



PICTURED: Members of the Ohio Youth-Led Prevention Network Youth Council energize the crowd; OhioMHAS Director Tracy Plouck with Nashawn Larivere representing Youth MOVE Ohio at the Fifth Annual “We are the Majority” rally and resiliency ring on April 28.

Record Crowd Energizes Fifth Annual “We Are the Majority” Youth Rally and Resiliency Ring

*“Everywhere we go ...
People want to know ...
Who we are ...
So we tell them ...
WE ARE THE MAJORITY!,
THE MIGHTY, MIGHTY MAJORITY!”*

This chant reverberated through downtown Columbus on April 28 as more than 1,800 drug-free youth marched to the Ohio Statehouse during the fifth annual We are the Majority rally and resiliency ring. Preceding the rally at the Statehouse, the youth spent the morning at Genoa Park where they participated in various activities led by the [Ohio Youth-Led Prevention Network](#) (OYLPN) Youth Council and [Youth MOVE Ohio](#). Also as part of the morning was the presentation of awards for best gambling awareness PSA by Ohio for Responsible Gambling. Receiving awards were: I Am Enough, runner-up for most creative PSA; Project PANDA, runner-up for best message; and Strong, winner of both most creative PSA and best message. In addition, motivational speaker [Devin “Trek” Thomas](#) and local alternative pop/rock band [Truslow](#) provided entertainment.

Following Truslow’s performance, the youth marched to the Statehouse for the rally and to form the resiliency ring to show

their support for children’s mental health. Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Director Tracy Plouck, Ohio State Highway Patrol Lieutenant Molly Harris, Rep. Robert Sprague (R-Findlay) and First Lady of Ohio Karen Kasich, among others, spoke to the youth and lauded them for the healthy decisions they have made in their lives and for serving as role models among their peers.

Following the rally, members of the Youth Council and [5 Minutes for Life Ambassadors](#) met with Mrs. Kasich; Ohio Department of Public Safety Director John Born; Maj. Gen. Mark E. Bartman, the Adjutant General, Ohio National Guard; and Start Talking! Director Sarah Smith in the Cabinet Room of the Statehouse to be recognized for their leadership.

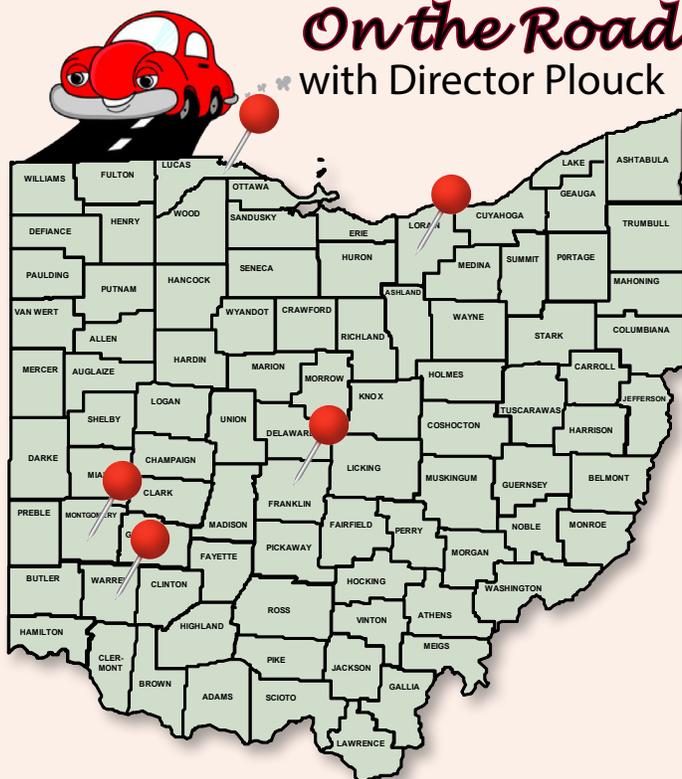
The rally was sponsored by the OYLPN and the Drug-Free Action Alliance, with support from OhioMHAS and the Ohio National Guard. [See more photos.](#)



