

Ohio Launches Comprehensive Suicide Prevention Initiative

Ohio *unveiled* a series of new strategies this month to reduce the number of suicides in the state. Supported by a \$2 million investment included in Gov. John Kasich's SFY 2016-17 biennial budget, the Ohio Suicide Prevention initiative brings together the departments of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Health and Medicaid with a variety of stakeholders to focus on reducing suicides through: workforce development, expanded resources for survivors of loss, a collaborative approach to crisis hotlines and text support, research, awareness and stigma reduction.

OhioMHAS Director Tracy Plouck joined with the agency's Medical Director Dr. Mark Hurst, State Rep. Marlene Anielski (R-Walton Hills), national consultant and former Ohio Department of Mental Health Director Mike Hogan, Zero Suicide Associate Project Director Sarah Bernes and family survivor Denise Meine-Graham for the April 14 announcement at the Ohio Statehouse.

"Deaths due to suicide are too common and are devastating to all who knew and loved the person before he or she died. Frequently, these deaths are preventable, and as more of us become familiar with the risk factors for suicide and how to intervene, we will lose fewer Ohioans to this tragic event and help them recover to see a better and brighter day," said Dr. Hurst who, along with colleagues Dr. Mary DiOrio and Dr. Mary Applegate, medical directors for Health and Medicaid, respectively, spearheads Ohio's Suicide Prevention advisory committee to help guide the initiative.

An estimated 1,200 to 1,500 people die by suicide annually in Ohio. That's nearly one death every seven hours.

Some of the key initiatives announced, include:

- Providing Zero Suicide training to more than 300 primary care physicians, nurses, social workers and behavioral health specialists;
- Promoting best practices for crisis/text lines;
- Reducing the stigma surrounding suicide, which is often a barrier to treatment;



Pictured (clockwise): OhioMHAS Dir. Tracy Plouck, State Rep. Marlene Anielski (R-Walton Hills), consultant and former Ohio Department of Mental Health Dir. Mike Hogan and OhioMHAS Medical Director Dr. Mark Hurst discuss Ohio's new suicide prevention initiative during a Statehouse press conference. View [more photos](#) from the announcement.

- Building capacity for Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors (LOSS) teams; and
- Collaborating with the departments of Health and Medicaid and The Ohio State University College of Psychiatry on a data surveillance system to target services for at-risk individuals.

A recent editorial from *The Ashtabula Star-Beacon* lauded Ohio's efforts, noting, "Each step we take to bring the truth about suicide and depression out of the darkness and into the light is progress."

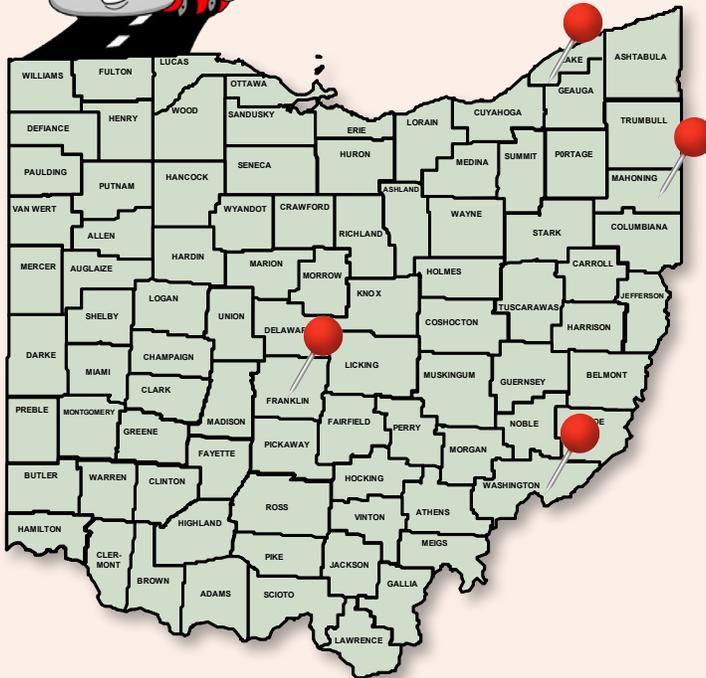
May is Mental Health Month

OhioMHAS is proud to join with our local, state and national partners to observe **May as Mental Health Month**. Download a free [2016 Mental Health Month toolkit](#) from Mental Health America. The toolkit includes sample press releases and proclamations, infographics and more. Also, share mental health awareness information using the hashtags #mhm or #mentalhealthmonth, and take the National Alliance on Mental Illness [Stigmafree Pledge](#). Click [HERE](#) for resources for **National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day** on May 5.





