

OhioMHAS Announces \$5.5 Million to Strengthen Housing, Justice Linkages

It's been a November to remember for Ohio's behavioral health services system, as the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) announced \$5.5 million in separate grants to strengthen recovery housing and improve linkages between local mental health and addiction service providers and criminal justice.

On Nov. 18, OhioMHAS Director Tracy Plouck traveled to Mahoning County to **announce** \$3 million in grant awards for local communities to reduce the number of criminal offenders with untreated mental illness or substance use disorders. She was joined at the media event by Mahoning County Mental Health and Recovery Board Executive Director Duane Piccirilli, Mahoning County Sheriff Jerry Greene, Meridian Community Care President and CEO Larry Moliterno, Turning Point Counseling Services, Inc., Director of Forensic Services Wendy Laurenzi and Victor D., a young man in recovery.

"Too many Ohioans with serious mental illness and substance use disorders are lingering in our jails — not getting the help they need," Dir. Plouck said. "We want to continue progress that we've made in the last two years by investing in partnerships between mental health and addiction services boards locally and their partnering county jail and sheriff's office."

The SFY 2016 funds build off \$3 million in **similar investments** made during the previous two-year budget cycle, and will support **23 projects** benefiting **38 counties**. The goal of the "Criminal Justice-Behavioral Health Linkages" initiative is to connect offenders with treatment, prevent them from cycling back into the criminal justice system and reduce jail overcrowding.

"This grant, coupled with our ongoing partnership with the courts (mental health, drug and veterans), will strengthen our relationship with justice system,s. We are looking forward to an even stronger partnership," said Dir. Piccirilli.

The press announcement was held at the Mahoning County Minimum Security Jail — the same place where Victor D. had spent many nights before finding the road to recovery. He credited the collaboration between local criminal justice and behavioral health professionals for improving his life.

"I do have the disease of addiction," he said. "But I was very fortunate enough to go through the process of the courts, and the orange and the shackles and I had the opportunity to participate in Judge Durkin's drug court. And I hear a lot of



OhioMHAS Director Tracy Plouck discusses the SFY 2016 Criminal Justice-Behavioral health Linkages grants Nov. 18 in Youngstown.

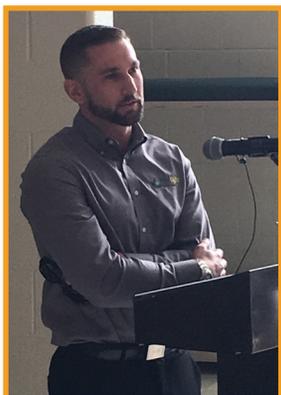
people say 'Oh, you get a clean slate.' Yeah, I do — it's a huge part of it. But also I have a life today."

OhioMHAS followed the Linkages announcement less than a week later with **news** of a \$2.5 million investment to help strengthen and expand sober housing options for Ohioans in recovery from alcohol or other drug addiction. The funding will support a total of 25 projects benefitting 18 counties — adding 200 new beds to Ohio's growing recovery housing stock.

The Nov. 23 announcement brings the total state investment in recovery housing the past three years to \$12.5 million. An additional \$2.5 million has been set aside for State Fiscal Year 2017. This year's grantees include seven new counties that previously had not received state funds for recovery housing: Ashtabula, Athens, Fairfield, Fulton, Lake, Licking and Trumbull.

"When it comes to maintaining sobriety, a destructive living environment can derail recovery for even the most highly-motivated individual," said Dir. Plouck. "Recovery housing provides a safe, supportive environment where a person in recovery can adjust to sobriety, rebuild shattered relationships, obtain employment and seek permanent housing."

