



PICTURED: At left, Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor recaps first-year accomplishments of Ohio's Start Talking! youth drug prevention initiative, while Ohio Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Andrew Doehrel (right) helps unveil a new component aimed at Ohio's business community during a Jan. 15 press announcement. See [more photos on our Flickr page](#).

Ohio Marks One-Year Anniversary of Youth Drug Prevention Initiative, Announces New Component to Help Ohio Businesses Promote Drug-Free Employees

It began a year ago with a simple challenge to parents and teachers: Start Talking! Today, the Kasich administration touted the first year successes of its statewide Start Talking! youth drug prevention initiative, which is inspired by research that shows youth are up to 50 percent less likely to use drugs when parents and adults talk to them about substance use and abuse. Ohio Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor and members of Gov. John R. Kasich's Cabinet were joined by leadership from the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, business leaders from throughout the state and a host of other supporters as they also unveiled a new component of the initiative — Start Talking! BIZ (Business Impact Zone) a collection of tools and resources designed to help Ohio businesses address substance abuse and addiction in the workplace. Last year, an estimated 50,000 Ohioans, including more than 6,000 school counselors, principals and administrators and all foster parents in the state, received free, bi-weekly parenting tips. Working with local police, the Ohio State Highway Patrol and Ohio National Guard reached more than 26,000 students and recruited 779 student ambassadors to help spread the prevention message. The Office of the First Lady, meanwhile, partnered with the Governor's Office of Faith-Based Initiatives to award 22 grants totaling \$1.5 million to help strengthen



school-based prevention and resiliency programming for at-risk youth, and dozens of schools, faith-based organizations, law enforcement, legislators and others sponsored educational town hall meetings and drug-free events.

With the launch of Start Talking! BIZ, state leaders are strengthening the fight to prevent substance abuse into the workplace. A new set of tools, specifically designed to help employers be a part of the solution to the epidemic is being created. The new re-

sources include videos, Power Point presentations and free Start Talking! BIZ tips — bi-weekly tips to help employers stay on top of current drug trends, stimulate conversations with employees about drug-free workplaces and assist employees who need help for an alcohol or other drug problem. "Drug related issues are a growing concern to Ohio's employers," said Andrew E. Doehrel, president and CEO of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce.

"We believe the partnership with Start Talking! BIZ makes sense as it provides business leaders with the tools to aid their employees in combating this horrible nationwide problem."

Studies show that substance abuse costs American employers more than \$81 billion in lost operations annually, including lost productivity, accidents, insurance, absenteeism, workplace shrinkage and theft. Learn more at [StartTalking.ohio.gov](#).



On the Road with Director Plouck



Each month, we'll highlight some of Director Plouck's visits and public engagements in this column. Below is a summary of her recent activities:

- 1/12 Attended Gov. John R. Kasich's inauguration ceremony at the Southern Theatre in downtown Columbus.
- 1/13 Provided remarks to membership at the Ohio Community Corrections Association board meeting.
- 1/15 Participated in media conference to announce release of Start Talking! youth drug prevention initiative annual report and launch of new BIZ component.

OhioMHAS Awards \$4.4M to Support 118 Specialized Dockets in SFY 2015

In response to the Ohio's heroin and opioid epidemic, OhioMHAS was given the opportunity to create the Specialized Dockets Payroll Subsidy Project to assist drug courts and other *specialized docket programs* with funding to effectively manage offenders in the community, thereby reducing commitments to the state prison system. Specialized docket programs that target addicted parents charged with abuse/neglect/dependency of their minor children were also eligible for funding.

These programs reduce the number of children permanently removed from their homes and, instead, increase the number of children who are to remain in their homes with protective supervision provided by child protective service agencies.



OhioMHAS has distributed approximately \$4.4 million for *118 specialized dockets* that target offenders with drug addiction. The funding assists courts with operational expenses — namely personnel costs for staff who are members of the specialized docket team. Specifically, the project allows eligible courts to receive 65 percent of the payroll costs for one full-time or full-time equivalent staff member.

A total of 118 programs benefitted from funding with an average award around \$36,900. As a result of this funding, new specialized dockets were created and other eligible programs were able to increase the number of participants to be served. Additionally, some cash-strapped courts were able to maintain the number of participants to be served as a result of this funding.



