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**Mental Health and Recovery Services Board Awarded \$2 Million in New Funding for Opiate Response**

*Funds Will Be Used to Increase the Number and Availability of Local Addiction Services*

**Cincinnati, OH:** The Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board (HCMHRSB), the local authority charged with planning and funding public addiction services in Hamilton County, recently received \$1,950,220 as part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act. This new funding will be directed toward services that will have the highest impact on a comprehensive response to the County's opiate crisis. By providing funding to a mix of eight local non-profit agencies HCMHRSB will now be able to:

- Provide more Medication Assisted Treatment (e.g., providing medication to reduce cravings)
- Implement a County-wide Quick Response Team (QRT) of counselors, peers and first responders to connect overdose survivors to treatment
- Expand core services (assessment, intensive outpatient treatment, residential assistance, etc.)
- Increase linkage with the criminal justice system to reduce drug related jail admissions
- Provide peer support to increase likelihood of treatment success
- Link with local ERs to direct patients to treatment

“This new funding provides the ability to improve and expand access to care allowing the public system to be more responsive to the needs of individuals and families struggling with addiction” said Patrick Tribbe, CEO of HCMHRSB. Neil Tilow, CEO of Talbert House a non-profit agency that provides addiction treatment, is excited about the additional funding, stating “treatment works and people can and do achieve recovery and return to meaningful, productive roles in our community. Now we can offer many more of those entangled in this illness a fighting chance at beginning their recovery.”

Funds were awarded to HCMHRSB through the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services based on the number and rates of opioid/fentanyl related overdose deaths between 2010 and 2015. HCMHRSB will allocate funds to the following local non-profits: Addiction Services Council, Center for Chemical Addictions, Central Community Health Board, The Crossroads Center, First Step Home, Prospect House, Talbert House, and the Urban Minority Alcohol & Drug Abuse Outreach Program.

**About HCMHRSB:** We are the statutory authority (per ORC §340) for planning, funding, managing, and evaluating all publicly funded behavioral health services in Hamilton County. Treatment, prevention, and supportive services are provided through a local network of non-profit, community based (non-hospital) organizations. [www.hcmhrsb.org](http://www.hcmhrsb.org)

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