 E. Broad St. • Columbus, OH 43215 • (614) 466-2596 • mha.ohio.gov

ADAMHS BOARD

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October 28, 2013

David Schaffer, Executive Director  
ADAMHS Board of Tuscarawas and Carroll Counties  
P. O. Box 6217  
New Philadelphia, OH 44663

*Dave*  
Dear Mr. Schaffer:

As you are undoubtedly aware, on October 21 the Kasich Administration obtained appropriation authority to fund Ohio's expansion of Medicaid to 138% of the federal poverty level effective January 1, 2014. This will enable approximately 366,000 Ohioans to access basic health care services - including community mental health and addiction services - that are, in many cases, out of their reach today. While the debate over Medicaid coverage is not over and the discussion has now turned to a judicial venue, I remain optimistic, as does Governor Kasich, that the proposal will move forward on schedule, offering thousands of people a hand up into recovery.

I wanted to take a moment to personally thank you, your staff, members of your board and other key partners in Tuscarawas and Carroll Counties for their efforts in support of Medicaid expansion. The advocacy demonstrated by the mental health and addiction services field is absolutely tremendous and is cited repeatedly by legislators as a key factor in our collective ability to make the case that expansion will have a positive impact throughout Ohio's communities. THANK YOU for investing your time, energy and creativity into this months-long endeavor. It will yield meaningful results for people who are struggling throughout our state; ultimately it will also enable your board to redirect existing resources into other current gaps in the continuum of care.

I recognize that oftentimes we are so focused on challenges that it's easy to forget to express gratitude for a job well done. In light of the magnitude of this policy accomplishment, I want to make sure that folks recognize that their individual efforts are and continue to be very much appreciated! Please convey my sincere thanks to everyone in your community who has been involved for prioritizing support for this issue over the past ten months. The teamwork has been nothing short of inspirational.

Sincerely,

Tracy J. Plouck  
Director