Family Day at the Ohio Statehouse

OhioMHAS staff (pictured at left) shared drug prevention information with thousands of parents and kids as part of Family Day at the Ohio Statehouse on Jan. 10. Hosted by Gov. John R. Kasich and First Lady Karen W. Kasich, Family Day featured a variety of activities, demonstrations, giveaways, food and a live performance from Ohio band New Hollow. The event helped to kick off a full weekend of inaugural activities at the Statehouse.

Nearly 400 parents signed up to receive Know! tips through the Kasich administration's Start Talking! statewide youth drug prevention initiative. Mrs. Kasich stopped by the booth to visit with kids during the day. See more photos on the [OhioMHAS Flickr page](#).



Summit Behavioral Healthcare patients listen to a performance during a recent Recovery Coffee House gathering at the hospital.

SBH Patients Find Solace, Support at Recovery Coffee House

To aid patients in their recovery from mental illness and substance use disorders, Summit Behavioral Healthcare in Cincinnati offers a unique therapeutic experience with the Recovery Coffee House. The specialized program helps patients practice positive behaviors in a relaxing environment.

Coffee and other refreshments are served, and patients are encouraged to take turns singing songs, playing instruments, telling jokes and reciting poetry or prose in an "open-mic" setting.

Recovery Coffee House focuses on two specific areas of recovery: appropriate leisure activities and positive social relationships. Special emphasis is placed

on identifying specific behaviors that are conducive to recovery, including relaxation, artistic expression and positive social interactions.

At the Recovery Coffee House, these behaviors are practiced by the patients, and modeled and reinforced by staff. As mentioned, these behaviors often include singing, playing an instrument, reading a poem, but may also include

expressing appreciation and respect for others in the group. Behaviors that potentially undermine one's recovery are identified with a view of understanding the potential negative consequences resulting from them. Behaviors deemed negative and detrimental to the recovery process include indiscriminately endorsing songs or conversation that glorifies or promotes substance abuse, violence or anti-social attitudes. Statements or actions that are

demeaning to any person or oneself are likewise identified as not conducive to recovery. Behaviors that communicate respect for others are encouraged. According to SBH staff, patients learn how to enjoy themselves in a manner

that doesn't jeopardize their recovery. The group has a good time, and feels good about who they are as individuals. Recovery Coffee House is one of the most popular groups according to CEO Liz Banks. "The recovery cafe provides patients an opportunity to express their individuality, showcase their talent and feel appreciated for their contributions," Banks said.



DFAA "Big Bowl Vote" Measures Impact of Alcohol Advertising on Youth

Research shows that the more youth are exposed to alcohol in advertising, the more likely they are to consume alcohol underage. To assess the impact of advertising on youth, the Drug Free Action Alliance (DFAA) will host the ***BIG BOWL VOTE 2015***.

Through a brief survey given Monday morning following the Super Bowl, middle and high school students share their impressions about what advertisements they remember seeing and which commercial was their favorite. DFAA staff will collect and summarize the data and release the results a few days after the Super Bowl. This information can then be used to educate parents, students, lawmakers and the media about the effects of alcohol advertising on youth.

Youth and adults can follow the discussion live and provide instant feedback during the Super Bowl on Twitter, using hashtag #bbv15. Download the ***Big Bowl Vote 2015 Playbook*** for details.

Interested Parties Sought for Adolescent SBIRT Project

The Universal Health Care Action Network's (UHCAN Ohio) Preventing Youth Addiction project is leading a campaign to expand the implementation of adolescent Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (***SBIRT***) in Ohio. The goal of the three-year project is to increase the number of youth and young adults ages 15 to 22 who have access to SBIRT, or a similar screening, and early-intervention strategies that put them on the road to healthy lives free of substance use disorders.

UHCAN Ohio would like to meet and speak with interested parties. Please contact Karen Kimbrough at karen.kimbrough@mha.ohio.gov by Feb. 6, 2015, to participate. A follow-up webinar, led by the OhioMHAS SBIRT project team, is being planned. Details forthcoming.

