



News Now

Mike DeWine, Governor
Lori Criss, Director



August 13, 2020

>>> Governor DeWine Releases Minority Health Strike Force Report and Executive Response

Today, Governor DeWine released the final Minority Health Strike Force report and the state's executive response. The Minority Health Strike Force was formed in April to examine the disproportionate impact of the coronavirus on minority communities, as well as broader health disparities and racial injustices. Currently, African Americans represent 14 percent of Ohio's population but are 24 percent of positive COVID-19 cases, 32 percent of COVID-19 hospitalizations, and 19 percent of COVID-19 deaths in Ohio. Similarly, at least 6 percent of those who have tested positive for COVID-19 in Ohio are Latino, despite only representing 3.9 percent of Ohio's population. The [COVID-19 Minority Health Strike Force Blueprint](#) lists 34 recommendations on dismantling racism, removing public health obstacles, improving the social/economic and physical environments, and strengthening data collection to better track disparities.

>>> New Info and Resources on Special Education and Telehealth Available on Reset and Restart Website

The Ohio Department of Education posted four new pages with information and resources for those serving [students with disabilities](#) and providing [special education services](#), including a collection of special [education-specific resources](#). In addition, a separate page provides [guidelines for telehealth](#) services. Please continue to check the [Reset and Restart Education webpage](#) for more updates.



>>> Adopting the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS)

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Region VIII Office is committed to enhancing the competence and capacity of the behavioral health workforce to advance outreach, engagement, and quality of care for minority and underserved populations. The Office recently sent a communication recommending incorporating the [National CLAS Standards](#) in behavioral health education curriculums and continuing education systems as an important step to ensure that behavioral health practitioners are prepared and competent to meet the needs of all patients, families, and communities. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services offers free, continuing education e-learning programs to help promote the adoption of CLAS standards. The programs offer 4-5.5 contact hours for counselors, nurses, psychologists, psychiatrists, and social workers. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.



>>> From Research to Recovery 2020: Racial Disparity, Social Justice and the Opioid Crisis Webinar Series

The Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County, in partnership with Case Western Reserve University has announced the *Research to Recovery 2020: Racial Disparity, Social Justice and the Opioid Crisis is a Live Webinar Series*, which will be held August-November 2020. The series brings together leading healthcare professionals, physicians, researchers, judges, social scientists, individuals with substance use disorders, criminal justice reform activists, policy experts, and diversity and inclusion advocates to discuss equity in the health sector and criminal justice system. This webinar series will address how the current opioid crisis is increasingly impacting communities of color, particularly Black Americans, who have been disproportionately stigmatized and incarcerated for substance use. The specific goal with this webinar series is to create meaningful conversations and collaborations to address the

structural racism preventing communities of color from receiving treatment, recovery, and wraparound social services for opioid and other substance use disorders. Click [HERE](#) for webinar dates and to register online.

>>> Supporting Recovery for All: Racial Equity in Recovery Support Communities and Services – Aug. 27

SAMHSA's Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale Technical Assistance Center Strategy (BRSS TACS) invites you to join national experts in a conversation about racial equity in recovery support communities and services. This free, Recovery LIVE -- Supporting Recovery for All: Racial Equity in Recovery Support Communities and Services webinar will take place on Aug. 27 from 2-3 p.m. Presenters will highlight key indicators and challenges and describe best practices and promising strategies for advancing racial equity in recovery support settings. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

>>> Virtual Fatherhood Summit -- Sept. 2-3, 5

The [Ohio Commission on Fatherhood](#) and the Ohio Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families ([OPNFF](#)) are partnering to host a virtual Fatherhood Summit on Sept. 2-5. Participants will learn how to implement fatherhood programming from OPNFF subject matter experts, receive grant writing training from a certified grant writer, hear from guest speakers implementing fatherhood programming and services in other states, learn from subject matter experts during breakout sessions and from the virtual vendor table room and attend the Fatherhood and Government Plenary Session, moderated by former WBNS-TV news anchor Jerry Revish. You must register for each day. Click the links below for more information and to register.



September 2

9 a.m.-Noon – [ONPFF Fatherhood Practitioner Training](#)

1-5 p.m. – [Grant Writing Training](#)

September 3

8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. -- [Ohio Fatherhood Summit](#)

September 5

9 a.m.-Noon -- [Virtual Breakfast with Dad Event](#) featuring guest speakers William Green, formerly with the Cleveland Browns, and Elbert "Ickey" Woods, formerly with the Cincinnati Bengals.

>>> Zepf Center Receives \$800K Federal Suicide Prevention Grant

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) awarded Zepf Center an \$800,000 Emergency Response for Suicide Prevention (COVID-19 ERSP) grant. The grant aims to advance efforts to prevent suicide and suicide attempts among adults age 25 and older in Northwest Ohio. In partnership with several community agencies, hospital systems, employment services and family services – including Bethany House and the YWCA of Northwest Ohio, the project will create a cross-system approach to target individuals who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and are at-risk for suicide. Click [HERE](#) to read the full media release.

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. COVID Careline 1-800-720-9616. Click [HERE](#) for a list of pop-up COVID-19 Testing Sites.

In the News

8.13.20 | *Van Wert Times Bulletin* [Power2Change organization continues growth](#)

8.12.20 | *The Athens NEWS* [Recent study shows suicide rates rose steadily in state](#)

8.12.20 | *CNN* [Mental health access is vital during pandemic, experts say](#)

8.12.20 | *Marion Star* [New addiction treatment center opens in Marion](#)

8.12.20 | *U.S. News & World Report* [Meeting the mental and behavioral health needs of children amid COVID-19](#)

8.11.20 | *WCPN 90.3* [New Lifeline Helps Ohio Parents Keep Custody of Children with Disabilities](#)

8.11.20 | *Youngstown Business Journal* [Mental health agencies see racial disparities](#)

8.10.20 | *WCSU 88.9* [Talk to Me Guest: Dr. Valerie Alloy](#)

- 8.10.20 | *Hamilton Journal-News (Opinion)* [Ohioans need good mental health care now more than ever](#)
- 8.10.20 | *Cleveland.com* [St. Vincent Charity Medical Center and University Hospitals get close to \\$3M i to fight addiction](#)
- 8.10.20 | *Akron Beacon-Journal* [Allwell builds new space in Coshocton](#)
- 8.10.20 | *WDTN-TV* [ADAMHS hosts event to warn parents about the dangers of teen vaping](#)
- 8.7.20 | *Pomeroy Daily Sentinel* [‘Drug take back event’ planned, with updates](#)
- 8.7.20 | *WCH Record-Herald* [‘Color Run’ against drugs to be held in September](#)
- 8.7.20 | *Kent-Ravenna Record-Courier* [Family Center to address trauma](#)
- 8.6.20 | *Madison County Spotlight* [MHRB CEO: Our region faces more than one epidemic](#)
- 8.6.20 | *Fairborn Daily Herald* [MHRB Launches warmline](#)

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