

OhioMHAS Announces \$10M for Addiction Recovery Housing

MBR, Capital Investments to Add Minimum of 660 Beds

This month, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) announced \$10 million in funding to strengthen and expand housing options for Ohioans seeking a fresh start in recovery from addiction. The funding, comprised of \$5 million in operating funds set aside in the Mid-Biennium Review, House Bill 483, and another \$5 million appropriated in the State Fiscal Year 2015-16 Capital Budget Bill, will expand Ohio's **recovery housing** capacity by nearly 660 beds. These funds are a result of working with members of the legislature to prioritize funding for recovery housing in response to a need clearly identified in communities.

"Recovery housing supports long-term recovery success and helps individuals working to overcome addiction live productive lives," said OhioMHAS Director Tracy Plouck. "The opiate crisis has effectively changed the face of addiction in many communities, and making these timely investments undoubtedly will improve access to treatment, recovery and stability," she added, noting that priority was given to communities that previously lacked recovery housing resources.

Recovery housing is characterized as a safe and healthy living environment that promotes abstinence from alcohol and other drugs and enhances participation and retention in traditional clinical treatment. Residents benefit from peer support and accountability, and gain valuable relapse prevention, case management and employment skills training as they transition to living independently and productively in the community. Recovery housing programs are typically classified by one of four broad categories — or "levels" — as defined by the **National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR)**. These include: fully peer-run homes (Level I), monitored peer-run residences with a dedicated house manager (Level II), supervised residences with paid staff (Level III) and service-provider residences with 24 hours a day, seven days a week staff (Level 4). Many programs are engineered to meet specific needs or populations such as language, gender, women with children, age, co-occurring disorders, medication status and prison re-entry.

Longitudinal studies of peer-run recovery homes have demonstrated that after 24 months, when compared to individuals who returned directly to their communities of origin after treatment, peer-run housing residents had significantly better outcomes. Chief among those outcomes are decreased substance use, decreased rates of incarceration, higher rates of employment and increased income.

New Recovery Housing Resources*



Total number of proposed beds: 657
Funding allocated: Up to \$9,776,910
*As of Nov. 7, 2014

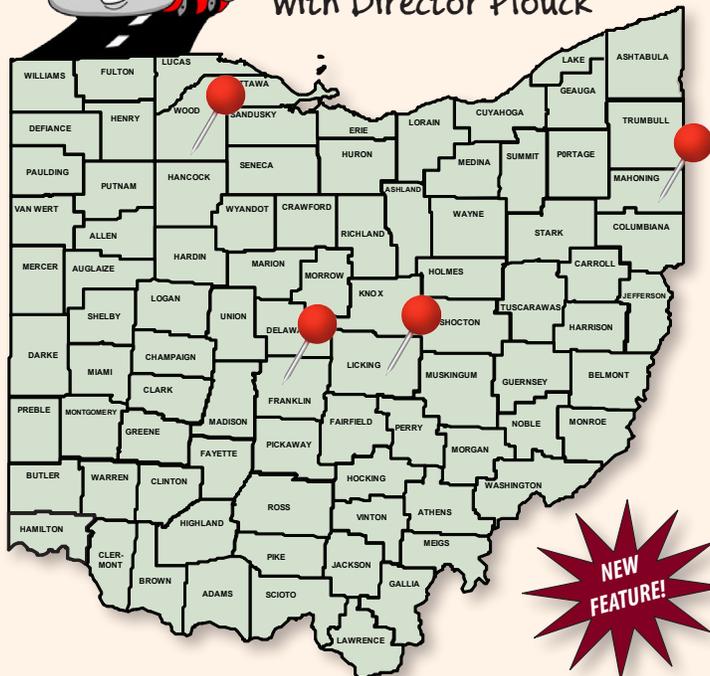
In 2013, OhioMHAS tapped the expertise of the Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers (Ohio Council) and the Center for Social Innovation to commission a statewide environmental scan of recovery housing resources. The resulting **Recovery Housing in the State of Ohio: Findings and Recommendations from an Environmental Scan report** provided an in-depth look at the current state of recovery housing throughout communities in Ohio as they strive to support people in their lifelong recovery from alcohol and drug addiction. Among other findings, the report cited a need to enhance and expand recovery housing, especially in light of the opiate epidemic.