March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month



PROBLEM GAMBLING
AWARENESS MONTH
→ HAVE THE CONVERSATION

OhioMHAS is pleased to join with the National Council on Problem Gambling ([NCPG](#)) and other state partners to raise public awareness about problem gambling throughout the month of March. The goal of Problem Gambling Awareness Month is to educate the general public and health care professionals about the warning signs of problem gambling and

promote the availability of help and hope both locally and nationally. Most adults gamble or know someone who gambles, and who could benefit from programs to prevent gambling addiction. Many individuals suffer in silence do so because they don't know why they developed a problem, what gambling addiction is or where to get help. Learn the signs of problem gambling and know that help is available. What do you want your community to know about gambling? Is the focus on safe gambling, awareness of problem gambling and/or what community or state resources are available to help individuals or families affected by the consequences of problem gambling? Click [here](#) for an easy-to-use guide to making the most of PG Awareness Month, and for a customizable op/ed, press release, blog or news article.

Current Problem Gambling Grantees to Work with OSU Evaluation

For State Fiscal Year 2015, OhioMHAS awarded capacity-building grants for problem gambling services. These grants are supporting the development and implementation of evidence-based and promising-practice models for prevention and treatment of gambling disorders and helping to enhance the effectiveness of Ohio's problem gambling services.

Current OhioMHAS capacity-building grantees will be working with a team from the Ohio State University Center for Health Outcomes, Policy and Evaluation Studies (HOPES) on the evaluation components of their projects. Grantees should expect to be contacted by an OSU HOPES researcher. Findings from the evaluations will assist the state in building and expanding a statewide system of evidence-based problem gambling services and supports.

At Your Service: CQI and Training and Technical Assistance to Enhance Ohio's Problem Gambling Service System

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)

To ensure that best practices reach Ohioans in need, OhioMHAS also is providing no-cost access to continuous quality improvement (CQI) tools, including training and technical assistance for both prevention and treatment of problem gambling. Matthew Courser, Ph.D., of the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation ([PIRE](#)), in partnership with Ohio University and the University of Cincinnati, is serving as the lead for this effort. Dr. Courser will assess the need, provide assistance and/or make connections with qualified professionals.

Some potential areas for CQI services are listed below:

- Screening tools and conversion/retention for treatment
- Program design, evaluation, etc.
- Problem awareness/media campaigns, etc.
- Evidence-based PG prevention
- Reporting

Training and Technical Assistance

Drug-Free Action Alliance (DFAA), the training and technical assistance grantee, is working with Dr. Courser to identify challenges to best practices and bring the appropriate training and tools to communities where they are needed. At this time, anyone in Ohio's behavioral health service system can contact Dr. Courser at 614.746.5670 or mcourser@pire.org to discuss CQI concerns.

For specific training and technical assistance, any Ohio organization or professional can contact Derek Longmeier of DFAA at 614.540.9985 or dlongmeier@drugfreeactionalliance.org. The OhioMHAS Problem Gambling Bureau staff is ready to assist with challenges related to prevention, treatment and evaluation services for problem gambling.

REGISTER NOW!

Ohio Problem Gambling Conference — March 5-6

The Ohio Problem Gambling Conference 2015 — Growing Awareness, Building Capacity has been set for March 5-6, at the Crowne Plaza Columbus-Worthington, 6500 Doubletree Ave.

Hosted by OhioMHAS and sponsored by [Ohio](#)

[for Responsible Gambling](#), the

training will feature Dr. Jeffrey Derevensky of McGill University, an expert in prevention and treatment of problem gambling among adolescents. The second day features Dr. Lori Rugle, director of Maryland's Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling, who will present on Gambling and SBIRT and recovery promotion. The afternoon of the second day will offer a three-hour session on ethics, with a focus on problem gambling treatment — especially useful for the new Ohio Chemical Dependency Professionals Board Gambling Endorsement. [Register](#) today.



News & Research Roundup

New Behavioral Health Publications from SAMHSA

The federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has released several new behavioral health resources, including:

Taking Care of Your Behavioral Health Explains social distancing, quarantine and isolation in the event of an outbreak of an infectious disease, such as Ebola. Discusses feelings and thoughts that may arise during this time and suggests ways to cope and support oneself during such an experience.

Clinical Use of Extended-Release Injectable Naltrexone in the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorders: A Brief Guide Offers guidance on the use of Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) with extended-release injectable naltrexone for the treatment of an opioid use disorder. Covers patient assessment, initiating MAT, monitoring progress and deciding when to end treatment.

