



News Now

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



April 15, 2020

>>> Seventh Annual Ohio Trauma-Informed Care Summit Goes Virtual – May 19-20

Resilience is that quality that allows some people to be knocked down by life and come back at least as strong as before. Through a partnership with Northeast Ohio Medical University and the Ohio Children's Alliance, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) is pleased to announce that [registration is now open](#) for this year's virtual Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) Summit scheduled to take place May 19-20. The virtual Summit has been designed to equip participants with the knowledge and tools they need to develop resiliency in all children, youth, adults and older adults with whom they interact. Participants may register for the entire two days or any parts they may be interested in. CEUS will be provided. Keynote session will be given by Raul Almazar, NASMHPD's Center for Innovation in Behavioral Health Policy and Practice (May 19), and Dr. Laurel Kiser, Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Family Informed Trauma Treatment Center (May 20). Day one (May 19) will feature best or promising practices in assessment, treatment, support and collaboration to respond to trauma across systems, and presentations about programs and projects that demonstrate collaboration across systems and that can be replicated in any area of the state are desired. Day two (May 20) will feature promising practices in responding to family and intergenerational trauma, incorporating cultural values and characteristics, and are intentional about practices that embrace shared learning and uplift cultural wellness. There is no cost to participate. Click [HERE](#) to view the agenda and to register online.

>>> COVID-19 Children's Residential Guidance

The OhioMHAS Bureau of Children, Youth and Families is pleased to announce the release of a new guidance resource to help ensure the health and safety of youth, families and service providers. This guidance provides procedures for congregate and non-congregate care facilities licensed, funded or regulated by the department.

[Guidance for In-Home Visitation and Screening of Youth and Visitors to Offices, Facilities and Programs](#)

>>> Medical Clearance for Psychiatric Hospitalizations Guidance

The current COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency in Ohio requires serious consideration of the best use of available medical resources. Hospital Emergency Departments (ED) are expected to see a very significant increase in service volume to meet the needs of those with suspected and confirmed COVID-19 infection as with the predicted upcoming "surge" in cases within the coming weeks. Persons in a behavioral health crisis and in need of psychiatric hospitalization have often received medical clearance using ED resources. Given the present circumstances, use of the ED for such patients may present risks for their health, as many with chronic and persistent mental health conditions have co-existing chronic medical conditions that place them at an increased risk for severe illness should they develop COVID-19.

OhioMHAS has released a new guidance document, [Medical Clearance for Psychiatric Hospitalization-Considerations With the COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency](#), to assist.

>>> OhioMHAS COVID-19 Licensure and Certification Waiver Process

During the COVID-19 pandemic, OhioMHAS is considering waivers for many licensure and certification requirements found in the Ohio Administrative Code. In order to expedite the process, the Department has set up a [process](#) for all certified providers, residential facilities, and private psychiatric facilities to follow. [This process is for COVID-19 related waivers only](#). Any waiver related to normal operations should be addressed directly with the surveyor the licensee or certified provider typically works with. Issues related to actual license or certification expiration dates or timelines were addressed in recently enacted HB 197 and should not be submitted via waiver request. Please address any

questions regarding license or certification dates to: LicCert@mha.ohio.gov. Click [HERE](#) for more information about the process and to access waiver forms.

>>> Telehealth Support for Behavioral Health Providers

The COVID-19 Telehealth Program will provide \$200 million in funding, appropriated by Congress as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act 2 to help health care providers provide connected care services to patients at their homes or mobile locations in response to the Coronavirus 2019 disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The COVID-19 Telehealth Program will provide immediate support to eligible health care providers responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by fully funding their telecommunications services, information services, and devices necessary to provide critical connected care services until the program's funds have been expended or the COVID-19 pandemic has ended. Interested health care providers must complete several steps to [apply for funding through the COVID-19 Telehealth Program](#).

Examples of services and devices that COVID-19 Telehealth Program applicants may seek funding for include:

- Telecommunications services and broadband connectivity services: voice services, and internet connectivity services for health care providers or their patients.
- Information services: remote patient monitoring platforms and services; patient reported outcome platforms; store and forward services, such as asynchronous transfer of patient images and data for interpretation by a physician; platforms and services to provide synchronous video consultation.
- Internet connected devices/equipment: tablets, smart phones, or connected devices to receive connected care services at home (e.g., broadband enabled blood pressure.)

For more information please visit: <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-20-394A1.pdf>

>>> SUD 1115 Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting -- April 24

The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) and OhioMHAS will hold the next meeting of the SUD 1115 Stakeholder Advisory Committee on Friday, April 24 from 1:30–2:30 p.m. The meeting time has been adjusted due to the COVID-19 health emergency and **will be held by webinar only**.

The meeting agenda will focus on two topics:

- The impact of the COVID-19 health emergency as it relates to the SUD 1115 waiver and
- Updates on state activities regarding Ohio's SUD 1115 waiver and implementation plan.

To register for this webinar, please go [HERE](#), select "April 24" from the drop-down menu and complete the required fields.

For more information on Ohio's response to COVID-19, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634). For behavioral health-specific information, visit: <https://mha.ohio.gov/coronavirus>. For behavioral health-related questions, email covid19BH@mha.ohio.gov. For COVID-19-related OTP questions, email OTP_COVID19@mha.ohio.gov, for Housing questions, email COVID19Housing@mha.ohio.gov and for Telehealth questions, email COVID19BHTelehealth@mha.ohio.gov.

In the News

4.15.20 | *Athens Messenger* [Ohio University's Voinovich School provides resources for mental health and addiction](#)

4.14.20 | *WCMH-TV* ['Strive for 5' challenges Ohioans to reach out to family and friends](#)

4.14.20 | *Dayton Daily News* [Rise in overdose deaths spurs addiction services expansion in Dayton area](#)

4.14.20 | *Spectrum News* [Behavioral Health Clinic helps people struggling during pandemic](#)

4.14.20 | *WDTN-TV* [Quarantine's toll on mental health](#)

4.14.20 | *WVXU 91.7* [Ohio asks for Medicaid waivers to battle coronavirus effects](#)

4.14.20 | *WSYX-TV* [COVID-19 impacts Ohio's foster care system youth](#)

4.13.20 | *Columbus Dispatch (Column)* [Trying to manage opioid addiction epidemic amid coronavirus pandemic](#)

4.13.20 | *New Philadelphia Times-Reporter* [Tuscarawas County Anti-Drug Coalition coordinator accepts state prevention role](#)

4.13.20 | *Marietta Times* [EVE, Inc. offers stirring virtual exhibit](#)

4.13.20 | *New England Journal of Medicine* [Mental health and the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

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