



**Cuyahoga County
Community Mental Health Board**

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**Cuyahoga County Community Mental Health Board
Announces Consumer and Provider Work Program**

CLEVELAND, OHIO – Mr. William M. Denihan, Chief Executive Officer of the Cuyahoga County Community Mental Health Board (CCCMHB) announced a new Consumer and Provider Work Program during the CCCMHB's General Meeting on April 30, 2003. Mr. Denihan stated, "This new program allows for employment opportunities for consumers at our contract provider agencies. Funding for this program is made possible through an \$11,083.71 reimbursement from the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (ORSC) that was earned by the CCCMHB for successfully placing consumers into employment."

Dr. June Gutterman, Director of the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation for ORSC, added, "Finding jobs for consumers is the very best use of these funds. Employment for people with severe and persistent mental illness is a solution, not a problem."

Mr. Denihan explained that the thrust of the program is to encourage provider agencies to create employment positions for consumers of mental health services by offering a monetary enticement to agencies if consumers are hired through any of the following four ways:

1. \$500 to an agency that becomes a Community-Based Work Adjustment site, whereby a consumer enrolled in this vocational service would be working onsite four hours per day from four to 12 weeks;
2. \$600 to an agency that becomes a Transitional Employment site, whereby a consumer who is a member of Magnolia Clubhouse would be working onsite four hours per day for six months;
3. \$1,000 to an agency that hires a consumer in a permanent part-time position for at least 20 hours per week; and
4. \$1,500 to an agency that hires a consumer in a permanent full-time position.

Mr. Denihan mentioned, "Funding is limited and the program is available to agencies on a first-come first-served basis."