2013 Annual Synar Reports: Tobacco Sales to Youth Presents findings on compliance of the Synar Amendment aimed at decreasing youth access to tobacco. Reviews progress in enforcing state youth tobacco access laws and in reducing the percentage of retailers selling tobacco products to minors.

How to Cope With Sheltering in Place Offers tips people can use to cope with sheltering in place. Explains reactions people often feel when sheltering in place; suggests ways to care for oneself and the family, such as making a plan and staying connected; and provides additional resources.

SAMHSA Releases New App for Suicide Prevention

With the new year, SAMHSA has released a free mobile app — optimized for tablets — called Suicide Safe, a suicide prevention learning tool for behavioral health and primary care providers. Suicide Safe helps providers integrate suicide prevention strategies into their practice and reduce suicide risk among their patients. The free app is based on SAMHSA's ***Suicide Assessment Five-Step Evaluation and Triage (SAFE-T) card*** and ***TIP 50*** and includes clinical education and resources for providers. Goals of Suicide Safe are to enable providers to more confidently assist patients who present with suicidal ideation, communicate effectively with patients and their families, determine appropriate next steps and make referrals to treatment and community resources, which are critical components to saving lives. The free Suicide Safe app will be available in early 2015 for Apple® and Android™ mobile devices.

New Substance Abuse Prevention Planning and Epidemiology Tool

SAMHSA's Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies (CAPT) has unveiled SAPPET — an interactive website that allows users to access and analyze data from a number of publicly available national sources. Formerly the Behavioral Health Indicators System, SAPPET has been renamed to capture the essence of its functionality: to guide prevention planning and epidemiological analysis. The database contains national- and state-level Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) data from 1991-2013 and more. Click ***HERE*** to access SAPPET; and enter the password: sappet.

Study: Childhood Trauma, Psychiatric Conditions Tied To Aging

TIME magazine ***recently reported*** that a study published this month in the journal *Biological Psychiatry* suggests that “childhood trauma and psychiatric conditions may cause individuals to experience accelerated aging.” The 299-participant study revealed that childhood adversity and lifetime psychopathology were each associated with shorter telomeres and higher mitochondrial DNA content, with the effects “seen particularly in adults who had battled with major depression and anxiety disorders, along with parental loss or childhood maltreatment.”

Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Professionals to Convene at CADCA Forum — Feb. 2-5

Substance abuse prevention and treatment professionals from throughout the U.S. will gather at the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America's (***CADCA***) ***25th Annual National Leadership Forum***, Feb. 2-5. More than 2,500 participants, including a delegation from Ohio, are expected at the Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center in National Harbor, Md. The forum will feature more than 70 courses to help participants learn effective strategies for addressing drug-related problems in their communities. Topics to be covered include prescription drug abuse, marijuana use among youth, and reducing tobacco use and underage drinking.

News & Research Roundup, cont.

Study: National Drug Overdose Deaths May Peak in 2017

Drug overdose deaths may peak in 2017, experts at Columbia University predict. By 2034 the overdose rate could fall back to rates last seen in the early 1980s, they say. The experts predict the projected drug overdose death rate will peak in 2017 at 16.1 deaths per 100,000 population, according to a [recent report](#) in *The Wall Street Journal*. Study authors noted that from 1980–2011, annual drug overdose deaths increased from 2.7 to 13.2 deaths per 100,000 population. In 2035, the death rate would reach 1.9 deaths per 100,000 population, the researchers wrote in *Injury Epidemiology*. In related news, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [recently reported](#) that heroin overdose deaths jumped 39 percent from 2012 to 2013. The CDC found a 6 percent overall increase in all drug poisoning deaths from 2012 to 2013, to 43,982 deaths. There was a 1 percent increase in prescription opioid deaths during the same year. Deaths involving cocaine increased 12 percent.

MIND Movement Video Contest



The MIND (Mental Illness-No Discrimination) Movement is sponsoring a [video contest](#) to reduce the stigma of mental illness. The group is seeking short videos (30-60 seconds) to post on its partners' websites and social media platforms which convey imaginative and meaningful messages. Cash prizes will be awarded. Please visit <http://www.ohiomindmovement.com/> for contest rules. Entries must be submitted via email to mindmovementohio@gmail.com by Sat., March 14, 2015.

