

## The Day the Silence Ended

### Ohioans Rally for Recovery in Nation's Capitol

Rock stars, politicians and medical experts joined with tens of thousands of recovery advocates on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 4, to raise awareness and change the national conversation about addiction.

Sponsored by *Facing Addiction*, an organization dedicated to combating the public health crisis, the inaugural UNITE to Face Addiction rally brought together individuals in recovery, family members and advocates.

Hundreds of Ohioans made the trek to the capitol city to join the faces and voices of recovery, according to Judy Morgan, director of Consumer Affairs for the Ohio Empowerment Coalition. Buses departed several locations statewide.

In addition to hearing from inspirational speakers, attendees also enjoyed musical performances from Sheryl Crow, Steven Tyler, Joe Walsh, The Fray and John Rzeznik of the Goo Goo Dolls, among others.

"The (rally) was a realization that there are many people like myself who were told 'don't talk about it' and 'don't acknowledge your recovery' and to keep that information on the down-low," Mary Beth Wade-Jones, a Sandusky resident who's been in recovery for 18 years told *The Sandusky Register*. "[Oct. 4] was a day I got to be honest about who I am and not keep it a secret anymore. Recovery is something that makes me who I am."

**"I got to be honest about who I am and not keep it a secret anymore. Recovery is something that makes me who I am."**

— *Mary Beth Wade-Jones, Sandusky, Ohio*

U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, seized the moment to announce that his office will soon release the nation's first report on addiction.

"We're going to look at the best science on everything from heroin and marijuana to alcohol and prescription opioids," Gen. Murthy said. "We're going to launch a national campaign to tackle [this epidemic] because we know that someone dies from an opioid overdose every 24 minutes in this country."



Port Clinton resident Kenn Bower rocks out to a performance by Joe Walsh at the UNITE to Face Addiction rally. The historical event demanded solutions for the nation's addiction crisis. See page 4 for more photos from the rally.

Joey Supina, executive director of Sandusky Artisans Recovery Community Center, accompanied a large group of advocates from northwest Ohio.

"This will be remembered as the seminal moment when substance use and mental health disorders came out of the shadows of stigma, discrimination, shame and ignorance," said Supina, who has been in recovery for 41 years.

"America can no longer allow itself to remain in ignorance about behavioral health issues. Let this moment be the clarion call for the millions of Americans who are affected by this chronic health crisis," he said.

The rally was followed by a "lobby day" on Capitol Hill, with advocates pressing key lawmakers for action on pending legislation to expand treatment and reduce barriers for recovered addicts to rebuild their lives.

Representatives from Ohio Recovery Housing were among those who met with policymakers to engage in conversations about the need for addiction solutions. The team urged Ohio's congressional delegation to support several key pieces of legislation that impact individuals in recovery.

"People need hope," said Muskingum County advocate Chris Wicker, reflecting on the impact of the rally and lobby day.

"They need to have support. And more than anything, they need to know that they don't have to live this way anymore."



## On the Road with Director Plouck



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

- 10.2-3 Attended Council of State Governments Justice Center Board meeting in New York City.
- 10.5 Shadowed OhioMHAS Recovery Services Corrections staff the Scioto County Adult Parole Authority in Portsmouth.
- 10.8 Visited New Lexington to tour Perry Behavioral Health Choices main offices, Sobriety Village (women's recovery house), Stanton Villa (women's residential center), Eclipse (men's recovery house) and Evolution (men's residential center.)
- 10.13 Met with Sam Quinones, former *LA Times* reporter, author of "Dreamland" and keynote presenter at the "Ohio's Opiate Epidemic: How Should the Community Respond?" community forum at The Ohio State University Fawcett Center.
- 10.15 Attended the "Art of Recovery" event in Licking County.
- 10.19 Provided remarks on the importance of recovery-oriented services at the National Academy for State Health Policy annual conference in Dallas, Texas.
- 10.23 Spoke at the North Central Mental Health Center annual breakfast in Columbus.
- 10.23 Provided plenary remarks and an update on OhioMHAS initiatives at the 2015 Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers annual conference.

## Director Plouck Appointed to Council of State Governments Justice Center Board

Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) Director Tracy Plouck has been appointed to serve on the Board of Directors for the [Council of State Governments \(CSG\) Justice Center](#) — a national, nonprofit organization that provides non-partisan advice and evidence-based strategies to increase public safety and strengthen communities.



