



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OACBHA Names Jeremiah Wagner as Chief Executive Officer

Wagner brings dual perspective and experience as state government executive and local board leader to shape the future of Ohio's behavioral health system

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) today announced the appointment of Jeremiah Wagner, M.S., as its next Chief Executive Officer, effective June 15, 2026. Wagner brings more than a decade of Ohio state government experience and a deep personal commitment to behavioral health to the role and will lead OACBHA as the Association enters a new era of strategic focus, unified advocacy, and strengthened member support.

Wagner joins OACBHA from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), where he has served as Deputy Director of the Division of External Relations since 2022. In that capacity, he served as a senior advisor to the agency Director, leading government relations, communications, and training functions while directing legislative strategy through multiple state budget cycles. Over his eleven-year tenure at DODD, Wagner built a track record of successful bipartisan advocacy, coalition building, and policy development across Ohio state government.

He holds a Master of Science in Leadership and Management from Western Governors University, a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from The Ohio State University, and a Project Management Professional (PMP) certification.

Equally important to his government experience is Wagner's firsthand knowledge of Ohio's behavioral health system. He has served as a member of the Delaware-Morrow Mental Health and Recovery Services Board since January 2022 and currently serves as its Board Chairman — a role he has held since August 2024. That dual perspective — as both a state agency executive and local board leader — gives Wagner unique insight into the opportunities and challenges facing Ohio's 50 ADAMH Boards.

"We conducted a thorough national search and Jeremiah stood out from the beginning. His legislative expertise, his understanding of our system from the state and local levels, and his

genuine passion for behavioral health made him the clear choice to lead OACBHA forward. We are excited about what this next chapter holds.”

— Deanna Vietze
President, OACBHA

Wagner expressed enthusiasm for the opportunity to serve Ohio's behavioral health community in a new capacity.

“OACBHA has a vital mission and a membership of dedicated leaders and teams who care deeply about the people they serve. I’m honored to step into this role at such an important moment. I am eager to bring everything I’ve learned in state government and on a local behavioral health board to the work of strengthening this Association and elevating its voice. Our neighbors, our communities, our state deserve an excellent behavioral health system — one that is integrated, accessible, and sustainable. I look forward to working alongside our members and partners across the state to realize it. I am ready to listen, to advocate, and to get to work.”

— Jeremiah Wagner
Incoming CEO, OACBHA

Wagner will assume the role on June 15. The search was conducted by Kittleman & Associates LLC.

ABOUT OACBHA

The Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) is the statewide trade association representing Ohio's 50 county Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health (ADAMH) Boards, covering all 88 Ohio counties. OACBHA convenes and advocates for Ohio's Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Boards and equips them to effectively govern, lead, and respond to policy, funding, and system changes that impact local behavioral health systems.

Learn more at [OACBHA](https://oacbha.org) (oacbha.org)

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