Sam Beaumier, lead guitar/vocals for Truslow



On the Road with Director Plouck



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

- 4.28 Spoke at the fifth annual "We Are the Majority" youth rally and resiliency ring at the Ohio Statehouse.
- 5.2 Along with Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections Director Gary Mohr and Ohio Department of Public Safety Major Mike Black, participated in a State Director Panel at the 2016 Opiate Conference.
- 5.3 Provided testimony before the Joint Legislative Committee on Multi-System Youth.
- 5.5 Participated in a "New Treatment Options in the Community" panel discussion at the Ohio Community Corrections Association Conference.
- 5.12 Toured the Lebanon Correctional Institution and visited with recovery services staff.
- 5.16 Visited Wright State University's Integrated Health Institute to discuss the development of their recovery-oriented systems of care project; attended OhioMHAS Housing Models Showcase.
- 5.19 Provided remarks at the Toledo State Hospital Reclamation Project's Open House and Cemetery Memorial Event.
- 5.27 Spoke at the grand opening of the Nord Center's Elmcrest Apartments supportive housing complex in Elyria.



(l-r) Lake County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board Executive Director Kim Fraser and State Senator John Eklund (R-Munson Township) speak at a May 13 press conference in Painesville.

Lake County Board Hosts Media Event to Highlight State Efforts to Fight Addiction

The Lake County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board hosted a press conference on May 13 during which State Sen. John Eklund (R-Munson Township) and Andrea Boxill, deputy director of the Governor's Cabinet Opiate Action Team, shared steps Ohio is taking to strengthen its fight against prescription painkiller abuse and heroin addiction.

Sen. Eklund discussed [*Senate Bill 319*](#) (a.k.a. the "Opiate MBR"), which passed the Senate by a unanimous vote on May 25. The bill, he said, **proposes additional reforms** to strengthen oversight by the Ohio Board of Pharmacy, encourage responsible treatment and prevent overdoses. Included in the bill are measures that would: require pharmacy technicians to become certified, tighten rules around Suboxone clinics, expand the availability of the overdose-reversal medication Naloxone and place limits on the amount of opioids that can be prescribed by physicians.

"We can't legislate people's behavior, we can't legislate people's mindset or their mentality, but we can do certain things," said Sen. Eklund. "These are some of those things we can do, and I'm hopeful they're going to make a big difference."

Kilee Yarosh, president of [*Ohio Pharmacy Board*](#), and Kim Fraser, executive director of the [*Lake County ADAMHS Board*](#), also spoke at the event. Director Fraser noted that in 2015 there were 42 unintentional drug overdoses in Lake County.

Briana, a Lake County resident in recovery, closed out the event with a personal story about how the Lake-Geauga Recovery Center helped her break free from a 12-year heroin addiction. "Without help ... I would not be standing here today," she said.



STOP OVERDOSES. CARRY NALOXONE.

Naloxone can reverse
an opiate overdose.

Call 911 in an emergency.
stopoverdoses.ohio.gov



State Launches Public Awareness Campaign to Promote Life-Saving Drug Naloxone in Counties at Highest Risk for Fentanyl Overdoses

Ohio launched a targeted campaign this month to raise awareness about the signs of a drug overdose and to urge family members and friends of people who use drugs to obtain the opiate-overdose-reversal drug naloxone to administer during an overdose while waiting on first-responders to arrive.

The campaign is focused on 15 counties that accounted for 80 percent of Ohio's fentanyl-related overdose deaths in 2014: Butler, Clark, Clermont, Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Lorain, Lucas, Marion, Montgomery, Ross, Scioto, Stark, Summit and Warren.

Ohio has seen a major increase in overdose deaths involving fentanyl, a synthetic narcotic used to treat severe pain that in its prescription form is estimated to be 30 to 50 times more potent than heroin. Ohio had 503 fentanyl-related overdose deaths in 2014 compared to 84 in 2013. This campaign is a collaboration between the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS).

"Drug users may not know when illicit fentanyl has been combined with other drugs like heroin, and they can overdose and die quickly," said ODH Medical Director Dr. Mary DiOrio. "The use of naloxone as quickly as possible is vital to saving lives during all opiate overdoses — but it is especially critical during overdoses involving fentanyl because it can kill quickly. And because of its toxicity, fentanyl overdoses may require more than one dose of naloxone, so it's critical to call 911 immediately."

