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(left to right: GCOAT Deputy Director Andrea Boxill, Andrew Weinman, OhioMHAS Director Tracy Plouck, Lucas County Sheriff John Tharp, Lucas County MHRS Board Director Scott Sylak, and Lucas County Commissioner Tina Wozniak)

## >>> **New Toolkit to Help Ohio Communities Fight Deadly Heroin, Prescription Drug Epidemic**

Communities across Ohio will get a boost in the fight against heroin and other opiate addiction with today's release of a [Health Resource Toolkit for Addressing Opioid Abuse](#). Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) staff unveiled the new resource during a press conference at the Lucas County Corrections Center where Toledo-area officials were praised for their efforts to replicate the collaborative approach that exists in state government to implement effective responses to opioid

abuse and addiction. The toolkit provides guidance on everything from building a local coalition to prevent overdose deaths and promote responsible prescribing practices to expanding access to Medication-Assisted Treatment and embracing specialized docket programs to close the revolving door of addiction and crime. The resource includes technical support contacts at the state level, guidance on accessing relevant data and trend information as well as a checklist for building an effective local response. Two community case studies – highlighting innovative strategies and tactics deployed in Lucas and Summit counties – are also included.

[Read the press release](#)

### >>> **Governor Kasich Signs Suicide Prevention, Naloxone Bills into Law**



Today, Governor John R. Kasich signed ten bills into law, including two that have a positive impact on the mental health and addiction services system in Ohio.

[Am. House Bill 28](#) (Anielski, R-Walton Hills, pictured left) requires state institutions of higher education to develop and implement a policy to advise students and staff on suicide prevention programs available on and off campus. OhioMHAS has [supported](#) this legislation as an additional step toward raising awareness to prevent suicide. OhioMHAS will work with the Ohio Board of Regents to implement this new law and make resources readily available to universities statewide.

[Am. Sub. House Bill 4](#) (Sprague, R-Findlay and Rezabek, R-Clayton) makes the life-saving opioid overdose antidote naloxone more readily available by allowing it to be dispensed by a pharmacist without a prescription under an authorization from a physician or a local board of health in accordance with a protocol developed by the State Board of Pharmacy. [Guidance for pharmacist dispensing](#) was established under an [executive order](#) that was also signed today. The bill provides immunity to a physician, pharmacist or board of health acting in good faith in the furnishing of naloxone. The legislation also allows for a board of health to make occasional sales of naloxone at wholesale rates to state or local law enforcement. GCOAT Deputy Director Andrea Boxill [testified in support](#) of this legislation in April. All of these provisions are important steps in expanding the availability of naloxone statewide and saving lives.

### >>> **Two Ohioans Elected to the National Alliance on Mental Illness's Board of Directors**

Two Ohioans have been elected to the [National Alliance on Mental Illness \(NAMI\)](#) National Board of Directors. NAMI Ohio Board Members including former State Senator Robert Spada, of North Royalton, and Gloria Walker, of Cincinnati, were elected to the National Board during the NAMI annual convention held in San Francisco last week. The 16 member Board provides strategic guidance in the fulfillment of NAMI's mission to provide advocacy, education, support and public awareness so that all individuals and

families affected by mental illness can build better lives. NAMI National Board Members have broad responsibility to govern the organization. Together and with input from all members, they make policy to govern NAMI, determine NAMI's official position on matters of public policy, set the budget and priorities of the national office and develop strategic plans to guide organizational development.

### >>> **Recovery Requires a Community Funding Eligibility Reminder**

As a reminder, the eligibility criteria for Recovery Requires a Community funding is the following:

- Individual is a current recipient of Medicaid;
- Transitioning from a nursing facility to the community;
- Has a record of mental illness or substance use disorder, and;
- Requires ongoing support in the community for mental health or substance use disorder diagnosis

Currently, Recovery Requires a Community applications can be submitted for the following items:

- Housing, including subsidy, home furnishing, and homelessness mitigation;
- Home modification for safety and accessibility (reviewed on a case by case basis);
- Arrears, including back utility payment and back rent payment; and
- Supplemental Independent Living Assistance, including the extension of HOME Choice supplemental and demonstration services; and
- Non-Medical Transportation

If you have any questions about Recovery Requires a Community, please contact the program at [recovery@mha.ohio.gov](mailto:recovery@mha.ohio.gov).

### **In the News**

7.14.15 | Columbus Dispatch [Ohioans Named to National Alliance on Mental Illness Board](#)

7.13.15 | Huffington Post [Effective Mental Health Treatment for Young Children and Their Families](#)

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