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## **ADAMHS SELECTED FOR PILOT DRUG-FREE WORKFORCE INITIATIVE**

Dayton, Ohio – Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) is one of 18 Ohio counties selected to participate in the *Working Partners*® Drug-Free Workforce Community Initiative. The project creates partnerships with local employers to increase job opportunities for people with a mental health and/or substance use disorder, and reduce the number of positive employee drug screens.

“We are deeply concerned about the drug-related issues we are facing and how they affect not only individuals, families, and the community, but also workplaces which are the economic foundation of our community,” said ADAMHS Executive Director Helen Jones-Kelley.

The \$20,000 initiative will target small to medium size businesses within the City of Dayton and connect employers to trained drug-free workers.

“By bringing employers together to develop policies and share best practices, we are taking very important steps to address the economic threat of substance abuse by employees and job seekers, according to County Commissioner Dan Foley.”

The objectives are to increase an employable, drug-free workforce in Ohio; build healthier, more productive and economically sound workplaces; and to create systems to educate employees – who are parents or adults with influence over young people – to prevent substance use. To achieve these objectives, the initiative will be modeled after a program developed by drug-free workplace industry experts, *Working Partners*®, and bring together local stakeholders and businesses.

“We are thrilled to partner with ADAMHS to create their own unique Drug-Free Workforce Community Initiative,” said Dee Mason, founder and CEO of *Working Partners*®. “By attacking this problem with a local grassroots approach, working with leaders embedded in communities across the state, we believe we will realize measurable changes that will result in a safer, healthier and more economically viable Ohio workforce.”

This statewide initiative is a public-private partnership, funded in part by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

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