The public awareness campaign includes two billboards: *carry naloxone* and *know the signs*, a *radio spot*, and mobile and digital ads. They direct people to stopoverdoses.ohio.gov for more information, including how to obtain a naloxone kit without a prescription at participating pharmacies, or through Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided with Naloxone) community programs supported by ODH.

ODH requested assistance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to better understand Ohio's rise in fentanyl-related overdose deaths and how to combat them. After visiting Ohio last fall, CDC issued its report in March, which noted Ohio's comprehensive approach to the opiate crisis and included

recommendations to expand the availability and use of naloxone in the community, and to target public-health responses to high-burden counties.

Ohio's fight against opiate abuse and overdoses during the past five years has included many

initiatives to save lives by expanding the availability and use of naloxone. The current two-year state budget provides \$1 million to purchase naloxone for distribution to first-responders through local health departments. Gov. John R. Kasich recently proposed in the state's mid-biennium review to expand access to naloxone by allowing entities that regularly interact with high-risk individuals, such as treatment centers, halfway homes and schools, to carry naloxone without a distributor license from the Ohio Board of Pharmacy.

Learn more about fentanyl [here](#).

"The use of naloxone as quickly as possible is vital to saving lives..."

— Dr. Mary DiOrio, Medical Director
Ohio Department of Health

'Man Therapy' Debuts in Ohio

In partnership with the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation and OhioMHAS, the Summit County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board has launched an awareness campaign targeted at working-age men to erase the stigma surrounding mental health. Man Therapy™ reshapes the conversation, using humor to cut through stigma and tackle issues like depression, divorce and even suicidal thoughts head on.

Man Therapy™ provides men approaching crisis, and the people who care about them, a place to go and learn more about men's mental health, examine their own mental health and consider a wide array of actions that will put them on the path to treatment and recovery all within an easy-to-access online portal at www.mantherapy.org.

Upon visiting the website, men and their loved ones will find they have a virtual appointment with Dr. Rich Mahogany — a character created to greet visitors, make them feel at ease and provide an overview of what they will find during their visit. Dr. Mahogany is a "man's man" who is dedicated to cutting through the denial with a fresh approach using his rapier wit, odd sense of humor, straightforward approach and practical, useful advice for men. His tone debunks the age-old stigma that says mental health disorders are a sign of weakness.

Resources and tools available on the site include:

- The Man Therapy 20-point Head Inspection — a five-minute online quiz.
- Man Therapies section, with Rich's List of Man Therapy-certified resources: The "Little Black Book" for your brain.
- A veteran's resources section — "Gentlemental Health"
- A "worried about someone" section with resources for a concerned friend or family member.



Man Therapy™ initially launched in Colorado in July 2012, as the result of a unique partnership between Cactus, a Denver-based advertising agency, the Office of Suicide Prevention at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and the Carson J. Spencer Foundation. The program has since expanded to several other states, as well as internationally. So far, around 1,500 new users from 25 Ohio communities have accessed the program information.

"This campaign goes beyond just awareness to really engage men and draw them into the conversation," said Jerry Craig, executive director of the Summit County ADM Board. "We feel it is critical to bring this important tool to Summit County to reach both men and their loved ones. With Man Therapy, you can learn about mental health and ways to increase your wellness ranging from do-it-yourself techniques all the way to professional therapy and resources."

Workplace Employee Psychological Wellbeing Assessment Program Helps BH Providers Address Employee Retention, Morale and Productivity

Employee turnover can exact a huge toll on an organization's bottom line. In addition to the expense of recruiting and training new employees, turnover can negatively impact employee morale and production. This is especially true among behavioral health providers where annual employee turnover rates range anywhere from 25 to 50 percent, compared to national averages of 19 percent across all occupations.

To help behavioral health providers address employee retention and improve morale and productivity, Mental Health America of Franklin County (MHAFC) has developed a research-based *Workplace Employee Psychological Wellbeing* assessment and recommendations programs. The project is supported by grant funding from OhioMHAS.