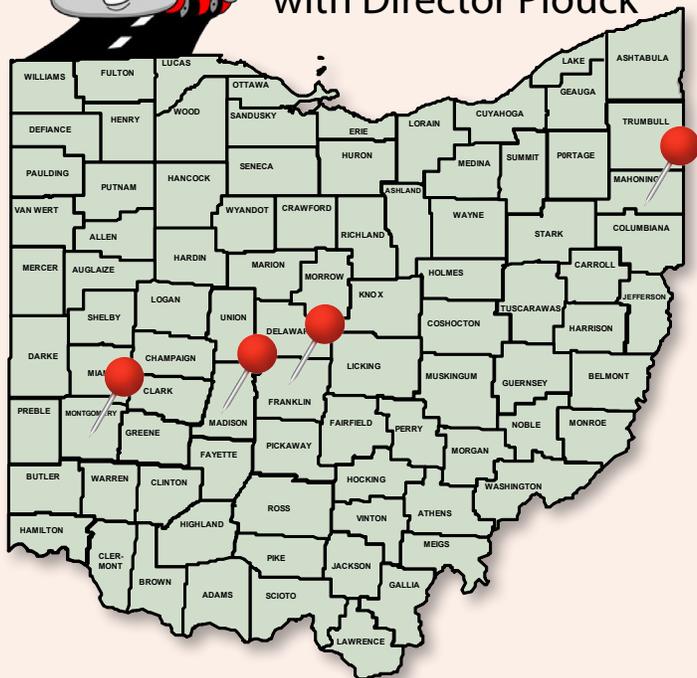
Recovery housing is shown to lead to improved outcomes such as decreased substance use, decreased rates of incarceration, higher rates of employment and increased income. Click **HERE** to read more about Ohio's recovery housing efforts.



Victor D.



On the Road with Director Plouck



Here's a brief recap of Dir. Plouck's public activities the past month:

- 11.5 Shadowed Recovery Services staff at the London and Madison Correctional Institutions.
- 11.9/10 Spoke at the Miami Valley Opiate Recovery Forum in Dayton. Provided remarks at Montgomery County Common Pleas Court specialty docket graduation.
- 11.18 Provided opening remarks at the 2015 Annual Forensic Conference.
- 11.19 Met with *The Vindicator* editorial board and joined with Mahoning County Mental Health and Recovery Board to announce SFY 2016 Criminal Justice-Behavioral Health \ Linkages grants.
- 11.20 Attended the Ohio Citizen Advocates for Addiction Recovery board meeting.



2015 Forensic Conference

Pictured: Above, (l-r) Robert Baker, Ph.D., forensic services director at the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, presented Aileen Hernandez, M.D., a forensic psychiatrist at Recovery Resources in Cleveland, with the Howard H. Sokolov Forensic Mental Health Leadership Award at the department's 2015 Forensic Conference on Nov. 18. Dr. Hernandez was honored with the award because she "has consistently shown leadership in the field through her work mentoring and training psychiatrists for forensic work. She has been recognized by her patients for being trustworthy, patient, empathic and kind. Her community partners appreciate that she maintains a focus on community safety," according to her nomination.



At left, Merrill Rotter, M.D., associate clinical professor of Psychiatry and director of the Division of Law and Psychiatry for the Department of Psychiatry at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, provides the keynote to nearly 200 professionals who attended the conference. View [more photos](#) from the conference.

Ohio Improves System to Prevent Prescription Drug Abuse

In late October, Gov. John Kasich and the Ohio State Board of Pharmacy **announced** improvements to the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS) that make it easier for prescribers and pharmacists to report and track controlled substances. The Administration will invest up to \$1.5 million a year to integrate OARRS directly into electronic medical records and pharmacy systems across the state, allowing instant access to help prescribers and pharmacists intervene earlier to prevent addiction and curb abuse. Read **coverage** from the announcement.

Pictured at right: (l-r) Gov. John Kasich consoles Carroll County resident Tonda DaRe as she shares the story of her daughter Holly's overdose death at an Oct. 27 media announcement at a Kroger pharmacy in Columbus.



