



October 2023

Resolution Declaring Mental Health Recovery Board Serving Warren and Clinton Counties' Opposition to November 7, 2023 Ballot Issue 2

Whereas, Mental Health Recovery Board Serving Warren & Clinton Counties (the "Board") is a duly organized board of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services under Chapter 340 of the Ohio Revised Code ("R.C."); and,

Whereas, pursuant to R.C. § 340.03(A)(1)(b), part of the Board's statutory responsibilities, in cooperation with other local and regional planning and funding bodies, is to evaluate strengths and challenges regarding addiction services, mental health services, and recovery supports facing the Board's service area; and,

Whereas, Issue 2, a proposed citizen-initiated statute legalizing the recreational use of marijuana in the State of Ohio, is on the upcoming November 7, 2023 general election ballot; and,

Whereas, in filling its statutory duty to evaluate strengths and challenges regarding addiction services, mental health services, and recovery supports facing its service area, the Board engaged in discussions among its members, staff, and community partners regarding specific challenges that may occur directly from potential passage of Issue 2; and,

Whereas, the Board desires to declare its opposition to the legalization and commercialization of recreational marijuana established by Issue 2 given the unique challenges that would directly affect the Board's continuum of care and service area.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mental Health Recovery Board Serving Warren & Clinton Counties, a majority of members thereto concurring, the following:

SECTION 1: Mental Health Recovery Board of Warren & Clinton Counties hereby opposes the legalization and commercialization of marijuana for recreational purposes. Regulation and oversight of any mood-altering substance or potential medication should be subject to rigorous research, based on effective policy, and oversight by

the larger medical community, and it is the Board's position that Issue 2 does not provide such necessary protections.

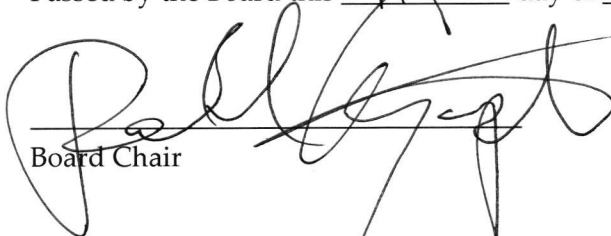
SECTION 2: Moreover, it is the Board's position that the opioid epidemic has shown that even prescribed medications believed to be safe can be exceedingly dangerous, leading to grave outcomes for children, adults, and families, such as severe disability and death.

SECTION 3: Furthermore, the Board understands there is a greater risk of harm in recreational use of any mood-altering substance in people who have histories of trauma, mental illness and addiction, chronic health problems, and health inequities. Adults and young people experiencing depression, anxiety, mood disorders, and addictions are at the greatest risk for having negative health outcomes and quality of life concerns due to substance misuse. Several concerns of the Board, as supported by relevant facts and statistics are listed below:

- Lifetime marijuana use is the number one risk factor for opioid misuse.
- THC concentration has risen from 4% in 1995 to 12% in 2014. Some samples have extracts ranging from 80-90% THC levels. Frequent use of high potency THC can increase the risk of having acute health emergencies, accidents, and future problems with depression, anxiety, and psychosis.
- Cannabis use has been linked with suicidal thoughts, plans, and attempts in young adults.
- Over 4.8 million people 12 and older reported cannabis use disorders in 2019, with almost 700,000 of those being ages 12-17.
- Employees testing positive for marijuana had 55% more industrial accidents, 85% more injuries and 75% greater absenteeism compared to those who tested negative.

SECTION 4: It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of the Board and that all deliberations of the Board and any of the decision-making bodies of the Board which resulted in such formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements of the State of Ohio.

Passed by the Board this 11th day of October, 2023.


Board Chair