MHAFC uses a comprehensive questionnaire to assess job satisfaction and turnover intention. That information is then

paired with data gleaned from focus groups, staff interviews, and a review of absenteeism, turnover and exit-interview records to produce a profile of employees' psychological wellbeing.

Using these results, MHAFC then works with senior management to identify areas of strength and weakness, and tailors training programs for employees and managers that help to improve morale and reduce turnover.

"Our goal is to provide the assistance all employers need to get a handle on turnover problems by bolstering their employees' psychological wellbeing. We're developing the expertise to do that and looking forward to the opportunity to help make a difference," said MHA of Franklin County Executive Director Kenton J. Beachy.

For more information about the Workplace Wellbeing program and to request a free consultation, contact Kenton Beachy, MHAFC Executive Director at 614.221.1441 ext. 101.



We Care at Work Program Leader Recognized with 2016 ADAPAO Community Champion Award

Michael Schoenhofer, LISW; executive director, Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Allen, Auglaize & Hardin Counties, was recently honored with the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Association of Ohio (ADAPAO) Community Champion Award, which recognizes leaders for going above and beyond expectations to advance prevention within their community.

We Care at Work, launched by Schoenhofer in 2013, is a training and policy development initiative that creates drug-free workplace programs in his three-county region and links employers to the behavioral health sector for both prevention and treatment services. The program is endorsed by the chambers of commerce in all three counties, and was created in partnership with Working Partners® and Coleman Behavioral Health. We Care at Work has graduated six classes since 2014, accounting for 28 employers and approximately 4,000 employees.

"I am honored to be the recipient of this year's Community Champion Award," said Schoenhofer. "The work we

are doing is having an economic impact in our community. We will continue to work with our partners to expand that impact and help more businesses understand the benefits of getting people into treatment instead of terminating them or turning them away to apply at an employer down the street."

"Mike has been an incredible trailblazer and advocate of the Working Partners® Drug-Free Workforce Community Initiative," said Dee Mason, founder and CEO of Working Partners®. "We Care at Work is a model program that can be implemented in communities across Ohio and the country. We are honored to be associated with this program."



Michael Schoenhofer

Podcasts Showcase Recovery Housing

The Center for Social Innovation has released a three-part **podcast series** on recovery housing. A number of experts from the **National Alliance for Recovery Residences** — including Ohio's own Lori Criss, associate director of the Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers — were interviewed as part of the series.

The series explores the importance of recovery housing in helping communities transform from a culture of addiction to a culture of recovery. Click to listen:

- Part 1: ***The Opposite of Addiction is Connection*** (feat. Lori Criss)
- Part 2: ***Recovery Housing and Homelessness***
- Part 3: ***Recovery Housing: Standards and Best Practices***



Tiny Houses 'Big' Focus of 2nd Annual OhioMHAS Housing Showcase

The 2nd Annual OhioMHAS Housing Showcase, held May 16, proved that sometimes, big things really do come in small packages. This year's Showcase, which was created to highlight various housing models, practices and trends, focused on innovative environments for affordable housing.

The Showcase included presentations from **Nothing into Something Real Estate, Inc.**, which discussed how shipping (cargo) containers can be transformed into affordable housing solutions, Joe Rader from The Fort Hayes Arts and Academic High School of Columbus, and Ann Bischoff of the Star House, who discussed "**tiny houses**" (pictured at right).

The Showcase also featured a panel discussion with subject matter experts on housing and transitional-age youth. Presenters included Linda Kramer from **Daybreak** in Montgomery County, Geoffrey Hollenbach from **Light House Youth Services** in Hamilton County, and Elizabeth Van Hest and Samuel Masters from **Star House** in Franklin County.



Families Take Center Stage at 2016 Suicide Prevention Conference

While research, policy and programming were definitely part of the discussion at the 2016 Suicide Prevention Conference, it was the family experience that took center stage, beginning with a keynote by Clark Flatt (pictured at right), a Tennessee father who founded *The Jason Foundation, Inc.* (JFI), after losing his 16-year-old son in 1997. JFI is a national non-profit that promotes awareness and educational curriculums to help identify at-risk young people and prevent youth suicide.