"The scan identified effective models and key elements of recovery housing and the technical expertise, cultural competence, community capacity, infrastructure and financial capital necessary to develop and operate additional recovery housing," said Plouck. "The report also explored the legal and regulatory considerations for creating policies that align with the goals of recovery housing and recommended next steps for meeting the need for recovery housing in the State of Ohio. I am pleased that working with the legislature, we are able to make investments today are an outgrowth of that important work."

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about OhioMHAS housing priorities.



On the Road with Director Plouck



It's been a busy start to the fall season for OhioMHAS Director Tracy Plouck as she visited a number of community providers and provided policy updates to key stakeholder groups. Each month, we'll highlight some of the Director's visits and public engagements in this column.

Below is a summary of her recent travels:

- 10/21 Visited Licking County 911 Communication Center
- 10/27 Toured Village Network reception center and facility (Franklin County)
- 10/28 Provided remarks at Ohio Family and Children First (OFCE) Coordinators Association annual meeting
- 10/30 Spoke at Wood County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Board Annual Dinner Meeting
- 11/5 Brief remarks at Youngstown Help Hotline Crisis Center Fall Workshop; visited Belmont Pines Hospital
- 11/13 Spoke at the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio board meeting about OhioMHAS Housing priorities
- 11/20 Along with Ohio Medicaid Director John McCarthy, providing testimony before the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee about Medicaid expansion

NAMI Ohio Highlights Ohio's CIT Efforts at International Conference

NAMI Ohio's Betsy Johnson, and partners from the Ohio Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence — Dr. Mark Munetz and Michael Woody — recently presented at the CIT International Conference in Monterey, Calif. CIT stands for Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) and involves a week-long training designed to help law enforcement officers identify and respond to individuals with mental illness who are in crisis.

The topic of the Ohio team's workshop was "Bottoms Up! Top Down! Ohio's approach to CIT." Their presentation focused on how Ohio's state-supervised, county-administered system of government lends itself to a bottom-up, top-down approach to CIT. "It allows us to maximize state resources and provide technical assistance, while enabling local communities to customize their programs to meet local needs," said Johnson.

"While we often complain about Ohio's home rule form of government, CIT is one example of how it can work to our advantage when leaders at the state and local level work in collaboration for the benefit of the community," Johnson explained. "When it comes to CIT, it is a win for the state, a win for the community and, most importantly, a win for those with mental illness and their families who experience the benefits of CIT first hand." Click [HERE](#) for more information about Ohio's CIT efforts.



PASRR Bureau Announces Expedited Pre-Admission Screening Process

On Nov. 16, the OhioMHAS Bureau of Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) took an ambitious step toward assuring outstanding customer service to both individuals diagnosed with mental illness, and to the operators of psychiatric hospitals/units who provide their care. PASRR implemented an expedited Pre-Admission Screening process for patients seeking long-term care after being discharged from psychiatric hospitals/units. For more on this process, please refer to [training materials](#) available on the OhioMHAS website, [read](#) a list of Frequently Asked Questions or send an email: expeditedprocess@mha.ohio.gov.