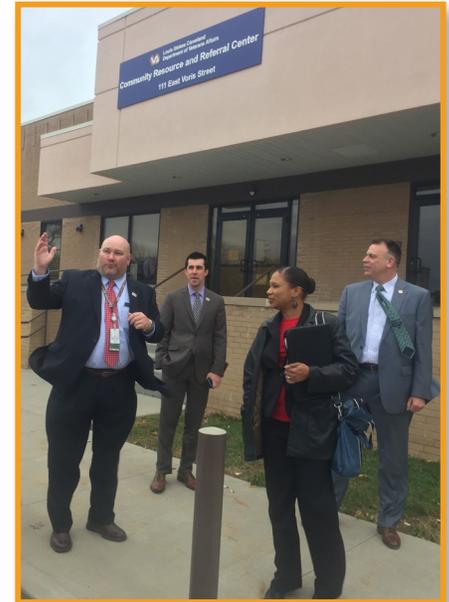


Top photo (l-r) Stephen Wilson, Andrea Boxill, Heidi Riggs, Allison Glasgow, Sarah Smith and Adria Troyer staff a Start Talking! informational booth at a Nov. 8 soccer match at MAPFRE Stadium in Columbus. Bottom left (l-r) Start Talking! State Director Smith poses with local parent and honorary captain Riggs before the match. Bottom right (l-r) Start Talking! Assistant Director Troyer and Smith snap a picture with Crew Cat, the Columbus Crew SC team mascot..

Columbus Crew Hosts Start Talking! Day

Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew SC hosted **Start Talking!** Day at MAPFRE Stadium on Nov. 8. to encourage conversations between parents and their children about the dangers of drug use. Fans who stopped by the Start Talking! booth had an opportunity to learn more about the initiative, sign up for biweekly, Know! parent tips and take pictures at the selfie station. Crew Cat, the team mascot, even stopped by for a photo.

Heidi Riggs, a Central Ohio mother and supporter of the Start Talking! initiative, served as the honorary caption for the playoff match against the Montreal Impact. After losing her daughter Marin to a drug overdose three years ago, she has been actively sharing her story to motivate and encourage others to speak out to help prevent drug abuse among Ohio's youth. Prior to the coin toss, audience members saw a brief video from Gov. John Kasich discussing the importance of this initiative and encouraging them to get involved.



Akron Center Serves Needs of Veterans

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Director Cynthia Dungey (pictured above, second from right) and Ohio Department of Veterans Services Director Chip Tansill (far right) recently met with staff and toured the US. Department of Veterans Affairs Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC) in Akron, Ohio. The Akron CRRC is one of only 23 such centers in the country. Ohio has two; the other one is in Cleveland.

The primary goal of the CRRC is to provide rapid and comprehensive housing-related services to veterans who are experiencing homelessness, especially the chronically homeless, and to assist at-risk veterans in maintaining their current housing. CRRCs are committed to increasing access to homeless services by creating welcoming environments for integrated service delivery. The Akron Center provides clean, safe shower and laundry facilities with on-site access to mental health services and vocational rehabilitation. OhioMeansJobs staff dedicated to veteran employment and Summit County Veterans Service Officers have regular office hours at the center.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Barrier Busting: A Breakthrough in Holistic Care

Broad Spectrum of Topics, Engaging Speakers Pack Agenda at 2015 Private Psychiatric Inpatient Provider Conference

On Oct. 30, the Ohio Hospital Association and OhioMHAS hosted "Barrier Busting: A Breakthrough in Holistic Care," the biennial Private Psychiatric Inpatient Provider Conference at the Quest Conference Center in Columbus. Presenters included Kendall Stewart, M.D., chief medical officer at Southern Ohio Medical Center and Evelyn Lundberg Stratton, 147th justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio, retired, as well as investigators from the Franklin County Sheriff's Office.

The intent of the conference was to identify barriers to providing holistic care to the mental health and AoD population, and acquire practical information to surmount those barriers and enable better organizational and patient outcomes. The one-day event offered learning sessions on many topics that psychiatric inpatient providers encounter daily when working with people who are living with behavioral health disorders. Approximately 130 people were in attendance.



Dr. Stewart

he discussed leadership principles, and Justice Stratton's lunch presentation was inspiring."

Despite the many tough issues facing the Portsmouth area, Southern Ohio Medical Center boasts the most engaged medical staff in America, said Stewart. He shared his management tips for any leader to make the most of a workforce that contains very few superstars and a few "net negative" employees, but mostly "average people" who can produce remarkable results. Several copies of his book *A Portable Mentor for Organizational Leaders*, were given away as door prizes.