The Center promotes effective data-driven practices — particularly in areas in which the criminal justice system intersects with other disciplines, such as public health, and builds on a solid foundation of work-related to re-entry and the needs of people with mental illnesses who are involved with the criminal justice system.

This year, the Center partnered with the National Association of Counties and the American Psychiatric Foundation to launch [Stepping Up: A National Initiative to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails.](#)

## NAMI Greater Cleveland, MHA of Northern Kentucky and Southwest Ohio Earn National Recognition

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and the National Council for Behavioral Health (National Council), along with Otsuka Pharmaceutical Development & Commercialization, Inc., and Lundbeck announced the winners of the 2015 Connect 4 Mental Health™ (C4MH) Community Innovation Awards.

Two of four awards went to Ohio organizations. Mental Health America of Northern Kentucky and Southwest Ohio's multi-state Mental Health First Aid initiative received the top award in the "Early Intervention" category, while NAMI Greater Cleveland's Emotional Wellness Programming captured honors in the "Continuity of Care" category.

Now in its second year, the C4MH awards program was designed to honor local mental health organizations that have successfully introduced novel approaches to address mental health in one of four program categories: early intervention, creative use of technology, continuity of care and service integration.

Winning organizations receive a \$10,000 award to further their work, and the opportunity to join with organizations previously recognized by C4MH to encourage and facilitate best practice sharing.



## Melissa Etheridge Visits ORW, Tapestry Women's Therapeutic Community

About 2,300 inmates at the Ohio Reformatory for Women in Marysville — including residents of the Tapestry Therapeutic Community — got a surprise visit and concert this month from Melissa Etheridge.

The recording artist said she was inspired to arrange the visit after seeing a video of several Tapestry residents singing one of her hit songs — *A Little Bit of Me*. The video was made because the Harmony Project, a Columbus commu-



Melissa Etheridge

nity choir, has been singing with the group every week for the past several years. Etheridge saw the video during a Women's Fund of Central Ohio event in May, where she was the featured speaker.

"You can change the world and I want to inspire you to do that," she told the women. "I want to fill you with that."

Following the 30-minute, five-song mini-concert, Etheridge toured the Tapestry TC dormitory where she left her autographed handprints in paint on the wall and encouraged residents to contact her when they're released.

"It was amazing; she really touched my heart and she really gave me a lot of hope," Georgia Peterman of Portsmouth, who has six months remaining on a three-year sentence, told reporters. "I'm really glad I got to be a part of this."

Before leaving, Etheridge hinted that she was so impressed by the stories of the women she met — and their courage in recovery — that she might write a future song about them.

## Kids in Crisis: Preventing Tragedies Through Earlier Intervention

OhioMHAS, DODD to Host Virtual Town Hall — Nov. 2

Chardon. Sandy Hook. What more can be done to prevent tragedies like this from happening in our communities? One approach that Ohio has successfully implemented is increasing the services that families can engage before they reach a crisis point.

Children at risk — those struggling and teetering on the edge of self-harm or aggression — often aren't in treatment programs, and are not yet known as someone in need of care and support. To identify those children and help them access the support they need, the Ohio Departments of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) developed the ***Strong Families, Safe Communities*** initiative.

The program, now entering its third year, funds local collaborative projects that provide care coordination and crisis intervention services for youth who are considered "at-risk" due to a mental illness or developmental disability. The project is unique in that it focuses on the end goal — supporting families in crisis — rather than specifying how the work should be accomplished. This approach offers local communities the flexibility to focus on the services that are needed in their community, and to engage the agencies that can best provide those services.

While the program's structure allows for flexibility, reviews of the projects from the first two years have shown consistency both in the types of services needed and the benefits to families and communities. DODD and OhioMHAS have broadly shared these findings so that all counties and all Ohioans can benefit.

The agencies are teaming up to host a virtual town hall on Nov. 2 that will explore the origins of the project, highlight success stories and lessons-learned, discuss how best practices are being shared across the state, and announce FY2016 grantees. The town hall will feature families who will share how the services have made a difference in their lives. The presentation will feature remarks from Directors John Martin and Tracy Plouck, as well as a panel presentation featuring projects leads and county DD and mental health executives. An interactive session at the end will allow attendees to ask questions.

**Register** online today. You will receive a confirmation email with system requirements and additional instructions.



## CompDrug Awarded Contract for OASIS Therapeutic Community

CompDrug, Inc. has been awarded a **contract** to operate the OASIS Men's Therapeutic Community (TC) treatment program for alcohol and other drug addiction at Pickaway Correctional Institution in Orient, Ohio.

