



# News Now

John R. Kasich, Governor  
Tracy Plouck, Director

June 29, 2018

## >>> Opioid STR/CURES Act Technical Assistance Calls: July 2018 Schedule

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) is facilitating a series of statewide technical assistance calls to discuss projects and topics related to the State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis grant through the 21st Century CURES Act. Each call covers different topics and includes about 10 minutes of content presentation, while the remaining time is utilized for participant questions and open discussion. Please click [HERE](#) for the July 2018 call schedule and select the hyperlinked topics to register for the call through the webinar system. Please send future topic requests and direct any questions related to the calls to: [CURESteam@mha.ohio.gov](mailto:CURESteam@mha.ohio.gov).



## >>> Stakeholder Survey on Department Funding Priorities

Funding enables our department to place emphasis on priority areas and innovative practices in order to strengthen the overall provision of mental health and addiction services in Ohio. With limited resources, it is imperative for our system to prioritize investments that have the greatest impact for people throughout Ohio who need services. OhioMHAS is committed to investing in projects that improve clinical behavioral health practices, build capacity in non-behavioral health settings and empower community members to promote recovery and resiliency. To this end, the Department has created a brief [survey](#) to seek broad stakeholder input into the priorities that the department should focus its funding on for the next fiscal year. Your input is critical to help us understand the diverse needs across all of Ohio. It is important that we hear the views and voices of all our stakeholders. The survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete. **Please complete the survey by Friday, July 13.** Questions? Please contact Kraig Knudsen, Ph.D., chief of the Bureau of Research and Evaluation at 614.728.2527 or email [kraig.knudsen@mha.ohio.gov](mailto:kraig.knudsen@mha.ohio.gov).

## >>> Ohio Medicaid Achieves Behavioral Health Parity

Today the Ohio Departments of Medicaid and Mental Health and Addiction Services announced that the July 1, 2018, integration of Medicaid behavioral health redesign and physical health care benefits also will achieve the state's longstanding goal for parity between those benefits. The Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 defines parity and specifically prevents health plans from imposing less favorable benefit limitations on mental health or substance use disorder benefits than on medical/surgical benefits. Ohio Medicaid assessed its benefits following guidance provided by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and, effective July 1, assured compliance with parity requirements in federal law. This announcement marks a critical step in Gov. John Kasich's strategy to rebuild community behavioral health system capacity and fully integrate physical and behavioral health care services to support recovery for individuals with a substance use disorder or mental illness.

[Read the report](#)

**>>> 2018 Addiction Studies Institute – July 25-27**



Register now to attend the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Addiction Studies Institute on July 25-27 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. The Institute will feature three national keynote speakers, additional plenary sessions, concurrent sessions of varying lengths and an exhibit hall. Complete Institute registration information can be obtained by visiting the conference website at [www.addictionstudiesinstitute.com](http://www.addictionstudiesinstitute.com). The Institute is sponsored by Talbot Hall at OSU Hospital East. Questions? Please contact Eleanor Garrison at [eg@garrisonevents.com](mailto:eg@garrisonevents.com) or call 614.273.1400.

**>>> Auditor's Report Confirms Necessity of Medicaid Expansion**

A [recent report](#) from Ohio Auditor Dave Yost confirms the necessity of Ohio's 2014 Medicaid expansion in providing access to services that support recovery from addiction. For example, the report highlights the number of Ohioans with access to medication-assisted treatment increased from 6,500 before the expansion (in 2010) to 48,000 after the expansion (in 2016). "Because addiction leads to job loss and with it the loss of private, commercial insurance," says the Auditor, "many with addictions fall to Medicaid for opioid addiction treatment." The Auditor's report not only confirms that Ohio Medicaid effectively links individuals to the recovery services they need, it also verifies that Ohio's Medicaid providers are engaged in responsible prescribing practices. For example, opioid prescriptions for Medicaid recipients in Ohio are shorter in duration than the national trend in the commercially insured population, there are virtually no long-duration opioid prescriptions for Medicaid recipients in Ohio, and almost all opioid prescriptions written for Ohio Medicaid recipients are low dosage. The report also describes the increased cost associated with providing necessary recovery services during a national opioid crisis. Beginning July 1, these costs will be managed by Ohio Medicaid's five private sector managed care plans. For Medicaid overall, the managed care plans have assisted the state in holding per person Medicaid spending growth below two percent in each of the past four state fiscal years. As a result, more Ohioans can receive the critical recovery services they need within a well-managed and sustainable budget.

**>>> Save the Date: 14<sup>th</sup> All-Ohio Institute on Community Psychiatry – March 15-16, 2019**

OhioMHAS, in partnership with Northeast Ohio Medical University and University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center, will host the [14<sup>th</sup> All-Ohio Institute on Community Psychiatry](#) on March 15-16, 2019, at the Crowne Plaza Columbus North-Worthington. Psychiatrists, social workers, psychologists, nurses and counselors are invited to take advantage of this continuing education opportunity. Individuals or programs wishing to submit abstracts for workshops, showcases or poster presentations should contact Mark Hurst, M.D. and Kathleen Clegg, M.D. at [AllOhio2019@uhhospitals.org](mailto:AllOhio2019@uhhospitals.org). The full conference brochure and registration information will be available in January 2019. For more information, call 330.325.6794 or email [csmith14@neomed.edu](mailto:csmith14@neomed.edu).

**In the News**

6.29.18 | *Youngstown Business Journal* [Mental Health Board forms 'Preferred Care Network'](#)

6.28.18 | *WTOV-TV* [Training looks into how to help those with a mental illness](#)

6.27.18 | *Dayton Daily News* [Ohio teachers may face more training on youth suicide risks](#)

6.27.18 | *ABC News* [Study: Student-peer organization helps erase stigma tied to mental health issues](#)

6.27.18 | *WHIO-TV (Opinion)* [We have to stop discriminating against addicts](#)

6.27.18 | *WTOL-TV* [Zepf Center opens new area for M.O.M.S. program](#)

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