In Ohio, suicide was the leading cause of death of 10-14 year olds in 2014 according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). It's the second leading cause of death for 12-18 year olds and college-age young people. "If you leave here with a 'not my kid' attitude, I've done a disservice here," Flatt said.

Flatt was joined in a break-out session by third-term Ohio Rep. Marlene Anielski (pictured at left) who became a strong advocate for suicide prevention efforts in schools and colleges after the loss of her 18-year-old son in 2010.

Other keynoters included M. Katherine Shear, M.D., who spoke on Bereavement and *Complicated Grief* After Suicide Loss, and Jeff Bridge, Ph.D., director of the *Center for Suicide Prevention*



View more photos [HERE](#).

and Research at Nationwide Children's Hospital.

While youth suicide rates are high, sharp increases have also been noted among males ages 45 to 54. Ohio has seen a rise in the rate among 30-39 year olds.

Families and communities can help with prevention efforts by knowing the signs of suicide and engaging with those who are at risk. Talking to someone in an informed and caring way doesn't increase risk, it invites conversation and lets the individual know that he or she can get help. "We must target critical windows of time for intervention," said Bridge.



May 6 was "Graduation Day" for 25 law enforcement officers and first responders who completed the Paint Valley Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board 2016 Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training. The training helps to improve responses to situations involving someone with a mental illness or a developmental disability. To date, the Board has trained 106 officers/first responders in Fayette, Highland, Pickaway, Pike and Ross counties. Juni Johnson, executive director of the Paint Valley ADAMH Board said, "It is very important to assure that we have trained officers in our Board region, not only for the safety of our officers, but also for our communities. We are really excited to be continuing to make this training available and have plans to provide training next year."

Governor Takes Action to Ban Synthetic Opioid

This month, Gov. John R. Kasich signed *Executive Order 2016-01K*, authorizing the Ohio State Board of Pharmacy to take emergency action to make a synthetic opioid known as U-47700 a Schedule I controlled substance.

The drug, which experts say has a high potential for abuse and no accepted medical use, has contributed to overdose deaths in Ohio and elsewhere.

The opioid analgesic, developed by Upjohn in the 1970s, is around 7.5 times more potent than morphine. It is sold online and the Internet is now littered with first-hand accounts of U-47700 highs. The route of administration varies by user; some individuals snort a powder form, while others ingest via oral, intravenous or rectal administration. The drug poses a significant risk of respiratory depression and overdose



News & Research Roundup

Suicide Rate on Rise; Experts Say Rising Drug Use May Be Contributing Factor

The suicide rate in the United States rose 24 percent between 1999 and 2014, according to a [new report](#) by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Researchers said increasing drug use may be one of the contributing factors. The economy is another possible factor in the increasing suicide rate, according to a [report in *The Wall Street Journal*](#). Suicide is the tenth-leading cause of death in the U.S., the report noted. The suicide rate continued to increase in the first half of 2015, the CDC found in a separate study. There were more suicides among men than women, but the suicide rate for women increased faster during the study period. Suicides surged among middle-aged men and women, the report found. The suicide rate tripled among young girls, ages 5 to 14, though the actual number of suicides in that age group remains small, the researchers said.

NIMH Seeking Research Input

The National Institute of Mental Health is seeking feedback from the general public on the state of mental illness research and the organization's role in the development of this research. Comments will be used to develop briefing materials that will represent the full diversity of perspectives on mental health research for the incoming NIMH Director. The deadline to submit comments is June 30. Click [HERE](#) for instructions.



CDC: Too Many Young Children With ADHD Receiving Medicine as First Treatment

Too many children ages 2 to 5 who are diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) are receiving medication as the first treatment, before behavioral therapy is tried, according to a [new CDC report](#). According to the CDC, about 75 percent of young children with ADHD receive medicine as treatment. Only about half of young children with ADHD enrolled in Medicaid and 40 percent with employer-sponsored insurance receive psychological services, including the recommended first-line treatment, behavioral therapy. Behavioral therapy improves ADHD symptoms without the side effects of medicine, the CDC noted in the report.

