

New State Budget Continues to Invest in Ohio's Behavioral Health Care System

It's been a busy month for Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) Director Tracy Plouck as she travels the state, meeting with stakeholders, touring innovative programs and sharing key highlights from the latest biennial budget.

Gov. John Kasich signed HB 64 — Ohio's two-year, \$71.2 billion *biennial budget* for State Fiscal Years 2016-2017 — in June.

HB 64 includes a number of *investments and initiatives* with a direct impact on Ohio's behavioral health care system.

Prison-Based Recovery Services

Chief among those highlights is a new partnership with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction that realigns prison-based recovery services under the OhioMHAS umbrella in an effort to reduce recidivism and improve access to treatment in Ohio's prisons. By leveraging the clinical expertise of OhioMHAS with the strong track record of the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction in keeping recidivism low, Ohio can get more inmates the help they need to overcome their addiction while they are serving their sentences and provide a seamless transition of services and supports to ensure sustained recovery after their release. In addition, the state will begin transferring low-level, non-violent inmates with addictions to serve their short-term sentence in a community treatment facility.

Modernized Medicaid BH Benefit

HB 64 also addresses the need to lower costs and better coordinate care by taking steps to modernize the Medicaid behavioral health care benefit by aligning billing codes with national standards. In addition, new benefits will be designed, while other

benefits will be disaggregated to better align services to a person's acuity level in need. This work will lead into the eventual transition of behavioral health into managed care in order to promote better integration with physical health care, leading to stronger coordination, lower cost and, overall, better health.

Increased Access to Housing

This budget invests an additional \$2.5 million annually in recovery housing, in addition to the previous investment of \$10 million in the Mid-Biennium Review (MBR). Also building on the MBR, the Residential State Supplement program, which supports housing for individuals with mental illness, has doubled in size with nearly 800 new individuals enrolled. This budget's investment will sustain enrollment for this critical service.

Saving Lives

Too many lives are lost to tragic deaths due to suicide and drug overdose. This budget directly addresses these preventable deaths by investing \$2 million over the biennium in suicide prevention and \$1 million for the purchase of the life-saving opioid antidote naloxone.

Support for Children and Families

This budget makes several key investments that prioritize the needs of Ohio's



OhioMHAS Director Tracy Plouck speaks at a July 16 press conference in Toledo while Lucas County Sheriff John Tharp and Lucas County MHRS Board Executive Director Scott Sylak look on.

youth, including: \$5 million for Early Childhood Mental Health; the continuation of the Strong Families, Safe Communities partnership with the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities which works with communities to intervene with youth who are at risk of danger to themselves or others, and \$3 million for targeted prevention.

Criminal Justice Interface

The FY 16-17 budget contains key investments, which will strengthen the relationship between behavioral health and criminal justice, such as: \$10 million over the biennium to support payroll for specialty dockets, contin-

ued work with local sheriffs to promote community innovations projects with local jails, and \$1 million over the biennium in additional support for probate courts doing competency evaluations.

Focus on Treatment

The budget builds on several successful pilot programs from the previous biennium: the Addiction Treatment Program, which works with drug courts to offer Medication-Assisted Treatment, has been expanded from \$2.5 million per year to \$5.5 million per year for an \$11 million investment over the biennium. The state psychiatric hospital system received additional **funding** in order to continue its strong reputation of high-quality care.

Ohio Rally for Recovery | Sept. 2, 2015 — 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

OhioMHAS is pleased to once again partner with Ohio Citizen Advocates for Addiction Recovery, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and Jendco Safety Supply to present this annual celebration of Ohioans in recovery. The rally, which takes place on the West Plaza of the Ohio Statehouse, will feature more than 30 vendors, recovery speakers, food, entertainment and the popular "recovery countdown." Learn more at www.oaa-ohio.org.