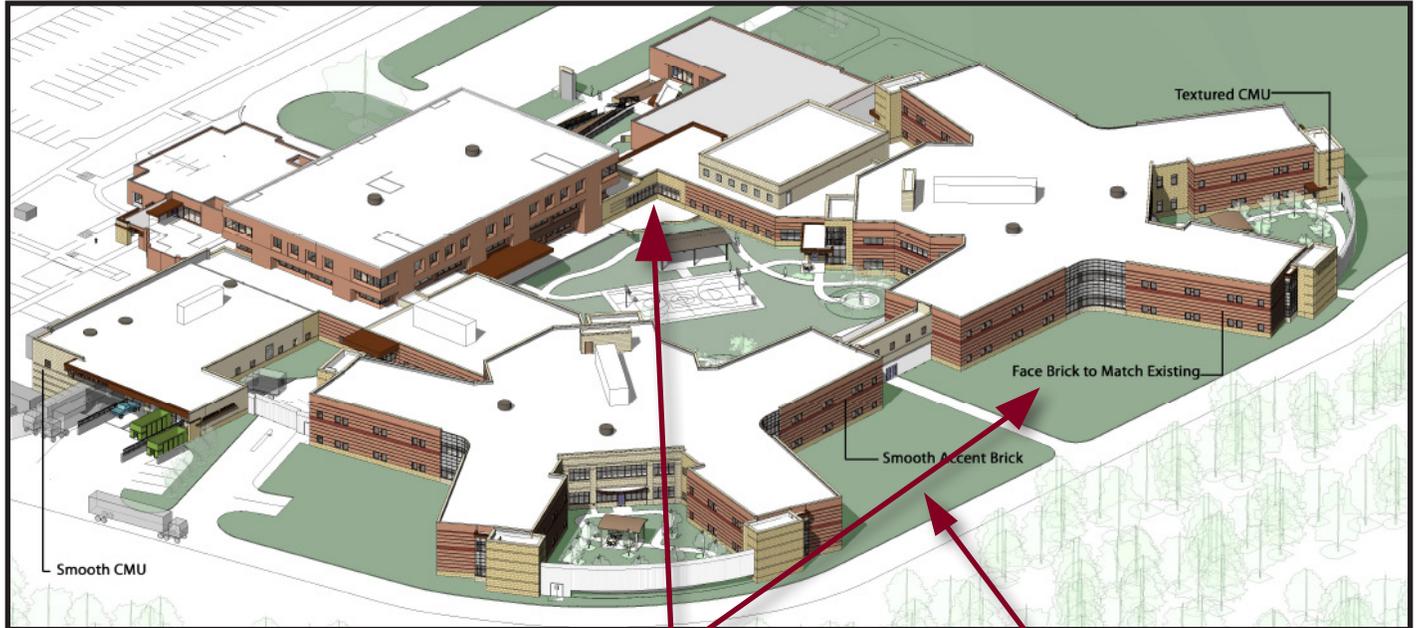
SURVEY REMINDER: OhioMHAS Public Affairs Team Needs Your Feedback!

Your opinion matters! As part of our ongoing efforts to ensure we are meeting the needs of our various stakeholders, we are asking for your assistance in completing a [brief survey](#) to help us assess the effectiveness of our various communications vehicles. Here's your opportunity to tell us how we're doing, and how we might evolve our communications efforts (NewsNow, e-Update, social media, website) to better meet your needs. Deadline to complete the online survey is **5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12.**

//// Hospital Headlines

Construction Progresses at Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare

Construction crews continue to make significant progress on the three-year expansion project at Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare, OhioMHAS' regional psychiatric hospital in Northfield. The project, which broke ground on July 18, 2013, will expand the hospital's footprint by more than 100,000 square feet. Ten patient units, a gymnasium, courtyards and energy center will result from new construction, and renovation of admissions and clinical areas will follow. The photos below provide a glimpse of where things stand as of fall 2014.



Volunteer Group Helps SBH Patients Give to Others, Strengthen Own Recovery

In response to patients' strong desire to engage in meaningful work, occupational therapists Laura Menze and Brooke Frontiera began a volunteer group for patients at Summit Behavioral Healthcare (SBH).

Patients are invited to participate in this treatment mall group to serve non-profit organizations while hospitalized, often for an extended time-frame secondary to involvement in the criminal justice system. By participating in this group, patients not only support meaningful causes and strengthen their self-efficacy and self-esteem, but also develop work skills and are invited to imagine the possibility of engaging, productive occupations within the community, both paid or unpaid.

The volunteer group of approximately 10 patients meets weekly for an hour, during which time several projects are completed. Each project is tailored to different skill levels, thereby supporting client-centered and directed care. Patients are recognized with certificates when they have achieved five hours of community service, as well as additional recognition for each additional three hours of service.

Since the group's launch this past April, nearly two dozen patients have partici-

pated, collectively offering more than 125 hours of community service.

Service projects have included:

- **Lydia's House:** Made celebratory cards for residents, as well as holiday ornaments to give to organization volunteers
- **Crayons to Computers:** Completed various assembly tasks, including making luggage tags that were placed on book bags that were filled and distributed to local children
- **Ronald McDonald House:** Assembled craft packs and made journals for guest rooms
- **American Cancer Society:** Sewed pillows that make riding in a car more comfortable for individuals with a port during chemotherapy
- **Peaslee Neighborhood Center's Early Learning Center:** Planted seed trays that filled the community garden and were tended to by the children of the community
- **The Healing Center:** Made baby blankets to give to needy individuals
- **St. Jude's Children's Hospital:** Sewed headbands for patients

By partnering with local organizations and describing the clients served and services offered at SBH, as well as sharing

about the positive work done by group participants, stigma related to mental illness is lessened.