CompDrug assumed responsibility for staffing and operating the 120-bed facility effective Oct. 21, 2015. The contract period runs through Nov. 30, 2016.



CompDrug, Inc., has been a long-term partner with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and currently operates the Tapestry TC at the Ohio Reformatory for Women (Marysville), in addition to programs at Chillicothe and Grafton Correctional Institutions. CompDrug currently has plans to open TCs at Madison Correctional Institution (London) and Noble Correctional Institution (Caldwell).

Click **HERE** to read the original Request for Proposal documents.



### 10.4.15 | UNITE to Face Addiction Rally

Ohio was well represented at the UNITE to Face Addiction rally in Washington, D.C. Representatives from Ohio Recovery Housing, Northern Ohio Recovery Association (NORA), the Wings Enrichment Center, the Sandusky Artisans Recovery Community Center, The Ohio State University Collegiate Recovery Community and many others joined the celebration.

Joe Walsh (pictured at bottom left), who attended Kent State University for a time before leaving to pursue a full-time career as a musician, was among the big-name musical guests who performed at the first-of-its-kind national rally.





### Union County Coalition Encourages Local Football Fans to Start Talking!

The Union County Drug Free Coalition supported a kick-off event at a recent Marysville High School varsity football game. Student leaders wore T-shirts saying, "Friday Night, Done Right" and "No Alcohol, No Drugs." Coalition members passed out pom poms in school colors with the coalition logo and distributed informational cards promoting Ohio's Start Talking! statewide youth drug prevention initiative. Representatives from the Ohio State Highway Patrol and Ohio National Guard were on hand to support the school's "5 Minutes for Life" program.



(l-r) 2015 Cyril G. Ransopher Vision Award winners Bobby Persinger and Donna Gibson.

### Licking County Advocates Honored

OhioMHAS salutes Bobby Persinger and Donna Gibson, this year's winners of the Cyril G. Ransopher Vision Awards presented by the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Licking and Knox Counties. The award is presented to an individual or organization from Licking County whose vision, advocacy and commitment has supported recovery and resiliency, and has resulted in the development and delivery of community-based services to individuals and families challenged by mental illness or addiction issues.

Gibson, a parent support coordinator for Mental Health America of Licking County, was honored for her work with the Bridges Out of Poverty initiative. Persinger, director of prevention at Pathways of Central Ohio, was honored for his work with the county's Youth Leadership Council.

### Rotating Art Exhibit Celebrates Recovery

We are excited to feature artwork created by patients in recovery at Summit Behavioral Healthcare in Cincinnati in our Central Office location on the 36th Floor of the Rhodes Tower. The exhibit is part of a rotating display featuring artwork from patients at all six of our regional psychiatric hospitals, as well as the OASIS TC at Pickaway Correctional Institution.



## CDC "Epi-Aid" to Help ODH Study Fentanyl Drug Overdoses in Ohio

After identifying the illicit use of a synthetic narcotic called **fentanyl** as a significant contributor to unintentional drug overdose deaths in Ohio, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) asked the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for assistance in better understanding this issue to prevent such deaths.



CDC "**Epi-Aid**" staff will come to Ohio next week for an estimated three-week stay. CDC and ODH staff will analyze death certificates and coroner's reports from opiate overdose deaths as well as data from the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System. They will interview local harm reduction programs like **Project DAWN** (Deaths Avoided with Naloxone), as well as drug addiction treatment and counseling programs, and law enforcement in Cuyahoga County, Hamilton County, and Scioto County/City of Portsmouth. CDC staff also will hold meetings with state agencies and associations to get a state-level perspective on this issue.

**Read** coverage of the visit from *The Associated Press*.

## Colletti Named CEO of Heartland Behavioral Healthcare

OhioMHAS is pleased to announce the appointment of Dave Colletti as Chief Executive Officer of Heartland Behavioral Healthcare (HBH).

As CEO, Colletti will oversee a staff of nearly 240 employees who are responsible for the well-being, care and treatment of 124 patients located at the Massillon hospital. In addition to leading day-to-day hospital operations, Colletti also will manage hospital relations with the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Boards in the 11-county catchment area served by the hospital.

Colletti has served as OhioMHAS Assistant Director of Hospital Services since 2012. The appointment affords him an opportunity to return to his northeast Ohio roots. OhioMHAS Director Tracy Plouck and Deputy Director for Hospital Services Karl Donenwirth will handle Colletti's former duties on an interim basis. **Read** the media release.