On the Road with Director Plouck



- 7.6 Attended Community Corrections Association graduation in Youngstown.
- 7.8 Along with ODRC Dir. Gary Mohr, met with Lake County commissioners, judges, adult probation and law enforcement officials. The visit included an editorial board meeting with *The Plain Dealer* in Cleveland.
- 7.13 Visited the Four-County ADAMHS Board; toured Maumee Valley Guidance Center and Bryan Health Clinic.
- 7.16 Participated in a media event in Toledo to commend Lucas County officials on their efforts to curb opioid addiction and overdose deaths and to announce the release of *Ohio's Health Resource Toolkit for Addressing Opioid Abuse*.
- 7.18-21 Attended the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors Research Institute board and annual commissioners' meetings in Washington, D.C.
- 7.22 Attended the 23rd anniversary celebration of the OASIS Men's Therapeutic Community at Pickaway Correctional Institution.
- 7.23 Met with Molina Healthcare's Ohio Management Team about OhioMHAS budget successes and opportunities to better coordinate health care.
- 7.27 Speaking at Southeastern Correctional Complex in Lancaster with Ohio Medicaid Director John McCarthy and ODRC Dir. Gary Mohr to highlight Ohio's Medicaid Pre-Release Enrollment Program.

Be in the Know!

Striking up a conversation about drugs doesn't come easy for many parents and adults. It's difficult to know where to start. Choosing the right words, the right time and right place are all concerns parents and adults have. They want to get it right and gain their child's confidence so that once the conversation starts, they can keep the dialogue open.

The *Know!* program, one of the core pillars of Ohio's statewide *Start Talking!* youth drug prevention initiative, not only gives parents tips to start the conversation, but the knowledge and the confidence to speak with teens about the dangers of substance abuse. ***Know!***



provides parents (or grandparents and other caregivers) with monthly tips via email that contain current facts about alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, as well as action steps they can take to help children resist using.

Parents now have a way to become part of the solution by ***signing up*** to receive the *Know!* tips and pledging to talk to their children, supporting their positive choices and being there to assist them in resisting negative influences. These steps help parents take a clear stand that they will not support use of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs.

For more information, contact Sarah Smith, Start Talking! state director at 614.387.2799 or send an email to: Sarah.Smith@mha.ohio.gov.

Visit OhioMHAS at the State Fair!

The sun is shining and the mercury is rising, which can only mean one thing: it's *Ohio State Fair* time! This year's Fair runs July 29 through Aug. 9 at the Ohio State Fairgrounds in Columbus. If you go, be sure to stop by the OhioMHAS resource booth in the Marketplace Building. As in previous years, department staff will be on hand to answer questions, distribute educational literature and encourage patrons to subscribe to free *Know!* parenting tips available through Ohio's Start Talking! youth drug prevention initiative. This year, we're proud to feature a fun, new Start Talking! "selfie station," where visitors will be encouraged to pose for a selfie with friends and family and share via Instagram and Twitter. The Fair is one of the department's largest outreach efforts. Each year, staff distribute thousands of pamphlets and connect visitors with behavioral health care resources in their communities.



JULY 29 - AUG. 9, 2015

Chardon Students Team Up to Fight Addiction

More than a dozen current and former Chardon High School students organized a Community Family Picnic on July 10 to engage the community in the fight against alcohol and other drug addiction.

For these students, too many people in Geauga County — many of them teens — have struggled with addiction over the past year. It's an issue the students believe must be addressed to prevent, and ultimately eliminate, overdose deaths in the community.

Their mission was to raise \$5,000 to support prevention and intervention programs offered by the Lake-Geauga Recovery Center, which helps residents conquer their addictions.

More than 300 people attended the event. Through sales of food, raffles for items donated by local businesses and a cornhole tournament, the students were able to raise nearly \$7,000. Add that to a commitment by the United Way to

match their proceeds, and the students generated nearly \$17,000 to help fight substance abuse and addiction in their community.

Nick Miraglia, a 2015 Chardon High School graduate and event coordinator, stepped up when the drug problem hit close to home. "My main motivation for being involved was when people I knew were dying — it hit home a lot harder."

Marissa Perrico, a Chardon High School sophomore, knew she wanted to make a difference. "When I realized that teenagers just like me were standing up for something bigger than themselves, I knew I had to become involved in this project," Perrico said. "I loved how all of us shared a passion for helping people suffering from heroin addiction."

