



News Now

John R. Kasich, Governor
Tracy Plouck, Director

June 30, 2015

>>> Governor to Sign SFY 16-17 Budget This Evening – Follow Along on Twitter @ #StrongerOhio

Gov. John R. Kasich is expected to sign Am. Sub. House Bill 64, the SFY 2016-17 biennial budget, into law around 8 p.m. The Governor's budget maintains fiscal restraint and builds on much of the work begun in the last four years – addressing areas critical to long-term economic success such as education, tax cuts to improve competitiveness and opportunities for those most in need of assistance. The budget continues to transform Ohio into a national leader in health care. This latest series of reforms focuses on improving the quality and outcomes associated with Ohio's health care programs, while staying accountable to taxpayers and finding new ways to support all Ohioans. The budget takes bold steps to reduce recidivism and enhance addiction treatment in Ohio's prisons, increases access to recovery housing and sustains the Residential State Supplement Program, focuses on saving lives through investments in suicide prevention and naloxone, and makes core investments in treatment services for Ohioans with substance abuse and mental health treatment needs. Twitter users can follow the discussion live, using the hashtag **#StrongerOhio**. OhioMHAS Director Tracy Plouck will share her thoughts in a short video. We will have full details of the budget, and what's in store for Ohio's behavioral health system in a separate *NewsNow*.

>>> Grant Information for Applicants (GIFA) – Part 2 Released

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) is reviewing and approving funding of community grants and program initiatives funded from block grant and other state sources for State Fiscal Year 2016. The department is in the process of realigning grant management and fiscal processes to promote a uniform and centralized approach for the distribution and monitoring of funds to the community. For SFY 2016, all currently funded grantees must submit their applications electronically via the Online Grant Application (OLGA) system or the Proving Ohio's Prevention Success (POPS) system in order to reduce the amount of paperwork required to process grants.

Most SFY 2016 GIFA Applications are now available via the Online Grants Application System (OLGA) and the Proving Ohio's Prevention Success System (POPS). Some grantees whose SFY 2016 deliverables may differ from the previous year are not included. These grantees will be notified by their program leads on next steps to complete the application process and finalize deliverables and funding for SFY 16.

This year's grant process has been delayed due to the decision to realign the grant management and fiscal processes. This was a necessary step in order to promote a uniformed and centralized approach for the distribution and monitoring of funds to the community as a result of the departmental consolidation. Recognizing the impact to the field as a result of the changes to the grant application systems, the application submission process in OLGA and POPS shall be extended until July 31, 2015.

All forms pertaining to the SFY 2016 GIFA can be found on the [OhioMHAS website](#). If you have any questions related to the SFY 2016 GIFA documents, please contact your project lead. The appropriate contact information is listed on the [OhioMHAS SFY 2016 Project Lead Contact List](#).

>>> Recovery Requires a Community Funding Update

OhioMHAS is pleased to announce a new partnership with Morning Star Financial Services, which will serve as the fiscal intermediary for the [Recovery Requires a Community](#) program. This change takes effect **July 1, 2015**. The partnership with Morning Star Financial Services will facilitate a streamlined approach to reimbursement and result in a shorter timeframe for provision of funds. Representatives from OhioMHAS and Morning Star have been working together to ensure a smooth transition of fiscal services from Ohio Shared Services. Provider agencies currently funded by Recovery Requires a Community have been contacted to ensure that all necessary fiscal information is obtained prior to the start of the new fiscal year. Beginning July 1, requests for reimbursement will be sent directly to Morning Star. Morning Star will provide follow-up communication regarding next steps and updated processes in the coming weeks as needed, including contact information and the template for reimbursement requests.

If there are any questions about Recovery Requires a Community program, or the switch to Morning Star, please email recovery@mha.ohio.gov.

>>> Naloxone, Suicide Prevention Bills Slated for Governor's Signature

The Ohio Legislature recently voted to approve a naloxone "standing order" measure, and is putting the finishing touches on a suicide prevention bill. Both items are slated to be signed into law by Gov. John R. Kasich.

On June 24, 2015, the Ohio House of Representatives sent [HB 4](#) (Sprague/Rezabek) to Gov. Kasich. The bill will allow a physician to issue a protocol that authorizes others to furnish naloxone to an individual who is at risk of overdosing or to an individual who might be able to assist another person during an opioid-induced overdose (a.k.a. "standing order"). Under current law, prescribers have to be present when naloxone is furnished. The bill received unanimous support in both chambers and includes an emergency clause so the bill will be effective immediately upon Gov. Kasich's signature. Leading up to its passage, the House concurred with the Senate's amendments which included a provision to resolve an unintended consequence of HB 367 from the HB 130th General Assembly. This provision will exclude treatment centers that distribute

buprenorphine (but not methadone) to patients participating in an opioid treatment program from the current law limits on the amount of controlled substances the physician may personally furnish as long as The Ohio State Pharmacy Board and OhioMHAS to conduct annual on-site inspections of the opioid treatment programs. "This bill is one piece of many state initiatives to combat the opioid addiction epidemic in the State of Ohio," said Rep. Robert Sprague (R-Findlay) the main sponsor, along with Rep. Jeffery Rezabek (R-Clayton).

The Legislature is also expected to act on [HB 28](#), a bill sponsored by Rep. Marlene Anielski (R-Walton Hills) aimed at preventing suicides among college and university students. Recent statistics show that suicide is the third-leading cause of death in Ohio for 10- to 24-year-olds. The bill will require state institutions to "develop and implement policies to advise students and staff on suicide prevention programs available on and off campus," according to the Legislative Service Commission's analysis. It also mandates that colleges and universities provide incoming students with information about mental health topics and requires the Board of Regents and OhioMHAS to post free prevention materials and program information on their websites. Earlier this year, OhioMHAS Director Tracy Plouck provided a [letter of support](#) for the bill.

In the News

6.30.15 | Associated Press [Kasich to sign \\$71B Ohio budget; expects to veto some items](#)

6.30.15 | *The Daily Jeffersonian* [Noble County to Launch Project DAWN July 6](#)

6.25.15 | *The Athens NEWS* [Statewide recovery/prevention confab set at OU](#)

6.25.15 | *USA Today* [Drexel University implements new mental health kiosk](#)

6.24.15 | *WLWT-TV* [Special Report: Heroin in the Heartland](#)

6.24.15 | *WBNS-TV* [Maryhaven Plans \\$2 Million Expansion for Addiction Treatment](#)

6.24.15 | *This Week News* [More than 500 join schools' drug-free clubs](#)

6.19.15 | *The Wall Street Journal* [Long Struggle for Midwestern needle Exchange](#)

6.19.15 | *The Wall Street Journal* [Rural U.S. Struggles to Combat IV Drug Abuse](#)

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