"Often patients have been the receivers of community services, and so they



Some of the items made by SBH patients and donated to others.

voice great meaning associated with the opportunity to give back," said Menze. She added, "Looking at all of the group members excitedly serving others, it is clear that this group is supporting recovery.

By decentralizing illness symptoms and forensic status, shared humanity and individual strengths are emphasized — both critical components to recovery and a meaningful life."

HBH Regional Conference Explores Ohio's New Civil Commitment Law

Heartland Behavioral Healthcare in Massillon hosted its second annual regional conference, *Opposition or Opportunity: Court-Ordered Outpatient Treatment*, on Oct. 15 to examine the impact of **Senate Bill 43**, which enacted significant changes to laws governing the **civil commitment** of and treatment provided to persons with a mental illness.

Presenters included: State Rep. Peter Stautberg (R-Anderson Township) and Judge Thomas Swift of Trumbull County, as well as a panel discussion moderated by OhioMHAS legal staff that featured: Kristen Henry of Disability Rights Ohio; Rachele Martin, executive director of NAMI of Franklin County; Jack Cameron, executive director of the Ohio Empowerment Coalition, Judge R.R. Denny Clunk of Stark County; Attorney Daniel Letson; Judge Robert Rusu, Jr. of Mahoning County; and Brian Stettin, policy director of the Treatment Advocacy Center.



PICTURED: An expert panel of judges, attorneys and advocates share their thoughts on court-ordered treatment. At right, HBH CEO Jeff Sims welcomes attendees.



University of Cincinnati Researchers Secure \$900K Grant to Attack Hep C Among Needle Users in 21 Ohio Counties

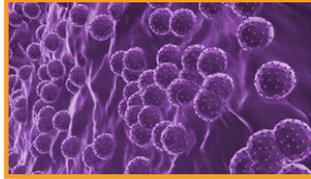
Researchers from the University of Cincinnati have been awarded a \$900,000 grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to combat the spread of **Hepatitis C** among intravenous drug users.

Dr. Judith Feinberg, professor of internal medicine, will be the principal investigator on the three-year grant. She will work with Erin Winstanley, assistant professor of health outcomes, to identify interventions for young people — ages 18-30 — who inject drugs and either already have Hepatitis C or are at risk of contracting the disease.

The UC researchers will target 21 rural counties hardest hit by the heroin epidemic, including: Adams, Athens, Brown,

Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Fayette, Gallia, Greene, Highland, Hocking, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Montgomery, Pike, Preble, Ross, Scioto, Vinton and Warren.

The project, known as the **Southern**



Ohio Prevents Hepatitis Project (StOPHeP), will identify and provide outreach and treatment options for those most at risk. Outreach workers will recruit young

injection drug users by working with drug treatment programs in Dayton and Athens; syringe exchange and substance abuse education programs operating in Portsmouth and Cincinnati; and through social networking and texting to connect with those at risk.

Participants will be tested for hepatitis and HIV. Those who are infected will be referred to area physicians for medical care.

Children Matter! in Montgomery County

The Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Board received a \$3 million *System of Care Expansion Implementation Cooperative Agreement* from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to implement Children Matter! Montgomery County (CMMC). CMMC is a high-fidelity wrap-around service for children ages 5-14 who have complex mental health diagnoses and juvenile justice involvement. The initiative, which is expected to serve more than 2,000 children over the life of the grant, creates a single point of contact for coordinating care across all child-serving entities. Modeled after the evidence-based **Wrap-around Milwaukee Program** and aligned with the State of Ohio's **System of Care Expansion Plan**, CMMC aims to avoid service duplications while improving health outcomes. Specific strategies include care coordination through the creation of child advocate positions and tiered development teams, which involve multi-system representatives who create individualized case plans. Services are culturally and linguistically competent and community-based, and care coordination is enhanced through electronic records sharing. Other services include: prevention programming, trauma-informed competency training, family engagement and social marketing activities. The project is supported through a financing plan that uses a pooled or "blended" payment model via multiple child-serving organizations. Applications are currently being accepted to fill a variety of positions for this project. Interested applicants should contact Andrea Hoff at 937.443.0416 ext. 104 or email ahoff@mcadamhs.org.



