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Addiction Treatment Providers, Drug Courts Partner to Battle Opioid Addiction *Ohio's Addiction Treatment Program Getting Results*

KENTON – State and local officials gathered at the Hardin County Courthouse today to highlight how community-based addiction treatment providers and specialty docket court programs are partnering to reduce substance abuse and recidivism. Launched in 2014 as part of Ohio's multi-pronged strategy to fight prescription painkiller and heroin abuse, the Addiction Treatment Program has contributed to a decrease in drug use and criminal activity, and an increase in stable housing and employment among program participants.

“Ohio is committed to fighting the scourge of addiction on all fronts,” said Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) Director Tracy Plouck. “Bringing Ohio's behavioral health care and criminal justice systems together to address substance abuse is producing the positive results we anticipated. While we're making progress, and encouraged by these results, there's still more work ahead.”

Seeking solutions to the burgeoning epidemic, members of the Ohio General Assembly provided \$5 million in funding as part of the SFY 2014-15 biennial budget to establish pilot programs in Allen, Crawford, Franklin, Hardin, Hocking, Mercer and Morrow counties. Legislators charged OhioMHAS to work with the Supreme Court of Ohio, other state agencies and certified drug courts in each county to develop a program to provide addiction treatment, including medication-assisted treatment (MAT), to non-violent adult offenders with a dependence on opioids, alcohol, or both.

“Ohio's drug courts have proven to be an effective tool in fighting substance abuse and crime,” said Rep. Robert Sprague (R-Findlay). “In the midst of our nation's opiate crisis, we are seeing positive returns on our investment. Ohio wins when our citizens are well, and our communities are safe and drug-free.”

To date, the program has reached 410 men and women, two-thirds of whom also had a co-occurring mental health disorder. According to a Case Western Reserve University evaluation of the program, past-month drug use among program participants decreased 69.4 percent, while crimes committed dipped 86 percent to 3.7 percent. At the same time, employment increased 114 percent, while stable housing increased by nearly 29 percent. Among participants, 60 percent had a job and 91 percent had stable housing upon completion of the program, compared to 27 percent and 70 percent, respectively, before enrolling in the program.

As a follow-up to the first two years and based on the documented success of medication-assisted-treatment in combination with traditional therapeutic approaches, the Legislature invested an additional \$11 million to sustain and expand the programming in the latest biennial budget to additional counties. The Treatment Research Institute, based in Philadelphia, has been awarded the contract to evaluate this second phase of the program. The evaluation will provide valuable information to the state about process issues (facilitators and barriers) surrounding the uptake of MAT interventions in drug courts. Eventually, these lessons-learned can be applied to certified drug courts statewide.

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“For persons involved in the felony system, the best opportunity to achieve a full recovery from addiction may be provided by a certified drug recovery court program,” said Hardin County Common Pleas Judge Scott Barrett. “The combination of intensive treatment and strict accountability to the court provides a winning combination for those who are willing to do the hard work of recovery.”

Drug overdose deaths in Ohio reached an all-time high of 2,482 in 2014. Opioid–related deaths, which include both heroin and prescription painkillers, peaked at 1,988 deaths in 2014, up from 296 in 2003. Locally, there were 15 overdose deaths in Allen, Auglaize and Hardin counties according to Ohio Department of Health records.

Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Allen, Auglaize and Hardin Counties Executive Director Mike Schoenhofer served as emcee for Monday’s event. He said, “Recovery Coaches from Kenton UMADAOP, medication and health care from the Kenton Health Partners of Western Ohio and intensive outpatient services from Coleman Professional Services combined with the oversight of the court has given hope and a second chance at happiness for hundreds of men and women in Hardin County

With support from the Ohio Legislature, the Kasich Administration has made significant progress toward cracking down on illicit pill mills and traffickers, strengthening prescriber guidelines, expanding access to treatment and making the overdose antidote naloxone widely available. For a list of key accomplishments to date, visit:

1.usa.gov/1Qf4ee2. For more information about Ohio’s multi-pronged approach to fighting opioid addiction, visit: www.mha.ohio.gov/gcoat

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Ohio Addiction Treatment Program

Promoting Wellness and Recovery

John R. Kasich, Governor
Tracy J. Plouck, Director

About the Addiction Treatment Project (ATP)

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Participant Demographics

Participants: 410
Gender: 52.9% Male 46.8% Female
Race: 94.8% White 5.2% Non-White
Median Age: 29.3
Education Level: 58.8% High School Diploma/GED 22% Beyond High School
Co-Occurring Mental Health Disorder: 63% (n=370)

Source: Case Western Reserve University Analysis, Dec. 2015

Recovery-Oriented Outcomes

Employment: Increased — 114% ↑
Pre-program employment: 27.8%
Post-program employment: 59.7%

Stable Housing: Increased — 28.7% ↑
Pre-program: 70.5%
Post-program: 90.8%

Criminal Justice Outcomes

Committed Crime Past 30 days: Decreased — 86% ↓
Pre-program: 26.6%
Post-program: 3.7%



Substance Use Outcomes

Any Drug Use Past 30 days: Overall Decrease — 69.4% ↓

Specifically: Alcohol use decreased 56.6% (10.6% to 4.6%)
Marijuana use decreased 75.7% (7.4% to 1.8%)
Cocaine/Crack decreased 78.3% (8.3% to 1.8%)
Heroin use decreased 87.8% (26.3% to 3.2%)
Opiate use decreased 78.3% (8.3% to 1.8%)
IV Drug Use decreased 85.3% (25.2% to 3.7%)