Justin Stamko, a Chardon High School junior, hopes more people will learn how serious the problem is. "Not enough teens think of it as a problem and what it can lead to," Stamko said. "Overall, there is



not enough conversation about drugs and the consequences they can bring. Parents, peers, and the school system need to talk and act on this problem more."



Hundreds Gather in Athens for Annual Prevention Conference

Photos (l-r): From left: Dr. Jason Fruth, assistant professor and co-director of the Intervention Specialist Program at Wright State University; OhioMHAS Director Tracy Plouck; Ohio University President Dr. Roderick J. McDavis; and Mark L. Weinberg, dean of OU's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs, kicked off the second day of the annual **Ohio Promoting Wellness and Recovery Conference**, which was held June 29-July 2 at OU's main campus in Athens. At right, Capt. Jeff Coady, Psy. D., ABPP, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's regional administrator for Region 5 (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin), delivered the keynote address that evening. The focus of the conference, which drew more than 450 professionals from throughout the state, was to promote collective impact through building the capacity of Ohio's prevention, early intervention and treatment workforce for children, families and communities.

Supported Employment/Individual Placement and Support Program Launched

The Community Counseling Center (CCC) of Ashtabula County celebrated the launch of its new Supported Employment/Individual Placement and Support (SE/IPS) program at a July 8 kick off luncheon attended by more than 70 community stakeholders.

The program, a collaboration between the Ashtabula County Mental Health and Recovery Services (MHRS) Board, Case Western Reserve University and Community Counseling Center, is designed to bring evidence-based best practice employment services to the county.

There is a lot of excitement and energy both within CCC and the community for this new program, according to Ginger Yanchar, the agency's clinical supervisor of supported employment services.

"Many people, staff, stakeholders, clients and family members anticipate that supported employment services will offer help and bring hope to people with mental illness who, perhaps, previously thought working was not an option for them," said Yanchar, who was hired in March to implement the program.



(l-r) Matt Butler, CCC clinical supervisor; Patrick Boyle and Nicole Clevenger, CWRU Center for Evidence-Based Practices; Zandia Galvin, OhioMHAS, Ginger Yanchar, CCC clinical director, Mindy Vance, OhioMHAS, Paul Bolino, CCC CEO and Miriam Walton, executive director of the Ashtabula MHRS Board.

"So often a person with severe mental illness lacks the belief and confidence that they can work, and that working will positively and greatly impact their mental health recovery. Supported employment staff can be the helping hands to guide and support someone until they believe in themselves and have the confidence to sustain their own success."

Paul Bolino, chief executive officer at Community Counseling Center, reiterated the importance of the program. "By adding Supported Employment services to our continuum of care, we are offering those we serve broader access

to recovery," Bolino said. "Supported Employment enhances our organization's mission, promotes holistic recovery, and aids local economic growth". Research suggests that by adhering to the eight core principles of supported employment, 56 percent of program participants will become employed (Dartmouth Supported Employment Center: <http://www.dartmouthips.org>), which is almost three times greater than all people with disabilities who are working (U.S. Dept. of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy: <http://www.dol.gov/odep/>).

Yanchar said she had received around 20 referrals for services in the days immediately following the launch, and expects that number to grow.

"The need is there," she said.

Although Yanchar is currently the sole provider for SE services in the county, additional employment specialists will be hired to support program growth in the coming months.

Click [HERE](#) for more information about OhioMHAS' commitment to Supported Employment efforts.

Benefits Planning Survey

In an effort to gain a better understanding of benefits planning services available in Ohio, the State Employment Committee (a collaboration between the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities and employment providers from around the state) has developed a [survey](#) to help identify and learn more about benefits planning providers. Survey results will be utilized to gain a better understanding of the availability of services in different areas of the state, identify training needs and link services to additional benefits planning resources, such as the Ohio benefits planner task force. The survey will be available through **Friday, Aug. 7**. Participation is critical to helping Ohio ensure that comprehensive benefits planning services are available to individuals who need them.

Forensic MH Leadership Award

The OhioMHAS Forensic Services Bureau will accept nominations for the **2015 Howard H. Sokolov Mental Health Leadership Award** through Oct. 1, 2015.