On the Road with Director Plouck



A brief recap of Dir. Plouck's public activities this month:

- 4.6 Traveled to Marietta to participate in various State of the State activities.
- 4.11 Participated in public roll-out of Gov. Kasich's Opiate Mid-Biennium Review budget at CompDrug, Inc.
- 4.13 Provided remarks at the Lake/Geauga Recovery Center open house for Oak House, a new women's residential treatment facility in Painesville.
- 4.14 Participated in the Statehouse media launch of Ohio's new suicide prevention initiative.
- 4.17-19 Participated in training for new commissioners at the headquarters of the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors in Alexandria, Va. and attended the Stepping Up National Summit in Washington, D.C.
- 4.21 Provided remarks at the Court-Ordered Outpatient Treatment Symposium on Medicaid, Assertive Community Treatment and Peer Support Work.
- 4.26 Spoke at the 25th anniversary of Belmont Pines Hospital in Youngstown and toured Mercy St. Elizabeth Hospital's new psychiatric units.
- 4.29 Speaking at the National Alliance on Mental Illness - Ohio Chapter annual board meeting.



OhioMHAS Director Tracy Plouck (center) joined board officials from Lake and Geauga counties for the April 13 ribbon cutting ceremony of the Lake-Geauga Recovery Center's Oak House women's residential facility.

Oak House Ribbon Cutting

OhioMHAS Director Tracy Plouck traveled to Lake County earlier this month to participate in a **ribbon cutting ceremony for Oak House**, a new, 16-bed residential treatment center for women, pregnant women and women with children in Painesville. The \$1.4 million facility is operated by Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers with support from the Lake County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board and the Geauga County Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services. OhioMHAS contributed \$492,480 toward project completion.

NORA Opens New Outpatient Treatment Center in Mansfield to Serve Men

The Northern Ohio Recovery Association (NORA) expanded into Richland County this month with the **opening** of an outpatient treatment center for men recovering from substance use and mental health disorders.



The **Mansfield Drug and Treatment Center**, will offer a variety of services, including: assessments, individual and group counseling, case management, crisis intervention, transportation assistance, urinalysis, referrals, walk-in screenings and family services.

Established in 2004, **NORA** also provides holistic recovery services to individuals in Cuyahoga, Erie, Lorain and Summit counties. For more information, call 567.560.8021 or email cdavis@norainc.org.



Portage County school counselors are better-equipped to identify student behavioral health issues after completing the Red Flags for Mental Health Education training.

Portage County School Counselors Learn to Recognize Emotional, Behavioral “Red Flags”

With one in five children experiencing a diagnosable emotional or behavioral problem before he or she becomes an adult, mental health is a critical factor in children’s development and their ability to learn.

For this reason the Mental Health and Recovery Board of Portage County recently invited counselors from every school district in the county to attend a Red Flags for Mental Health Education training.

The course was taught by Penny Frese, Ph.D., founder and executive director of *Red Flags National*, a non profit based in Hudson, Ohio. Frese emphasized that mental health is fundamental to overall health, and that early intervention is essential to children’s health and development.

“The goal of Red Flags is to encourage the development of sound mental health habits and enable quick intervention at the first warning signs of difficulty, just as we do for other illnesses,” said Frese.”

Red Flags offers a framework for comprehensive mental health education that includes an understanding of good

emotional and behavior health, a recognition that mental health problems occur on a continuum, an ability to recognize early warning symptoms and knowing when and where to ask for help.

The Red Flag framework consists of a curriculum for students typically taught in the middle school, information given to parents and staff every year, and adoption of a protocol for the school district for referring and accommodation of children in need.

