



**Cuyahoga County
Community Mental Health Board**

1400 West 25th Street, 3rd Floor • Cleveland, Ohio • 44113-3199
TEL: (216) 241-3400 • FAX: (216) 861-5067 • TDD/TTY: (216) 241-3983

For Immediate Release:

September 9, 2003

Contact: Scott S. Osiecki, Director of External Affairs
216-241-3400, ext. 361
osiecki@cccmhb.org

ODMH Declares CCCMHB Initiatives as Models for Other Boards

Cleveland, Ohio – The Cuyahoga County Community Mental Health Board (CCCMHB) was commended by the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) for several initiatives outlined in the Board's FY 2004-2005 Mutual Systems Performance Agreement (MSPA). According to Dr. Michael F. Hogan, ODMH Director, these initiatives may well be used as models for other Board areas to emulate.

In a letter to the CCCMHB accepting the MSPA, Dr. Hogan wrote that the **“section on cultural competence was particularly strong and indeed a model for other Board areas to emulate.”** He also praised the Board's hiring of a Transitional Employment Program position and related challenge and incentive for agencies to hire consumers, as a **“novel idea worthy of being replicated by the other Boards across the state.”** The ODMH Medical Director also listed the CCCMHB as exemplary, especially in the area of Forensic Services.

“We are delighted that Dr. Hogan has recognized our Board for identifying policy issues and launching initiatives that are aimed at propelling our system forward. We are eager to share our ideas with Boards throughout the state and to continue to work with ODMH to support the recovery of mental health consumers,” responded William M. Denihan, CCCMHB Chief Executive Officer.

###

*NOTE: Mr. Denihan is available for interview by contacting Scott S. Osiecki,
Director of External Affairs, at 216-241-3400, ext. 361*