

May 27, 2015

>>> Ohio Launches Behavioral Health System Redesign

The Governor's Office of Health Transformation convened a behavioral health system design team today to begin the detailed work required to improve care coordination and rebuild community behavioral health system capacity. The design team will advise the state on how to modernize the Medicaid behavioral health benefit, develop new services for people with the most intensive needs, and include behavioral health within Medicaid managed care. This work is in parallel with legislative consideration of Ohio's two-year operating budget so that, if the final budget includes behavioral health care coordination, the implementation can proceed without delay.

[Summary of the care coordination model](#)

[Checklist of benefit changes](#)

[Public notice about expanding benefits](#)

[System design leadership team](#)

[More details](#)

>>> Guidance for Preventing Heat-Related Illness in Individuals Using Psychiatric Medication



With the summer months approaching, it is important to recognize the warning signs of heat-related illness and learn how to prevent it. Although anyone can be affected by heat-related issues, the elderly, the very young and individuals with medical problems including those with psychiatric disorders and addictions are especially susceptible. With appropriate preventive actions, heat-related illness and deaths can be avoided. Our brochure titled [Heat-related illness in individuals using psychiatric medication](#) provides information for providers, caregivers and consumers about how to identify, avoid and respond to heat-related illness. If you have not already done so, please consider developing a heat emergency preparedness plan to help keep your patients and staff safe this summer. Read a related [memorandum](#) from OhioMHAS Medical Director Mark Hurst, M.D.

>>> Youth Peer Leader Survey

OhioMHAS is seeking participation in a [brief survey](#) to measure and verify the role of youth peer leaders in youth-led programming. The confidential survey seeks to gather perceptions on the importance and frequency of tasks as they relate to an individual's experience working with or functioning as a youth peer leader. Researchers from The Ohio State University College of Education and Human Ecology worked with youth peer leaders and youth advisors to develop the survey questions. Results will be used to formalize the role of youth peer leader to serve as the basis for a youth certification process, and to support efforts to provide skill-building opportunities for youth peer leaders (in the context of supporting both healthy youth development and a career path in behavioral/public health). Please complete the survey by **June 9**. Questions? Please contact Traci Lepicki at lepicki.1@osu.edu or 614.292.7033.

>>> Senate Committee on Medicaid Behavioral Health Care Coordination Testimony

On May 20, OhioMHAS Director Tracy Plouck joined with Ohio Medicaid Director John McCarthy to testify before the Senate Committee on Medicaid Behavioral Health Care Coordination. [Read the directors' testimony.](#)

In the News

(5.27.15) *Huffington Post* [This Mental Health Issue is More Prevalent Than All Forms of Cancer Combined](#)

(5.26.15) *Columbus Dispatch* [Changing drugs' formula may deter abuse](#)

(5.25.15) *Morrow County Sentinel* [Experts highlight Crawford, Marion mental health services](#)

(5.24.15) *Cincinnati Enquirer* [As heroin use spikes, children feel brunt](#)

(5.24.15) *Lake County News-Herald* [Plans for new recovery facility in Painesville for women and their children unveiled](#)

(5.23.15) *Newark Advocate* [OSU-N professor shares experience with mental illness](#)

(5.22.15) *WSYX-TV* [Moms Unite to Help Heal, Fight Drug Addiction](#)

(5.21.15) *WKBN-TV* [Callers flood lines during 'Call a Counselor'](#)

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