“We are pleased that the school districts will adopt the framework into their schools,” said Joel Mowrey, Ph.D., executive director of the Mental Health and Recovery Board of Portage County.

“Much of the stigma around mental health is due to a lack of understanding that physical and emotional/mental problems are both health problems. It is important to raise awareness and decrease stigma, so people seek help,” Mowrey said.

Representatives from local provider agencies, Children’s Advantage, Coleman Professional Services, Family and Community Services, and Townhall II also presented.

Each school district was provided a toolkit to implement Red Flags with funding from the Coleman Foundation’s suicide prevention endowment.

Tighter Controls on Prescription Drugs, Medication-Assisted Treatment Among 2016 MBR Provisions

In Ohio’s continuing effort to find new strategies to fight opiate abuse, Gov. Kasich’s *2016 Mid-Biennium Review (MBR)* proposes additional reforms to strengthen oversight by the Ohio Board of Pharmacy, encourage responsible treatment and prevent overdoses.

Lt. Governor Mary Taylor unveiled the proposals at an April 6 media event ([click for photos](#)) held at CompDrug, Inc., in Columbus. Taylor was joined OhioMHAS Dir. Tracy Plouck, Ohio State Board of



Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor

Pharmacy Executive Director Steve Schierholt, OhioMHAS Medical Director Dr. Mark Hurst, Ohio Department of Health Medical Director Mary DiOrio, CompDrug, Inc. CEO Dustin Mets and Taylor Stevenson, a central Ohioan who shared her recovery journey and lauded the benefits of medication-assisted treatment.

The proposals: require pharmacy technicians to be licensed; provide greater oversight of Suboxone clinics; expand access to naloxone and allow facilities that regularly interact with high-risk individuals (e.g. homeless shelters, halfway houses, schools, treatment centers) to have onsite access; limit high-volume prescriptions; and establish a waiver process to allow more methadone clinics to open, thereby expanding treatment options while ensuring new clinics are under regulatory control. Sen. John Ecklund (R-Munson Township) is expected to sponsor the bill.

[Read the MBR Fact Sheet](#)
[What the Field is Saying](#)



United Way of Licking County Executive Director Deb Dingus is hitting the pavement for 50 days and nights to raise awareness on a variety of issues from drug abuse and homelessness to mental health care and public transportation. Through the "Give, Walk, Do" campaign, Dingus is encouraging Licking County residents to volunteer time and donate to United Way.

Faith, Compassion Fuel Licking County Resident's Crusade to Shine Light on Addiction, Mental Illness, Other Social Issues

Licking County resident Deb Dingus knows what it's like to stare adversity in the face. At age 45, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. Despite the devastating news, Dingus persevered, and with the help of medicine, support of family and friends, and her strong personal faith, she is now five years cancer-free.

She says the experience has given her new perspective on life and encouraged her to "give back" by helping to focus attention on individuals facing similar struggles. On April 7, Dingus

— an ordained minister, mother of three and executive director of [United Way of Licking County](#) — announced plans to hike and camp her way across Licking County to raise awareness around addiction, mental illness, poverty, hunger, homelessness and other challenges impacting families and communities.

"I want to raise awareness about the strengths of this county and the opportunities that we have to collectively address our most pressing issues and concerns," Dingus said. "I want to put boots to the streets across 25 townships and every school district in Licking County."

Carrying a backpack full of gear, Dingus started a 50-day journey — dubbed the [Give, Walk, Do campaign](#) — that will wrap up on May 26.

"My plan is to backpack and 'sleep out' for 50 days — one day for every year that I have been gifted," Dingus explained.

So far, she has camped in sub-freezing temperatures — she awoke to snow on her tent twice — and hiked through the rain. She has visited with civic groups, school children, church congregations, businesses, Scouting organizations and more. At each stop, residents she encounters are encouraged to walk with

her or join her in camping out under the stars.

"I'm doing this by choice," she said, adding, "Many people do not have a choice."

One of her primary goals is to draw attention to the United Way's Community Blueprint, which identifies the county's most pressing issues. Chief among those is the abuse of heroin and opiates.

