

Oct. 26, 2015



*Gov. Kasich comforts Carroll County resident Tonda DaRe as she shares details of her daughter Holly's opiate-related overdose death. DaRe said her daughter's drug abuse began with marijuana and moved on to prescription painkillers and heroin.*

### >>> Empowering Prescribers and Pharmacists to Prevent Opiate Abuse

Today, Ohio became the first state in the nation to offer statewide integration into its prescription monitoring database. Gov. John R. Kasich [announced](#) an investment of up to \$1.5 million a year to integrate the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS) directly into electronic medical records and pharmacy dispensing systems across the state, allowing instant access for prescribers and pharmacists. The announcement was made at a downtown Columbus Kroger store. Gov. Kasich was joined by parent Tonda DaRe, Ohio Department of Health Medical Director Dr. Mary DiOrio, Ohio State Board of Pharmacy Executive Director Steven Schierholt and Kroger pharmacist Sarah Burke. "I hope this helps so many other people," said DaRe, whose daughter Holly died from a heroin overdose three years ago. "I don't want any other parent to go through what I went through, and am still going through." Learn more about Holly's story at: <http://www.hollyssongofhope.org/>

[OARRS Integration Fact Sheet](#)

[View video from today's event](#)

[New system to make it easier to spot opiate addiction](#) - *Columbus Dispatch*

[Ohio to help prescribers boost use of drug abuse database](#) - *Associated Press*

[State Website Helps Crack Down on "Doctor Shopping"](#) – *WSYX-TV 6*

**>>> REGISTER TODAY: Strong Families, Safe Communities Virtual Town Hall – Nov. 2**

To prevent tragedies from happening in our communities, Ohio is increasing the services that families can engage before they reach a crisis point through the [Strong Families, Safe Communities](#) initiative. Join DODD Director Martin and OhioMHAS Director Plouck for *Kids in Crisis: Preventing tragedies through earlier intervention* -- a virtual town hall on Nov. 2 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. [Register online](#) to attend this free session to learn more about the origins of the project, hear from project partners about successes and lessons-learned as well as how best practices are being shared across the state, and see the list of FY2016 grantees. The town hall also will feature families who will share how the services have made a difference in their lives. An interactive session at the end will allow attendees to ask questions. Once you register, you will receive an email with more information, including system requirements and the steps to join the meeting on Nov. 2.

**>>> OhioMHAS Research on Smoking and Nicotine Dependence Among Homeless Men in Ohio Published**

The *Journal of Family Medicine and Community Health* recently published a [journal article](#) by OhioMHAS staff about smoking and nicotine dependence among homeless men in Ohio. The study examined questionnaires from 250 adult homeless men at a metropolitan housing program. Results indicated 41% homeless male smokers to be in the high nicotine dependence category. A majority of smokers displayed low motivation to quit and were either in the pre-contemplation (56.9%) or contemplation (16.3%) stage of change. Among homeless smokers, about 33% actively tried to limit smoking due to health concerns, and 16% were planning to quit in the next six months. High prevalence rates of current smoking and nicotine dependence suggests that sheltered homeless smokers are at serious risk of tobacco-related morbidity and mortality. A comprehensive health care approach that integrates cessation services into facilities serving homeless persons may help to reduce the burden of their tobacco-related health problems. Proactive engagement of the community and providers could be an important strategy for decreasing smoking rates and encouraging quitting behavior among homeless smokers.

**>>> Miami Valley Opiate Forum – Nov. 9**

OhioMHAS Director Tracy Plouck will be among the speakers scheduled to present at the [Miami Valley Opiate Forum](#) on Nov. 9 at Sinclair Community College, Ponitz Center in Dayton. The forum will be presented by the Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board in partnership with the Montgomery County Drug-Free Coalition, Cornerstone Project and the Greater Dayton Area





Hospital Association. Click the link for more information and to register online. Questions? Call 937.443.0416 or email [CRogge@mcadamhs.org](mailto:CRogge@mcadamhs.org).

### >>> **Suicide Prevention Advisory Committee Holds First Meeting**

Each year, Ohio loses between 1,200 and 1,500 of its citizens to death by suicide. The first meeting of the state's Suicide Prevention Advisory Committee was convened today by the medical directors of three state departments: Mark Hurst, M.D., Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; Mary Applegate, M.D., Ohio Department of Medicaid; and Mary DiOrio, M.D., Ohio Department of Health. Members in attendance represented treatment providers, prevention professionals, law enforcement, education, active duty military, veterans, non-profits, educators and legislators, who were all ready to support Ohio's initiative to reduce suicides by addressing the issue as a public health epidemic.

"To our knowledge, we are one of only five states to specifically allocate funding for suicide reduction," said Dr. Hurst, acknowledging the support of the General Assembly.

#### **In the News**

10.25.15 | *Youngstown Vindicator* [YSU targets students' mental health](#)

10.25.15 | *Hudson Hub Times* [Former addicts share stories at "The Addiction Struggle;" offer advice to Hudson residents](#)

10.22.15 | *Cleveland Plain Dealer* [Medina County roundtable focuses on heroin and drug education, treatment options](#)

10.22.15 | *Associated Press* [CDC to help Ohio deal with deadly twist to heroin epidemic](#)

10.22.15 | *Washington Post* [Why it's so hard to find a mental health professional](#)

10.22.15 | *Cincinnati Enquirer* [Kids to be trained in OD reversal drug](#)

10.15.15 | *Huffington Post* [Stop the Madness](#)

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