FDA Warning: Abilify Tied to Impulse Control Problems

The atypical antipsychotic drug aripiprazole (Abilify, Abilify Maintena, Aristada) may trigger loss of impulse control, leading to "compulsive or uncontrollable urges to gamble, binge eat, shop and have sex," the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#) [warned](#) earlier this month. New warnings will be added to labels and patient medication guides for aripiprazole products. The FDA noted that compulsive gambling was already included on the product's labels as a known adverse effect, but event reports submitted to the agency point to a wider variety of impulse-control problems. These are similar to those previously seen with dopamine agonist drugs used in Parkinson's disease such as pramipexole (Mirapex) and rotigotine (Neupro). The FDA recommended that physicians discuss these newly recognized risks with patients and caregivers, and that providers should quiz patients about "any new or increasing urges" while taking the drug. Aripiprazole products are approved for schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, Tourette syndrome, irritability in autistic disorders and for depression, in combination with traditional antidepressants.



Ketamine Lifts Depression via a Byproduct of its Metabolism

National Institutes of Health researchers and grantees have discovered that ketamine rapidly lifts depression via a byproduct of its metabolism. This metabolite singularly reversed depression-like behaviors in mice without triggering any of the anesthetic, dissociative or addictive side effects associated with ketamine. [Read more.](#)

Poison Control Centers Report Jump in E-Cigarette Poisonings Among Children

Poison control centers throughout the country have seen a sharp increase in calls about young children's exposure to e-cigarettes. The biggest threat appears to be ingestion of liquid nicotine, according to a [new study by Nationwide Children's Hospital](#). Young children exposed to e-cigarettes appear to suffer worse health effects than those exposed to regular cigarettes, the researchers report in the journal [Pediatrics](#). The number of e-cigarette exposures in children younger than 6 years old increased 1,500 percent between 2012 and 2015. During that period, poison control centers in the U.S. received more than 29,000 calls related to e-cigarette, nicotine and tobacco product exposures among children younger than 6. E-cigarettes accounted for 14 percent of those calls, while traditional cigarettes accounted for about 60 percent of exposures, and other tobacco products accounted for 16 percent of calls. Children under age 2 accounted for almost all cigarette and other tobacco exposures, and 44 percent of e-cigarette exposures.



News & Research Roundup, cont.

Experts Raise Alarms About Marijuana “Dabbing”

Medical experts are concerned about marijuana “dabbing,” a potentially dangerous way of using the drug. According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), *dabbing* is a method used to convert marijuana into a concentrate. It uses butane, which is highly flammable, to extract THC from the cannabis plant. THC is the psychoactive chemical in marijuana. This process has resulted in violent explosions, the DEA noted. While marijuana in its traditional plant form has a THC concentration of about 20 percent, the wax used for dabbing can have a concentration of up to 80 percent, according to the DEA. Many people use vaporizers and vape pens, which are similar to e-cigarettes. They squeeze the extract into the chamber inside the pen and inhale. The marijuana extract is known as shatter, butter and honey.

New Film Looks at Teen Stimulant Abuse

The Partnership for Drug-Free Kids released *Breaking Points*, a short documentary that explores the stress and pressure teens face every day, and the unhealthy ways they cope, including the abuse of prescription stimulants not prescribed to them. The film includes candid perspectives from high-school and college students, as well as nationally recognized experts, challenging the misperceived “safety” and effectiveness of using prescription stimulants without a doctor’s prescription. It serves as a catalyst to inform discussions about what parents and communities can do to support teens struggling to manage stress. View the [trailer](#) and learn more about the film.



CDC Offers Online Training for Agency Spokespersons

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Division of Community Health has made its spokesperson training available as a self-paced, online course. The course is designed to prepare public health professionals to serve as spokespersons and deliver consistent messaging about activities in their communities. The course is available through CDC Train at cdc.train.org. You will need to create an account and type “Spokesperson” into the search box. It should be the first result shown or you can use the Course ID 1058892.

