

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact: Tamara Sullivan
513/583-1433**

**September is Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month
*Rally for Recovery to be Held at the Statehouse in Columbus***

CINCINNATI -- (September 4, 2001) September is National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month, sponsored annually by the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment. The theme for this year's observance is "We Recover Together: Family, Friends and Communities." The campaign is designed to encourage support for individuals in recovery and promote the benefits and effectiveness of alcohol and drug addiction treatment.

In Ohio, the Rally for Recovery, an awareness event kicking off Recovery Month, will be held on Wednesday, September 5, 12 to 1 p.m., on the statehouse steps and plaza on the High Street side. Hosted by the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS), the rally will feature principal speakers First Lady Hope Taft, ODADAS Director Luceille Fleming and H. Westley Clark, director of the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, SAMHSA, along with several recovering speakers.

Ohio's Rally for Recovery is one of 19 community-based events taking place around the country to spotlight the need for substance abuse treatment and applaud those with the courage to enter treatment and remain in recovery. This attention comes at a time when budgets for ODADAS and, in turn, the Hamilton County Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ADAS) Board are experiencing cuts to treatment services.

"Unfortunately, these cuts will reduce treatment options and cause an increase in the length of waiting lists for alcohol and drug treatment," said Dr. Sherry Knapp, CEO of the Hamilton County ADAS Board. "We need to focus attention on the benefits of effective alcohol and drug treatment services now more than ever to increase public awareness of their value to the community and increase funding levels."

Substance abuse is the nation's number one health problem affecting all segments of society with staggering costs to the economy. Alcohol and other drug abuse costs Hamilton County millions of dollars in health and other related costs, lost productivity and criminal justice costs. For every dollar spent on treatment services, \$12 is saved in other community expenses.

The Hamilton County Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board plans, funds and evaluates public alcohol and drug treatment, prevention and education services for the citizens of Hamilton County.

###