



Action Update

June 28, 2010

Ohio Policymaker Urged to 'Think the Unthinkable'

In a report released by the Center for Community Solutions this past week, *Thinking the Unthinkable, Finding Common Ground for Resolving Ohio's Fiscal Crisis* it is recommended that most human services line-items be reduced by 10-20 percent, **but that the Ohio Department of Mental Health and the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services line items be excluded from reductions due to the critical condition of behavioral health services.**

Additionally, the report recommends that the state should be responsible for the behavioral health Medicaid match, it states, *"relieving local boards of this responsibility would help stabilize precarious, if not dangerous, situations in communities across Ohio, while helping county governments and local boards address the multifaceted impact of the recession. It would also help align Ohio's Medicaid program with the impact of federal health reform on mental health benefits and expanded eligibility for currently uninsured individuals. If the cost for state assumption of behavioral health Medicaid match were shared between new appropriations and current state subsidies to local Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services boards, then local boards would shed a major financial burden, while a significant step toward clarifying roles and stabilizing behavioral health finance is taken."* The report also states, *"additional funding would be needed to cover this, as well as provide some subsidy to local communities to support the behavioral health needs of the uninsured."* To read the report in its entirety, please visit: [http://www.communitysolutions.com/assets/1/AssetManager/Thinking the Unthinkable Begala WEB.pdf](http://www.communitysolutions.com/assets/1/AssetManager/Thinking%20the%20Unthinkable%20Begala%20WEB.pdf)

Action: Share this report with your elected officials as well as candidates in this fall's election and remind them of the importance of alcohol, drug addiction and mental health services.

Use this link to find and contact your elected officials:

<http://ohio.gov/how/government.stm>

www.OF-1-MIND.org

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