Given in memory of Dr. Howard Sokolov, a pioneering psychiatrist and scholar who passed away in 2014, the award recognizes an individual or program that consistently demonstrates a commitment to excellence, recognition of dignity and worth of the consumer, security and safety of the community, and dedication to providing quality forensic mental health services.

To nominate an individual for the award, complete the [online form](#) available on the OhioMHAS website. The recipient will be announced in November at the annual OhioMHAS Forensic Conference. Questions? Please email Bob.Baker@mha.ohio.gov.

Free Training Coached Peers in Navigating the Workplace

Peers as Professionals: Living with the Stigma of Mental Health, Addiction and Trauma in the Professional Workforce Environment was held June 30 at the State Library of Ohio in Columbus. The training addressed self-advocacy and coping skills to help professionals living with mental health, addiction or trauma issues balance their lived experience as peers with their workplace responsibilities. **Peer** panelists provided tips to attendees on how to educate co-workers, while keeping their recovery goals in mind.

The decision of whether to self-disclose a behavioral health issue in an interview or on the job is a personal decision. It is advisable to understand the legal rights contained in the Americans with Disabilities Act. On one hand, disclosing can lead to stigmatization, but on the other, it's an opportunity to educate others and be a role model of how to treat people.

One panelist described how insulting it was to have coworkers flippantly say "Have you taken your meds today?" Another panelist, who is open with her colleagues proudly stated, "I have the ability to reach people they were never going to reach."

Audience members interacted and responded with their own stories, which illuminated their particular experiences or internal dilemmas based on their work environment or community culture.

The free training was co-hosted by the OhioMHAS and **The PEER Center** (Peers Enriching Each other's Recovery), a consumer-operated drop-in wellness, recovery and support center with two locations in Columbus.



Artwork Crafted by Patients in Recovery on Display at OhioMHAS HQ

Michaela Peterson, OhioMHAS deputy director for legal and regulatory services, admires art created by patients at Northwest Ohio Psychiatric Hospital in Toledo. The artwork, which is part of a rotating exhibit, is currently on display at our Central Office location on the 36th Floor of the Rhodes Tower.

Two Ohioans Elected to NAMI National Board of Directors

OhioMHAS salutes two Ohioans who were elected to the NAMI National Board of Directors. NAMI Ohio Board Members including former Sen. Robert Spada of North Royalton and Gloria Walker of Cincinnati were elected to the National Board during the organization's annual convention held earlier this month in San Francisco.

NAMI's 16-member National Board of Directors is elected by NAMI members to provide strategic guidance in the fulfillment of NAMI's mission to provide advocacy, education, support and public awareness so that all individuals and families affected by mental illness can build better lives.

NAMI National Board Members have responsibility to govern the organization. Together, and with input from all members, they make policy to govern NAMI, determine NAMI's official position on matters of public policy, set the budget and priorities of the national office, and develop strategic plans to guide organizational development.



ADA 25th Anniversary Celebrated

July 26, 2015, marked the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). When President George H. W. Bush signed into law the ADA, he noted that the purpose of the Act was to “ensure that people with disabilities are given the basic guarantees for which they have worked so long and so hard: independence, freedom of choice, control of their lives, the opportunity to blend fully and equally into the rich mosaic of the American mainstream.”

Andy Imparato, executive director of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities, was the keynote speaker on July 22, when the ADA 25 Columbus Planning Committee hosted a community reception at Columbus State Community College to “Celebrate 25 Years of the ADA.” Imparato spoke as an advocate who has lived with bipolar disorder since 1990 when he was 24-year-old law school student.

He emphasized the need to reform federal entitlement programs that steer people with significant disabilities away from work instead of supporting them toward reaching their full potential and becoming as economically self-sufficient as possible.

Learn more about the ADA history from the perspectives of Ohioans at:

<http://dodd.ohio.gov/Documents/ADAFinal.pdf>

or read more about the Act at:

<http://www.adalegacy.com/>

http://www.ada.gov/ada_25th_anniversary/index.html

<http://www.adagreatlakes.org/>

Ohio’s Partnership for Success Initiative and Ohio’s New OHYES! Youth Survey

The OhioMHAS Office of Prevention and Wellness is hosting a **free webinar** on Ohio’s Partnership for Success (PFS) initiative on July 31 from 10-11a.m. Ohio’s PFS is a five-year federal grant initiative to increase access for rural and Appalachian areas to evidence-based prevention services.

