



THE CENTERS' Behavioral Health Crisis Center

Standing for Care: The Future of the Behavioral Health Crisis Center

The Situation: A Potential Reversal of Commitment

For years, Cuyahoga County has worked toward a solution for mental health and addiction emergencies, and in 2024, The Centers answered the call with an idea in line with national best practices: the **Behavioral Health Crisis Center (BHCC)**. Despite two previous unanimous votes to partially fund the operating costs of the BHCC, the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County is now considering pulling its funding commitment.

This project is not a theory; it is a reality in progress.

- **Progress:** Construction is only **seven months from completion**.
- **Investment:** Over **\$15 million** has already been spent, with **\$32.3 million** of the \$34.1 million total cost already raised and committed.
- **The Goal:** To provide a 24/7 "no-wrong-door" facility for individuals experiencing suicidal ideation, psychosis, and/or overdose, serving **10,000 to 12,000 people annually**.

The Funding Reality: Strengthening, Not Destabilizing

A primary concern raised by the ADAMHS Board is whether funding the BHCC will harm the rest of Cuyahoga County's behavioral health continuum. The facts suggest otherwise:

- **Budget Availability:** A careful review of the ADAMHS budget shows there is enough money to maintain crisis services (including the BHCC), treatment for the uninsured, and housing, while still funding prevention and peer support.
- **Reduced Funding Proposal:** To assist with budget constraints, The Centers proposed decreasing their annual funding request from **\$10 million to \$6 million**.
- **More Care for the Same Dollar:** At \$6 million per year, the BHCC would provide **56 beds and chairs**, compared to the 23 beds the Board currently pays for through other providers at the same cost.

Collaboration, Not Competition

The BHCC is designed to be shared community infrastructure. It does not aim to pit organizations against each other, but rather to function as a hub that reduces the unsustainable burden on:

- **Emergency Departments**
- **Law Enforcement and First Responders**
- **Local Courts and Jails**

The High Stakes of Walking Away

The Ramifications of Stopping Now

If the ADAMHS Board chooses to defund the BHCC at this critical late stage, the consequences for Cuyahoga County will be severe:

- **Financial Damages:** Stopping now would cause estimated damages of **\$15 million to \$20 million** to The Centers, plus unknown damages to contractors and tradesmen who have foregone other work to complete this project on time.
- **Eroded Trust:** Defunding a project after years of partnership would damage the Board's reputation with the State, the County, and all behavioral health providers.
- **Systemic Failure:** Cuyahoga County would remain the **only major metropolitan area in Ohio without** a dedicated, 24/7 crisis receiving and stabilization center, forcing residents back into a cycle of ERs and jails.

Setting the Record Straight

There have been several misleading claims made in the media and in public meetings regarding the risks of continued ADAMHS Board support of the BHCC. Here are the facts:

"The project might not finish before the Sept. 30, 2026 ARPA deadline."	Construction is on schedule to meet the federal ARPA deadline. In the event of unanticipated delays, The Centers is willing to bear the financial risk of repaying the \$6.8M in ARPA funding, which would be less expensive than stopping the project now.
"State funding is a high-risk liability."	The \$6.8M ARPA award from the State is a 10-year forgivable loan. Each year the project operates; 1/10th of the risk is eliminated.
"ADAMHS carries the full financial burden."	ADAMHS funding accounts for less than half of total operations; the rest comes from fee-for-service revenue, pharmacy revenue, and other sources.
"Future funding gaps will be the ADAMHS Board's problem."	The Centers has never stated that shortfalls would be the responsibility of the ADAMHS Board.
"What if patient volume falls short of projections?"	If volume does not match our projections, we can scale down, which will cut costs.
"The County's support of the Crisis Center led to the defunding and subsequent closure of MetroHealth's Psychiatric Emergency Department in Cleveland Heights."	<p>MetroHealth was the ADAMHS Board's original partner to operate the Crisis Center before pulling out of the project in the summer of 2024, leading to The Centers' answering the call to bring this project to life. It was publicly communicated that the ADAMHS Board would redirect its \$4 million annual subsidy of the MetroHealth Psych ED to the Crisis Center upon opening before MetroHealth withdrew from the project.</p> <p>The BHCC does not duplicate the services of MetroHealth's Psych ED; rather, it expands capacity of the system as a whole. Both types of facilities are needed to meet demand for behavioral health crisis care in Cuyahoga County.</p>

Conclusion

The BHCC is about finishing what we began together.

The Behavioral Health Crisis Center is a foundational investment in a system that prioritizes human dignity and quality healthcare over incarceration or cycling through emergency room hallways. **Cuyahoga County deserves a crisis response system that reflects its values of compassion and collaboration.**

Continued ADAMHS support is the only way to ensure this facility delivers on its promise to save lives.



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