

Forensic Mental Health Services Focus of Annual State Conference

Dr. Terry Kukor Receives "Howard H. Sokolov Award" for Outstanding Leadership



Nearly 200 professionals who work with individuals with mental illness involved in the justice system gathered for a day of learning and networking at the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services' Annual Forensic Conference.

A highlight of the conference, held Nov. 3 in Dublin, Ohio, was the presentation of the Howard H. Sokolov Forensic Mental Health Leadership award to Terry Kukor, Ph.D., ABPP, director of Forensic and Specialized Services for Netcare Access in Columbus. Dr. Kukor (pictured at far left, receiving a plaque from Dr. Robert Baker) was recognized for providing outstanding leadership to the forensic mental health community in Ohio through his educational efforts throughout the state, as well as through his involvement with the Association of Forensic Center Directors.

The conference also featured presentations on a variety of topics including ethics, conditional release, malingering and forensic monitoring. Two consumers of mental health services participated in a panel to discuss their experiences with the forensic mental health system. Keynote speaker Kirk Heilbrun, Ph.D., from Drexel University (inset) spoke about assessing the risk for violence in individuals with mental illness, and later hosted a workshop focusing on implementation of strategies for violence risk reduction in these individuals. View more photos [HERE](#).

Surgeon General Releases Landmark Report on Alcohol, Drugs and Health

The U.S. Surgeon General issued a call to action this month to end what he described as a public health crisis of drug and alcohol addiction that is, "both underappreciated and undertreated."

In issuing the first-ever Surgeon General's [report](#) on substance abuse and addiction, Dr. Vivek Murthy said he hoped it will galvanize work on the issue the way a similar report a half century earlier sparked decades of effort to combat tobacco use.

"The most important thing is, we have to change attitudes towards addiction and get people into treatment," Murthy said in an interview. "Addiction is a disease of the brain, not a character flaw," he added.

[Facing Addiction in America: The Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health](#) addresses alcohol, illicit

drugs and prescription drug misuse, with chapters dedicated to neurobiology, prevention, treatment, recovery, health systems integration and recommendations for the future. It provides an in-depth look at the science of substance use disorders and addiction, calls for a cultural shift in the way Americans talk about the issue, and recommends actions we can take to prevent and treat these conditions, and promote recovery.

The estimated annual economic impact of drug abuse is \$193 billion, the report states, while the estimated economic impact of alcohol abuse is \$249 billion. Every dollar invested in treatment saves \$4 in health care costs and lost productivity and \$7 in criminal justice costs, the report said. In an interview with NPR, Dr. Murthy

also cited a return on investment of \$64 for prevention services.

The report urges a holistic approach to battling the addiction epidemic that should involve policy makers, regulators, scientists, families, schools and communities. Murthy stressed the importance of intervening early through school programs to discourage access to alcohol. The report also calls for more investment in research and new types of treatment programs. Review other [key findings](#).



Dr. Murthy



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

- 11.3 Provided opening remarks at annual OhioMHAS Forensic Conference.
- 11.7 Visited with OhioMHAS staff at Summit Behavioral Healthcare in Hamilton County.
- 11.14 Visited Toledo Correctional Institution for a tour of the facility and overview of Treatment Transfer and Recovery Services programs.
- 11.16 Testified before the House Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services in support of SB 319 (Opiate MBR).
- 11.17 Visited with OhioMHAS staff at Appalachian Behavioral Healthcare in Athens.
- 11.18 Met with local officials in Stark and Mahoning counties to discuss collaboration concerning the opiate epidemic.
- 11.29 Traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in *Identifying Promising Approaches to Care for Justice-Involved Individuals* small group consultation meeting hosted by the Center for Health Care Strategies and The Council of State Governments Justice Center.
- 11.30 Provided remarks at the Legislative Service Commission's *New Member Orientation* program for newly elected members of the Ohio General Assembly.

Community Innovations Projects Creating Greater Linkages Between Criminal Justice, Behavioral Health

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) continues to focus on forging collaborative partnerships that create linkages between mental health and addiction services and the criminal justice system. During the SFY 2016-17 biennium, OhioMHAS has invested \$6 million (\$3 million each fiscal year) to fund 23 criminal justice and behavioral health linkage grants in 33 counties to reduce the number of individuals with a severe mental illness, addiction or co-occurring disorder who are incarcerated in local correctional facilities.

