



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Adrienne Green
Social Work Director
adrienneg@lccoa.org
440-205-8111
www.lccoa.org

Collaborative Initiative Grant Awarded

[March 1, 2017 - Mentor, OH] - The Lake County Board of Commissioners has awarded a grant for \$50,000 from the Lake County Senior Levy Contingency Fund to a new project partnered by the Lake County Council on Aging and Beacon Health. This innovative collaboration creates an integrated service response to the aging and behavioral health needs of Lake County residents so they receive the care they need in order to thrive.

“The recent community-wide study arranged by the Lake County Commissioners reported that there is a gap in the ability for older adults or seniors accessing and receiving mental health and substance abuse treatment services”, said Spence Kline, CEO for Beacon Health. “The study concluded that seniors needed access to in-home mental health and substance abuse treatment due to the stigma that keeps them from seeking care at local agencies and due to physical restrictions that may keep them in their home.”

Primary efforts will be toward multi-agency, treatment planning and service delivery so as to help older adults remain independent and in their own home as long as safely possible. The two agencies plan to begin the pilot project in March. The first of its kind pilot project has established measurable goals to benchmark progress and impact in the community.

“We are very excited about this fresh opportunity to bring the professional assistance of both our agencies into the comfort of seniors’ homes. It’s something that we’ve talked about for some time, and we are grateful to the Senior Citizens Advisory Panel for their support and the Board of Commissioners for funding this project,” said Joe Tomsick, CEO for the Lake County Council on Aging.

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About Lake County Council on Aging: The Lake County Council on Aging (LCCoA) has been serving Lake County’s seniors, their families and caregivers since 1972. The Agency strives to enhance quality of life through education, advocacy, service and support. The agency’s priority is to help older adults remain in their own homes longer, healthier and more safely. For more information, visit www.lccoa.org.