

Renewal raises hope, not taxes!

Renewal won't raise taxes.

The Mental Health Levy (*Issue 33 on the November 3rd ballot*) simply renews an existing levy and maintains the current level of local funding that helps thousands of Butler County residents cope with serious and sometimes life-threatening mental health or behavioral issues, including severe depression, anxiety disorders and addiction. **Renewal of the Mental Health Levy will NOT raise taxes.** First passed in 2006, Issue 33 is one of two local mental health levies. This levy appears on the ballot every five years for renewal. The second levy, a much smaller levy, is up for renewal every 10 years.

Help needed more than ever.

We live in difficult times. The COVID-19 pandemic has made problems even worse. With instability of state and federal funding, local levies have never been more important to continue the work of the Butler County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Services Board. In FY 2019, local mental health services impacted 39,262 residents, a 65 percent increase since 2015! **Despite the massive growth in numbers helped, there has been no local increase in taxes since 2006!**

Mental illness touches us all!

Mental illness impacts more than one out of five people of all ages in any one year period. Youth programs address bullying, teen suicide, anxiety, stress, drug abuse and a myriad of issues resulting from the growing complexity of youth. Elderly programs help with the depression of loneliness, made worse through the isolation caused by the pandemic. Recovery programs target severe depression, anxiety, suicide and addiction. Of all people who die by suicide, 90 percent have a treatable mental illness! **When there is a serious need, there is help... and hope, thanks to the current Mental Health Levy.**

We're working every day to help those with mental health needs.

Butler County's 24-hour Crisis Hotline (1-844-4CRISIS) receives an average of 206 calls every month from a diverse population reaching out for help. Some callers need information or a referral, others need to talk out a problem... some have deep, troubling issues that need immediate help, sending a 24/7 mobile crisis response team into action. (*The mobile crisis response team made 1,630 contacts last year. One out of three calls involved a youth under the age of 18.*) Sadly, some in serious need never reach out for help. Issue 33 ensures immediate help is available.

Programs offer help... and hope.

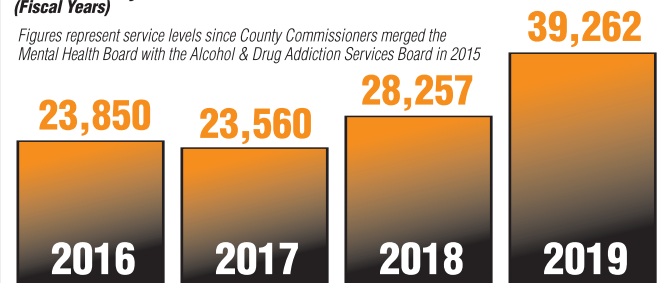
- Mental health programs helped 39,262 people in FY 2019. Many benefit from direct care for serious needs. Some are helped through contracted services with law enforcement. Many others are helped by prevention programs and educational services.
- Programs helped about 3,345 senior citizens in FY 2019 who struggled with depression, anxiety or other mental illness.
- Programs specifically for youth 17 and under helped more than 4,158 youth with adolescent issues, including bullying, depression and thoughts of suicide.

Note: 2019 stats reflect projections based on widely accepted statistical trends.

Total residents helped

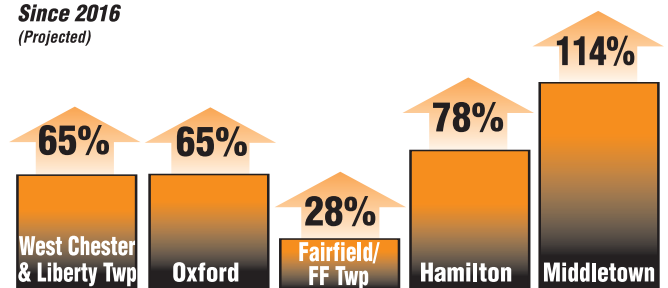
Butler County
(Fiscal Years)

Figures represent service levels since County Commissioners merged the Mental Health Board with the Alcohol & Drug Addiction Services Board in 2015



Service growth by community region

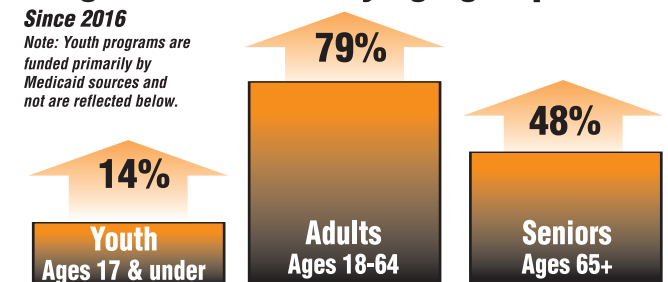
Since 2016
(Projected)



Program increases by age group

Since 2016

Note: Youth programs are funded primarily by Medicaid sources and not are reflected below.



Since the Great Recession of 2008, economic times have placed enormous pressures on families. The numbers shown above reflect those helped within the public mental health system and do not include those who seek help from professionals in private practice. Note that all figures listed resulted from projections based on widely accepted statistical trends. The bottom line: the need continues now more than ever.

Mental Health Renewal Levy

**There is help.
There is hope.**

**WON'T
raise
taxes!**

Issue 33

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Facts you need to know about Issue 33

Your family may be among the fortunate ones not to have been faced with the heartbreak of a serious mental illness. But it does happen... and much more frequently in these tough times. Having a solid mental health system in place is important for everyone.

The November 3rd Mental Health Levy (Issue 33) simply renews an existing levy and maintains the current level of funding that now helps thousands of people cope with serious mental health issues right here in Butler County... *in your neighborhood.*

Did you know...

- In FY 2019, 39,262 people were helped by mental health services in Butler County. Those services identified about 3,500 people who were severely mentally disabled and could have had a catastrophic outcome for themselves or others. The mental health network, thankfully, was able to identify those clients and get them the help they needed.
- Thanks to the Mental Health Levy, a mobile crisis team is available every hour of every day to respond to psychiatric emergencies anywhere in Butler County. (*Last year, the team was called into service 1,630 times. Of these, one out of three involved children and adolescents.*) The mobile crisis team is an important resource to area law enforcement for rapid emergency intervention, arriving on site in about 30 minutes or less anywhere in Butler County.

If you have questions regarding Issue 33, or behavioral health services in Butler County, call (513) 860-9240 or visit www.bcmhars.org. For help, call the Hotline at 1-844-4CRISIS 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



“Renewal of Issue 33, the Mental Health Levy, will not raise taxes and gives hope to so many who face the darkness of mental illness in these challenging times.”

Jim Breech

Former Cincinnati Bengal Kicker & Honorary Campaign Chair

COVID-19 causing even more need

Never before has mental wellness been more important. In Butler County, we've seen a steady rise in cases of depression, anxiety and addiction... *and that's BEFORE the coronavirus pandemic blindsided the world.* Programs are now bracing for the despair of sudden, explosive unemployment, business failures and the fallout of loneliness from social isolation. One study predicts pandemic despair could lead to the death of 181,686 Americans, which is about the number of deaths from the coronavirus itself (*as of mid-August 2020*). Another study reports that one in four young adults considered suicide due to the pandemic.

Even before the pandemic's impact, local mental wellness programs have grown significantly through the years. Despite the increasing numbers, we've managed to find innovative ways to conserve costs, meet the needs of residents and live within the funding generated by two mental health levies. One of those levies will be on the November 3 ballot for renewal. **The Mental Health Levy will not raise taxes**, yet continues to provide vital funding for programs that address bullying in schools, severe mental illness, suicide, depression, anxiety, addiction and loneliness of isolation experienced by so many people.

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