

WHAT OHIO'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE STAKEHOLDERS ARE SAYING



"Governor DeWine's focus on expanding mental health services stands as a testament to his recognition of the vital role mental health plays in the overall health and success of our communities. By investing in mental health, Governor DeWine is not only addressing immediate needs but also taking proactive steps to create a healthier, more resilient Ohio. His plan includes continued commitment to housing, support for crisis services such as 988 and mobile crisis, workforce programs, and collaborations between healthcare providers, law enforcement, and local communities to improve outcomes for those in crisis. . . I commend Governor DeWine for his continued commitment to addressing the mental health needs of our state. His proposed budget reflects a forward-thinking approach to ensuring that all Ohioans have access to the mental health care they deserve."

Luke Russell, Executive Director
National Alliance on Mental Illness of Ohio



"On behalf of our member Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health (ADAMH) Boards, we would like to thank Governor DeWine and leadership within his Administration for the ongoing commitment to supporting individuals, families, and communities impacted by mental illness and substance use disorders. This budget provides opportunities to continue our collective efforts to fully build out the local continuum of care inclusive of prevention, crisis services, treatment, and recovery supports. We look forward to working in partnership with the Administration and the members of the General Assembly throughout this budget process to ensure that all Ohioans are able to seek and receive mental health and addiction services when and where they need them."

Liz Henrich, Chief Executive Officer
Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities



**Department of
Mental Health &
Addiction Services**



"I want to express my gratitude to Governor Mike DeWine and his leadership team for once again developing a budget proposal that invests in the health and economic wellbeing of Ohio's children, families, and communities. Governor DeWine's message is clear – his administration intends to fulfill promises of the past by continuing to support the development, growth, and enhancement of Ohio's system of care for mental health and substance use services, prevention, and recovery supports. The important policy initiatives and key funding priorities included in the SFY 26-27 Executive Budget proposal that sustain prior investments in Medicaid provider rates and services; support and grow the behavioral health workforce; and continue to develop and strengthen Ohio's crisis services infrastructure, will pay dividends far into the future. These investments are also critical drivers for the economic health of Ohio's communities as today's children are tomorrow's students, workforce, and entrepreneurs."

Theresa Lampl, CEO
Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers



"We are grateful to Governor Mike DeWine for his leadership and for prioritizing the well-being of Ohioans in his proposed FY2026-2027 budget. Governor DeWine's commitment to suicide prevention and building our behavioral health system is key to the physical and mental health of citizens but is also crucial for the economic health of Ohio. The governor's budget will do this by expanding access to the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, recognizing the impact of community prevention coalitions, and increasing resources for behavioral health treatment and prevention. The recent decrease in suicide rates in Ohio is a testament to the positive impact of prevention efforts. Continued investment in suicide prevention not only saves lives but also promotes a healthier, more productive workforce and strengthens our communities."

Tony Coder, Executive Director
Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation



"PGNO commends the governor for his continued focus and commitment to Ohioans struggling with gambling-related harm. The proposed budget reflects a significant investment in problem gambling prevention, treatment, and responsible gambling initiatives, and reinforces Ohio's leadership in addressing gambling-related harm...The governor's commitment to responsible gambling initiatives keeps Ohio at the forefront of prevention."

Derek Longmeier, Executive Director
Problem Gambling Network of Ohio



"We are pleased to see child and family services funding continues to be a key priority of the DeWine Administration. The Governor's proposal establishes a strong foundation for the upcoming biennium. As Ohio's children are the future leaders of our state, we must ensure they remain a top priority in this budget. We are eager to work alongside Ohio lawmakers to bring Governor DeWine's goals to fruition."

Mark Mecum, Chief Executive Officer
Ohio Children's Alliance



"We are pleased to learn of the Governor's ongoing commitment to invest in building out Ohio's system of behavioral healthcare. We are further encouraged to learn the behavioral healthcare budget priorities include crisis services, resilient people and communities, quality of care, behavioral health workforce, and criminal justice and recovery services. We value the Governor's commitment to a vibrant economy and strong and growing workforce. We realize that neither are achievable if Ohioans do not have access to high-quality behavioral healthcare. Investing in recovery services demonstrates a commitment to ensuring Ohioans stay well."

Michael J. Krause, Executive Director
Ohio Peer Recovery Organizations (OhioPRO)

Prevention Action Alliance

"Prevention Action Alliance thanks Governor Mike DeWine for his leadership and continued commitment to the well-being of Ohioans...The Governor's dedication to prevention and community-driven prevention solutions is essential to the health and wellness of our state. Substance misuse problems and disorders are not inevitable. A comprehensive approach that prioritizes prevention, as outlined in the governor's budget, will help reduce substance misuse in Ohio. The Governor's budget aims to achieve this by surveying the state, identifying gaps, and equipping communities and youth with the tools to develop local solutions for local problems. Building cross-sector community coalitions, implementing evidence-based prevention practices and policies, and empowering youth will further reduce the stigma associated with substance misuse and create accessible pathways for prevention, early intervention, and treatment resources."

Fran Gerbig, Executive Director
Prevention Action Alliance



"We are pleased to learn of the Governor's ongoing commitment to invest in building out Ohio's system of behavioral healthcare. We are further encouraged to learn the behavioral healthcare budget priorities include crisis services, resilient people and communities, quality of care, behavioral health workforce, and criminal justice and recovery services. We understand, perhaps better than any group, that ensuring all Ohioans have access to high-quality behavioral healthcare is necessary to support the wellness of its citizens. A well-developed system of care is a vital component of a strong Ohio economy."

Michael J. Krause, Chair
Coalition for Healthy Communities

"I am grateful for (Governor DeWine's) leadership in developing a budget proposal that recognizes the critical role mental health plays in the overall well-being of all Ohioans. By investing in mental health, (this budget) not only addresses immediate needs but also takes proactive steps toward creating a healthier, more resilient Ohio. (Governor DeWine's) proposal demonstrates a strong commitment to a mentally healthy Ohio, including investments in strengthening our behavioral health workforce, expanding crisis services such as the essential 988 hotline, and supporting mental health initiatives for mothers, caregivers, and those benefiting from critical peer services. These investments promise to pay dividends for our state well into the future... Mental Health America of Ohio stands ready to partner with stakeholders, community members, those with lived experience, and anyone passionate about the mental health of Ohioans to help make it easier to get help and provide the support needed for individuals to get better and stay better."

Tonya Fulwider, Executive Director
Mental Health America of Ohio



"The Ohio Institute for SUD Excellence (OISE), a provider-led Substance Use Disorder (SUD) improvement collaborative, is committed to enhancing Ohio's outcomes and resources in the fight against Substance Use Disorder (SUD). Our members include BrightView, Thrive Peer Support, Integrated Services for Behavioral Health, Riveon, Meridian, Basecamp Recovery, OneFifteen, Boulder Care, Catholic Charities of Cleveland, Talbert House, and Stella Maris; and we serve more than eighty thousand Ohioans, including veterans and military families. We promote accountability, transparency, and evidence-based care, and commend the administration's proposed budget priorities. We strongly support Governor DeWine's proposed mental health and addiction priorities within the budget. We are sure that by investing in behavioral health, Governor DeWine is directly fostering a healthier, more productive, and resilient Ohio."

Jonas Thom, Director
Ohio Institute for Substance Use Disorder Excellence