



THE PLAIN DEALER

Helen Jones was a leader among Cleveland's mental health providers - editorial

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Helen Jones was one of those people whose extraordinary deeds in life were duly noted - but probably not sufficiently noted.

No one in Greater Cleveland's mental health and substance abuse treatment community was better known or more highly regarded than Jones, who died last week, apparently of a heart attack. For the last six years, Jones was president and CEO of Recovery Resources, a nonprofit that helps people with mental health and substance abuse problems. But her work in this area, some of it nationally noted, dated back more than 20 years.

Jones, 55, was on the board of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, MidTown Cleveland, the Beck Center for the Arts, the United Way Council of Agency Executives and the National Association of Social Workers.

Bill Denihan, CEO of the Cuyahoga County Mental Health Board, noted that Jones took over chairmanship of the Mental Health Advocacy Coalition - a position that had been held previously by two men, Denihan and Lee Fisher, now lieutenant governor.

And, Denihan added, she handled that two-person post with "profound effectiveness," which helps explain why he and so many others grieve that "she will be profoundly missed in this community."

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