"It seems like everybody knows someone who has been affected by this epidemic," she said, noting she has met many people in recovery during her hike.

Dingus has been amazed by the support and kindness of strangers so far.

"I had one lady pull over next to me on the street," she said. "It was raining, and she rolled down her window and asked if I was homeless. She shared her story: She had battled drug addiction and been homeless, and she pulled out \$7 and said, 'Take this.'"

A few nights later, she said a homeless woman stopped by her campsite in Hebron to ask if she was OK, and to offer support.

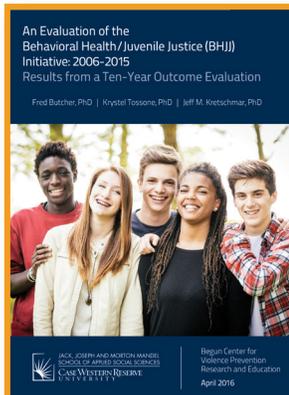
Follow Dingus' progress via the agency's [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts.



Dingus shared a message of hope at First Presbyterian Church in Pataskala on April 17.

CWRU Researchers Release Behavioral Health Juvenile Justice Evaluation Report

Researchers from Case Western Reserve University's Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education have released the latest Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice (BHJJ) evaluation report.



Ohio's BHJJ program is a diversion program for juvenile justice-involved youth between ages 10-18 who also suffer from mental

or behavioral health issues. In lieu of detention, the program diverts youth into more comprehensive, community-based behavioral health treatment.

The program is supported by OhioMHAS and the Ohio Department of Youth Services. The Begun Center provides research and evaluation support for the initiative.

[Read the BHJJ 2016 Executive Summary](#)
[Download Statewide Results](#)
[Download Statewide & County Results](#)
[View Infographic of Key Findings](#)

CommQuest CEO Elected President of Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers

CommQuest Services, Inc., President and CEO Keith Hochadel was recently elected president of the Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers.

Founded in 1979, the [Ohio Council](#) is comprised of more than 150 private nonprofit organizations that serve more than 600,000 Ohioans annually through substance use, mental health and family services. The Council provides policy and legislative advocacy, member support and technical assistance, product and service development, and training.

As president, Hochadel will help lead the organization by providing legislative advocacy for key issues facing the behavioral health field, including behavioral

health re-design and fostering investment in workforce capacity.

The Ohio Council is governed by a 15-member Board of Trustees, composed of member organization chief executives. The Board provides strategic direction for the Council and leadership to the organization's committee structure.



Hochadel

Cleveland One of 10 National "Champions of Change for Advancing Prevention, Treatment and Recovery"



Bradley

Northern Ohio Recovery Association ([NORA](#)) founder and Executive Director Anita Bradley is one of 10 individuals who will be honored by the White House as a 2016 "Champion of Change for Advancing Prevention, Treatment and Recovery." The program was created as an opportunity for the White House to feature individuals doing extraordinary things to empower and inspire members of their communities.

Ms. Bradley, who has been in recovery for more than 25 years, helped to establish a peer-to-peer training program at a local community college and spearheaded an effort to open the Next Step Recovery House, a residential recovery housing facility on Cleveland's near west side. She also recently launched a statewide network for addiction to respond to the

opioid crisis and ensure that the voice for recovery from substance use disorders is included in planning and policy efforts in Ohio.

PreventionFIRST Celebrates 20 Years

OhioMHAS salutes [PreventionFIRST](#) (formerly the Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati) for 20 years of outstanding work to promote prevention in southwest Ohio. U.S. Sen. Rob Portman, who helped to establish the coalition, will speak at an April 29 [celebration event](#) at Xavier University.



Adkins

In Memoriam | Ronald A. Adkins — 1958-2016

OhioMHAS extends condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Ronald "Ron" A. Adkins, who passed away unexpectedly on April 24 at age 58. Adkins, a Gallia County native, served as executive director of the Gallia, Jackson, Meigs Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services since 1991. He worked at the University of Rio Grande prior to joining the Board in 1990 as its deputy director. Willis Funeral Home in Gallipolis is handling [arrangements](#).