"This was another successful partnership between Ohio Hospital Association and OhioMHAS," said Denise Cole, JD, MSN, RN, who helped develop the conference as program administrator in the OhioMHAS Bureau of Licensure and Certification. "Inpatient providers and others attended from all over the state. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Kendall Stewart, was very entertaining as

Stratton promoted *The Stepping Up Initiative*, a national movement supported by the Council of State Governments Justice Center, the National Association of Counties and the American Psychiatric Foundation to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails. She told the audience to take action to improve our communities through little steps, because when added up, those small steps lead to major progress.

"Ohio is an exciting state to live in," she said. "There is progress everywhere we go."

Her latest focus in Ohio and nationally is on establishing veterans courts to help those returning veterans with post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury and other issues, which may lead to involvement in the criminal justice system.

The day ended with a lively, enlightening and "hands-on" presentation called Operation Street Smart by the Franklin County Sheriff's Office. Officers affiliated with the Ohio High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, described products and methods that illegal drug users and underage drinkers use to avoid detection. [View more photos](#) from the conference on the OhioMHAS Flickr page. **See page 10 for presentations.**



Justice Stratton



Franklin County Sheriff's Office Capt. Shawn Bain describes what to look for if you suspect someone is using or hiding drugs as part of the Operation Street Smart presentation.

Family Recovery Center Honored as Non-Profit Organization of the Year

The Salem Area Chamber of Commerce recently honored the Family Recovery Center (FRC) in Columbiana County as its 2015 "Non-Profit Organization of the Year." The award was presented during the Chamber's annual meeting Nov.



18. FRC Executive Director Eloise Traina accepted the award on behalf of the agency.

"As communities nationwide battle a crippling heroin and prescription drug epidemic, FRC continues to do its part to provide comprehensive treatment options and support to those struggling with addictions while educating our youth and communities about the dangers of drugs and alcohol," said Traina.

"By seeking out and successfully securing local, state and federal funding, and using these resources to their maximum potential, while building strong collaborations with community, social and government organizations, FRC has developed a far-reaching recovery system and prevention program that has benefited countless Columbiana County residents over the past 42 years," she added.



Traina



BWC RX TAKE-BACK EVENT

As part of an ongoing effort to prevent the misuse and diversion of prescription painkillers and other medications, the Governor's Cabinet Opiate Action Team (GCOAT) partnered with the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation on Nov. 19 to host a prescription drug take-back day event. State of Ohio employees who work at the William Green Building in downtown Columbus dropped off unused, expired and unwanted medications.

Groundbreaking Autism Spectrum Disorder Training Resource Debuts

Today, one in 68 children is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Just a few years ago, that number was one in 88 — and the numbers have been steadily increasing during the past decade, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

With the prevalence of autism increasing, Ohio started to look for new solutions to: increase the number of trained service providers to meet growing demand and provide more consistent, broad-based community support for parents and families. By filling these critical gaps, we can increase the quality of life for both individuals and families. Ohio's leadership role in autism made it a natural fit for the state to take on this task.

That solution is ASD Strategies in Action, a groundbreaking online video training program that provides practical information and skills demonstrated with real-life examples and filmed in a variety of settings for those who interact with individuals with ASD. The mobile-friendly video training program is free to all Ohioans and readily available.

"This program gives families and service providers — even in the most rural areas of our state — the tools they need to effectively care for, support, educate, employ and work with individuals on the autism spectrum from early childhood to young adulthood," said Shawn Henry, Executive Director of the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI). "With this new program, we are empowering Ohio families and exporting hope to families across the country and globe. This is just the beginning of this exciting program."

Powered by OCALI, ASD Strategies in Action is a collaborative effort across multiple state agencies to put information into the hands of more people to make life better for individuals, parents and families. The program was funded under the leadership of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Education and the Governor's Office of Health Transformation.

"ASD Strategies in Action takes Ohio's leadership in autism to the next level," said DODD Director John Martin. "A better-trained support staff means a better quality of life for individuals and families."

Martin said that making the program easily accessible and free for Ohioans is key to empowering all Ohioans to take part.

Anyone who interacts with individuals with ASD — either now or in the future — can benefit from the program.

Visit www.autismcertificationcenter.org for more information and to access ASD Strategies in Action.

