

# News from Congresswoman **STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES**

Representing Ohio's 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District •  
Ways and Means and Ethics Committees

1009 Longworth House Office Building • Washington, DC 20515 • 202-225-7032 • Fax 202-225-1339 • Website: [www.house.gov/tubbsjones/](http://www.house.gov/tubbsjones/)



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CONTACT: Nicole Y. Williams   Scott Osiecki, CCCMHB  
(202) 225-7032   (216) 241-3400, ext. 361

Kim Gallek, BOCC  
216-443-7297

## **Congresswoman Tubbs Jones Joins Cuyahoga County Officials in Announcing \$9.5 Million SAMHSA Grant to Enhance Children's Mental Health Services**

**Cleveland, Ohio** – Today, Congresswoman Tubbs Jones along with Cuyahoga County Commissioners Jimmy Dimora, Tim McCormack and Peter Lawson Jones, and representatives from the Cuyahoga County Family and Children First Council (FCFC), and the Cuyahoga County Community Mental Health Board (CCMHB), announced a \$9.5 Million Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) grant to enhance the Cuyahoga County System of Care for children by increasing access to mental health service over the next six years.

"I am pleased to have been able to assist Cuyahoga County in obtaining these grant funds for this very worthwhile program, *Project Tapestry*," stated Rep. Tubbs Jones. "This grant will allow the Cuyahoga County Commissioners, the Cuyahoga County Family & Children First Council and the Cuyahoga County Community Mental Health Board to implement *Project Tapestry* and merge a mental health wraparound model with a pioneering child welfare reform initiative to meet the needs of underserved populations throughout Cuyahoga County, such as younger children, youth in transition to adulthood, young females, and Hispanic and Asian American children."

Lisa Bottoms, Executive Director of FCFC, and William M. Denihan, Chief Executive Officer of the CCCMHB, explained that while *Project Tapestry* will focus on enhancing the mental health system currently serving 6,400 seriously emotionally disturbed (SED) children, capacity of the system will increase to serve an additional 1,200 youth. In addition, the effectiveness of the four major child-serving systems of child welfare, education, juvenile justice and substance abuse will also improve.

*Project Tapestry* will expand on the Connections wraparound model to offer creative and resourceful intervention plans that will link SED children and their families with formal mental health services, as well as related services such as, family support and sustenance, therapeutic services, crisis services, independent living services and vocational services. The first year of the project is specifically designed for planning, with implementation over the remaining five years. During that time, evidenced based treatments and mental health services for children will be developed and expanded.

The success of *Project Tapestry* is centered in interagency collaboration and reform at the policy, infrastructure, clinical and individual child/family levels that will result in measurable changes in the overall system of care. These measurable changes and the effectiveness of *Project Tapestry* will be evaluated by Kent State University.

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