Robin Harris will serve as the primary Board contact: robin_harris@gjmboard.org or 740.466.3022.



Coder

Prevention Leader Attends U.N. Special Session on Global Drug Use

Drug-Free Action Alliance (DFAA) Assistant Director Tony Coder recently attended the [United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Global Drug Use](#) in New York City to assess and debate global drug policies. The last time a special session on drugs was held was in 1998.

After debate was heard from representatives from 92 countries, the General Assembly reaffirmed its global commitment to the interna-

tional drug conventions that are currently being followed. These conventions, which aim to prevent and reduce drug use worldwide, remain the cornerstone of global drug policy.

The current convention affirms that drug use reduction should take on a public health approach emphasizing prevention, treatment and long-term recovery as the means to reducing substance use worldwide. Other nations touted success in curbing the drug supply by focusing on growers in their countries.

DFAA is taking steps toward securing "Consultative Status" with the United Nations' Economic and Social Council (ESOSOC), and has already begun the application process. This designation would allow the agency access to not only ECOSOC — where global drug policy is developed — but also to its many subsidiary bodies, including various human rights mechanisms of the United Nations, as well as special events organized by the president of the General Assembly.

Franklin County Unveils Psychiatric Crisis Line for Youth and Adolescents

Families in Franklin County now have access to a new 24-hour youth psychiatric crisis phone line provided by Nationwide Children's Hospital. The youth and adolescent crisis line — **614.722.1800** — officially launched April 4. Youth and families already linked with a behavioral health clinician should first contact their clinician or crisis line provided by their clinician. The Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County initiated the expanded partnership due to the increased demand of youth in need of psychiatric crisis services. Nationwide Children's will ensure linkage to ongoing treatment following crisis evaluation and stabilization. Franklin County adults (18 and older) can continue to seek crisis care at Netcare Access. Netcare Access (**614.276.CARE (2273)**) provides 24-hour mental health and substance abuse crisis intervention, stabilization and assessment.



Symposium Provides County Leaders with Tools to Help People with Untreated Mental Illness

Judges, sheriffs, mental health professionals and advocates from more than 30 Ohio counties attended the *Developing an Effective Court Ordered Outpatient Treatment Program in Your County* symposium in Columbus on April 21 to learn how they can collaborate to assist people with untreated serious mental illness stay out of hospitals and jails.

Former Ohio Supreme Court Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton served as emcee. Attendees heard from State Sen. Dave Burke (R-Marysville), who sponsored [Senate Bill 43](#), legislation that firms up the ability of Probate Court judges to order individuals with a history of dangerousness to self or others into outpatient treatment under certain circumstances.

Bexar County, Texas Probate Court Judge Oscar Kazen, who has presided

over an assisted outpatient treatment court program for many years, shared lessons learned from the bench.

Panels of experts from Butler and Summit counties, which have also had effective programs in place for many years, shared their success stories.

OhioMHAS Dir. Tracy Plouck also spoke, providing an update on upcoming changes to the state's Medicaid program as part of Ohio's [behavioral health redesign](#) initiative.

Funding was provided by the Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation.



(l-r) Butler County Probate Court Judge Randy Rogers facilitates a panel of local leaders of the county's court ordered outpatient treatment program.

News & Research Roundup, cont.

Effective Treatment Of Depression May Reduce Risk Of Heart Disease

A [new study](#) shows that effective treatment for depression could lower a patient's heart risks to the same level as those who never had depression, reducing his/her chances of stroke, heart attack, heart failure and death. Investigators found that the risk of major heart problems was: 4.6 percent among those successfully treated for depression; 4.8 percent among those without depression; 6 percent among those with depression who did not respond to treatment; and 6.4 percent among those who developed depression during the study. The research was presented at the American College of Cardiology meeting.

Study: Addiction May be Linked With High Social Media Use in People with Depression

A [new study](#) suggests addiction may be linked with the high use of social media in people with depression. People who check social media most frequently throughout the week were 2.7 times more likely to be depressed than those who check it least often, the study found. Compared with peers who spend less time on social media, people who spend the most time on social media throughout the day are 1.7 times more likely to be depressed, researchers from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine found. The findings are reported in [Depression and Anxiety](#).