Hundreds Attend Washington County Meeting to Discuss Addiction's Impact

The newly established Washington County Opioid Coalition held a town hall at the Belpre Celebration Center on Nov. 25 to discuss the drug epidemic that has been sweeping through the area. The purpose of the event was to bring the community together to encourage them to work in concert toward a goal of stopping drug abuse.

The meeting attracted about 150 community members and included presentations from Andrea Boxill, deputy director of the Governor's Cabinet Opiate Team, and Sarah Smith, director of Ohio's Start Talking! statewide prevention initiative. Boxill and Smith were invited by local leaders to educate the community about the epidemic and share some of the resources available through the State of Ohio. They were joined by Washington County Sheriff Larry Mincks, Belpre Chief of Police Terry Williams, City of Belpre Mayor Michael Lorentz, Belpre Schools Superintendent Tony Dunn, Miriam Keith from the Washington County Behavioral Health Board, Alisha Nelson from the Ohio Attorney General's Office and Pastor Rob Clegg.

"We are in a bad place right now," said Dunn, who has embraced Start Talking! and has already taken steps to incorporate the program into the district's prevention curriculum. "We are losing people to addiction and we are losing people to overdose.



Pictured, (l-r) Miriam Keith from the Washington County Behavioral Health Board, Sheriff Larry Mincks, Belpre Police Chief Terry Williams, Ohio Attorney General's Office Community Relations staffer Alisha Nelson and Start Talking! Director Sarah Smith participate in a Nov. 25 town hall in Belpre.

"We are working hard to help kids make good choices," he added. "We have to stand up and say 'this is not OK.'"

Sheriff Mincks echoed Dunn's urgency, and implored parents to talk to their children about drugs "early and continually." Mincks said there have been 25 fatal overdoses in Washington County in the past 18 months.

CDC Epi-Aid Team Wraps Up Visit to Ohio to Study Fentanyl Drug Overdoses



The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) "Epi-Aid" staff recently completed a three-week visit to Ohio during which they and Ohio Department of Health (ODH) staff analyzed data from death certificates, coroner and toxicology reports and the [Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System](#). ODH reached out to the CDC last month to request assistance in better understanding the illicit use of a synthetic narcotic called fentanyl as a significant contributor to unintentional drug overdose deaths in Ohio. The CDC team held interviews with staff of local harm-reduction programs like [Project DAWN](#) (Deaths Avoided with Naloxone), coroners, law enforcement, healthcare providers and drug addiction treatment and counseling programs in Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Montgomery and Scioto counties. The CDC is expected to present its findings and recommendations in the near future.

News & Research Roundup

Mental Health Professionals Give Advice On How To Deal With Anxiety In Wake Of Terrorist Attacks

The New York Times recently provided [tips to readers](#) who may feel anxious and fearful in wake of the terrorist attacks in Paris. Mental health professionals interviewed for the article advise readers to "compare fear with the facts," limit their "exposure to social media and the media," create a plan about how to contact family members should something happen, maintain daily routines, and follow "basic self-care guidelines that help reduce stress."

Patients With Treatment-Resistant Schizophrenia May Have Better Outcomes With Clozapine

Patients with treatment-resistant schizophrenia have better outcomes if they are switched to clozapine (multiple brands) rather than other, standard antipsychotic medications, according to the results of a [3,123-patient study](#) published online Nov. 6 in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*. After analyzing Medicaid data, researchers noted in the study that patients with schizophrenia "who are switched to clozapine have fewer psychiatric hospitalizations, are more likely to stay on the medication and are less likely to need another antipsychotic than those given another medication."

News & Research Roundup cont.

One-Third of Children With Mental Health Issues Only Treated by Primary Care Doctor

One-third of children receiving outpatient care for mental health conditions only received care from their primary care physician, a [new study](#) finds. Only 26 percent of these children saw a psychiatrist. In addition, 15 percent only saw a psychologist or social worker, the Harvard Medical School researchers found. The study found 42 percent of children with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) saw only a primary care physician, compared with 17 percent of those with anxiety or mood disorders. Primary care physicians prescribed medications to a higher percentage of children than did psychiatrists. The researchers found 74 percent of children seeing a primary care doctor for ADHD received medication, compared with 61 percent who saw a psychiatrist. The findings are published in [Pediatrics](#).