Those projects are paying huge dividends. For instance, in Richland County, the criminal justice, behavioral health linkage grant focuses on three areas: providing a full range of behavioral health services to individuals residing at the Richland County jail, providing access to Vivitrol for jail residents who are opiate-addicted and providing on-site assessments at the Richland County Common Pleas Court for offenders who are diverted from jail. Services provided in the jail include an educational program focused on engaging individuals who are not yet willing to commit to treatment and staff monitoring the jail population to assist in crisis de-escalation services with a goal of diverting admissions to a hospital (local or state).

Statewide, Community Innovations projects have served more than 6,600 individuals in state fiscal year 2016. Of those individuals served, 74 percent had no new arrests.

More than 40 individuals participated in the Vivitrol program from January through June of 2016. More than 83 percent of individuals engaged at the jail continued in treatment upon release and 66 percent were still engaged after 30 days. There were no new charges for 90 percent of these individuals at 30 days post-release, 95 percent had no new charges at 90 days and six (6) months post release. Richland County has seen a stronger relationship between their correction and behavioral health systems as well as increased knowledge of what services are available when someone in need leaves incarceration.

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Lorain County's International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day Observance Offers Hope

The Nord Center, in partnership with the Lorain County Suicide Prevention Coalition, joined forces Nov. 19 to host a local International Survivors of Suicide Loss (ISOSL) Day event to help those affected by suicide loss find comfort and understanding.

About 20 individuals met at the Gathering Hope House in Lorain to share stories of healing and hope. Participants ate lunch together and watched *Life Journeys: Reclaiming Life After Loss* — a new documentary from the [American Foundation for Suicide](#)

[Prevention](#) (AFSP) that traces the grief and healing journey that follows a suicide loss over time. Drawing upon stories and insights from long-term loss survivors, the film assures viewers that through resilience and support, they can achieve hope and understanding in their lives, while celebrating the lives of loved ones lost to suicide. Attendees also made memorial candles to remember loved ones.

For many loss survivors, attending a Survivor Day event is an opportunity to discover that they are not alone in their experience of losing someone they love to suicide. The observance was made possible with the support of the Lorain County Board of Mental Health and its commitment to suicide prevention efforts.

"ISOSL Day offers an amazing opportunity for courageous survivors to come together to support each other as they progress on the path to healing," said Kathleen Kern, Ph.D., associate director of the [Lorain County board](#). "We were grateful the Board could support The Nord Center and the LCSPC in contributing to the success of this event.

Survivor Day was created by an act of Congress in 1999 and since then has been sponsored and supported by AFSP. In

2015, there were 330 locally-organized ISOSL Day events held throughout the world.



Deb DiCillo, secretary of the Northern Ohio Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, shows candles created by survivors of suicide during the International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day observance in Lorain on Nov. 19. Photo courtesy of The Lorain Morning Journal.



Miami University senior Carly Traynor called upon her lived experience to lead an Active Minds chapter on campus.

Miami U's New Student-Led Active Minds Chapter Works to Reduce Stigma

Fueled by concerns about stigma, a lack of awareness among peers and her own lived experience with mental illness, a Miami University student has helped to establish a thriving [Active Minds](#) chapter on the Oxford campus.

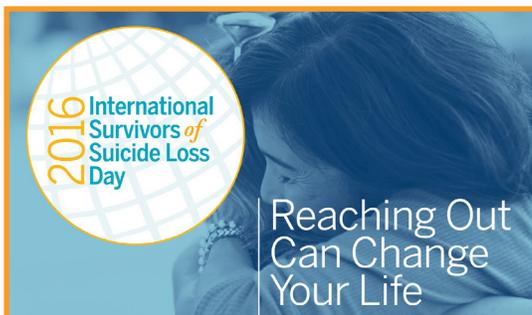
Senior Carly Traynor has struggled with mental health issues for years. She had hoped the conversation about mental health would get easier in college, yet she still encountered a lot of discomfort and unease among peers who were not familiar with the topic.

"It didn't seem like there was a whole lot of awareness when I did tell people," Traynor said. "People just never knew how to respond."

As a resident assistant, Traynor quickly learned she was not alone in her struggles. In fact, she was so moved by the number of students struggling with the same feelings about mental health issues that she started a group on campus to help normalize conversations about mental illness.

