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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THANK YOU TO GOVERNOR JOHN KASICH FOR NEW FUNDING
FOR CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS SERVICES**

Columbus, Ohio – The Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) would like to thank Governor John Kasich for his commitment to allocate \$5 million dollars over the next 18 months to help families and children facing a mental health crisis.

Michael Schoenhofer, the Executive Director of the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Allen, Auglaize and Hardin Counties stated, “We are extremely appreciative of the fact that Governor Kasich recognized the need for additional dollars to address the issues faced by children and families with untreated mental illness, and with these additional dollars more Ohioans in crisis can be served, helping to create more stable children and families, allowing them to lead healthier and more productive lives.”

While we are extremely thankful for the new funding and the Governor’s recognition of the issue, we want to encourage the Governor and the Ohio General Assembly to further ensure safe and stable children and families in Ohio by providing additional access to mental health and addiction services by expanding Medicaid to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level as allowed by the Affordable Care Act in Ohio,” said Cheri Walter, CEO of the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities.

The Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities is the statewide association that represents Ohio’s alcohol, drug addiction and mental health boards which are statutorily empowered to plan, develop, fund, manage and evaluate behavioral health services. For more information, visit www.oacbha.org or call (614) 224-1111



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STATE ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN APPLAUDES INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN
Governor Kasich's Investment will Help At-Risk Children and Families

The Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies (OACCA) commends Governor Kasich for committing \$5 million to support services to children with intensive health needs.

The funding will enhance the ability of child and family service providers to coordinate services to children with intensive needs when they experience crises.

Mark Mecum, Executive Director of OACCA, believes these services are crucial to support families. "Families struggle to provide necessary care and treatment to children with intensive health care needs. The Governor's funding decision supports innovative services that will preserve and strengthen families. This type of service keeps families together and prevents out-of-home placement of children."

Mecum goes on to say that "State funding is critical for child and family service providers. It supports development of innovative treatment programs for vulnerable children, including those with mental illness and developmental disabilities."

The Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies (OACCA) is a statewide association of child and family service providers that are united together to develop the best care possible for Ohio's children and families. Founded in 1973, OACCA advocates on public policy that impact children and families and the providers that serve them.

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