NAADAC Minority Fellowship Program for Addiction Counselors

NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals, is accepting applications for the 2015-2016 academic year for its Minority Fellowship Program for Addiction Counselors (NMFP-AC). Master's students interested in specializing in the addiction/substance use disorder profession and open to working with the needs of racial and ethnic minorities and/or transition-age youth post-graduation are eligible to apply. Funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the NMFP-AC will provide at least 30 graduate students with tuition stipends of up to \$20,000 per student, education, training and mentorship. Deadline to apply is **Feb. 28, 2015**. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to apply.



NMFP-AC
NAADAC MINORITY FELLOWSHIP
PROGRAM FOR ADDICTION COUNSELORS

Drug-Free Action Alliance Releases Marijuana PSA

Drug-Free Action Alliance has released a [public service announcement](#) about marijuana and impacts on the workforce, individual health and the consequences of teen use. "Marijuana is harmless or is it?" is a one-minute animated video was produced to foster conversations about unintended costs of marijuana use not only on individuals but also on the community, without the overdramatization of some marijuana videos.

Funding Announcements

SAMHSA: Networking, Certifying and Training Suicide Prevention Hotlines, Disaster Helpline

WHAT: The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Mental Health Services is accepting applications for fiscal year (FY) 2015 for a Cooperative Agreement for Networking, Certifying and Training Suicide Prevention Hotlines and a National Disaster Distress Helpline (DDH). RFA Number: [SM-15-007](#).

WHO: This opportunity is open to state and local governments, public or private universities and colleges, faith-based organizations and other domestic nonprofit entities.

AMOUNT: \$6,211,000 for up to three years.

DEADLINE: March 18, 2015

SAMHSA: Drug-Free Communities Support Program

WHAT: Funding to establish/strengthen community coalitions. RFA Number: [SP-15-001](#).

WHO: Community-based coalitions addressing youth substance abuse that have never received a DFC grant; or have previously received a DFC grant, but experienced a lapse in funding or have concluded the first five-year funding cycle and are applying for a second five-year funding cycle.

AMOUNT: SAMHSA anticipates providing up to \$125,000 per year for five years to approximately 170 community coalitions.

DEADLINE: March 18, 2015

Funding Announcements, cont.

U.S. Department of Education: Performance Partnership Pilot Grants

WHAT: The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education is providing funding for pilot communities to test innovative, cost-effective and outcome-focused strategies for disconnected youth.

RFA Number: [ED-GRANTS-112414-001](#).

WHO: Nonprofits, city, county or township governments and others.

AMOUNT: Total program funding is \$7.1 million with 10 expected awards.

DEADLINE: March 4, 2015

SAMHSA: Accepting Public Comment on FY 2016-17 Draft Block Grant Application

SAMHSA is now accepting public comment on the following Fiscal Year (FY) 2016-2017 [draft Block Grant documents](#). Read the [Federal Register Notice](#) for more information. All comments may be submitted via email to blockgrants@samhsa.hhs.gov. Comments are due 60 days from Jan. 8, 2015.

Training Opportunities

Problem Gambling Prevention and Treatment Regional Training Schedules

A number of upcoming problem gambling prevention and treatment training opportunities are available. Treatment sessions are offered for foundations and advanced levels from Recovery Resources. Also open for registration is a series of free Stacked Deck: A Program to Prevent Problem Gambling Training of Trainers events. Stacked Deck is an evidence-based practice program for preventing problem gambling among 13-17 year-olds. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about these CEU-based sessions.

OhioMHAS Disparities and Cultural Competency Advisory Committee Learning Series

The OhioMHAS Disparities and Cultural Competency Advisory Committee has released a schedule of upcoming trainings. Get a complete list of topics and locations [HERE](#).

2015 OYLPN Adult Leader Training Academy Series

The Ohio Youth Led Prevention Network will host a two-part training series entitled "Designing Youth-Led Programs that Work." The workshops will focus on using the youth empowerment conceptual framework (Holden et al., 2004) as a way to critically consider how youth-led programs are designed and implemented. Total cost for two sessions (Part 1 and Part 2) is \$50. Upcoming trainings include:

Part 1		Part 2	
Feb. 13, 2015	Dublin	March 6	Cambridge
Feb. 20, 2015	Lima	March 13	Dublin
		March 20	Lima

Registration information will be available on the "[Upcoming Events](#)" tab on Drug-Free Action Alliance website.