With the help of another student, Traynor organized Miami University's Active Minds chapter in the fall of 2015. While the organization struggled to gain traction the first year, it now has more than 40 members and is focused on continued growth and increased reach. The group has hosted a number of awareness events, including a 5K Awareness Run, Darkness Walk to End Suicide and a campus forum about mental health that included remarks from Miami University President Gregory Crawford and Ohio Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor.

Photo/story credit: Rachel Brady, Miami University Journalism student.



Ohio STEM Schools Join Statewide Challenge to Fight Opioid Abuse

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and the Ohio STEM Learning Network *recently announced* a new program to help schools better prepare for the opioid crisis. This year, several Ohio science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) schools will complete *design challenges* aimed at understanding and eliminating Ohio's opioid crisis.

A "design challenge" is a multi-week project in which students learn by creating new solutions to real-world problems. Throughout the remainder of the 2016-17 school year, the Ohio STEM Network will post resources and events to support schools in organizing local design challenges. ODE is supporting the effort with public appearances by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria and amplifying these opportunities through the department's communications channels.

"Real-world challenges offer students powerful opportunities to lock in learning," said DeMaria. "With this challenge, Ohio students will put their learning to the test to help solve a critical challenge facing our state."

Schools interested in participating can click [HERE](#) to register to receive information about support and promotion opportunities.



ODOT, Ohio State Patrol Urge Motorists to Start Talking About Drugged Driving

Just in time to observe December as *National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month*, the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Ohio State Highway Patrol are utilizing the state's 130 freeway message signs, as well as portable highway signs, to raise awareness about the growing drugged driving problem in Ohio.

The two agencies recently announced the highway signs will display messaging alerting travelers to the increase in drugged-driving crashes. The signs will also urge people to start talking about the drug abuse epidemic, a reference to Ohio's *Start Talking!* youth drug prevention initiative that encourages parents and community leaders to talk to their children about the dangers of drug use.

Read the [ODOT news release](#).

Ohio State University Officials Encourage Instructors to Include Info on Student Mental Health Services on Course Syllabuses



Members of The Ohio State University Senate recently approved a resolution that encourages all instructors to include a statement about mental health services on their course syllabuses.

Faculty members will be given the option whether to include the statement, which would describe the risks of poor mental health and give addresses and phone numbers for help.

"I wholeheartedly support [the University Senate's] decision, said Wayne Carlson, dean of undergraduate education. "Especially in the state of the world today, having some definitive way of communicating to students that resources are available is important."

Ross County Heroin Partnership Project Earns State Accolades as "2016 Promising Practice"

Ross County's *Heroin Partnership Project* has earned the Ohio Injury Prevention Partnership's "Promising Practice" Award for 2016. The honor recognizes "outstanding community-based interventions aimed at reducing the incidence of injury and violence in Ohio.

The selection committee made special note of Ross County's efforts to create a *Post Overdose Response Team*, which helps with in-home triage and assessment of overdose victims and follow-up work providing material and social service resources for victims and their families.

The Post Overdose Response Team includes members from the Chillicothe Police Department, Ross County Sheriff's Office, Scioto Paint Valley Mental Health Center and Floyd C. Simantel Clinic, Pat Friel and Associates, the Ross County Recovery Council and Safe Haven.

Franklin County Debuts New Addiction Resource for Families

The Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County has released a new family web portal, [#TogetherFamiliesHeal](#), to help families know where to turn when a loved one needs help for an addiction. The portal is a place to find facts from experts and links to resources. The ADAMH Board is also offering organizations the option to add the family web portal widget directly to their websites to share this valuable resource. For more information, contact Dynasty Ballard, ADAMH Digital Communications Specialist, at dballard@adamhfranklin.org.

Learning to cope with a loved one's addiction

ADAMH **TOGETHER**
Board of Franklin County **Families Heal**
& our partners

[Click here](#)

Education Conference Addresses Strategies to Combat Bullying

More than 150 participants learned about tools to create Safe and Violence-Free Schools at Ohio's 2016 Safe and Violence-Free Schools Conference on Sept. 19 in Columbus. The Center for P-20 Safety and Security at the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) hosted with the theme of School and Community Partnerships: What's Working to Reduce Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying. State partners discussed how school and community agencies can address the needs of the whole child, create a positive school climate and prevent bullying behavior using the Ohio Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework.

