

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 is 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, 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 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.