Brief Psychotherapy for Mothers May Benefit Children

Brief psychotherapy sessions offered during the course of a few months may be able to reduce depression in mothers of children with mood and anxiety disorders and lead to improvements in the children as well, according to a study published in the [Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry](#). The findings underscore the benefits of psychotherapy for families in which both mothers and children have psychiatric illnesses. For related information, see the [Psychiatric News](#) article [Family-Based Intervention May Help Prevent Anxiety Disorders in Children](#) and the Psychiatric Services study [Program in Support of Moms \(PRISM\): Development and Beta Testing](#).

New Info on Disruptive Mood Dysregulation Disorder

Disruptive mood dysregulation disorder (DMDD) is a childhood condition of extreme irritability, anger, and frequent, intense temper outbursts. The National Institute of Mental Health has launched a new [web resource](#) with more information on this disorder. On National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day (May 5), NIMH is hosting a [Twitter chat](#) on DMDD and severe irritability from 12-1 p.m. EST with expert Dr. Ellen Leibenluft. To ask questions, you must have a Twitter account and include the hashtag #NIMHchats in every tweet. A transcript of the chat will be posted [HERE](#) within 24 hours of the conclusion.



Exposure To Traumatic Events Associated With Negative Behavioral and Physical Effects

A [new report](#) from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality indicates that exposure to one or more potentially traumatic events in a lifetime is associated with a host of potential negative behavioral and physical effects, ranging from mental illness and depression to substance abuse, asthma and hypertension. Click the link for more information.

2016 Helping Hands Grant Program Applications Due June 10

The American Psychiatric Association Foundation is now accepting applications for its [2016 Helping Hands grant program](#). This program awards medical school grants of up to \$5,000 for mental health and substance use disorder projects that are created and managed by medical students. These projects can be conducted in partnership with community agencies or in conjunction with ongoing medical school outreach activities.



Surgeon General to Release Addiction Report in the Fall

The U.S. Surgeon General will release a report this fall on substance use, addiction and health. It will be the first such report since U.S. surgeons began issuing them in 1964. The report will cover topics including prescription drug use, as well as the use of alcohol and other substances, said U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, M.D. His office will soon send letters to 1.1 million physicians, nurses, dentists and others who prescribe opioids, urging them to increase their efforts to fight the opioid epidemic. The letter will ask prescribers to identify patients at risk for addiction, connect patients to treatment, help patients understand the risks and benefits of opioids, and help replace stigma with treatment. Murthy plans to travel across the country, including to some of the hardest hit states, to bring this information to clinicians and directly to the public. He will emphasize examples of best practices.

News & Research Roundup cont.

Comment on Proposed HHS Rule to Increase Buprenorphine Patient Limit

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published a proposed rule to expand access to buprenorphine, one of three medications currently approved by the Food and Drug Administration for treatment of opioid dependence through medication-assisted treatment. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, entitled [*Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorders: Increasing the Buprenorphine Patient Limit*](#), will be open for comment through May 29.

Persistent Marijuana Use May Lead To More Economic, Social Issues In Midlife

New [*research*](#) has revealed that those who smoke marijuana on a regular basis for years and those who are dependent on it are significantly more likely to have economic and social problems at midlife than those who use it only occasionally or not at all. Researchers analyzed data from nearly 1,000 people in New Zealand who were interviewed regularly from birth to age 38. The findings were published in the journal [*Clinical Psychological Science*](#).

Study: People Who Become Addicted Later in Life More Likely to Relapse

A new study finds people who become addicted to drugs later in life are more likely to relapse during treatment, compared with those whose addictions started earlier. For every year of increase in the age of starting to abuse opioids, there is a 10 percent increase in relapse. Use of benzodiazepines also increased the risk of relapse, the study found. For every day of benzodiazepine use in the previous month, the researchers found a 7 percent increase in relapse. The findings appear in [*Substance Abuse Research and Treatment*](#).