Ohio’s PFS priorities are to:

- increase access to prevention services;

- prevent or reduce consequences of underage drinking for persons aged 12 to 20; and
- reduce prescription drug misuse and abuse among persons aged 12-25.

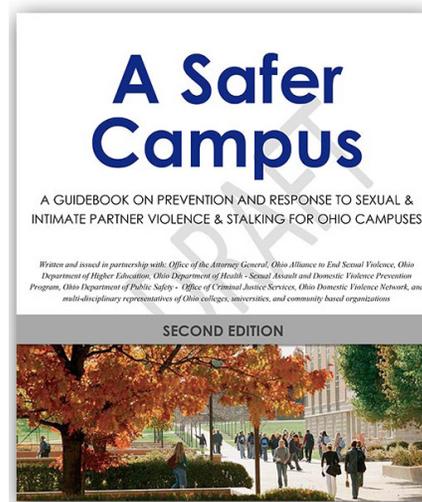
All 61 rural and Appalachian counties will have access to capacity-building trainings and technical assistance to prepare them for the RFP process which will happen within the next one to two years.

Feedback Sought for Campus Guide on Sexual Violence Prevention

The Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN), in collaboration with the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence, the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Higher Education, and other stakeholders, is in the process of revising ***A Safer Campus: A Guidebook on Prevention and Response to Sexual Assault, Intimate Partner Violence, and Stalking for Ohio Campuses***.

A draft of the updated *Guidebook* is available for public review and comment through July 29.

ODVN encourages domestic violence advocates, preventionists, survivors, students on Ohio campuses and other stakeholders to download and review the document and offer suggestions for edits.



To be accountable for public funds, SAMHSA requires PFS grantees to collect annual outcomes. Ohio’s new on-line ***Ohio Healthy Youth Environments Survey*** (OHYES!) gathers the required PFS data, along with other information helpful for communities.

For more information about OHYES!, please contact info@ohyes.ohio.gov. For more on Ohio’s PFS initiative, email Dawn.Thomas@mha.ohio.gov.

News & Research Roundup

2015 TIC Summit Presentations Available

Presentations from the *2015 Second Annual Trauma-Informed Care Summit: Creating Environments of Resiliency and Hope in Ohio* are now available on the [OhioMHAS Trauma-Informed Care website](#).

National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative Helps Children Recover and Thrive with New Campaign

Raising awareness about the impact of child traumatic stress and what parents and caregivers can do to help children recover and thrive is the focus of a [new public education campaign](#) launched this month by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and its National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative (NCTSI). The campaign, titled "Helping Kids Recover and Thrive," includes new public service announcements (PSAs) in English and Spanish, as well as a website.

New Behavioral Health Publications from SAMHSA

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration released several new behavioral health resources this month. [Racial/Ethnic Differences in Mental Health Service Use Among Adults](#) reports estimates of mental health service utilization among adults in the U.S. within different racial/ethnic groups. Highlights include past year utilization, prescription psychiatric medication use, outpatient and inpatient mental health services and more.

[Quick Guide for Clinicians Based on TIP 57 "Trauma-Informed Care in Behavioral Health Services"](#) equips professional care providers and administrators with information for providing care to people who have experienced trauma or who are at risk of developing trauma stress reactions. The guide addresses prevention, intervention, and treatment issues and strategies.

Duke University Researchers: Childhood Psychiatric Problems May Lead to Difficulties in Adulthood

Children with mental health issues appear to be more likely to have serious problems that make it more difficult to lead successful lives in adulthood, a [new study from the Duke University Medical Center](#) found. According to the study authors, children who had a diagnosed psychiatric condition such as depression, anxiety or substance abuse, were *six times* more likely than children with no mental health issues to have difficulties in adulthood, including addictions, criminal charges, early pregnancies, education failures, residential instability and problems getting or keeping a job. Children with more minor mental health problems that affected their daily life had *three times* the risk of experiencing difficulties in adulthood. Almost 80 percent of participants who had health, legal, financial or social difficulties in young adulthood had mental health issues in childhood, the researchers reported in [JAMA Psychiatry](#).



