

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**HAMILTON COUNTY ADAS BOARD ANNOUNCES
NEW SERVICES FOR YOUTH**

CINCINNATI -- Two new programs serving adolescents are being launched by the Hamilton County Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ADAS) Board and its provider network this spring. The ADAS Board has awarded funds to enhance services to meet the increased need for adolescent treatment and to reach underserved adolescents with additional emotional and behavioral problems.

A youth version of the Hamilton County TASC (Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime), which opened in August 2000, began providing assessment, treatment referrals and case management to juvenile offenders this month. Targeted populations include non-violent offenders involved with the Hamilton County Juvenile Court system and juvenile offenders being released from Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS) institutions back to their communities in Hamilton County. The new program is being funded by a \$513,354 grant from the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services.

Treatment services for youth being released from ODYS institutions will be provided by a network of agencies including Lighthouse Youth Services, Talbert House, Alcoholism Council of the Cincinnati Area, NORCEN Behavioral Health Systems and the Crossroads Center, which have received new contracts from the ADAS Board to serve this population. The ADAS Board worked in partnership with the Hamilton County Juvenile Court and ODYS to develop this plan to provide case management and treatment services focused on helping youth stay alcohol/drug free and avoid criminal activity.

The ADAS Board was also awarded a \$392,514 grant over three years from the Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati to enhance adolescent treatment services by hiring three new full-time staff. The new staff members will work at the Crossroads Center, Talbert House and NORCEN Behavioral Health Systems, the system's three adolescent treatment providers.

The treatment enhancement clinicians will focus exclusively on the county's most troubled teens, who require intensive case management and treatment to succeed. "This project will reach the young people who do not have family and community support, the ones who are at the highest risk for treatment failure," said Dr. Sherry L. Knapp, chief executive officer of the ADAS Board.

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The ADAS Board has also enhanced current services by providing funds to expand the successful home-based program for adolescents offered by the Crossroads Center. This 12-week program, which originally began in May 1999, takes services into the home and is able to overcome barriers that typically prevent timely intervention and positive outcomes.

"These new and expanded programs go a long way toward addressing the service gaps identified by our community; however, we still need to increase our residential treatment for adolescents," said Dr. Knapp.

While expansion of treatment services for adolescents has been a primary goal for the ADAS Board, the Board is also committed to expanding prevention services for youth. "We continue to seek additional sources of financial support and encourage partnerships to enhance and expand prevention services for young people, so we can avoid the need for more treatment services in the future," she added.

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