To ensure safe and supportive learning environments for Ohio's students, the Ohio Revised Code 3313.666 requires all school districts that receive federal funding have a policy prohibiting student-to-student incidents of harassment, intimidation or bullying. Ohio's Anti-Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) model policy defines harassment, intimidation or bullying as any intentional written, verbal, graphic or physical act that a student or group of students exhibit toward another particular student more than once and the behavior causes mental or physical harm to the other student; is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for the other



PICTURED (l-r): Maylin Sanchez from Youth To Youth International, a program of CompDrug; Westerville Central High School student Reyka Van Sickle; and CompDrug Director of Development Stephanie Christie, pose with Education Consultant Jill Jackson, Ph.D., of the Center for P-20 Safety and Security after their presentation at the 2016 Safe and Violence-Free Schools Conference held at the Ohio Department of Transportation in Columbus.

student, including violence within a dating relationship, and an act committed through electronic means including the use of a cellular telephone, computer, pager, personal communication device or other electronic communication device.

Visit the [Center for P-20 Safety and Security page](#) on [Anti-Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying](#) for a variety

of bullying prevention resources for schools, families and communities. [Conference presentations](#) are available, as well as more [photos from the event](#). You can also learn more about the OhioMHAS [Safe Schools/Healthy Students](#) collaboration with ODE to mitigate behavioral health problems in youth from pre-K to grade 12.



Stress in Children Can be Buffered by Positive Adults

"Don't devalue the stress of children. They are experiencing the same things as we do as adults," emphasized Melissa McClain (pictured) at the start of a train-the-trainer workshop designed to help educators understand and manage the impact of trauma on children. The intent for the 80 professionals in attendance was to gain knowledge that they could disseminate in their individual school districts. The workshop consisted of four components, an introduction to trauma, managing trauma in the classroom, increasing developmental assets and recognizing secondary traumatic stress. School teachers, counselors, nurses and principals from around the state were in the audience, along with mental health professionals, prevention educators and social work professionals. In the energetic session, they were encouraged to network as they learned about positive, tolerable and traumatic stress, and how they can take steps to support the children with whom they interact. The workshop was coordinated by Akron Children's Hospital, the Ohio Department of Education and the OhioMHAS [Bureau of Children and Families](#), in collaboration with the OhioMHAS [Trauma-Informed Care initiative](#). See [more photos](#).

News & Research Roundup

New SAMHSA Mobile App to Support MAT for Opioid Use Disorder

In response to the nation's opiate epidemic, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has developed **MATx** — a free mobile app that provides immediate access to information about medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorder. MATx is a one-of-a-kind resource that will make it easier for practitioners to provide effective, evidence-based care. The app includes: information on FDA-approved medications; clinical support tools, such as treatment guidelines, ICD-10 coding and continuing education opportunities and access to critical helplines and SAMHSA's treatment locators.



SAMHDA Launches NSDUH 2015 Public-Use Files

The enhanced Substance Abuse and Mental Health Data Archive (SAMHDA) has added **2015 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) Public-Use Files** to the archive. The NSDUH series, formerly titled National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, is a major source of statistical information on the use of illicit drugs, alcohol and tobacco, and on mental health issues among members of the U.S. civilian, noninstitutionalized population aged 12 or older. The survey tracks trends in specific substance use and mental illness measures and assesses the consequences of these conditions by examining mental illness and/or substance use disorders and treatment for these concerns. NSDUH is sponsored by the Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality (formerly Office of Applied Studies), SAMHSA. NSDUH public-use files allow researchers to conduct analyses using NSDUH microdata that have been treated to protect the confidentiality of respondents.



Prescriber Education Campaign Helps Address National Opioid Epidemic

The Partnership for Drug-Free Kids has launched a new "**Search and Rescue**" campaign to equip prescribers to be proactive in identifying and helping patients at risk for prescription drug misuse. Prescribers can view brief educational videos and connect with a range of vital resources, including relevant Continuing Medical Education courses, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on prescribing opioid medication for chronic pain, and their state's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), which provides information on patients' recent prescription history and helps prevent "doctor shopping."

