



Stark Mental Health Board gives top exec 3 percent raise

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The Stark County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Board issued a 3 percent pay raise to its executive director, John Aller.

By Malcolm Hall @Repository staff writer

CANTON John Aller, who has been executive director of Stark County Board of Mental Health and Addiction Recovery for about a decade, is receiving a 3 percent raise, bringing his annual salary to \$130,236.

The board, at its recent monthly meeting, approved the pay hike retroactive to Sept. 22.

"I appreciate the continued support of the board of directors," Aller said. "I am still kind of interested in some of the work we are doing around the opiate issue and also looking at behavioral health redesign. Those changes will be significant over the next few years. And I am interested in finding solutions to the issues. I think in the next couple months we will be rolling out a five-year countywide strategic plan."

Aller became executive director of the county board in 2008 when it was formed with the blending of what had been the county Board of Mental Health and county Board of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services. At that time, Aller was over the latter board.

The Stark County Board of Mental Health and Addiction Recovery provides funding to several local agencies, which in turn provide mental-health and substance-abuse treatment and services for local residents. Some of those service-providing agencies are Crisis Intervention and Recovery Center, CommQuest (formerly Quest Recovery and Prevention Services), Coleman Professional Services and Child & Adolescent Behavioral Health.

The county funding board receives its revenue from the federal and state governments, a local property tax levy and various grants.

Aller, who holds a master's degree from Kent State University, is pursuing a doctorate degree from the same university.

"There was no raise requested," said Andrew Turowski of the Stark County Board of Mental Health and Addiction Recovery. "But after an evaluation process by the board of directors we were pleased to offer him a 3 percent merit raise based on his leadership and the expansion of both crisis and detoxication processes, and the enhanced delivery of service to children of Stark County. There are a lot of changes coming to the public behavioral health system. And he is positioning Stark County to be ahead of it."

Turowski also is chief of the Louisville Police Department.

"My background is in behavioral health counseling and treatment," Aller said. "But I have been doing administrative work at this point for about 20 years."

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