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### **ODMH legislative liaisons named**

(Columbus) Donald C. Anderson, Acting Director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health, today announced the appointment of Amy Cooper and Valarie Johnson as Legislative Liaisons for the Department. They will be responsible for managing state and federal legislative issues, analyzing proposed legislation affecting the Department, and formulating and communicating Department position responses to members of the legislature and legislative committees.

"I am pleased that Amy and Valarie are able to step into this important role for the Department," said Acting Director Anderson. "Their combined experience in following legislative issues will be an asset to the Ohio Department of Mental Health as we work with Ohio's legislature and the U.S. Congress to continue effectively serving individuals and families affected by mental illness."

Ms. Cooper comes to the Department from the Ohio House of Representatives where she served as Policy and Research Aide to the House Democratic Caucus. Previously, she was a Legislative Aide to Representative Kenny Yuko and a Legislative Service Commission intern. She is a graduate of Kent State University where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Public Relations with a minor in Political Science.

Ms. Johnson also comes to the Department from the Ohio House of Representatives. She has served as Senior Legislative Aide to Representative Chris Redfern since 1999. She also previously taught in the Columbus Public School system. Johnson is a graduate of Wilberforce University where she earned a degree in Political Science.

The mission of the Ohio Department of Mental Health is to establish mental health as a cornerstone of health in Ohio, and to ensure that quality mental health care is available to all Ohioans at all stages of life. The Department operates five behavioral healthcare organizations providing adult inpatient services at nine sites, serving about 7,000 patients annually and also provides services in community settings through community support programs. The Department funds, reviews and monitors community mental health programs coordinated by county-level boards serving all 88 counties. Additionally, ODMH reviews and certifies services provided by private agencies and licenses private psychiatric hospital inpatient units and community residential programs. For more information on the Ohio Department of Mental Health, please visit [www.mh.state.oh.us](http://www.mh.state.oh.us).

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### **For more information...**

Contact the [ODMH Office of Communications](#) at 614-466-2297.