Colletti

## News & Research Roundup



### U.S. Experiencing Nationwide Shortage of Psychiatrists

*The Toledo Blade* **reported** this month on a nationwide shortage of psychiatrists at a time of increasing "public awareness of mental illness." Recently, the American Medical Association conducted a survey that "found that 59 percent of psychiatrists are 55 or older...signaling that many may soon be retiring or reducing their workload," further exacerbating the shortage. What's more, there are not enough medical school graduates to replace them. American Psychiatric Association president Renee Binder, MD, "says the perception of inadequate pay is a factor in discouraging some medical students from choosing psychiatry as a specialty."

### Psychiatric Association Warns Insurance Mergers Could Impact Mental Health Care

Two proposed health insurance mergers could negatively impact patients' access to mental health care services, the American Psychiatric Association (APA) has warned antitrust regulators. In one proposed deal, Anthem would become the largest U.S. health insurer after acquiring Cigna in a \$47 billion deal. A second deal allowing Aetna to buy Humana would make Aetna the largest provider of Medicare plans for older people. APA, which represents 36,000 physicians, **released a letter** to U.S. Assistant Attorney General William J. Baer that cited insurers' history of denying mental health benefits. Insurers' networks of psychiatrists are inadequate and likely to worsen, the group said. The American Medical Association, the American Hospital Association and the American Academy of Family Physicians have also asked government regulators to review the deals' potential impact on competition.

### New Hope for Treating First Episode Psychosis

New National Institute of Mental Health-funded **study** shows that treating people with first episode psychosis with a team-based, coordinated specialty care approach produces better clinical and functional outcomes than typical community care. Investigators also found that treatment is most effective for people who receive care soon after psychotic symptoms begin.



## News & Research Roundup cont.

### ASAM Releases New Guidelines on Treating Opioid Addiction

New guidelines from the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) on the use of medications in the treatment of opioid addiction should increase the number of patients who receive medication-assisted treatment, the organization announced. The [\*National Practice Guideline for the Use of Medications in the Treatment of Addiction Involving Opioid Use\*](#), released on Sept. 24, will help doctors treating patients addicted to opioids match the best treatment to each individual patient. The guidelines, which are designed for any doctor who treats patients with opioid addiction, also include a section on how to use the overdose antidote naloxone.

### National Survey: Use of Synthetic Drugs on Rise

A [\*national survey\*](#) suggests use of synthetic drugs increased from 2009 to 2013. Many people who use these drugs also use other illicit drugs such as LSD, cocaine and Ecstasy, according to the researchers from NYU Langone Medical Center. The survey included data from the National Survey of Drug Use and Health on drug use among young people ages 12 to 34. Use of synthetic drugs was most common among males, whites, people with lower incomes and urban residents. The survey looked at self-reported use of 57 new drugs. About 1 percent of respondents said they used any of the new drugs. The findings are published in the journal [\*Drug and Alcohol Dependence\*](#).

### Report: Drugged Driving a Growing Problem

The percentage of drivers testing positive for marijuana or other illegal drugs is increasing, according to a [\*new report from the Governors Highway Safety Association\*](#). In 2013 and 2014, 15.1 percent of drivers tested positive for drugs, up from 12.4 percent in 2007. The group found 38 percent of people who died in auto accidents in 2013 and were tested had detectable levels of potentially impairing drugs — both legal and illegal — in their system. The most common drugs detected were marijuana (34.7 percent) and amphetamines (9.7 percent), which includes nasal decongestants and drugs to treat attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder. The report found 6.9 percent of people killed in auto accidents had hydrocodone in their system, while 3.6 percent had detectable levels of oxycodone, 4.5 percent had benzodiazepines (found in anti-anxiety and anti-depression drugs), and 4.5 percent had cocaine.

### Justice Department Announces Release of 6,000 Non-Violent Drug Offenders from Federal Prisons

The Justice Department has announced it will release about 6,000 nonviolent drug offenders from federal prisons beginning at the end of this month. The government hopes to ease prison overcrowding and roll back stiff penalties given to nonviolent drug offenders in the 1980s and 1990s, [\*according to The New York Times\*](#).

### Report: As Marijuana Use Increases, So Does Addiction

A new study published in [\*JAMA Psychiatry\*](#), has found that marijuana use has more than doubled since 2001, with nearly 10 percent of adults across the country reporting marijuana use in 2013. 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 3 out of every 10 people, or nearly 7 million Americans, have a marijuana abuse or addiction problem. The biggest increase 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.