Depression Often Follows Medical Treatments, Major Illness

The *Tampa Bay Times* [recently reported](#) in depth on depression as a common, yet often unexpected side effect of significant medical treatment or illness. According to the article, a 2011 report from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation said that 34 million U.S. adults — 17 percent of all U.S. adults — "had a mental health disorder such as anxiety or depression along with a chronic health condition such as diabetes, heart disease, back pain or asthma." The *Times* noted that the National Cancer Institute estimates 25 percent of cancer patients experience depression, and the American Heart Association estimates 33 percent of all heart attack patients do as well.

Many Teens Taking Antipsychotic Drugs Haven't Been Diagnosed With Mental Disorder

Many children and teens who take antipsychotic drugs do not have a mental disorder diagnosis, according to a [new study](#). Use of the drugs has been increasing among teens, the researchers found. About 1.19 percent of teens ages 13 to 18 used antipsychotic drugs in 2010, compared with 1.1 percent in 2006. The study found many children and teens treated with antipsychotics had no outpatient or inpatient claim that indicated they had a mental disorder diagnosis: 60 percent of those ages 1-6; 56.7 percent of those ages 7-12; 62 percent of those ages 13-18; and 67.1 percent of those ages 19-24. Study authors noted that antipsychotic drugs are being used in many cases to treat unapproved conditions, including attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and depression. These drugs are approved by the Food and Drug Administration to treat conditions such as bipolar mania, schizophrenia and irritability associated with autism. The results were published in the July 1, 2015 issue of [JAMA Psychiatry](#).



News & Research Roundup cont.

Trauma Tied to Higher Cardiovascular Risk in Women

A history of trauma is associated with increased risk for cardiovascular disease (CVD) in women, according to a study published in *Circulation*. Researchers studied roughly 50,000 participants who were free of CVD at baseline. The women completed questionnaires about their history of trauma (e.g., exposure to natural disasters, unwanted sexual contact) and symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). During the 20-year study, nearly 550 CVD events (myocardial infarction or stroke) occurred. After multivariable adjustment, trauma exposure alone was associated with a 38 percent increased risk for CVD events, compared with no trauma exposure. Trauma exposure, plus four or more PTSD symptoms, was associated with increased risk in partially adjusted analyses, but the association was no longer significant after full adjustment for hypertension, diabetes, hormone therapy and antidepressant use. Study authors said that people exposed to trauma may have unhealthy coping mechanisms, such as emotional suppression, that could lead to negative physical health. They concluded, "Screening for CVD risk and reducing health risk behaviors in trauma-exposed women may be promising avenues for prevention and intervention."

Online Program Aims to Help Veterans Reduce Their Drinking and PTSD Symptoms

A new, free, self-guided online program is designed to help active-duty military and veterans reduce their drinking and symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). VetChange allows veterans to build personalized action plans to handle real-world situations that trigger unhealthy drinking and track their progress over time. Veterans using the site begin by answering questions designed to determine if their drinking is putting them at risk. The questionnaire includes sections on combat experience and trauma experienced during deployment, as well as their responses to those experiences. Three modules help veterans learn basic skills for controlling drinking: managing risky situations; managing thoughts and moods; and developing a support system. The program also includes units that help veterans manage sleep, stress and anger.

DEA Announces 10th National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day — Sept. 26

GotDrugs? The next *National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day* will be held on Sept. 26 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) announced. Take-Back Day provides a safe, convenient and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications. Collection sites will be announced on Sept. 1. During the ninth Prescription Drug Take-Back Day last September, the DEA and its partners collected 209 tons of pills, bringing the total amount of drugs collected over four years to 2,411 tons, or 4.8 million pounds.



CDC Report Says Prescription Opioids to Blame for National Surge in Heroin Abuse

Heroin abuse is rising across the United States, according to a *new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report* that finds the strongest risk factor for a heroin use disorder is a prescription opioid use disorder. People addicted to opioid painkillers are 40 times more likely to abuse or be dependent on heroin, the report concluded. The largest increase in heroin use is among women and white (non-Hispanic) Americans. Young adults and those with household incomes below \$20,000 are most likely to use heroin. Most people who use heroin abuse multiple other substances, including opioid pain relievers and cocaine. More than half a million Americans used heroin in 2013, a nearly 150 percent increase since 2007. Heroin-involved overdose deaths almost doubled from 2011 to 2013. More than 8,200 people died from heroin overdoses in 2013.