Talk Therapy, Family Support In Addition To Antipsychotic Medication May Benefit Patients With Schizophrenia More Than Medication-Focused Therapy Alone



Patients with schizophrenia who received smaller doses of antipsychotic medication and a bigger emphasis on one-on-one talk therapy and family support made greater strides in recovery during the first two years of treatment than patients who got the usual care focused on medicines. The Washington Post reported Oct. 20 that the study, [Recovery After an Initial Schizophrenia Episode \(RAISE\)](#), found that people who are provided years of coordinated specialty care in community clinics had a greater quality of life, more involvement in work and school and less ongoing pathology than others who received typical care. Robert Heinssen,

Ph.D., director of the division of services and intervention research at the National Institute of Mental Health, told *The Post*, "Doing the right thing — and doing the right thing at the right time — that's the key finding." The study was published in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*.

Study: Teasing Overweight Girls About Their Weight May Increase Their Risk Of Eating Disorders

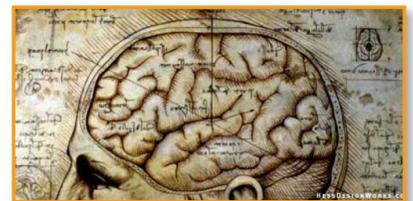
New [research](#) suggests that teasing overweight girls about their weight can cause lasting harm to their self-image and might increase their risk of eating disorders. In the study of 135 girls, 70 percent of those who were teased started to cut back on or skip meals, diet or starve themselves to lose weight. The investigators also found that 12 percent engaged in binge eating followed by forcing themselves to throw up, and 33 percent reported eating because they were upset or bored (emotional eating). The findings were published in the *Journal of Early Adolescence*.

Eviction Tied To Higher Likelihood Of Death by Suicide

Reuters Health [recently reported](#) that people who undergo eviction from their homes may have a four times higher likelihood of death by suicide, according to a [study](#) published online Nov. 4 in the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*. In arriving at this conclusion, researchers examined data on some 22,000 households in Sweden during 2009 to 2012, then compared the data with data on a random sample of 10 percent of the general adult population of Sweden.

Illicit Drug Use Changes Brain Development

NPR's [Nov. 12 "Shots" blog](#) reported that "an estimated 2.2 million adolescents — 8.8 percent of youth aged 12 to 17 — are currently using an illicit drug, according to a 2014 Behavioral Health Barometer prepared for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). "Illicit drug use changes brain development, and when substances are used during adolescence, young people are much more likely to become addicted," said John Knight, M.D., founder and director of the Center for Adolescent Substance Abuse Research at Boston Children's Hospital. "If we could only get kids to postpone their first drink or their first use of drugs, we could greatly diminish the prevalence of addiction in the U.S.," Dr. Knight said.



News & Research Roundup cont.

Calls to Poison Control Centers for Synthetic Marijuana Nearly Doubled

Calls to poison control centers regarding synthetic marijuana have almost doubled since last year. According to the [American Association of Poison Control Centers \(AAPC\)](#), so far in 2015 poison control centers have received calls about 6,949 exposures to synthetic cannabinoids, compared with 3,680 exposures in all of 2014, and 2,668 calls in 2013. Synthetic cannabinoids such as K2 and Spice, can cause dangerous health effects, including: severe agitation and anxiety, muscle spasms, seizures and tremors, intense hallucinations and psychotic episodes and suicidal and other harmful thoughts and/or actions. Synthetic cannabinoids are not tested for safety, and users do not know exactly what chemicals they are ingesting. Chemists who make the drugs are constantly changing the main ingredients to skirt laws governing synthetic compounds, which can change their effects. This makes it especially difficult to treat people who have taken the drugs.



Report Calls for More Judicious Prescribing and Dispensing of Opioids

Physicians and pharmacists should be the focus of efforts to reduce prescription opioid misuse, according to a [new report](#) from Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health. Doctors and pharmacists need greater monitoring and training, the study authors said in issuing a call for mandatory training in pain management and opioid prescribing for doctors and medical students. The report recommended that medical licensing boards have greater authority to investigate high-risk prescribers and dispensers. Prescription data should be collected to identify patients who may need addiction treatment, the experts advised. They also recommended increasing drug take-back programs, as well as expanding availability of the opioid overdose antidote naloxone.

