

# **HAMILTON COUNTY TAX LEVY REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT**

**138 EAST COURT STREET, ROOM 603**

**CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202**

**July 9, 2019**

## **HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Hon. Denise Driehaus- President**

**Hon. Stephanie Summerow Dumas- Vice President**

**Hon. Todd Portune**

**Re:    Developmental Disabilities Service Levy**

**Family Services Treatment Levy**

**Dear Commissioners,**

**The Tax Levy Review Committee (TLRC) is submitting our report for your consideration for 2019. First I want to thank the County Commissioners for appointing the dedicated and committed members to the TLRC. The process for the TLRC began on January 22, 2019 with appointing the committee members to sub-committees, reminding the committee members of the purpose “to adhere to the purpose of challenging agencies who spend tax money to be creative, innovative, and to provide the best and most cost effective services possible”, there was an explanation of the process, scheduling of future meeting, time lines with consultants, meeting with the various agencies, conducting public hearings and due dates of their reports. This process provided a systematic method to analyze the data to insure that all outcomes and recommendations could succinctly be placed in the report for the county commissioners.**

**We appointed a sub-committee to the Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services (HCDDS) Levy Chaired by Janaya Trotter Bratton and included Jenny O’Donnell, Rev. Bobby Hilton, and John Silverman. The Sub-committee for the Family Services Treatment (FST) Levy was chaired by Edward Herzig and included Jeanette Hargreaves, Bob Furnier and Mark**

**Quarry. The dedication and hard work of the committee members was amazing and involved multiple meetings, meeting with consultants, public hearings and telephone conference calls as they conducted an intense assessments of the agencies they were assigned to. Lisa Webb continues to be an outstanding resource person and exceptional leader with her expertise and knowledge to help us to navigate thru some of the deep data and provide factual analysis of this data to the committee. Lisa encouraged the committee to go down untraveled path for new and bolder solutions.**

**The reports from the consultant team of The Public Consultant Group (PCG) and MCM CPA and Advisors was provided to the committee members from a strategic approach and planning frame work using a research method that focused on a critical operational review of both agencies. During the review both agencies administrative staff, board members and staff were engaged in the process allowing for smoother and more open transparent discussions.**

**Each of the reviews and reports were discussed and thoroughly reviewed by all committee members and as a result, the TLRC is now making their final recommendation to the county commissioners as follows:**

- 1. The Hamilton County Developmental and Disabilities Services Levy be renewed with a flat funding at 4.13 millage**
- 2. The Family Services and Treatment Levy be renewed at its current millage of 0.34 mills. The TLRC strongly supports Recommendation 8 suggesting that programs that are preventive have an increase in allocated funds. Accordingly, PCG, based on a request from the TLRC, has increased the recommended funding for Prevention First. The TLRC also supports Recommendations 1,2,4,5, and 6. The CASC program is a solution for Recommendation 9. Regarding Recommendation 7, the TLRC does not take a position as the determination of detoxification is better left to those with expertise in the field**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Gwen McFarlin Chair of the TLRC Committee**