RAND Corporation: Teens Who See Medical Marijuana Ads More Likely to Use the Drug

Viewing ads for medical marijuana may influence middle school students to use the drug, according to a *new study from the non-profit Rand Corporation*. Students in sixth through eighth grades who saw ads for medical marijuana were twice as likely as others to have used the drug or to say they intended to use it in the future, the study found. "As prohibitions on marijuana ease and sales of marijuana become more visible, it's important to think about how we need to change the way we talk to young people about the risks posed by the drug," study author Elizabeth D'Amico said. "The lessons we have learned from alcohol — a substance that is legal, but not necessarily safe — may provide guidance about approaches we need to take toward marijuana." The findings are published in *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*.

New Report Shows Significant Decline in Underage Drinking

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration released a *new report* showing a significant decline in underage alcohol consumption among youth aged 12-20 between 2002 and 2013. The report indicates a drop in underage binge drinking, but finds alcohol to still be the most widely-used substance among the nation's youth.



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:

- Aug. 12 — [Leadership Essentials: Roles, Functions and Styles for Leading Treatment Teams](#)
- Aug. 18 — [Job Development Applications for Housing Professionals \(Cleveland\)](#)
- Sept. 2 — [Job Development Applications for Housing Professionals \(Cleveland\)](#)
- Sept. 15 — [Job Development Applications for Housing Professionals \(Columbus\)](#)
- Sept. 16 — [Foundations of Motivational Interviewing, Part 1 \(Mentor\)](#)
- Sept. 22 — [Job Development Applications for Housing Professionals \(Fairfield\)](#)

2015 Regional Children's Forums

Voices for Ohio's Children, in partnership with United Healthcare, will host a series of free regional children's forums throughout the months of July and August. Advocates, educators, parents, child-care providers, social workers, counselors, child-serving agencies, policymakers, physicians and others who work with children are encouraged to attend these sessions. Click [HERE](#) for a list of dates and locations.

SAMHSA Webinar Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act — July 29

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration will host a [free webinar](#) on July 29 from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Webinar participants will hear from expert presenters and panelists about the history and accomplishments of the ADA, the Olmstead decision and the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness program for Americans with behavioral health disabilities. Questions? Contact Amy Smith at Amy.Smith@samhsa.hhs.gov.

Operational Readiness for the ICD-10/DSM-5 Transition — Aug. 5

The Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies will host an [Operational Readiness Training for the ICD-10/DSM 5 Transition](#) on Aug. 5 at Worthington Hills Country Club in Columbus. Lisette Wright, one of the nation's leading behavioral health consultants, will conduct a three-part training aimed at preparing Ohio behavioral health providers for the ICD-DSM transition, which is scheduled to occur on Oct. 1, 2015. The training will also address how behavioral health providers can create an organizational technology roadmap. The training is targeted toward mental health clinicians, program directors and staff involved with coding. 6.5 CEUs will be provided for Ohio Social Workers and Counselors, pending approval.

2015 Addiction Studies Institute — Aug. 12-14

The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center will host its [2015 Addiction Studies Institute](#) Aug. 12-14 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register. Questions? Please call 614.273.1400 or email info@addictionstudiesinstitute.com.

Ninth Annual NORA Ohio Recovery Ride — Aug. 29

The Northern Ohio Recovery Association will help kick off National Recovery Month by hosting its ninth annual [Ohio Recovery Ride](#) on Aug. 29 at the Cleveland Metroparks, Brecksville Reservation, Oak Grove Picnic Area. Non-riders are also welcome. Cost is \$20 and includes a T-shirt, patch, food, beverage and route map for a two-hour motorcycle ride. Register online at www.norainc.org.