Report: As Marijuana Use Increases, So Does Addiction

A new study published in [JAMA Psychiatry](#), found that marijuana use has more than doubled since 2001, with nearly 10 percent of adults throughout the country reporting marijuana use in 2013. At the same time, the percentage of people reporting dependence or abuse of marijuana also doubled, from 1.5 percent in 2001 to nearly 3 percent in 2013. Among marijuana users, the report found that three out of every 10 people, or nearly seven million Americans, have a marijuana abuse or addiction problem. The biggest increases in marijuana abuse and dependence was found among middle-aged or older adults, women, African-Americans, Hispanics and people living in the southern U.S. The report also noted that many people who use marijuana do not become addicted, but with a 30 percent chance of abuse or dependence, the number of people struggling from addiction to marijuana is likely to keep increasing as the number of marijuana users also increases.



AMA Calls for End to Direct-to-Consumer Advertising for Prescription Drugs

The American Medical Association (AMA) has called for an end to direct-to-consumer advertising for prescription drugs and implantable medical devices, according to [CBS News](#). The ads contribute to increasing costs, and lead to patient demand for inappropriate treatment, the group said in a [media release](#). Drug manufacturers spent \$4.5 billion for ads in the last two years, a 30 percent increase. Prices for prescription drugs rose almost 5 percent this year, the AMA said.



New Pocket Guide for Treatment of Alcohol Use Disorder

The federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration has published a new pocket guide for health professionals. [Medication for the Treatment of Alcohol Use Disorder](#) includes a checklist for prescribing medication, approved medications for use in the treatment of alcohol use disorder and standard drink sizes/amounts and recommended limits.



Training Opportunities, cont.

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:

- Dec. 8 — [Changing the Conversation to Housing Stability \(Toledo\)](#)
- Dec. 10 — [Changing the Conversation to Housing Stability \(Cincinnati\)](#)
- Jan. 27 — [Changing the Conversation to Support Housing Stability \(Cleveland\)](#)
- Jan. 27 — [Changing the Conversation to Support Housing Stability \(Columbus\)](#)

Problem Gambling Trainings

Click the links below for details on these upcoming problem gambling trainings:

- Dec. 9-10 — [Stage 1: Foundations in Disordered Gambling \(Zanesville\)](#)
- Feb. 18-19, 2016 — [Stage 2: Treating the Disorganized Gambler \(Zanesville\)](#)

Save the Date! March 3-4, 2016 — Ohio Problem Gambling Conference

Training and Technical Assistance Available for Continuous Quality Improvement

To ensure that best practices reach Ohioans in need, OhioMHAS is providing access to continuous quality improvement (CQI) tools, including training and technical assistance, for both prevention and treatment of problem gambling. Matthew Courser, Ph.D., of the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE), in partnership with Ohio University and the University of Cincinnati, is serving as the lead for this effort. Dr. Courser will assess the need, provide assistance and/or make connections with qualified professionals. Potential areas for CQI services may include:

- Building community readiness
- Utilization of screening tools and conversion to treatment
- Evidence-based problem gambling prevention
- Problem gambling program design and evaluation
- Development of logic models and theories of change
- Reporting and communicating data and information
- Using the "Be the 95%" campaign and other materials to increase awareness of problem gambling as an important public health issue.

Anyone in Ohio's behavioral health service system can contact Dr. Courser at 614-746-5670 or email mcourser@pire.org.

Peer Employment Mentoring Train the Trainer — Nov. 30-Dec. 2

OhioMHAS will present a *Peer Employment Mentoring (PEM) Train the Trainer* opportunity Nov. 30-Dec. 2 at Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, 150 E. Campus View Blvd., Columbus, Ohio, 43235. The training will be facilitated by Cherene Caraco, CEO, and Lyn Legere, training coordinator, of Promise Resource Network in North Carolina. The training will be available for 20 individuals with a lived experience of mental illness or co-occurring mental health/substance use disorders currently working at a provider that promotes employment as recovery. First priority will be given to peer recovery supporters who are working in IPS-qualified providers and providers with certified employment programs. The Community Family Partnership Team Scholarship Fund will be available for training participants who are not being paid by their employer to attend, and may be available for lodging expense. If you are interested in attending, please e-mail Sharon.fitzpatrick@mha.ohio.gov with your contact information, name of the provider at which you work or volunteer and previous training experience.

