



News Now

John R. Kasich, Governor
Tracy Plouck, Director

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>>> A Message from the OhioMHAS Medical Director's Office: Opioid Overdoses Related to Carfentanyl

In recent weeks, a highly potent opioid has been identified as the likely contributor to a number of overdose deaths in the [Akron](#) and Columbus areas. This compound, carfentanyl, has a potency approximately 10,000 times that of morphine and 100 times that of fentanyl, [according to the National Institutes of Health](#). It is not detected by routine drug screens. In cases of suspected carfentanyl overdose, clinical experience in emergency settings has demonstrated the need for dosing of [naloxone](#) in excess of the usual amount required to reverse opioid-related overdose symptoms. EMS providers have reported administering 4-7 doses of naloxone to reverse overdose symptoms in a significant percentage of patients with suspected carfentanyl overdose. *Overdose victims not responding to typical doses of naloxone may require additional naloxone dosing due to the presence of this highly-potent opioid.* This additional dosing can provide life-saving benefit in cases of carfentanyl overdose.

>>> Peer Recovery Supporter Certification Exams

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) is hosting a series of in-person testing opportunities between now and the end of August for individuals with lived experience of a mental health or substance use disorder who are interested in becoming a Certified Peer Recovery Supporter. Exam dates, location and registration information is available at <https://www.eventbrite.com/>. Type "Ohio peer" into the search box and "Columbus, Ohio" in the location box. Test takers must bring photo identification (either a state driver's license or state identification card) and a No. 2 pencil. Test takers must arrive 30 minutes prior to the start of the exam. Individuals who do not have a photo identification or who arrive late will not be permitted to test. Test takers will have a maximum of three hours to complete the exam. As a reminder, individuals who have taken the OhioMHAS Integrated Peer Recovery Supporter training and have passed the exam do NOT need to take this exam (anyone who has tested after August 2013). OhioMHAS is working to finalize an on-line version of the exam and more information will be forthcoming.

>>> "Supervising Peer Recovery Supporters" Trainings

OhioMHAS is sponsoring a series of in-person trainings on Supervising Peer Recovery Supporters through the beginning of September. Anyone interested in taking the four-hour training may view available dates and locations and register through Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/>. Type "supervising peer recovery supporters" into the search box and type "Ohio" in the location box.

>>> Rural Behavioral Health Webinar Series: Developing Partnerships between Juvenile Justice and Schools to Provide Mental Health Services to Rural Counties – July 27

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), in collaboration with the American Institutes for Research (AIR), will continue its *2016 Rural Behavioral Health: Addressing the Behavioral Health Needs of Children, Youth and Families* webinar series with the July 27 presentation of [Developing Partnerships between Juvenile Justice and Schools to Provide Mental Health Services in Communities](#). This webinar will focus on the Williams County, Ohio, LINC (*Linking Individuals with Needs to the Community*), Safe Schools/Healthy Students (SS/HS) initiative as an example of effective partnerships between juvenile justice, mental health and schools. This initiative provides coordinated and comprehensive school-based mental health services to children and youth in a rural community in northwest Ohio. Presenters include: the Hon. Steven R. Bird, Judge, Williams County Probate/Juvenile Court; Jeff Spears, external grants administrator, Ohio Department of Youth Services; and Ron Rittichier, project director, Williams County LINC, SS/HS grant. The webinar will be facilitated by Karen B. Francis, Ph.D., principal researcher, AIR. Participants will: learn how rural communities can support the development of partnerships between juvenile justice' mental health and schools to address the needs of children and youth; examine key roles of state and community agencies in developing effective partnerships; explore effective strategies for the implementation of comprehensive and coordinated mental health services in rural communities; and, learn about available resources to facilitate effective partnerships between juvenile justice, mental health and schools to provide services and supports. Click the link for more information and to register.

In the News

7.22.16 | *Stow Sentry* [MCM Foundation hopes to bring mental illness 'Out of the Shadows'](#)

7.21.16 | *Akron Legal News (Editorial)* [Akron Municipal Mental Health Court going strong after 15 years](#)

7.20.16 | *Akron Beacon Journal* [Summit County brings national mental health awareness campaign to Akron](#)

7.20.16 | *Sandusky Register* [Addiction a top issue in Cleveland](#)

7.20.16 | *Associated Press* [Terror Attacks Cannot Be Blamed on mental Illness, Experts Contend](#)

7.20.16 | *The Washington Post* [The real reason so many more Americans are using heroin](#)

7.19.16 | *The Wall Street Journal* [Tackling Workers' Mental Health, One Text at a Time](#)

7.17.16 | *Columbus Dispatch* [Grandview man raises funds to help others with depression](#)

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