



News Now

Mike DeWine, *Governor*
Lori Criss, *Director*

December 18, 2019

>>> Jonathan Baker Named Chief of Staff

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) is pleased to announce the appointment of Jonathan Baker as Chief of Staff. In this role, Baker will provide administrative coordination and leadership of OhioMHAS operations and manage projects that affect multiple parts of the agency. He will oversee Ohio Pharmacy Services, Fiscal, Human Resources, Information Services, and the Bureau of Capital Planning and Management. Baker, who will start immediately in the position, brings more than 14 years of experience to the role of Chief of Staff. He began with the Ohio Senate and proceeded through the Ohio House of Representatives and the private sector before joining ODADAS and ODMH in the fall of 2012, just prior to the consolidation of the two departments. Since joining OhioMHAS, Baker has served as the Legislative Liaison, Capital Project Manager, Acting Deputy Director of Public Affairs, and Chief of the Bureau of Capital Planning and Management. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Communication from Ohio University.



>>> Links Available: K-12 Prevention Education Self-Assessment Tool Webinar

On Dec. 13, the OhioMHAS Office of Prevention Services hosted a “K-12 Prevention Self-Assessment Tool: What You Need to Know” webinar. This webinar provided an in-depth look at the Self-Assessment Tool that will assist Ohio school districts with identifying their current strengths and capacities related to quality social, emotional and behavioral health programming within the school environment. For the purposes of the [K-12 Prevention funds](#), districts will examine their programming in a best-practices framework that builds resiliency and academic success for every student. The webinar recording can be found [HERE](#). Links to PDFs of the documents included in the webinar can be found [HERE](#).

>>> New Online Licensure and Certification Application and Renewal Process Begins January 6

Beginning Jan. 6, 2020, users will need to submit applications and renewals for licensure and certification online in OhioMHAS’ new Licensure and Certification Tracking System, known as LACTS. Once the application or renewal is received in the new online system, users will get an email confirmation and up-to-date status reports about their licensure or certification.

In the upgraded LACTS tool, users will be able to:

- Submit an initial application or renew a license or certification,
- Get up-to-date information on their application status,
- Apply to open or close a satellite location,
- Manage access and contact information, and
- Communicate quickly with an OhioMHAS surveyor or Licensure and Certification staff member.

If you have questions about the technical system, email MHAHelpdesk@mha.ohio.gov or call 614.466.1483. You can also visit mha.ohio.gov/LACTS for more information. **Note: The LACTS, current and upcoming, system will not be available from Dec. 30, 2019 through Jan. 6, 2020.**

In the News

- 12.18.19 | *WFMJ-TV* [Gov. DeWine bringing cabinet to the Valley Wednesday](#)
- 12.18.19 | *Columbus Dispatch* [DeWine tours Columbus psychiatric hospital as he pushes Strong Ohio bill](#)
- 12.17.19 | *The New York Times* [A new drug scourge: deaths involving meth are rising fast](#)
- 12.17.19 | *Columbus Dispatch (Editorial)* [ODH's Acton is right to ring the alarm on Ohio's high death rates](#)
- 12.17.19 | *Dayton Business Journal* [Dayton-area college creates new course to fill jobs in addiction services](#)
- 12.17.19 | *Sandusky Register* [Gavarone offers mental health coverage bill](#)
- 12.17.19 | *WOSU 89.7* [Ohio's New School Safety Working Group Holds Inaugural Meeting](#)
- 12.17.19 | *Findlay Courier* ['Registry' started to help furnish new MOMS housing](#)
- 12.16.19 | *Columbus Dispatch* [Athens rehabilitation center helps people transition from psychiatric hospitals to home](#)
- 12.16.19 | *Youngstown Vindicator (Editorial)* [We must all help in fight against suicide](#)
- 12.16.19 | *Canton Repository* [Canton City Public Health, pastors team up to distribute naloxone](#)
- 12.16.19 | *Marietta Times (Editorial)* [If you know someone is suffering, reach out](#)
- 12.16.19 | *The Lantern* [Mental health app set to launch in January](#)
- 12.16.19 | *Hamilton Journal-News* [In educating about drugs, Fairfield officials turn to other students](#)
- 12.15.19 | *USA Today* [Is marijuana linked to psychosis, schizophrenia? It's contentious, but doctors, feds say yes](#)
- 12.14.19 | *NPR* [Correctional Officers Face Mental Health Challenges](#)
- 12.13.19 | *The Associated Press* [Foster care, mental health, guns on DeWine's 2020 agenda](#)
- 12.13.19 | *Healio Psychiatry* [Therapeutic model for youth suicide prevention 'first step' toward short-term intervention](#)

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