

**Testimony of Bud Hite**  
**Health & Human Services Subcommittee of House Finance**  
**March 10, 2015**

Good Afternoon Chairman Sprague, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the Health & Human Services Subcommittee of the House Finance Committee, my name is Bud Hite and I am the Executive Director of the Lucas County Correctional Treatment Facility and a member of CorJus, Inc. a non-profit organization representing several of Ohio's publicly operated Community Based Correctional Facilities. I am here before you today to offer testimony of the value of collaboration as it relates to mental health, addiction and criminal justice.

While an offender is incarcerated in a CBCF, the offender is mandated to complete a rigorous treatment regimen including Cognitive Behavioral programming, Drug and Alcohol addiction counseling and have the ability to earn their GED among many other forms of treatment offered. The additional resources made available to community programs through the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board are essential to the success of offenders upon release from the CBCF. The continued support and possible expansion of these programs will ensure a continuity of care is in place in the community and will allow offenders to access services quicker upon release.

The display of **true leadership** from Director Plouck and Director Gary Mohr is inspiring. They have modeled for the entire state exactly what it takes to be successful. Both Directors have come together to set aside boundaries to share budget dollars, ideas and programming staff to ensure that the people who are served in both systems have a meaningful opportunity to change their lives. The Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Lucas County under Scott Sylak's leadership has brought this same type of leadership to Lucas County by initiating a community planning model known as the Sequential Intercept Model. This process is bringing together community leaders to ensure that decision making no longer happens in "silos". In other words, decisions build off of one another, and although each agency serves different purposes, each better understands how we affect each other, and most important, are making sure that we coordinate services systemically so we do not unintentionally set clients up for failure. Further, the Lucas County Community Corrections Planning Board has adopted

the mapping process as a way to work together to reduce the time offenders spend in jail and prison and have reduced the number of Probation Violators who end up in prison.

In FY 12 and 13, Lucas County reduced the number of probationers sent to prison for probation violations by more than 10%. The number of Felony 3, 4 and 5 offenders sentenced to prison from Lucas County were reduced by more than 10% and the number of Mental Health/ Dual Diagnose offenders who violate their probation was reduced by more than 10%. Lucas County is also on pace to reduce each of those categories by an additional 10% by the end of this fiscal year. Those huge reductions resulted because the Lucas County systems are working to function as one, and the legislature and Governor continue to provide support to our community and communities all over Ohio. Our community leaders, are without a doubt, spending tax dollars wisely.

Finally, I would like to note the important role that Medicaid expansion has played in our community. I will do this by giving you one, of many examples in which Medicaid expansion has benefited our community. The Correctional Treatment Facility had a female client, who was addicted to opiates/Heroin, participating in outpatient programming. She had failed treatment many times before, and was facing the loss of her marriage, losing custody of her children and jail time. Prior to Medicaid expansion access to Medication Assisted Treatment programming was severely limited in Lucas County. However, now due to being Medicaid eligible, she was able to be linked to a community program and begin using Vivitrol as a part of her programming. As of today, she is still married, is with her children, and she is sober. Medicaid expansion is a huge part of being able to reduce community control violators and being able to engage individual offenders in the community successfully and not placing them in jail or prison.

Chairman Sprague, Ranking member Sykes and the other members of the subcommittee, thank you for your time and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.

state Hot Spot funding received in FY 13, coupled with the additional 507 funds and modest Medicaid Expansion savings realized in FY 14 made possible a foundation of investments that will carry through to FY 16 despite receiving nearly \$1.8 million fewer 507 dollars from the state in FY 15. It was understood that savings due to Medicaid expansion "ramp up" would be used to sustain these efforts, rendering additional programs funded by Medicaid savings unlikely. As you are aware, we cannot spend that savings twice.