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:

- June 21 — [Job Development Applications for Housing Professionals \(Columbus\)](#)
- June 21 — [Changing the Conversation to Support Housing Stability \(Athens\)](#)
- June 23 — [Job Development Applications for Housing Professionals \(Parma\)](#)
- June 29 — [Changing the Conversation to Support Housing Stability \(Mentor\)](#)
- Aug. 10 — [Regional Meetings for Integrated Behavioral Healthcare \(Akron\)](#)
- Oct. 19-20 — [2016 Evidence-Based Practices Conference](#)

Children of Incarcerated Parents Regional Trainings

OhioMHAS, in partnership with the Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program (UMADAOP) will host a series of regional trainings to provide an overview of the Children of Incarcerated Parents project. Upcoming dates and locations include: [Akron UMADAOP - June 24](#), [Cincinnati UMADAOP - July 11](#), [Lima UMADAOP - July 12](#) and [Columbus UMADAOP - July 28](#). Lunch is provided. For more information, contact Benjamin Davis at 567.307.7299 or mansfieldciop@gmail.com.

CARF 2016-17 BH Update Webinar — June 21

The OhioMHAS Office of Licensure and Certification is pleased to sponsor a free webinar on June 21 at 1 p.m. to review the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) International’s [2016-2017 Behavioral Health Standards Manual](#). The presentation will be led by Michael W. Johnson, managing director of behavioral health for CARF International. Register [HERE](#).

Training Opportunities, cont.

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. A number of suicide prevention sessions will also be included. Cost is \$100. Register online at www.OPECconference.com.

2016 Addiction Studies Institute — July 20-22

The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center's Talbot Hall will present the 2016 Addiction Studies Institute on July 20-22 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. The Addiction Studies Institute is the largest Midwest conference of its kind providing an array of dynamic educational choices for the chemical dependency counselor, social worker, prevention specialist, criminal justice professional, clergy, physician, marriage and family therapist, nurse, and other healthcare specialists. In addition to general sessions, participants can select from more than 55 concurrent sessions. These sessions range from entry-level to advanced in scope. [View the conference website](#) for more information.

National Conference on Addiction Disorders — Aug. 18-19

Join addiction treatment and behavioral healthcare professionals of all types working together to "Take Recovery to New Heights" at the [2016 National Conference on Addiction Disorders](#), Aug. 18-21 in Denver. The conference is recommended for addiction and mental health therapists, counselors, social workers, administrators, physicians and nurses and program executives. Click the link for complete details.

Save the Date: Integration of Trauma-Informed Care and Primary Healthcare — Sept. 29

The Northwest Ohio regional Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) Collaborative is sponsoring a free workshop on the integration of TIC and primary healthcare on Sept. 29 from 9 a.m. to noon. More details will be available in the coming months.

2016 International Community Corrections Association Annual Resrch Conference — Oct. 2-5

The International Community Corrections Association (ICCA) will host its annual research conference in Toronto Oct. 2-5. Click [HERE](#) to learn about this year's plenary presenters. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

2016 Health Educators Institute — Oct. 21-22

The Ohio Society for Public Health Education ([Ohio SOPHE](#)) will host its 2016 Health Educators Institute, *The Many Faces of Health Education: One Shared Goal*, Oct. 20-21 at Mohican State Park. Registration information will be available later this summer at <http://www.ohiosophe.org/>. Conference organizers are accepting [presentation abstracts](#) through July 1 at 5 p.m. Questions? [Contact](#) Ohio SOPHE Board member Dr. Rob Braun.

Children of Addicted Parents (CAP) Conference — Nov. 1

PreventionFIRST! is partnering with Cincinnati Children's Hospital and Children of Addicted Parents to host "Impact of the Heroin Epidemic on Our Children, The Silent Victims," on Nov. 1 at the Sabin Auditorium at Children's Hospital. Physicians, nurses, social workers, psychologists, early intervention personnel, children protective (CPS) workers, law enforcement personnel, foster parents and family members are encouraged to attend. In addition to information presented on the realities of the impact of addiction, participants will be encouraged to share their own experiences and engage to be a part of the solution. Click [HERE](#) for more information.



2016 OPIATE CONFERENCE

Ohio's seventh annual Opiate Conference drew more than 1,300 individuals interested in creating solutions within their communities to fight the opiate epidemic to Columbus May 2-3.

View more [photos](#). Download [presentations](#).