Training Opportunities

CWRU Center for Evidence-Based Practices Trainings

The Case Western Reserve University Center for Evidence-Based Practices has released its schedule of upcoming trainings. Click the links below for more information:

May 10 — [*Job Development Applications for Housing Professionals \(Parma\)*](#)

May 17 — [*Job Development Applications for Housing Professionals \(Columbus\)*](#)

May 18 — [*SE/IPS Regional Training Day 3: Intro to Team Integration and Motivational Interviewing \(Columbus\)*](#)

June 21 — [*Job Development Applications for Housing Professionals \(Columbus\)*](#)

June 23 — [*Job Development Applications for Housing Professionals \(Parma\)*](#)

Regional Health Assessment Forums

The Governor's Office of Health Transformation and the Ohio Department of Health are hosting a series of regional State Health Assessment (SHA) forums. The forums provide stakeholders from a wide variety of sectors with an opportunity to identify priorities, strengths, challenges and emerging trends for all areas of the state. Participants are invited to provide input. The events are open to all stakeholders who are interested in improving the health and quality of life in Ohio. Space is limited. Upcoming events are scheduled for: Findlay (April 29), Athens (May 2), Dayton (May 4), Columbus (May 5) and Ravenna (May 6). Click [*HERE*](#) for more information and to register.

Regional Peer Support Symposiums

The PEER (Peers Enriching Each other's Recovery) Center is partnering with OhioMHAS to host a series of free, regional peer support symposiums. The first four Path of Peer Support in Ohio symposiums will be held in Butler (June 15), Fulton (May 18), Guernsey (June 29) and Jackson (June 23) counties. The certification requirements for Ohio Peer Supporters are changing, and these symposiums will provide an opportunity to have questions answered by OhioMHAS staff. Topics covered will include: peer support basics, certification process, rules changes and updating credentials. Space is limited, so register today. Click [*HERE*](#) for more information and to register.

Training Opportunities, cont.

Behavioral Health Redesign 101 – Regional Trainings

The Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities, in partnership with OhioMHAS and Ohio Medicaid, is hosting a series of regional trainings on all of the work occurring under the [Medicaid Behavioral Health Redesign](#). Ohio's Community Behavioral Health System is currently undergoing major system transformation and we want to make sure that all providers are aware of the changes. Upcoming trainings include: [Wooster](#) (May 5), [Columbus](#) (May 6), [Lancaster](#) (May 10), [Findlay](#) (May 11) and [Dayton](#) (May 17). Cost is \$30, which includes lunch, handouts and CEUs/RCHs. Attendees are limited to a maximum of three (3) per organization, to accommodate all providers across the state. Click the links for more information and to register. Questions? Please call 614.224.1111 and ask for Dontavius.

Prevention Ethics Training — May 5

The Ohio Coaching and Mentoring Network, coordinated by PreventionFIRST!, will host the [Ohio's Code of Ethics for Prevention Professionals](#) training on May 5 at The Boat House at Confluence Park in Columbus. Cost is \$35 and includes 6.0 RCHs in Prevention Ethics as well as lunch. Questions? Please contact OCAM.NETWORK@gmail.com.

2016 Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention Summit — May 6

The Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention (ASAP) Opiate Task Force invites counselors, social workers, chemical dependency professionals, nurses, recovery support providers, community advocates and anyone interested in learning about the drug epidemic in Trumbull County to attend the *2nd Annual ASAP Drug Summit: From Addiction to Recovery* on May 6 at the Kent State University - Trumbull Campus. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

Smart Bet Train the Trainers — May 9, 11, 16, 20

Drug Free Action Alliance (DFAA), under a grant from OhioMHAS, is offering a Train the Trainers on the Smart Bet curriculum in four locations across Ohio. Smart Bet is a curriculum designed to help young adults acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to make healthy choices about whether, when and how much to gamble. The materials can be stand-alone or integrated into other training curricula, lessons, or activities. Training attendees will leave the day fully equipped to run the Smart Bet program in their own communities. Cost is \$10 with lunch included. Click [HERE](#) for location and registration information.

Education for Action: Recovery Works — May 12

The [Ohio Recovery Network](#) is hosting a free *Education for Action: Recovery Works* advocacy training May 12 at 7 p.m. at the Sandusky Artisans Recovery Community Center. For more information, call Sandusky Artisans at 419.621.9377.