Smoking Banned in Public Housing Throughout U.S.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development **announced** that it will ban smoking in all public housing. Local housing agencies will have 18 months to implement the ban. The ban will apply to all living units, indoor common areas, administrative offices and outdoor areas within 25 feet of housing and administrative office buildings. An estimated two million people live in public housing. More than 228,000 public housing units are already smoke-free. The new rule will cover more than 940,000 units.



Exercise May Be Effective Treatment for Depression and May Even Help Prevent It

The New York Times **recently reported** that a series of studies suggest that exercise may be an effective treatment for depression and may even help to prevent it. Outcomes data from three studies involving more than one million adults suggests that regular exercise helps to deter feelings of depression and despair. View the studies [HERE](#), [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

Smartphone App Found to Help Users Cope With Emotional Difficulties

A smartphone app that reminds users about reasons for living, as well as puts distraction, relaxation and coping tools at their fingertips may help patients at risk of self-harm to better cope with unpleasant thoughts and emotions, according to a **recent study** published in *Psychiatric Services in Advance*. To augment cognitive-behavioral therapy, clinicians advise some patients experiencing significant distress to use a "hope box" — a physical container that stores items that serve as reminders of positive life experiences, people who care, and coping and distracting strategies. The Virtual Hope Box (VHB) app uses smartphone capabilities to enhance and personalize the physical hope box on a highly accessible medium. Patients who used the VHB showed the greatest improvements in their ability to cope with unpleasant emotions and thoughts over time compared with those in a control group.



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:

Dec. 12 — [Foundations of Motivational Interviewing, Part 1 \(Columbus\)](#)

Jan. 12 — [Foundations of Motivational Interviewing, Part 2 \(Columbus\)](#)

Adoption Preparation Program for Children and Teens — Dec. 12-13

The Village Network Institute will host an [Adoption Preparation Program for Children & Teens](#) training in Wooster Dec. 12-13. Participants will learn core concepts in resilience, adoption preparation and readiness, and trauma reduction, as well as acquire hands-on experience with many of the multi-sensory activities, simple crafts, role plays visual aids, life book, memory pages, relaxation exercises and techniques to lead group discussions. Cost is \$75 and includes lunch and 10 continuing education units for counselors, social workers and marriage and family therapists. Questions? Please contact Bonnie Nair at 330.202.3992 or bnair@thevillagenetwork.com.

2017 SBIRT Implementation and Training of Trainers

Ohio SBIRT will host free, six-hour Training-of-Trainers courses to become a Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) trainer in 2017. These trainings are intended for individuals who have previously been trained in Ohio SBIRT Implementation. Both the Training-of-Trainers and the SBIRT Implementation trainings are free and will be offered monthly, beginning in January. Trainings will be held at various locations throughout the state including: Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus and Toledo. Click [HERE](#) for a schedule of upcoming trainings.

2017-18 Baer Reintegration Scholarships

The Center for Reintegration and the Sidney R. Baer Jr. Foundation will continue to offer [Baer Reintegration Scholarships](#) for individuals in recovery from schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder or bipolar disorder. Funds may be used to cover part or all of an education ranging from G.E.D. to Ph.D. [Applications](#) are generally available from October to January each year, and eligible applicants are invited to apply. Please email questions to baerscholarships@reintegration.com.

2017 Behavioral Health Conference — Jan. 10-11

The Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities, in partnership with OhioMHAS, is hosting [Ohio's 2017 Behavioral Health Conference: Moving Forward in Recovery-Oriented Systems of Care](#) Jan. 10-11 at the Hyatt Regency - Columbus. The conference will focus on mental illness, kids, trauma, prevention, addiction, medication management and more. The training aims to advance the knowledge and resources for behavioral health stakeholders to adequately serve Ohioans with a mental illness and/or addiction. Keynote speakers include: **Nancy Lublin**, founder and CEO of the National Crisis Text Line; **Dr. Michael Flaherty**, a nationally known expert on Recovery-Oriented Systems of Care; **Rick Kellar**, president of the Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation; and **delfin bautista**, director of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Center at Ohio University. Click the link for more information.

Stage II: Treating the Disordered Gambler Trainings

Recovery Resources will host [Treating the Disordered Gambler-Stage II](#) trainings in [Akron](#) (Jan. 12-13) and [Chillicothe](#) (Feb. 2-3). Cost is \$50 and includes meals. Participants receive 12 CEUs. These hours are approved for the new Gambling Endorsement (GAMB) on the Chemical Dependency License. Questions? Please contact Michael Buzzelli at 216.431.4131, ext. 2612 or mbuzzelli@recres.org.

