

“BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE is HEALTH CARE”

The Mental Health, Alcohol & Drug Addiction Board of Putnam County with the Pathways Counseling Center, Inc. Board are appointed to be trustees of the mental health and alcohol/drug recovery systems of Putnam County. These services are collectively referred to as Behavioral Health Services.

The economic downturn continues to affect county, state, and local business, industry, government, and individual families. Service Agencies, including Behavioral Health, have not been spared these difficulties. Three major state funding cuts to the local Behavioral Health System totaling approximately \$100,000 have forced the Mental Health, Alcohol & Drug Addiction Board of Putnam County to implement a contingency plan for services.

As Board members, it is our responsibility to make communities aware of the irrefutable evidence that cutting behavioral health care can lead to increased pressure on state hospitals, community emergency services, the criminal justice system, schools, and the child welfare system. Emergency rooms, homeless shelters, and private hospitals may also see the affects.

In fiscal year 2008, one thousand one hundred forty nine (1,149) individuals sought services for Behavioral Health situations at Pathways Counseling Center. Alcohol and Drug Prevention Programs served three thousand fifteen (3,015) children; seventy-three (73) students were served through the Alternative Opportunity Center; Crime Victims Services served one thousand one hundred fifty (1,150) clients; Early Childhood served seventy (70) parents, teachers, and preschoolers. In addition, finances were provided for out-of county Medicaid units for Putnam County residents. Thus, a total of five thousand four hundred fifty seven (5,457) plus contacts were made through the Putnam County Behavioral Health System.

One of the benchmarks used to determine the effectiveness of treatment is the completion of Consumer Outcomes. Information tabulated by the Ohio Department of Mental Health indicated two Board out of fifty (50) completed all five (5) instruments for consumer outcomes during the first quarter of fiscal year 2009. The two (2) successful Boards reaching the threshold were Portage and Putnam.

As the Behavioral Health Boards continue their responsibility to provide efficient and effective care to the residents of Putnam County, we ask you as citizens of Putnam County to continue your past and current support for services. All citizens can help by encouraging early intervention, family support, and individual contacts with people requiring Behavioral Health needs. These actions may help address issues before they become serious.

As Behavioral Health Boards, our charge is to meet the Behavioral Health needs of the residents of Putnam County. We thank you for your past and future support and understanding as we implement our contingency plan in order to maintain vital Behavioral Health Services.

Mental Health, Alcohol &  
Drug Addiction Recovery  
Board of Putnam County

Pathways Counseling Center, Inc.

Jennifer Horstman  
Chairperson

Keith Schierloh  
Chairperson