### AAP: No Amount of Alcohol Is Safe for Expecting Moms

The American Academy of Pediatrics stated that no amount of alcohol should be viewed as safe throughout pregnancy and called exposure to prenatal alcohol the leading preventable cause of birth defects and intellectual disabilities in children. In a report published in the journal [\*Pediatrics\*](#), the Academy underscored that drinking during pregnancy can lead to fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD), a group of conditions that can occur in a child whose mother consumed alcohol during pregnancy, and that drinking-related birth defects and developmental disabilities are avoidable through abstentions. The Academy noted that prenatal alcohol exposure is linked to higher incidences of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder and learning disabilities, such as problems with math and language, memory skills and impulse control. One in 10 pregnant American women admitted to consuming alcohol occasionally, and one-third of those admitted to binge drinking, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in a [\*report\*](#) last month.

## 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:

- Nov. 3 — [Job Development Applications for Housing Professionals \(Toledo\)](#)
- Dec. 1 — [Evidence-Based Practices: Getting Started and Staying Current \(Columbus\)](#)
- Dec. 2 — [Changing the Conversation to Housing Stability \(Independence\)](#)
- Dec. 10 — [Changing the Conversation to Housing Stability \(Fairfield\)](#)
- Dec. 15 — [Changing the Conversation to Housing Stability \(Columbus\)](#)
- 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:

- Nov. 5 — [Northwest Ohio Problem Gambling Summit](#)
- Nov. 11-12 — [Stage 2: Treating the Disordered Gambler \(Lima\)](#)
- Dec. 9-10 — [Stage 1: Foundations in Disordered Gambling \(Zanesville\)](#)
- Feb. 18-19, 2016 — [Stage 2: Treating the Disorganized Gambler \(Zanesville\)](#)

### Understanding Toxic Stress Trauma Regional Trainings

The Ohio Department of Health in partnership with the OhioMHAS Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) initiative will host a series of regional [Understanding Toxic Stress: Protecting Infants and Young Children from the Life-Long Impacts of Prolonged Adversity](#) trainings for early childhood professionals and others who work with infants, young children and families. Click [HERE](#) for more information, including agenda, dates and registration.

### Training for Adoption (TAC) Competency

The Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Montgomery County and the Montgomery County Department of Job and Family Services are partnering to host a 12-module [Training for Adoption Competency](#) course for professionals in the mental health and child welfare fields to provide them with the clinical knowledge and skills they need to serve the adoption kinship network. Cost is \$500 and includes 60.5 CEU's for counselors and social workers. For more information, please contact Su-Ann Newport at 937.443.0416, ext. 114, or [snewport@mcadamhs.org](mailto:snewport@mcadamhs.org).

### Register Now! 2015 Forensic Conference — Nov. 18

OhioMHAS and The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center are pleased to co-sponsor the 2015 Annual Forensic Conference [Contemporary Challenges in Forensic Mental Health](#) for a broad range of professionals who work with people with mental illness involved in the justice system on Nov. 18 at the Crowne Plaza Columbus North - Worthington, 6500 Doubletree Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43229. Cost is \$135. Read the [informational flier](#). View the [agenda](#). [Register](#) online.

### 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 PEM will be available for 20 individuals with a lived experience of mental illness or co-occurring mental health/substance use disorders currently working in 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](mailto:Sharon.fitzpatrick@mha.ohio.gov) with your contact information, name of the provider at which you work or volunteer, and previous training experience.

## Training Opportunities, cont.

### 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 who is 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 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](mailto: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 in 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 [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*.

### OhioMHAS Disparities and Cultural Competency Advisory Committee Learning Series

A second round of OhioMHAS Disparities and Cultural Competency (DACC) Learning Community Trainings are underway for FY 2016. Various speakers will share experiences on current efforts to address existing service gaps and access barriers among diverse communities. For information on events planned through June 2016, visit the OhioMHAS website's [Cultural Competency page](#). Trainings will be videotaped and shared through this website. [Register](#) to attend any of the upcoming trainings.



### Northeast Ohio High Schools Hold "Say Something" Youth Summit

In a joint effort with Chardon High School, Orange High School in Pepper Pike hosted its second youth summit to inspire and empower students to "Say Something" as part of the Sandy Hook Promise/Say Something Call to Action effort during the week of Oct 19-23. The event focused on teaching young people to recognize the signs — especially in social media — of an individual who may be a threat to him/herself or others, and to say something to a teacher or other adult.



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