Presenters Sought! 2017 Ohio Problem Gambling Conference — March 2-3

Ohio for Responsible Gambling will partner with Drug-Free Action Alliance to host the 2017 Ohio Problem Gambling Conference March 2-3 in Columbus. Conference planners are seeking workshop proposals in a variety of subject areas, including: cultural competence, community readiness, working with loved ones of problem gamblers, impact of gambling on military members and their families, facilitating a GamAnon/Gamblers Anonymous meeting, best practices in problem gambling prevention and treatment, integrating problem gambling programming into existing behavioral health programming,

Training Opportunities, cont.

responsible gambling and more. Presenters will receive a free registration (including meals), exhibit space and promotion in conference materials. Click [HERE](#) to submit a proposal. Questions? Please contact Tristan Hall at 614.540.9985, ext. 21 or thall@drugfreeactionalliance.org.

OPPA Annual Psychiatric Update — March 12

The Ohio Psychiatric Physicians Association will present the [OPPA Annual Psychiatric Update “Mental Illness — Helping Ourselves, Our Colleagues and Our Patients”](#) March 12 at the Hilton Columbus at Easton. This program is designed specifically for psychiatrists, residents, medical students and other physicians, including primary care and pediatricians, as well as psychologists, nurses, social workers, counselors and other mental health professionals. Click the link for more information, including speaker bios and information on a free March 11 pre-conference session.

Call for Presenters: 13th All-Ohio Institute on Community Psychiatry — March 24-25

OhioMHAS, in partnership with Northeast Ohio Medical University and University Hospitals — Case Medical Center, will present the 13th All-Ohio Institute on Community Psychiatry March 24-25, 2017, at the Crowne Plaza Columbus-Dublin. Continuing education credits will be provided for psychiatrists, social workers, psychologists, nurses and counselors. Registration information will be available in January 2017. For more information, call 330.325.6460 or email cpd@neomed.edu. Abstracts are being sought for workshops and poster presentations. View the [solicitation letter](#) from Co-Chairs Kathleen Clegg, M.D., and Mark Hurst, M.D. View the [submission form](#). Proposals will be accepted until Dec. 9.

WRAP Seminar II Facilitator Training — April 3-7

The Copeland Center will host a [WRAP \(Wellness Recovery Action Plan\) Seminar II Facilitator Training](#) April 3-7 at the Recovery Center of Hamilton County in Cincinnati. Cost is \$1,500 and includes lunches, materials, training and two-year listing in the WRAP Facilitator registry. Click [HERE](#) to complete the 2017 training application.

Save the Date! 2017 We Are The Majority Rally — April 20

The Ohio Youth Led Prevention Network will host its sixth annual *We Are the Majority Concert, Resiliency Ring, and Rally* on April 20, 2017, at Genoa Park in downtown Columbus. Students will have opportunities to learn the importance of living a positive, healthy lifestyle and to march to the Ohio Statehouse to let their voices on this important issue be heard. This event is open to all Ohio middle and high school students. Online registration will open in January.

Save the Date! ADAPAO Conference — May 11

ADAPAO will host its annual conference on May 11, 2017, in Columbus. The conference will focus on state of the art prevention content for and dialogue with Ohio's prevention professionals and advocates. Specific conference content and registration information will be available in early 2017. Click [HERE](#) for updates.

Mental Health America 2017 Annual Conference — June 14-16

Mental Health America will host its 2017 Annual Conference “Sex, Drugs and Rock & Roll” June 14-16, 2017, at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register online.

Call for Proposals: 50th Annual Midwest Social Work Conference — Oct. 12-13

The [Ohio School Social Work Association](#) and the [Midwest School Social Work Council](#) will present the 50th Annual Midwest School Social Work Conference “From Punishment to Progress: Breaking Barriers to Academic and Behavioral Success” Oct. 12-13 in Cleveland. Conference planners are currently accepting [workshop proposals](#) through March 1. Proposals should be submitted to Sean Delaney via email at shdelaney89@yahoo.com. Notification of selection will be distributed by April 30.



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.