



News Now

John R. Kasich, Governor
Tracy Plouck, Director

February 27, 2017

>>> March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month

Governor John R. Kasich has declared March 2017 as Ohio Problem Gambling Awareness Month to coincide with the national observance.

Could you or someone you love have a problem with gambling? Consider these behaviors of a problem gambler:

- Frequently borrows money to gamble.
- Gambles to escape boredom, pain or loneliness.
- Lies to loved ones about gambling.
- Tries to win back money lost.
- Has lost interest in other activities.
- Is irritable about gambling behavior.
- Has unexplained absences for long periods of time.

Ohio's Be the 95% campaign was created to raise awareness of problem gambling in Ohio. The campaign messaging and website www.the95percent.org are designed to help individuals and families understand what responsible gambling looks like, to recognize the signs of high-risk gambling and addiction, and to know how to get help for loved ones.

[Read the press release and view Gov. Kasich's Problem Gambling Awareness Month resolution.](#)

>>> DEADLINE EXTENDED: 2017 OPEC Conference Call for Workshop Proposals

The deadline to [submit workshop proposals](#) to present at the 2017 Ohio Promoting Wellness & Recovery Conference (OPEC) has been **extended to 5 p.m. on March 3**. This year's conference will be held June 26-28 at Miami University in Oxford and feature six subject matter tracks: [Early Childhood Mental Health](#); [adolescent/transition age youth treatment & recovery supports](#); [prevention](#); [collective impact](#); [youth empowerment](#) and [cultural competency](#). Visit <http://opecconference.com> for more information.

>>> New OSAM-o-Gram: Neurotonin® Widely Sought for Illicit Use

The Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring (OSAM) Network today released its newest OSAM-o-Gram: [Neurotonin Widely Sought for Illicit Use](#). Neurotonin® (gabapentin) is an anticonvulsant medication used to treat nerve pain in adults. Gabapentin is a non-narcotic medication thought to have a low abuse profile. However, increasingly, OSAM focus group participants report illicit use of the drug – most often among individuals with a history of opioid abuse. Athens, Cleveland, Columbus and Youngstown participants indicated that the street availability of Neurontin® has increased during the past six months. Read more about this and other OSAM-related research at: <http://mha.ohio.gov/research/osam>.



***LAWRENCE COUNTY ROUNDTABLE:** OhioMHAS Director Tracy Plouck and Ohio Medicaid Director Barbara Sears participated in a roundtable discussion today with community leaders, behavioral health service providers and consumers in Ironton to hear how Medicaid Expansion has helped people in Southern Ohio.*

In the News

2.27.17 | *WEWS-TV* [Babies born to mothers addicted to heroin get special medicine from loving volunteers](#)

2.26.17 | *Scientific American* [Modern-day mental health: brain imaging identifies different types of depression](#)

2.25.17 | *Dayton Daily News* [Kasich fights for federal health care funds](#)

2.25.17 | *Marietta Times* [Meth abuse surging](#)

2.25.17 | *Marietta Times* [The mental health facts of life](#) (column)

2.24.17 | *Columbus Dispatch* [Kasich summoned to help craft Medicaid solution amid Obamacare repeal](#)

2.24.17 | *Cleveland Plain Dealer* [Gov. Kasich talks with President Trump about reforming Obamacare](#)

2.24.17 | *Medical News Today* [People with mental health disorders at risk of stroke, study finds](#)

2.22.17 | *Fremont News-Messenger* [Documentary: Suicide – Surviving Crisis](#)

2.20.17 | *WCPN-90.3* [Juvenile Diversion Programs](#)

2.17.17 | *The Collegian* [The heroin epidemic from a counselor's perspective](#)

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