HELPING HEROES HEAL OhioMHAS and NAMI teamed up to provide Mental Health First Aid training to the Marine Corps Family Support Community (pictured above) on Oct. 11 and Oct. 18. OhioMHAS also participated in the **Central Ohio Homeless Veterans Stand Down** on Oct. 21.

Holiday Shoppers: Be savvy and be safe with tips from STEADY U Ohio

Management, staff and customers can work together to prevent falls

As holiday shopping season gets into full swing, the STEADY U Ohio initiative reminds Ohioans that there are things they can do to prevent falls during the hustle and bustle of bargain hunting. Older adults are at increased risk for falls and fall-related injuries, and the chances of a fall increase when people are rushing around or distracted by crowds and sales. The Ohio Council of Retail Merchants and the Golden Buckeye Program have partnered with **STEADY U Ohio**, an initiative of the Ohio Department of Aging, to provide these tips for shoppers to prevent falls:

- Shop at off-peak times to avoid crowds and long waits. Bring someone with you who can wait in line for you while you sit and rest.
- Report slipping hazards, such as spills, loose rugs or mats, and unsafe sidewalks or stairs to store staff immediately.
- Avoid walking around items blocking aisles or displays that obstruct your view of other shoppers and obstacles. Tell store staff that you think these are hazardous.
- Ask store staff for help carrying heavy or bulky packages or bags to your vehicle. Avoid carrying large, low-hanging bags that can trip you.
- If you use a cane or walker, always shop with it or take advantage of the mobility scooters many stores provide if you could be on your feet for longer than you usually find comfortable.
- Tell store staff if you see anybody behaving in an unsafe manner.
- If you fall, even if you're not hurt, notify store staff and management right away so that they can document the incident and take steps to prevent future accidents.



Don't shop 'til you drop!

"Falls are the leading cause of injury-related hospitalization and death among Ohioans age 65 and older," said Bonnie K. Burman, Sc.D., director of the Ohio Department of Aging, which operates STEADY U and Golden Buckeye. "However, falls are not a normal part of aging, and most falls can be prevented. Knowing your surroundings and your abilities are important to ensure a falls-free holiday season."

STEADY U Ohio is a comprehensive falls prevention initiative led by Gov. John R. Kasich and the Ohio Department of Aging, and supported by Ohio government and state business partners to strengthen existing falls prevention activities, identify opportunities for new initiatives and coordinate a statewide educational campaign to bring falls prevention to the forefront of planning for individuals, families, health care providers, business and community leaders, and all Ohioans.



Newark's Place Next Door Opens

Adults in Licking County who have severe and persistent mental illnesses and are in need of stable housing have more options now thanks to the Oct. 31 grand opening of the Place Next Door in Newark. The new facility, operated by The Main Place, received financial backing from OhioMHAS, Mental Health and Recovery of Licking and Knox Counties and the Corporation for Supportive Housing.

Main Place broke ground on the \$1.4 million consumer-operated center in November 2013. Following the ribbon cutting, staff invited the public inside for a **tour**.

The Place Next Door features 10 permanent supportive housing units. Residents each have his or her own one-bedroom apartment with a kitchen, as well as access to common areas, a laundry room and outdoor spaces. Residents may stay as long as they need access to Main Place's resources.

Ted Jones, president of the Main Place's board, told visitors gathered for the ceremony, "It's not about sticks and bricks. It's about the people who will move in to mend and heal."

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:

[*Projections of National Expenditures for Treatment of Mental and Substance Use Disorders, 2010-2020*](#) provides policymakers with essential information about treatment service expenditures for mental health disorders and substance use disorders, sources of financing and spending trends over time for the period 2010 through 2020.

[*Addressing the Specific Behavioral Health Needs of Men*](#) equips clinicians with practical guidance to address the needs of men in recovery. Addresses screening and assessment of men, treatment issues for men, working with specific populations of men and male-appropriate treatment modalities and settings.

[*Talking With Children: Tips for Caregivers, Parents, and Teachers During Infectious Disease Outbreaks*](#) equips parents, caregivers and teachers with tips for helping children manage their stress during an infectious disease outbreak, such as Ebola. Explains reactions children, preschool to adolescence, may have and the support adults can provide to help them.

