

Nov. 16, 2016

>>> Ohio Schools Join Statewide Challenge to Fight Opioid Abuse

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and the Ohio STEM Learning Network today [announced](#) a new program to help schools better prepare for the opioid crisis. This year, several Ohio science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) schools will complete [design challenges](#) aimed at understanding and eliminating Ohio's opioid crisis. A "design challenge" is a multi-week project in which students learn by creating new solutions to real-world problems. Throughout the remainder of the school year, the Ohio STEM Network will post resources and events to support schools in organizing local design challenges. ODE is supporting the effort with public appearances by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria and amplifying these opportunities through the department's communications channels. Schools interested in participating can click [HERE](#) to register to receive information about support and promotion opportunities. >>>

Transportation Department Urging Motorists to Start Talking About Drugged Driving

The Ohio Department of Transportation and the Ohio State Highway Patrol are utilizing the state's 130 freeway message signs, as well as portable highway signs, to raise awareness about the growing drugged driving problem in Ohio. The two agencies announced today that the highway signs will display messaging alerting travelers to the increase in drugged driving crashes. The signs will also urge people to start talking about the drug abuse epidemic, a reference to Ohio's [Start Talking!](#) initiative that encourages parents and community leaders to talk to their children about the dangers of drug use. Read the [full news release](#).



>>> **Sears to Replace McCarthy as Ohio Medicaid Director**

Former state Rep. Barbara Sears will replace John McCarthy as the director of the Ohio Department of Medicaid in December, Gov. John R. Kasich announced Monday. Sears, a vocal proponent for Medicaid expansion in Ohio, has served as assistant director of the Governor's Office of Health Transformation since July 1 after resigning from the Ohio House. Former Rep. Sears served in the House as majority floor leader and as chair of the Insurance Committee and Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee. McCarthy has served as Ohio's Medicaid director since the start of the Kasich Administration. He led the department's creation as an independent cabinet agency and oversaw the expansion.

>>> **Surgeon General to Release Landmark Report on Substance Abuse and Addiction**

U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy is expected to release [Facing Addiction in America: The Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs and Health](#) this Thursday. This will mark the first report dedicated to substance abuse and related disorders. Areas of focus include: alcohol, illicit drugs and prescription drug misuse, with chapters dedicated to neurobiology, prevention, treatment, recovery, health integration and recommendations for the future. National advocacy group *Facing Addiction* will livestream the announcement from the historic Paramount Theater in Los Angeles from 4-7:20 p.m. EST at [FacingAddiction.org](#) and on [Facebook](#).

>>> **Great American Smokeout is Thursday – Nov. 17**

The American Cancer Society's annual Great American Smokeout is this Thursday, Nov. 17. By quitting -- even for one day -- smokers will be taking an important step toward a healthier life and reducing their cancer risk. About 40 million Americans still smoke cigarettes, and tobacco use remains the single largest preventable cause of disease and premature death in the world. While cigarette smoking rates have dropped, cigar, pipe and hookah -- other dangerous and addictive ways to smoke tobacco -- are very much on the rise. Click [HERE](#) to download fliers, posters and table tents, as well as ready-to-use web and social media graphics for your workplace, community and school.

In the News

11.16.16 | *Lake County News-Herald* [Ohio highway digital message boards encourage parents to 'Start Talking!'](#)



11.15.16 | *WCPO-TV* [Heroin overdoses way down in Cincinnati area since summer spike](#)

11.15.16 | *Cincinnati Enquirer* [Poll: 1 in 5 Ohioans know heroin, opioid user](#)

11.15.16 | *Youngstown Business Journal* [\\$20K Grant to Fund Drug-Free Workplace Program](#)

11.14.16 | *Cleveland Plain Dealer* [Ohio Medicaid chief resigns, will be replaced by former state Rep. Barbara Sears](#)

11.14.16 | *WBNS-TV* [Locals push veterans to watch for mental health signs](#)

11.14.16 | *NewsMedical.net* [Study shows how comorbid mental health conditions can impact child's care in hospital](#)

11.14.16 | *WKBN-TV* [Local resources available for those struggling with drug abuse](#)

11.14.16 | *ScienceDaily* [Ohio State University Study: Stress-induced changes in maternal gut could negatively impact offspring for life](#)

11.10.16 | *Bowling Green Sentinel-Tribune* [Let's celebrate the Children's Resource Center](#)

11.10.16 | *WKBN-TV* [WKBN 27 \(Youngstown\) to launch year-long heroin awareness campaign](#)

11.10.16 | Stark County MHAR Blog [Peer Support helps people living in recovery](#)

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