



**Mental Health & Recovery Board**  
of Clark, Greene & Madison Counties

*Help for Today. Hope for Tomorrow.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## MENTAL HEALTH & RECOVERY BOARD APPROVES CHANGE TO YOUTH SERVICES

At a special Board meeting, Monday, March 29, the Mental Health and Recovery Board (MHR Board) approved Integrated Youth Services' (IYS) request to not seek a contract for services in 2011 due to their agency winding down operations. Christine Fulmer, IYS Board Chair, also recommended that the MHR Board contract with TCN Behavioral Health Services to provide youth services beginning July 1, 2010.

Judy Hoy, MHR Board Chair, summarized the goal of this process was to maintain the gains IYS has achieved in providing quality clinical and prevention services to youth, while eliminating administrative duplications. Hoy recognized Fulmer for "her positive leadership and focus on preserving client and therapist relationships," in the face of devastating state budget cuts to the local behavioral health system.

Fulmer stated, "Our decision to begin winding down agency operations was tough, but necessary to focus on the best interests of the children and families," to ensure therapy, crisis, and medication services are available and sustainable. Fulmer also advocated for IYS services to remain in their current location, 1321 Research Park Dr. in Beavercreek, until a more suitable location is found for both partial hospitalization and outpatient programs. Sue Giga and Vicki Williamson, current IYS Board members, said they were impressed with the openness of TCN leadership to work with existing IYS Board and staff members.

TCN Behavioral Health Services CEO, Lynn West, expressed her support for the IYS Board decision and is "looking forward to working with IYS staff," in order for the transition to be as smooth as possible. West's proposed budget estimates an annual savings of \$400,000 in administrative costs by creating a child-serving arm within her current agency structure.

Based on last night's MHR Board action, a transition team, comprised of IYS Board and staff members, TCN leadership, and MHR Board staff, is developing plans for shifting clinicians and youth services to TCN. West said her next step will be to present the plan to the TCN Board for approval.

Kent Youngman, MHR Board CEO, notes the professional and caring manner in which IYS Board members have approached this difficult situation. He acknowledges, "The commitment of IYS Board members and TCN's openness to negotiate terms of the transition plan simply demonstrates the responsiveness of the Greene County community to do what's right for vulnerable children."

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