[*Coping with Stress During Infectious Disease Outbreaks*](#) offers tips people can use to cope with stress during an outbreak of an infectious disease, such as Ebola. Explains common signs of stress, how to recognize when to get help and practical ways to manage and relieve the stress by taking care of oneself.

[*SAMHSA's Concept of Trauma and Guidance for a Trauma-Informed Approach*](#) offers a framework for how an organization can become trauma-informed. Includes a definitions of trauma and trauma-informed approach, and provides six key principles and 10 implementation domains.

[*Results from the 2013 National Household Survey on Drug Use and Health*](#): Summary of National Findings reports results from a survey on illicit drugs, alcohol and tobacco among people aged 12 years or older. Focuses on trends between 2012 and 2013 and from 2002 to 2013, as well as differences among population groups.

NIMH Study: Rapid Agent Restores Pleasure-Seeking Ahead of Other Antidepressant Action

A drug being studied as a fast-acting mood-lifter restored pleasure-seeking behavior independent of — and ahead of — its other antidepressant effects, in a National Institutes of Health trial. Within 40 minutes after a single infusion of [*ketamine*](#), treatment-resistant, depressed [*bipolar disorder*](#) patients experienced a reversal of a key symptom — loss of interest in pleasurable activities — which lasted up to 14 days. Brain scans traced the agent's action to boosted activity in areas at the front and deep in the right hemisphere of the brain. Long used as an anesthetic and sometimes club drug, ketamine and its mechanism-of-action have lately been the [*focus of research*](#) into a potential new class of rapid-acting antidepressants that can lift mood within hours instead of weeks. The findings add to mounting evidence in support of the antidepressant efficacy of targeting this neurochemical pathway. However, ketamine is not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as a treatment for depression. It is mostly used in veterinary practice, and abuse can lead to hallucinations, delirium and amnesia. The findings appear in the journal [*Translational Psychiatry*](#).

Self-Harming Teens More Likely to Develop Substance Use Problems

Teenagers who harm themselves are more likely to develop substance use problems later in life, compared with their peers who do not engage in self-harm, according to a [*new study*](#). Nearly 5,000 16-year-olds were asked whether they had ever hurt themselves on purpose in any way, such as by cutting themselves or taking too many pills. They were also asked if they had ever seriously wanted to kill themselves. The study found about 19 percent of the teens had a history of self-harm, and most had not sought professional help. The teens were followed for five years. Those who had a history of self-harm without suicidal intent were more likely to develop mental health problems, including depression and anxiety, than their peers. They were more likely to harm themselves and to develop substance use problems, the researchers reported in the journal [*BMJ*](#).

Nearly 1 in 20 U.S. Children Impacted by FASD

New research suggests that as many as one in 20 U.S. children may have health or behavioral problems related to alcohol exposure before birth. [*HealthDay News*](#) recently reported that researchers found an estimated 2.4 percent-4.8 percent of children have some kind of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). The researchers found that six to nine of every 1,000 children had [*Fetal Alcohol Syndrome*](#), and between 11 and 17 per 1,000 children had Partial Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. [*Findings*](#) from the study appear in the November print issue of [*Pediatrics*](#).

News & Research Roundup, cont.

Partnership for Drug-Free Kids Releases New Above the Influence/Medicine Abuse Project Toolkit

The Partnership for Drug-Free Kids has released a new Above the Influence (ATI)/Medicine Abuse Project (MAP) *toolkit* that enhances existing ATI program efforts and further's its mission with new individual and group activities that can help teens make healthier decisions with the support of adults who value them. This turn-key resource includes teen-informed activities that can be used with youth 12-17 years old in a variety of community settings to boost confidence and prevent risk-taking behaviors, including alcohol and drug abuse. A 10-minute video entitled "*Not Prescribed*", is also a key feature of the toolkit and tells the four real life stories of families impacted by medicine abuse.

Teens Less Likely to Drink if Their Communities Have Strong Social Hosting Laws

A new study finds teenagers are less likely to drink at parties if their community has strong social hosting laws. These laws hold adults responsible if teens drink on their property, even if the adults claim they were unaware that underage drinking was taking place. Study authors looked at 50 communities in California, half of which had social hosting laws. Teens were less likely to say they drank at parties if they lived in communities with especially strong social hosting laws. The findings are published in the *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*. In Ohio, Drug Free Action Alliance addresses social hosting through its *Parents Who Host, Lose the Most* awareness campaign.