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:

March 3 — [Promoting Health-Behavior Change Among People with SPMI \(Parma\)](#)

March 10 — [Promoting Health-Behavior Change Among People with SPMI \(Columbus\)](#)

April 28 — [Promoting Health-Behavior Change Among People with SPMI \(Cincinnati\)](#)

May 13 — [Promoting Health-Behavior Change Among People with SPMI \(Toledo\)](#)

Trauma 101 Community Training — Feb. 11

The Hancock County Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services will host a free "Trauma 101 Community Training" on Feb. 11 at Brugeman Lodge at Riverbend in Findlay. Presenters include Karen Johnson, director of Trauma Informed Services, and Cheryl Sharp, senior advisor, Trauma-Informed Services, both from the National Council for Behavioral Health. Two sessions will be offered: 8:30 a.m.-noon and 1-4:30 p.m. Click [HERE](#) for more information or to register.

Training Opportunities, cont.

Parents and Prevention: A Community Conversation on Youth Substance Use — Feb. 24

Pathways of Central Ohio is hosting "Parents & Prevention: A Community Conversation on Youth Substance Use" on Feb. 24 at 5:30pm in the auditorium at Newark High School (314 Granville St., Newark). Licking County parents and other concerned adults will learn about drug use among teens. The conversation will include a panel of experts who will be available to provide information and answer questions. For more information, email bpersinger@pathwaysco.org or call 740.345.6166 ext. 228.

YouthMOVE Ohio Leadership Training — Feb. 27

YouthMOVE Ohio will host an information and training event for local community members and agencies seeking to create leadership opportunities for youth. Anyone interested in establishing a local chapter of YouthMOVE should attend. This training will be held Feb. 27 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Franklin County Children Services, 855 W. Mound St., Columbus, 43223. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to NAMI Ohio YouthMOVE by phone 614.224.2700 or email angela.yepdirector@gmail.com.

12th All-Ohio Institute on Community Psychiatry — March 27-28, 2015

University Hospitals Case Medical Center and the Case Western Reserve University Department of Psychiatry, in cooperation with OhioMHAS and Ohio Medicaid, will host the 12th All-Ohio Institute on Community Psychiatry "Integrating Care: Preparing Your Workforce for the Future" March 27-28 at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Cleveland East in Beachwood, Ohio. Full brochure with registration information will be available in January. For more information, visit the [conference website](#) or call 800.274.8263.

Ohio's 2015 Conference on Opiates and Other Drugs — March 30-31

The Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities is pleased to announce that its sixth annual Opiate Conference, "Ohio's 2015 Conference on Opiates and Other Drugs," will take place on March 30-31, 2015, at the Hyatt Regency in Columbus. This year, the conference scope has been expanded to provide education on opiates as well as other drugs that impact Ohioans. Registration will begin in January, please check in at the [OACBHA website](#) for more details.

Marijuana Advocacy and Policy Summit — April 1-2, 2015

Drug-Free Action Alliance will host the 2015 Marijuana Advocacy and Policy Summit April 1-2 in Columbus. The conference, which drew attendees from 27 states this past year, will provide an opportunity to learn from other states and communities about their efforts to combat further legalization and explores progress in advancing sound policies related to marijuana at the local, regional and national levels. To apply to attend, visit DrugFreeActionAlliance.org. For more information, contact Derek Longmeier at 614.540.9985 ext. 16 or DLongmeier@DrugFreeActionAlliance.org.

Save the Date! Ohio Prevention and Education, Early Childhood Conference — June 29-July 2, 2015

Mark your calendar! The 2015 Ohio Prevention and Education, Early Childhood Conference (OPEC) will take place June 29-July 2 at the Ohio University campus in Athens. Registration is \$100. More information will be available in early 2015.

Save the Date! 23rd Annual ICCA Conference — Nov. 8-10, 2015

The International Community Corrections Association will host its 23rd Annual Conference Nov. 8-10, 2015, at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel in Boston, Mass. Visit www.iccalive.org for more information.



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