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Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board
of Franklin County

October 22, 2013

Mr. John Farley
Educational Council
470 Glenmont Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43214

Dear Mr. Farley:

I am writing this letter in support of Canal Winchester School Districts Safe and Supportive Schools proposal for the Ohio Department of Education's Straight A Grant.

For over three years now, the ADAMH Board has been supporting the Safe and Supportive School program in Canal Winchester Schools. We were involved at the inception of this effort because we were aware of the need for such services in our Franklin County schools and were confident that the proposed program model would be effective.

In addition to providing financial support, the ADAMH Board staff has been monitoring the outcomes and progress of this program. Both the ADAMH staff as well as the ADAMH Board itself has been impressed with the work that is being done in Canal Winchester Schools through this program.

It is important to note that the ADAMH Board has in the last year surveyed all sixteen school district superintendents with regard to their highest level needs in their schools. The most consistently identified need of those who responded was programming and support to address the social and emotional needs of students in grades K-12. They were clear that the most costly and serious impediment to successfully educating their students was the disruption in the school environment from harmful student behaviors.

For that reason, the ADAMH Board will continue to be a partner in supporting the effective programming of the Safe and Supportive Schools program in the 2013/14 and 2014/15 school year. We are hopeful that others will join us in our support of this effective program. In particular, in our work with the Educational Council, we would like to see this program expanded to other identified and interested districts, such as Columbus Public Schools and Whitehall schools in January 2014.

As a funding source of many important services throughout Franklin County, we are aware of the need for programs to produce outcomes, be replicable, and be sustainable. We hope that through the receipt of the Ohio Department of Education's Straight A fund the Safe and Supportive Schools can achieve all three of these goals for the long-term benefit of our central Ohio school districts.

Please let me know if I can be of any other assistance in consideration of this grant proposal.

Sincerely,


David Royer
Chief Executive Officer

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