

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2023

ENCOURAGING the State of Ohio to restore the \$50 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding for pediatric mental health workforce in the Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) introduced budget.

WHEREAS, in the last year, 18.25 percent of Ohio youth had at least one major depressive episode, and the Children's Hospital Association, National AAP, and others have declared a National State of Emergency in Children's Mental Health; and

WHEREAS, in the last year, 13.9 percent of Ohio youth had a severe major depressive episode, but 53.9 percent of those youth did not receive any mental health treatment; and

WHEREAS, in the state of Ohio, suicide is the third leading cause of death for people ages 10 to 24; and

WHEREAS, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center ("CCHMC") has over 100 inpatient behavioral health beds – the largest inpatient unit of any children's hospital in the country – and still demand cannot be met; and

WHEREAS, for example, on April 27, 2023, there were 22 psychiatry patients held in CCHMC's Emergency Department because there were no beds available because patients ready for discharge from inpatient psychiatry care were unable to find the resources for home- and/or community-based services and supports; and

WHEREAS, the problems faced in pediatric psychiatry at CCHMC are even worse in other areas of the state, with over two-thirds of Ohio counties being in a mental health professional shortage area; and

WHEREAS, expansion of the behavioral health workforce across the entire care continuum is critical to alleviating pressures within the system, reducing and removing waitlists, and offering better care to Ohio's children; and

WHEREAS, investment in evidence-based mental health treatment, such as maximizing access to mental health services, maximizing symptom reduction, and retaining the workforce by preventing burnout, is necessary to provide early intervention for youth at risk for mental health crises and improve the overall behavioral health of our population; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the Mayor and this Council fully encourage the state of Ohio to restore the \$50 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding for pediatric mental health workforce in the Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) introduced budget.

Section 2. That it is the desire of the City of Cincinnati that no child shall have to be waiting at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center Hospital Emergency Room for longer than is medically necessary due to lack of appropriate placements and inability to get care.

Section 3. That the Mayor and this Council encourage the Governor, the Ohio General Assembly, and the respective state agencies to work with key stakeholders, including the Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO), the Ohio Children’s Hospital Association (OCHA), the Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers (The Ohio Council), the Ohio Children’s Alliance (OCA), the Ohio Job and Family Services Directors’ Association (OJFSDA), and the Ohio Association of County Boards of DD (OACB), to develop treatment and placement solutions for children with developmental and/or intellectual challenges and high acuity behaviors who are institutionalized at children’s hospitals awaiting placements and more appropriate care, and that the state taskforce recommendations should be shared with the General Assembly by October 30, 2023 for immediate action.

Section 4. That this resolution should be spread upon the minutes of Council.

Passed: _____, 2023

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk

Submitted by Councilmember Meeka Owens