2016 Suicide Prevention Conference — May 13

The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and OhioMHAS are teaming up to present the third annual [Suicide Prevention Conference](#) on May 13 at the Ohio Union at The Ohio State University, 1739 N. High St., Columbus. Participants will hear from leading researchers and advocates who will address strategies, advancements and outcomes regarding suicide prevention. New to the conference this year are two breakout sessions that will provide tools and resources in addressing the impact of suicide and suicide prevention. Clark Flatt, president of The Jason Foundation, will present the keynote, *Youth Suicide: The Silent Epidemic*. [View](#) the conference agenda. Click [HERE](#) to register.

2nd Annual Housing Showcase: Innovations in Affordable Housing — May 16

OhioMHAS will host the 2nd Annual Housing Showcase: Innovations in Affordable Housing May 16 in Columbus. This year's Showcase will feature information on the Tiny House Movement, utilizing Shipping (Cargo) Containers as affordable housing solutions along with the results of the ADAMH/CMH/ADAS housing needs survey, and housing models targeted for transition-aged youth. This free learning opportunity is perfect for anyone interested in learning more about the wide variety of housing and housing supports that is supported throughout Ohio's urban and rural communities. Click [HERE](#) to register.

OACCA Conference: Shaping Systems of Care — May 23-24

The Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies (OACCA) will convene its 19th annual conference for child and family service providers on May 23-24. The conference features national and state leaders in the child and family service sector, including David Lloyd, founder of MTM Services, and Marlo Nash, vice president of the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities. Conference presentations will explore the transformation of systems of care for children by highlighting clinical best practices, innovations underway in agencies and communities and state public policy. register at www.oacca.org.

Training Opportunities, cont.

2016 Recovery Conference — June 1-2

The Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities, in partnership with OhioMHAS, will host this inaugural Recovery Conference June 1-2 at the Hyatt regency in downtown Columbus. The conference will offer education to individuals in recovery and family members from throughout Ohio, focusing on topics such as: advocacy, empowerment, job skills development and employment readiness; peer supports and services; community involvement; cultural competency; self-care; wellness; and more. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

Ohio Early Childhood Special Education Conference — June 3

Save the Date! The Ohio Department of Education will host the Ohio Early Childhood Special Education Conference on June 3. Participants will gain strategies to strengthen relationships between early childhood professionals, families and children; create environments to foster social emotional growth/learning; and prevent challenging behavior. Early childhood classroom and itinerant teachers, early intervention providers, developmental specialists, administrators and students welcome.

Health and Equity in All Policies, Ohio Update Webinar — June 9

The Ohio Wellness and Prevention Network will continue its "Lunch and Learn" webinar series with *Health and Equity in All Policies, Ohio Update* on June 9 from noon - 1 p.m. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register. Questions? Contact Amy Bush Stevens with the Health Policy Institute of Ohio at 614.545.0753 or astevens@hpio.net.

Save the Date! 2016 Trauma-Informed Care Summit and Institute— June 22-23

The Ohio Departments of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) are partnering to host the Third Annual Trauma-Informed Care Summit and Institute June 22-23 at the Crowne Plaza Columbus North — Worthington. The Summit promotes the recognition of trauma as a public health concern and its impact on the emotional and physical well-being of individuals. This training will help participants recognize the importance of implementation of theory to practice, sustainability and collaboration across all human services systems in responding to persons with lived traumatic experiences. More information will be available on the OhioMHAS website in the coming months.

2016 Ohio Promoting Wellness & Recovery Conference (OPEC) — June 27-29

The 2016 Ohio Promoting Wellness & Recovery Conference (OPEC) will take place June 27-29 at Ohio University in Athens. OPEC focuses on creating access, improving quality and making connections with Ohio's prevention, early intervention and treatment workforce for children, families and communities. OPEC will offer six subject-matter tracks, including: early childhood mental health, adolescent treatment and recovery/peer support, prevention, collective impact, youth development and cultural competency. Cost is \$100. Register online at www.OPECconference.com.

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day — April 30

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