26th Annual UMADAOP State Conference — Aug. 31-Sept. 2

Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Programs of Ohio (UMADAOPs) will host its 26th annual state conference [We've Come too Far to Turn Back Now](#) Aug. 31-Sept. 2 at the Kalahari Indoor Waterpark in Sandusky. Cost is \$275. For more information, contact the Lorain UMADAOP at 440.246.4616, ext. 21 or email rwilliams@umadaops.com.

Training Opportunities, cont.

ACT/Raising Safe Kids Facilitator Training — Sept. 9-10

The Partnership for Violence-Free Families in Lima will host an ACT/Raising Safe Kids facilitator training Sept. 9-10. Developed by the American Psychological Association, the ACT Parenting Program was written as a violence-prevention program to reduce child maltreatment. ACT has been accepted by the Ohio Children's Trust Fund as a promising program. Cost is \$250. To register, contact Donna Dickman at 419.549.8530 or email ddickman@pvff.org.

Robby's Voice Race IV Awareness — Sept. 13

Robby's Voice, a grassroots organization in northeast Ohio focused on promoting awareness and education surrounding drug addiction, will host its fourth annual Race IV Awareness 5K Race and 1 Mile Walk with Pancake Breakfast on Sept. 13 at Olmsted Falls Intermediary School. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Sandusky Recovery Walk, Rally — Sept. 19

The Sandusky Artisans Recovery Community Center (SARCC) will host its annual Recovery Walk and Rally on Sept. 19. The Recovery Walk will coincide with the State Theatre's Lake Erie Arts & Film Festival. SARCC will showcase "The Anonymous People" and "Here One Day." Admission is free, but seating is limited to 50 people per showing. The first 200 registrants will receive a free recovery T-shirt. There will also be a free "Recovery Is Beautiful" wristband and a free "Recovery Rock" for those attending, plus fun, food and fellowship. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Save the Date! 13th Annual NADD: State of Ohio IDD/MI Conference — Sept. 21-22

OhioMHAS will partner with the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities and the National Association for the Dually-Diagnosed (NADD) to host the [13th Annual NADD: State of Ohio IDD/MI Conference](#) "Mental Health Aspects: Treatment and Support" on Sept. 21-22 in Columbus. Keynote presenters will include Craig Erickson, M.D., associate professor of psychiatry at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, and Jarrett Barnhill, M.D., from the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. [Register](#) online.

8th Annual RSVP Conference — Sept. 23

The Mental Health and Recovery Board of Ashland County will host its [8th Annual Respect, Success, Value and Purpose \(RSVP\) Conference "Recovery: Our Journey, Our Future"](#) Sept. 23 at the Ashland University Convocation Center. Keynote speakers include Mary Blake from SAMHSA and Wally Kisthardt, Ph.D., MSW. For more information, call Hillary Wetman at 419.281.3139 or email hwertman@ashlandmhrb.org.

Safe Dates - Facilitators Training — Sept. 23

The Partnership for Violence-Free Families in Lima will host a "Safe Dates" facilitators training on Sept. 23. Safe Dates is a teen dating violence prevention program for youth ages 13-17. Cost is \$50. To register, contact Donna Dickman at 419.549.8530 or email ddickman@pvff.org.

Save the Date! Health Educator's Institute 2015 — Oct. 22-23

The Ohio Society for Public Health Education will present the [2015 Health Educator's Institute — The Art of Health Promotion: Tools to Craft a Masterpiece](#) Oct. 22-23 at Deer Creek State Park. Click the link for more information.

Save the Date! Ohio Council 2015 Annual Conference & Exhibit Hall — Oct. 22-23

The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers will hold its Annual Conference & Exhibit Hall on Oct. 22-23 at the Hilton Columbus/Polaris. More information will be available later this year at www.theohiocouncil.org.

International Community Corrections Association Annual Conference — Nov. 8-10

The International Community Corrections Association (ICAA) will present its [23rd Annual Research Conference: Doing What Matters series: Sustaining Impact: Effective Programs, Measurable Outcomes and Strong Organizations](#) Nov. 8-10 at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel in Boston, Mass. An estimated 200-300 participants, including researchers, policy makers, criminal justice practitioners and the formerly justice-involved are expected to attend. The conference will be intergenerational with a special emphasis on the emerging research and implications for policy and practice.