

# Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

## Summary of Agency

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) was established on July 1, 2013, with the consolidation of the former Ohio Departments of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services and Mental Health. Through a behavioral health system of county boards and local providers, OhioMHAS funds evidence-based prevention efforts, quality treatment and recovery supports in communities statewide. This public system serves as a safety net for vulnerable citizens who have limited resources and require specialized care.

During State Fiscal Year 2015, nearly 500,000 adults, youth and children received mental health services and/or addiction treatment through Ohio's publicly funded system. More than 7,700 adults received inpatient treatment in our six state-run regional psychiatric hospitals, a high percentage of whom had co-occurring addiction issues. These large numbers represent only those receiving direct services and do not include the thousands of Ohioans who benefit from education and outreach.

Funding for community mental health services comes from federal block grants, state general revenue funds and local sources. Federal and state funds are passed on to 51 community Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) boards through OhioMHAS. Some boards also receive funding through local levies. These boards do not directly provide services. They act as local authorities, contracting for services provided by private organizations and the six public hospitals operated by OhioMHAS. These local systems of care contract with hundreds of local agencies.

OhioMHAS reviews and monitors this statewide mental health and alcohol, drug and gambling addiction services system that consists of more than 900 community behavioral health provider agencies. As of July 2015, our Bureau of Licensure and Certification was responsible for regulatory oversight of 422 community mental health agencies, 83 private psychiatric hospital inpatient units, 154 community residential programs and more than 430 addiction prevention and treatment providers. In addition, OhioMHAS provides licensure and oversight of 765 adult care facilities and 44 adult foster homes.

Additional information about OhioMHAS can be found here:

<http://mha.ohio.gov/>

## Internship Responsibilities – OhioMHAS Research (Note: 4 Positions)

A CJRC Internship experience in the Bureau of Research and Evaluation at the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services has identified that an intern will have four key experiences:

- develop better computer skills to be used in research and other applications, either with spreadsheets, statistical software such as SPSS, or database language, such as SQL.

- develop a mentor relationship with a staff researcher.
- participate in active research or evaluation of a criminal justice/behavioral health project.
- depending on assignment, regularly visit prisons, community behavioral health organizations, or state psychiatric hospitals to collect data.
- be significantly involved in at least one project, that will result in a report generated that can be used by project staff or department leadership for program improvement, policy formulation, or program planning.

There are a number of projects ongoing with the research bureau at any given time. They range from simple training evaluations to complex longitudinal research projects, and they cover a wide array of topics.

An intern will initially be assigned to work with a researcher on tasks that assist the researcher in completing an existing department project. This assignment will provide the intern experience with the “nuts and bolts” of research, and expose the intern to issues consistently found with populations that regularly seek OhioMHAS services. Early on in the internship, the intern and the internship supervisor will come up with an assignment that will involve the intern independently collecting data, analyzing data, and producing a report that can be used by the department.

### **Qualifications**

When reviewing potential candidates, the OhioMHAS considers:

- writing skills.
- existing computer skills (WORD, EXCEL, statistical software).
- interest in the area of behavioral health (mental health and substance abuse) and criminal justice.
- statistical skills, including statistics courses taken.
- courses in psychology, sociology, criminal justice, and public health and related fields

Due to the nature of the internship, a criminal history records check and a brief background investigation will need to be completed by OhioMHAS Human Resources before we can formally offer a position. This is an unpaid placement.

### **Location/Hours**

Internship hours will be as arranged with work being done during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday)

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Bureau of Research and Evaluation is located at:

Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services  
30 East Broad Street  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor

Columbus, Ohio 43215

**Application**

**For further information on this opportunity or to apply, please send a cover letter and resume to: Christopher Yanai, Program Manager CJRC (614) 688-8685, email: [Yanai.7@osu.edu](mailto:Yanai.7@osu.edu)**

**Note: This is an unpaid internship. Academic credit for Research or Internship is available.**