



Oct. 21, 2015



>>> Problem Gambling Annual Report Details Progress and Plans

Director Tracy Plouck shared the [OhioMHAS Report on Problem Gambling Services SFY 2015-16](#) with the members of the Ohio Casino Control Commission at today's Commission meeting. The report contains highlights of SFY 2015, including:

- 35,444 Ohioans screened for problem gambling – an increase of 10,000 over last year.
- 1,001 diagnosed and/or treated for gambling disorder, a small increase over last year's total of 924.
- Four new promising practices developed for prevention and treatment of problem gambling.
- Approximately 620 behavioral health professionals took part in workforce development opportunities in SFY 2015.
- The Be the 95% problem gambling awareness campaign was developed and launched by Ohio for Responsible Gambling.

The report also featured a graphic summary of recommendations from the three Problem Gambling system evaluations that were funded in the past year. Strategic planning work with

system stakeholders will take place in November to establish which recommendations should be prioritized. Read more about what Ohio is doing to prevent and treat problem gambling on the [OhioMHAS website](#).



>>> **Start Talking! Featured in "Partnering for a Safer Ohio" Stakeholder Chat**

Ohio's Start Talking! statewide youth drug prevention initiative was the focus of this month's "Partnering for a Safer Ohio" web chat hosted by the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS). In this month's installment, ODPS Director John Born sat down with Sarah Smith, director of the Start Talking initiative and Sgt. Vincent Shirley of the Ohio State Highway Patrol (state coordinator for "Five Minutes for Life" program) to discuss services, future efforts and answer frequently asked questions about the initiative. Click [HERE](#) to watch video of the web chat.

>>> **National Report Commends Ohio Home and Community Based Care**

Ohio is one of three states highlighted in *Tipping the Balance: The Balancing Incentive Program and State Progress on Rebalancing Their Long-Term Services and Supports*. The report describes Ohio's progress toward achieving the "balancing benchmark" where community-based long-term services and supports (LTSS) account for at least 50 percent of total LTSS spending. The State of Ohio surpassed this spending target for home and community-based services in Sept. 2014, one full year ahead of schedule.

[Read the report](#)

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>>> **Ohio Benefits for Citizens Seeking Health Coverage**

Ohio Medicaid Director John McCarthy recently updated members of the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee on the continued progress of the new Ohio Benefits online eligibility system. Since going "live" on Oct. 1, 2013, more than two million Ohioans have applied for Medicaid coverage online through the new system. Over the next two years, additional income-tested programs like nutrition assistance and temporary cash assistance for needy families will be moved onto the Ohio Benefits eligibility determination system.

[Read Dir. McCarthy's testimony](#)

In the News

10.21.15 | *Business Wire* [Connect 4 Mental Health Announces 2015 Community Innovation Award Recipients](#)

10.20.15 | *The Daily Standard* [State provides funds for life-saving drug to fight overdoses](#)

10.20.15 | *ThisWeek News* [Actress' Visit Puts Focus on mental-Health Care](#)

10.19.15 | *Lima News* [Mental health officials: Speak up to prevent bullying, substance abuse](#)

10.15.15 | *Columbus Dispatch* [Old Athens insane asylum to get new life as part of Ohio University](#)

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