



**BOB FINNAN / GAZETTE FILE** Medina County ADAMH Board Director Phillip Titterington, left, speaks at the Medina County commissioners meeting in 2019, with former Job and Family Services Director Jeff Felton and Office for Older Adults Director Laura Toth.

## Human services levy funds needed services



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MEDINA — The human services levy, which provides funding for the Medina County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Board, allows it to fill needed gaps not covered by any other funding sources at a time when need is growing.

Director Phil Titterington said because of the levy, the ADAMH Board has been able to build a stronger and more diverse system of care, providing Medina County residents with more options for programs, services and supports. He highlighted some of the programs that focus on mental health and recovery with the Medina County commissioners Tuesday.

“Mental health and crisis supports are needed now more than ever,” he said. “Nationally, it is being reported that we are only seeing a fraction of what will be long-lasting negative effects from this (COVID-19) pandemic on adults as well as children.”

The 1-mill levy passed in November 2019 and will generate \$5 million for five years. It also supports Job and Family Services and the Medina County Office for Older Adults.

In the first quarter of 2021, the agencies in the ADAMH Board’s continuum of care — which includes satellite offices in Lodi and Wadsworth as well as a heavy presence of in-home services in Brunswick and other areas in the community — had the following number of individuals active in services:

- OhioGuidestone — 773 clients who are active in services; 57 percent are adults and 43 percent are youths.
- Alternative Paths — 4,588 clients who are active in services; 93 percent are adults and 7 percent are youths.
- Catholic Charities — 101 clients who are active in services; 89 percent are adults and 11 percent are youths.

This equals 5,462 total clients being served in the first quarter; 88 percent are adults and 12 percent are youths.

“As you can see, our agencies are working hard and providing needed services to a very large number of individuals,” Titterington said.

Some of the programs funded by the levy include:

- A 24/7 Crisis and Behavioral Health Helpline through Alternative Paths. In the first quarter of 2021, there were 917 calls or engagements through the hotline; 69 individuals verbalized suicidal thoughts; 24 active rescues occurred, in which hotline staff coordinated rescue activities for an individual’s safety; and 33 referrals were made from law enforcement for crisis intervention. Alternative Paths has contracted with Hope Recovery Community to add a 24/7 peer supporter to the crisis team.

- Approximately 420 youthw diagnosed with a serious emotional disturbance are currently receiving services in the board's continuum of care.
- Approximately 1,500 adults and 240 youthw are currently receiving psychiatric services.
- The ADAMH Board has 44 supportive housing units serving Medina County residents. The units are filled and more units are needed.

Hope Recovery Community is a major success in the area of substance abuse recovery. It's funded by the ADAMH Board, which owns the house at 200 Highland Drive, Medina.

In the first quarter of 2021, Hope Recovery Community has linked 97 individuals to detox, residential treatment or recovery housing.

In that period, an average of 87 individuals receive Medication Assisted Treatment through OhioGuidestone's MAT Open Access walk-in clinic and Alternative Path's services each month.

Also, there are now 10 certified peer recovery supporters employed by OhioGuidestone and Hope Recovery.

- Seven peer supporters under OhioGuidestone are currently serving 168 Medina County residents.
- Hope Recovery Community has contracted with Alternative Paths to provide peer supporters at the Medina County Jail.
- Hope Recovery has teamed up with Medina County Job and Family Services to provide a peer supporter for the OhioSTART program, serving families with substance abuse issues who are at risk of losing their children.
- Through levy funds, the ADAMH Board provided financial support to Cathy's House, a certified recovery house serving 11 males and seven females. Cathy's House remains full and the ADAMH Board is assisting it with an expansion project of male recovery beds.
- Finally, in relation to recovery supports, the ADAMH Board is hopeful that its Discovery Recovery House, a 12-bed women's recovery house operated by OhioGuidestone, will start accepting women the week of June 7. Women with children will be accepted.

"The house is set up for that," Titterington said.

All the positions have been filled by OhioGuidestone.

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