

Thomas M. Cooney
3536 Edwards Road, Suite 201
Cincinnati, Ohio 45208

July 13, 2012

Hamilton County Board of Commissioners
Hon. Greg Hartmann, President
Hon. Todd Portune
Hon. Chris Monzel
138 East Court Street, Room 603
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

RE: Senior Services Tax Levy
Hamilton County Mental Health Levy
Hamilton County Tax Levy Review Committee (TLRC)

Dear Commissioners,

Enclosed with this letter are two reports of the Hamilton County Tax Levy Review Committee (TLRC) for 2012. One report is regarding the Hamilton County Mental Health Levy for the November ballot and one report regarding Senior Services Tax Levy.

First, I want to thank the County Commissioners for appointing the dedicated and talented members of the TLRC. It is my understanding that the TLRC review process is a unique one in Ohio, but one I think is beneficial. Our method of hiring consultants, meeting with agencies and having public hearings allows us to have a significant amount of information to analyze.

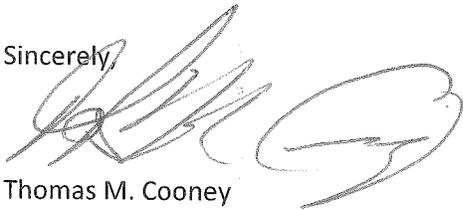
The dedication and hard work of the other members of the Committee should be recognized. Each member served on a subcommittee that conducted an intense review of the agencies assigned to it. The committee for the Senior Services Tax Levy was chaired by Dan Unger and included Gwen McFarlin, Ed Steiner, John Silverman and Mike Wilson. The committee charged with reviewing the Mental Health Levy was chaired by attorney Chris Habel and included John Smith, Mark Quarry, Heather Harlow and Eppa Rixey. The entire committee met twelve times to conduct its work. In addition the subcommittees held numerous meetings with consultants, agency staff members and members of the public. We had excellent participation from every one of the members.

The Committee relied on both the County staff as well as outside consultants for assistance. We were especially helped by Lisa Webb.

Each of the reports was adopted by the full committee. A few highlights of our reports include:

1. We have recommended funding levels for the Mental Health Levy to remain at 2.99 mills, for an estimate revenue yield of \$169,689,507.
2. We have recommended that the Senior Services Tax Levy be held flat at 1.29 mills for an estimated revenue yield of \$96,570,395.
3. We engaged the outside reviews required by the BOCC. This policy of hiring outside consultants enhances the TLRC's ability to provide critical review of the levy recipients.
4. The consultants did note (see pages 32-33 of the TATC Mental Health Levy report) that there are similarities across agencies in terms of some of their business processes. Many of them have processes for Medicaid management, call centers, customer intake, eligibility determination, case management, provider management and fiscal management. TATC recommended that consideration should be given to the TLRC examining all of the agencies that receive levy support to determine whether service consolidation is feasible and can deliver cost savings for Hamilton County.
5. We did receive a request for direct funding from the Senior Services Levy to People Working Cooperatively (PWC). We believe that the current system of utilizing the Council on Aging to qualify and engage providers for the entire range of services to levy recipients. We have encouraged PWC to work with COA in a manner that will allow them to become a provider under COA's provider protocols.

Sincerely,



Thomas M. Cooney

Chair, Tax Levy Review Committee