



News Now

John R. Kasich, Governor
Tracy Plouck, Director

Dec. 8, 2014

>>> Governor Establishes First Week of July as NAS Awareness Week, Announces Initiative for Healthy Moms and Babies

Last Thursday, Gov. John R. Kasich signed [House Bill 465](#) designating the first week of July as “Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Awareness Week” in Ohio. Prior to the bill signing, Gov. Kasich addressed 1,500 local leaders attending the 2014 Ohio Infant Mortality Summit sponsored by the Ohio Department of Health. The goal of the summit is to make sure every Ohio baby is born healthy, full-term, and lives to celebrate their first birthday. At the conference, the Governor announced he is directing the:

- Ohio Department of Health to identify "hot spot" neighborhoods where infant mortality is the highest in the state;
- Ohio Department of Medicaid to direct managed care plans to automatically connect pregnant women and babies in the hot spot communities with high-risk care management; and
- Office of Health Transformation to identify and fund research based best-practice methods of group care for expecting mothers.

[Press release](#)

[Activities to date](#)

[Aiming to save babies](#) *Columbus Dispatch*

>>> Planning Council Seeking New Recruits

The [Ohio Community Support Recovery Planning Council](#) is recruiting new members for terms starting in January 2015. The Council serves as an advisory board to OhioMHAS on planning for mental health and addiction services, and meets federal requirements for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Block Grants. The Council meets six times a year on Fridays and Saturdays in Columbus. Membership includes persons in recovery and family members of persons in recovery. Additionally, the Council includes representatives of state agencies, providers, statewide behavioral health organizations and a representative of the Ohio Association of Behavioral Health Authorities. OhioMHAS is currently seeking a person in recovery from mental illness and a family member of a child under 18 who is being treated for a serious emotional disturbance to fill three-year terms. For an application, and more information, please contact Liz.Gitter@mha.ohio.gov or call 614.466.9963.

>>> Start Talking! Expands Social Media Presence, Launches Twitter Account

Attention Tweeps! Now you can keep up with the latest [Start Talking!](#) youth drug prevention initiative news and information on Twitter. Follow the initiative at <https://twitter.com/StartTalkingOH> and encourage your friends and colleagues to follow suit. Be sure to like the [Start Talking! Facebook page](#) as well.

>>> SAMHSA Consumer/Family Network Grant Opportunities

The federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration is seeking applications for funding through its [Statewide Consumer Network Program](#) and [Statewide Family Network Program](#). The anticipated award amount for both categories is \$95,000 annually. The deadline to apply for funding is **Monday, Feb. 2, 2015**. Click the links for more details.

In the News

(12/8/14) *Elyria Chronicle-Telegram* [Relatives to decorate tree in remembrance of overdose victims](#)

(12/5/14) *Forbes* [\\$5M Ohio 'Pay for Success' Targets Homelessness and Child Welfare](#)

(12/4/14) *Akron Beacon Journal* [Summit County youth behavior survey is both troubling, promising](#)

(12/4/14) *Columbus Dispatch* [Study: Mental illness, access to care vary by state](#)

(12/4/14) *WYTV-TV 33* [Mental health court first to get state certification](#)

(12/4/14) *Columbus Dispatch* [Suicide rate for the elderly a concern](#)

(12/4/14) *Aurora Advocate* [More Pregnant Women to Get Access to Health Care in Ohio](#)

(12/3/14) *Los Angeles Times* [7.6% of Americans are depressed, but few seek mental health treatment](#)

(12/3/14) *WMFJ-TV 21* [Bill to regulate medicine to treat addicts heads to Ohio Senate](#)

(12/3/14) *WDTN-TV 2* [Radio partners with social service to stop heroin](#)

(12/3/14) *Hudson Hub-Times* [Individuals, organizations Honored at Annual Morgan Impact Awards](#)

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