



Not a Tax Increase

Facts about the 0.5-Mill Renewal Levy For Mental Health & Recovery Services Nov. 4, 2008 General Election

WHAT KIND OF LEVY IS IT?

- A **RENEWAL!** It is *not a tax increase*. Originally passed in 1978, it will be renewed for another 10 years. Levy funds are administered by the Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County according to a long term financial plan for controlling expenses. The levy costs the owner of a \$100,000 home \$4.25 per year.

WHY IS THE REVENUE NEEDED?

- Services *benefit thousands of families* and adults and the quality of life in Portage County communities each year. No neighborhood is immune from the pain and loss individuals and families experience when a member has a mental illness or addiction. The number of persons receiving services continues to grow; services are up 150% for children and teens and up 39% for adults since 1998 when the levy was last renewed. Last year, 2,500 children and teens received treatment or assessments while 4,000 adults sought services. The levy helps the Mental Health & Recovery Board fund services for families and adults with limited incomes. They pay what they can afford according to a sliding scale. *The Board's network served more than 75 veterans last year.*
- In 2007, the Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County funded 24-hour *emergency services* that handled 36,742 calls and contacts for crises, suicide intervention, information and screening residents in crisis for hospitalization each year, a 225% increase since 1988.
- More than 8,000 *students received education* last year funded by the Mental Health & Recovery Board to prevent the use of alcohol and drugs and protect them from physical and sexual abuse.
- The board funds mental health professionals who provide *services in each school district* to students and families and also assist school staff.
- The levy generates about \$581,000 each year. It will help *maintain a network* of services for Portage County residents as part of the Mental Health & Recovery Board's long range financial plan. The plan is based on projections of all board funds supporting the service system at a small annual growth rate.

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- Levy funds support the board's work ***training law enforcement*** and court professionals in the Crisis Intervention Team training program that provides them with critical skills to handle incidents dealing with persons who have a mental illness. Funds also support the board's active involvement in the county's disaster preparedness plans with the Portage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.
- Levy funds make sure that Portage County takes care of veterans and enlisted men and women and their families by providing critical substance abuse treatment and mental health services. More than \$200,000 was spent through Townhall II in 2007.
- Suicide is a critical, growing public health issue. The Mental Health & Recovery Board and its network of agencies are working to ***increase public awareness and reduce suicides***, especially among young people and older adults in Portage County.
- The cost to operate the board office, including maintaining buildings and a computer and data billing system, was 5 percent of the board's annual expenses in 2007. For board expenditures, \$1 from levy funds is matched with almost \$3 from state and federal funds.

WHAT DIFFERENCE DO OUR SERVICES MAKE?

- ***Children are successful*** at home and school after care for emotional problems.
- Children, teens and women are able to heal after ***treatment for abuse***.
- Teens receive ***education*** and treatment to keep them from becoming dependent on drugs or alcohol.
- Teens ***at risk for suicide*** get back on track with life.
- Relieved ***families find support and services*** for a mentally ill child or adult.
- ***Workers receive counseling*** to stay on the job and take care of their families.
- ***Seniors look forward to life*** after treatment for emotional problems.
- Communities have ***services to handle crises*** for the purpose of public safety.

WHERE DOES THE MENTAL HEALTH & RECOVERY BOARD FUND SERVICES?

- Coleman Professional Services
- Townhall II
- Children's Advantage
- Family & Community Services and its Safer Futures Program
- The Bair Foundation
- Compass Recovery

WHAT SERVICES DOES THE MENTAL HEALTH & RECOVERY BOARD FUND?

- Diagnosis, counseling and treatment for children, teens and adults with mental health problems or whose families are struggling with domestic violence
- 24 HR services for crises, suicide prevention, screening for hospitalization for all ages and responding to community crises
- Counseling, treatment and other services for child, teen and adult victims of physical and sexual abuse
- Substance abuse and sexual abuse prevention education for youth
- Counseling and treatment for the mental health problems of older adults
- A continuum of services for children, teens and adults with mental illness, addictions
- Diagnosis, counseling and treatment for adults and youth with dependence on drugs and/or alcohol

Please Support a Network of Care for All Generations!

Paid for by the Citizens' Committee for Good
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