

January 5, 2017



Opiate MBR Bill Signing Ceremony

Ohio Gov. John R. Kasich watches as Taylor Stevenson helps to “dot the I” on the Governor’s Opiate MBR Bill (S.B. 319) during a bill signing ceremony at the Statehouse. Taylor, who is celebrating two years and nine months of sobriety, is in long-term recovery for opioid addiction. She is raising a healthy baby boy and

attending college to become an addictions counselor.

Also looking on are (l-r): State Rep. Robert Sprague (R-Findlay) and OhioMHAS Director Tracy Plouck.

S.B. 319 was sponsored by Sen. John Eklund (R-Munson Township). [View the bill.](#) [Read a factsheet.](#)

>>> Reminder: 21st Century Cures Act Funding Stakeholder Survey – Deadline to Participate Jan. 9

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) is in the process of applying for up to \$26 million a year for the next two years through the [State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis Grants](#) program announced as part of the 21st Century Cures Act. The Department has developed a [Constructive Ideas Survey](#) to gather stakeholder input critical to Ohio’s successful application. Your input is needed to help OhioMHAS understand the diverse needs in communities throughout the state. The Department’s application is due Feb. 17. OhioMHAS leadership has elected to focus on several core principles, including a focus on key areas consistent with the federal grant announcement: prevention, early intervention, treatment (including MAT), recovery supports, workforce development and addressing secondary trauma among first responders. It is important that we the views and voices of all of our stakeholders. ***Please take a moment to [complete the survey](#) by 5 p.m. on Jan. 9.*** Follow the grant application process on the [OhioMHAS Funding Opportunities web page](#).

>>> Registration Open: 2017 Recovery Housing Conference – March 1-2

Registration is now live for [Ohio's Fourth Annual Recovery Housing Conference](#) slated for March 1-2 at the Crowne Plaza North in Columbus. The conference features two days of learning and networking dedicated to starting and operating quality recovery housing. Featured speakers include Beth Sanders, former president and founder of the National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) and current executive director of Hope Homes Recovery Residences, and George Braucht, founding member of NARR and a national leader in recovery. Visit ohiorecoveryhousing.org for more information.

>>> Assessment Concludes Medicaid Coverage Supports Work

Ohioans who became eligible for health care coverage through the state's recent Medicaid expansion reported that it was easier for them to keep or find work, and most reported better health and financial security as a result of obtaining coverage. The Ohio Medicaid Department shared these findings with the Ohio General Assembly in a [report](#) published December 31. Other findings from the report include:

- a large decline in the uninsured rate for low-income adults to the lowest rate ever recorded;
- most enrollees (89 percent) were uninsured prior to obtaining Medicaid coverage;
- improved access to care was associated with a reduction in unmet medical needs;
- high-cost emergency department use decreased;
- many detected previously unknown or unaddressed chronic health conditions;
- health status improved for most (48 percent) and worsened for very few (4 percent);
- many enrollees (32 percent) screened positive for depression or anxiety disorders;
- many enrollees reported it was now easier to buy food and pay rent; and
- the percentage of enrollees with medical debt fell by nearly half.

The Ohio Medicaid Assessment is one of the nation's most comprehensive reviews of a state's Medicaid expansion population (called Group VIII for the section of federal code that expanded the program). At the request of the Ohio General Assembly, Ohio Medicaid commissioned the assessment, which was then independently developed and carried out by a partnership of the Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center, The Ohio State University College of Public Health, Ohio University, and RTI International.

In the News

1.5.17 | *Kaiser Health News* [A Peer Recovery Coach Walks the Frontline of the Opioid Epidemic](#)

1.4.17 | *Dayton Daily News* [Kasich signs drug bill, urges Ohioans to fight addiction](#)

1.4.17 | *Cleveland Plain Dealer* [Gov. Kasich signs opioid abuse prevention bill](#)

1.4.17 | *Ohio Public Radio* [Gov. Kasich credits Medicaid Expansion for helping Ohio fight drug abuse](#)

1.4.17 | *WSYX-TV* [Kasich signs heroin bill into law](#)

1.4.17 | *Toledo Blade* [Kasich signs bills to fight heroin epidemic](#)

1.3.17 | WNWO-TV [Local mental health provider creates long-term opiate addiction education program](#)

1.3.17 | *Zanesville Times-Recorder* [Renovation will allow more women to receive treatment](#)

1.2.17 | *Associated Press* [Ohio Highway Patrol's new anti-drug emphasis is bringing record seizures](#)

1.1.17 | *Putnam County Sentinel* [Partnership to address local safety and economic threat of drug abuse in workplace](#)

12.31.16 | *Columbus Dispatch* [Report cites gains from Ohio's Medicaid expansion](#)

12.30.16 | *Sandusky Register* [Artisans founders Joey and Mary Supina named 2016 Register Awards winners](#)

12.30.16 | *Cincinnati Enquirer* [Using science to identify the addicted](#)

12.28.16 | *Columbus Dispatch* [Central Ohioans mourn loss of Carrie Fisher, advocate](#)

12.27.16 | *Amherst News-Times* [Recovering addict talks about his journey](#)

12.27.16 | *Amherst News-Times* [Cops are becoming old hands at saving OD victims](#)

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