Benefit Planning Training — Dec. 3

OhioMHAS will host a free *Benefit Planning Training* on Dec. 3 at Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, 150 E. Campus View Blvd., Columbus, Ohio, 43235. The training will be facilitated by Cherene Caraco, CEO, and Lyn Legere, training coordinator, of Promise Resource Network in North Carolina. The training will be available to 20 individuals with a lived experience of mental illness or co-occurring mental health/substance use disorders currently working at a provider that promotes employment as recovery and will use Benefit Planning Training as part of employment expectation. First priority will be given to peer recovery supporters who are working in IPS-qualified providers and providers with certified employment programs. The Community Family Partnership Team Scholarship Fund will be available for training participants who are not being paid by their employer

Training Opportunities, cont.

to attend the training, and may be available for lodging expense. If you are interested in attending, please e-mail Sharon.fitzpatrick@mha.ohio.gov with your contact information, name of the provider at which you work or volunteer and previous training experience.

Register Now! Ohio Youth-Led Prevention Network Adult Leader Summit — Dec. 4

The Ohio University Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs is partnering with OhioMHAS and the Ohio Youth-Led Prevention Network to host an Adult Leader Summit Dec. 4 at the Conference Center at OCLC, 6600 Kilgour Place, Dublin, Ohio, 43017. Cost, which includes a light breakfast and lunch, is \$40. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

Call for Proposals: 2016 UMADAOP Conference

Organizers of the [2016 UMADAOP State Conference](#) are seeking proposals for workshops and speakers. Click [HERE](#) to request a form. Proposals are due by 5 p.m. on Nov. 30, 2015. The theme is *Tutajenga: "We Will Build" Drug-Free, Strong Children*.

Announcing the 2016 Ohio Problem Gambling Conference Call for Presentations

Presentation proposals are now being accepted for the 2016 Ohio Problem Gambling Conference to be held March 3-4 at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Columbus-Worthington. The conference will bring together local and national experts in problem gambling prevention, intervention, treatment, recovery, administration and responsible gambling. This year's conference will focus on the theme of "Community Readiness." Presentation proposals are due by Dec. 11, 2015. Click [HERE](#) for the Call for Presentations.

Youth PSA Contest underway for Building Awareness of Problem Gambling

Drug-Free Action Alliance, Ohio for Responsible Gambling, the Problem Gambling Resource Center and the Ohio Youth-Led Prevention Network are excited to announce this gambling awareness Public Service Announcement (PSA) contest. We are looking for the best PSA created by the youth of Ohio to educate, motivate and call young people to action. There will be one first-place winner and runner-up for the categories of "most creative" and "best message." The winning youth-led groups and their PSAs will be recognized on day two (March 4th) of the 2016 Ohio Problem Gambling Conference and at the 2016 "We Are the Majority" march and rally on April 28. For each category, first-place groups will receive \$250 gift-cards and first runner-up groups will receive \$100 gift-cards. Click [HERE](#) for the application.

2015 Private Psychiatric Conference Presentations Available

[Narcan Pilot](#)

[Housing Options Avoiding Discharge to Homelessness Presentation](#)

[Preparing for Medicaid in Managed Care Panel](#)

[Situational Awareness Model Presentation](#)

[OhioMHAS Director Tracy Plouck Handout](#)

[Understanding the Regulatory Environment](#)

[Health Equity: Addressing Health Disparities through Cultural Competency in MH presentation](#)

[Melodic Intonation Therapy slideshow](#)

[Dr. Stewart: Managing Average People](#)

[Dual Diagnosis PowerPoint](#)



Have a news story or training opportunity you'd like to share with colleagues?
Please forward submissions to Eric.Wandersleben@mha.ohio.gov for consideration.