Our efforts are consistent with the State's priorities; including efforts to reduce hospitalization and crisis, increasing housing opportunities for the mentally ill and addicted, increased access to medication assisted therapies and the development of strategies that reduce the number of mentally ill and addicted involved in our criminal justice system. And while we are proud of all our advancements, I would like to highlight some of our activities related to the criminal justice system. These include;

- Ensuring that case management, linkage services and psychotropic medications are available to inmates upon release from state prison and local jails.
- Expanded Family Drug Court capacity by 100%.
- Provided funds to the Urban Minority Alcohol and Drug Abuse Project and the Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities Program to provide case management and group services after they received cuts in their SAPT funding.

- Recently established a Vivitrol Program in collaboration with A Renewed Mind and the Lucas County Corrections Center where the first Vivitrol shot is provided while the inmate is still in jail.
- Collaborating with Zepf Center, the Ohio Attorney General's Office, and the Lucas County Commissioners to develop 70 Recovery Housing beds dedicated to victims of Opiate and Heroin overdoses who are referred through the Sheriff's Addiction Resource Unit, the Prosecutor's Office or the local court systems.
- Doubled access to Crisis Intervention Team Training to Law Enforcement Officers to improve officer and consumer safety while improving opportunities for diversion.
- Collaborated with over 50 area professional, including Bud Hite, Director of the Correctional Treatment Facility to initiate the Sequential Intercept Mapping process in Lucas County.

Mr. Hite will provide additional detail regarding this effort, its contributions to reforming our criminal justice system and the value of systems collaboration. However, before Mr. Hite's comments, I would like to state that these initiatives are funded in part by 507 and 421 funds, I would ask you to preserve these resources in FY 16 and 17.

Thank you and I will be available after Mr. Hite's comments to answer any questions.

**Testimony of Scott Sylak**  
**Health & Human Services Subcommittee of House Finance**  
**March 10, 2015**

Good Afternoon Chairman Sprague, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the Health & Human Services Subcommittee of the House Finance Committee. My name is Scott Sylak, and I am the Executive Director of the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Lucas County. I am here to testify regarding H.B. 64 on behalf of the 26,000 Lucas County residents who receive services within our system of care, as well as for the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities.

Let me start out by saying thank you for your previous efforts related to improving access to necessary and lifesaving mental health and addiction services. The expansion of Medicaid and increases to the OMHAS FY 14/15 507 line item of \$20.1 million and the 421 line item of \$10 million has had profoundly positive effects on our local system. I would urge you to maintain these gains in State Fiscal years 16 and 17 as the savings realized by our local communities via Medicaid expansion is unlikely sufficient to meet the addiction and mental health treatment and community support needs of our state's population.

Locally, we are calculating our savings due to Medicaid expansion at \$2.2 million dollars annually. Please recognize that this amount is half the amount calculated by OMHAS. We have come to this conclusion by using a straightforward analysis that compares our "high water" mark for treatment



expenses of nearly \$7 million dollars in FY 2012 to our projected actual expenses for treatment this year of \$4.8 million. I will resist the temptation to speculate as to why the difference in estimates, and simply state that I share Director Plouck's vision that these savings must be reinvested in our communities effectively as this is truly a "once in a generation" opportunity.

Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Boards throughout the state have recognized this opportunity since day one. Utilizing the "Recovery is Beautiful" blueprint, Boards are developing recovery oriented systems of care that focus on the individual's and families' need for recovery services, building on their strengths, and incorporating a coordinated and collaborative approach across the community. Guiding principles to this work include focusing on client and family needs for self-directed care, ensuring timely access to care, promoting healthy, safe and drug-free communities, prioritizing accountable and outcome-driven financing, and locally managing these systems of care.

Over the last several years, Lucas County has benefited from increased local and state investments and is experiencing what might be considered a renaissance of sorts. Fueled equally by changing environmental factors at the state and federal level, an 18 member Board of Trustees who share the values espoused by the Recovery is Beautiful Blueprint, a collective of stakeholders who value collaboration and are committed to breaking down barriers, and the availability of funds, Lucas County's behavioral health system is evolving. The increase in local levy and