LAKE ADAMHS BOARD BEGINS 2017 FISCAL YEAR WITH NEW OFFICERS, NEW BUDGET, ANNUAL AWARDS

Painesville, OH -- The Lake County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board officially transitioned to a new fiscal year Monday evening during its annual meeting and dinner at the American-Croatian Hall in Eastlake.

Established by Ohio Statute, the ADAMHS Board is responsible for planning, funding, monitoring, and evaluating Lake County’s community-based mental health and addiction recovery services. Those services are delivered through a network of agencies. Board members – all Lake County residents who serve without compensation – include mental health and recovery experts, consumers (people who need and use services), relatives of consumers, community leaders, and business professionals.

The board approved $11.6 million in ongoing non-Medicaid funding for its 2017 fiscal year. Those funds will provide services for local individuals and families dealing with mental illness or addiction issues.

During the meeting the ADAMHS Board elected new officers for its new fiscal-year. The slate includes Joanne Zeroske, Chair; Roberta Kalb Vice-Chair; Troy Hager,

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The slate includes Joanne Zeroske, Chair; Roberta Kalb Vice-Chair; Troy Hager, Secretary Dione DeMitro, Treasurer; and Tricia Hart, Past Chair. Other fiscal-year 2017 board members include, Doug Klier, Frank Sarosy, Peggy Kiikka, Karen Sippola, Julia McGruder, Les Beck, Jim McBride, and Alice Walker.

Following the formal board meeting, board members, staff and guests shared dinner and a program. Cheri Walter, Chief Executive Officer of the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities, was the keynote speaker. Lake County ADAMHS Executive Director Kim Fraser also spoke. Both stressed the importance of proactively addressing the challenges that will result from some very significant changes now occurring in the behavioral health world.

Retiring ADAMHS Board member Jim Garrett was honored. Garrett joined the ADAMHS Board in 2008, and has served as chair, treasurer, and secretary. He also served on the board’s Long-Range Planning, Executive/Personnel, Mental Health, Evaluation/Quality Improvement, Allocation, and Grievance committees.

The ADAMHS Board bestowed its three annual system-wide awards at the event. Heather Martin was given the 2016 ADAMHS Consumer Achievement Award. This award recognizes a client who has been especially successful in working toward and achieving important goals.

The Unsung Hero Award salutes a staff member at one of the ADAMHS funded service providers. This year’s award went to Sue Toward from Crossroads.

The 2016 ADAMHS Advocate Award recognizes an individual who has contributed significantly to the system’s missions. That award was given to Carole Jazbec, Executive Director of the Lake County NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) chapter.

Award-winners and the retiring board member were presented framed pieces of art from the system’s annual Expressions of Recovery consumer art show.

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