WHO: Making Naloxone More Widely Available Could Prevent 20,000 U.S. Deaths

Increasing the availability of the opioid-overdose antidote naloxone could prevent more than 20,000 deaths in the United States annually, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). About 69,000 people die worldwide from overdoses of heroin or other opioids each year, WHO estimates. A growing number of states, *including Ohio*, have passed laws increasing access to naloxone. As of September 2014, there were 24 states with such laws. Most of the laws allow doctors to prescribe naloxone to friends and family members of a person who abuses opioids. The laws also remove legal liability for prescribers and for those who administer naloxone. In addition, 17 states and the District of Columbia have passed "Good Samaritan" laws, which provide limited legal immunity for people who call for help for a person who is overdosing. These laws were passed in response to concerns that people who are present during an overdose may hesitate to call 911 because they fear legal consequences.



Peer Support Specialists Nominated for Prestigious National 'Voice Award'

Twin Valley Behavioral Healthcare, one of six OhioMHAS regional psychiatric hospitals, has nominated its team of peer support specialists for a national *Voice Award* from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The Voice Award program honors consumer/peer leaders in recovery from mental and/or substance use disorders who play a vital role in raising awareness and understanding of behavioral health problems.

Pictured at left: Front row (left to right) Susan L. Cross, client rights specialist, M.S.Ed.P.C.; and Thomas Hayes, CCLS, CPS-A/MH. Back row (left to right) Joe Fields, CPS-A/MH; Michael Seymour; and Kevin Butler, BA, CPS-A/AH. Not pictured: Chad Wellman and Jason McGill.



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.

Hancock County to Host ROSC, MAT Trainings — Nov. 20

The Hancock County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board will host *two trainings* — *Treating Addictions: Best Practice Today with Community Health* and *Understanding Medication-Assisted Treatment and Recovery* — on Nov. 20. For more information, including presenter details, locations and registration, visit: www.yourpathtohealth.org.

2014 Ohio Infant Mortality Summit — Dec. 3-4

The Ohio Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality will host the 2014 Infant Mortality Summit "Turning up the Volume on Infant Mortality" Dec. 3-4 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. Click [HERE](#) for registration information.

Suicide Prevention: How to Help — Dec. 4

Recovery Resources will host Suicide Prevention: How to Help, a non-clinical training on Dec. 4 from 2-4 p.m. Participants will learn to recognize risk factors and warning signs for suicide; discuss facts and myths associated with suicide; learn how to address concerns with family, friends and co-workers; and learn about professional resources. Cost is \$30. [Register](#) online.

Ohio Youth-Led Prevention Network Adult Leader Summit — Dec. 5

Register today to attend the Ohio Youth-Led Prevention Network Adult Leader Summit "Creating Opportunities for Youth to Lead: The Critical Role of Adult Allies" on Dec. 5 at the Quest Conference Center in Columbus. The Summit is for all adult leaders, novices and experts alike, who are dedicated to advancing youth-led programming that promotes the health and well-being of Ohio's young people, including youth with lived experiences. For more information, contact Trena Twyman at 740.597.1460 or twyman@ohio.edu.

Ohio Problem Gambling Conference — March 5-6, 2015

The Ohio Problem Gambling Conference 2015 — Growing Awareness, Building Capacity has been set for March 5-6, 2015, at the Crowne Plaza Columbus, 6500 Doubletree Avenue. Hosted by OhioMHAS and sponsored by Ohio for Responsible Gambling, the 1.5-day event will feature Dr. Jeffrey Derevensky of McGill University, who is an expert in prevention and treatment of problem gambling among adolescents. Dr. Mark Dixon, of Southern Illinois University, known internationally for his research and practice in gambling disorder treatment and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, has also been invited to keynote the event. The afternoon of the second day will offer a three-hour session on Ethics with a focus on problem gambling treatment, which will especially be useful for the new Ohio Chemical Dependency Professionals Board Gambling Endorsement.

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. For more information, contact Derek Longmeier at 614.540.9985 ext. 16 or DLongmeier@DrugFreeActionAlliance.org.



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