



News Now

Mike DeWine, Governor
Lori Criss, Director



Dec. 4, 2020

>>> Jamie Carmichael Tapped to Serve as Chief Health Opportunity Officer at ODH

Governor Mike DeWine and Ohio Department of Health Director Stephanie McCloud have announced that Jamie Carmichael has been named Chief Health Opportunity Advisor. Since 2016, Carmichael has served as Deputy Director of Public Affairs for the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS), overseeing the communications and legislative divisions and leading the Office of Behavioral Health Strategy. Her previous experience includes nearly a decade of service at the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services working on policy initiatives involving workforce and minority health. The position was created to support the findings and recommendations of the COVID-19 Minority Health Strike Force, which examined the disproportionate impact of the coronavirus on minority and underserved communities, as well as broader health disparities and racial injustices, in order to improve health outcomes. Carmichael will collaborate with the Governor's Equity Advisory Board, state agencies, and stakeholders to reinforce Governor DeWine's commitment to advancing health equity and establishing Ohio as a model for justice, equity, opportunity, and resilience. Carmichael's last day with OhioMHAS is today. She will begin her new role on Dec. 7. The Department thanks Jamie for her dedicated service and wishes her well in her new position.



Please use the following contacts until a replacement is named: For any legislative or stakeholder matters, please contact OhioMHAS Legislative Liaison Vanessa McMahan at vanessa.mcmahan@mha.ohio.gov or call 614.466.9655. For media relations, please contact Eric Wandersleben at eric.wandersleben@mha.ohio.gov or call 614.728.5090.

>>> Winter Weather Alert 2020-21

OhioMHAS Medical Director Dr. Justin Trevino has released an [updated Winter Weather Alert](#) to provide guidance to inpatient and community providers on preventing cold-weather related injuries. The document includes a number of tips to prevent frostbite, falls, and other common injuries during the winter months. Please share this with your networks.

>>> SAMHSA Resource: Coping With the Holidays and COVID-19

While the holiday season can be stressful due to time pressure, relationship dynamics, travel, and other factors, the winter holidays during COVID-19 will involve their own set of unique challenges. To help address these issues, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and other organizations have released [resources](#) about common effects of infectious disease outbreaks and coping effectively in a holiday season during or after a disaster. Please share this information widely.

>>> Resource Guide Available for Suicide Prevention in Higher Education

The [Ohio Program for Campus Safety and Mental Health](#) (OPCSMH) has released [SUICIDE PREVENTION, INTERVENTION AND POSTVENTION: A Resource and Programming Guide for Ohio Institutions of Higher Education](#), a publication that combines examples of how mental health services could be improved in Ohio institutions of higher education through expanded funding, including relevant COVID-19 data and research, and specific suicide prevention, intervention and

postvention resources with contact and cost information. This publication is particularly timely because [GEERS/CARES Act funding](#) for mental health initiatives is available for Ohio institutions of higher education. Contributors to the guide include: OPCSMH Manager Jessica Zavala, MPA, Coordinating Centers of Excellence Executive Director Ruth Simera, M.Ed., LSW, and former Northeast Ohio Medical University employees Dr. Mark Munetz and Dr. Russell Spieth.

>>> RFP: 2021 Virtual TIC Summit Event Planning and Management *UPDATED*

The Request for Proposals for Event Planning and Management Services for the (Virtual) Eighth Annual Trauma-Informed Care Summit has been updated. The original post (Nov. 20) was incomplete in that it did not include the Budget Expenditure Form or the OhioMHAS Agreements and Assurance. Click [HERE](#) to view this updated opportunity. Proposals must be submitted to TRAUMA-SUMMITRFP@mha.ohio.gov by 5 p.m. on Dec. 18.

>>> MHAOhio Occumetrics Workplace Wellbeing Assessment Program



Mental Health America of Ohio (MHAOhio) has space for one more agency to participate in its free [Occumetrics Workplace Wellbeing Assessment Program](#) for SFY 21. Through the Occumetrics process, MHAOhio helps businesses and organizations of all sizes assess their overall health through the lens of employee wellbeing and recommends improvements in identified areas of concern. The process helps agencies quickly identify, understand, and address employee concerns with customized improvements to create an engaged and productive workforce. MHAOhio launched the program in 2016 with funding support from OhioMHAS. Free assessments are available to up to 13 agencies each year. So far, MHAOhio has conducted 47 free assessments with 35 organizations with more than 8,500 employees sharing their experiences. And, according to MHAOhio's reassessment data, the process is producing results. Follow-up assessments with nine agencies showed workplace wellbeing scores improved 91 percent of the time, and turnover decreased in each case. For more information, contact Maggie Hallett at mhallett@mhaohio.org.

For 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 and [HERE](#) for the latest SAMHSA COVID-19 training and technical assistance resources.

In the News

- 12.3.20 | *Bowling Green Sentinel-Tribune* [Gavarone bill to improve mental health care access heads to governor](#)
- 12.3.20 | *Harvard Business Review* [Digital tools are revolutionizing mental health care in the U.S.](#)
- 12.2.20 | *WBNS-TV* [Medical experts concerned about long-term mental health impact from pandemic](#)
- 12.2.20 | *USA Today (Opinion)* [Cops shouldn't be first on scene in mental health crises. NYC pilot program needed nationwide](#)
- 12.2.20 | *Forbes* [COVID-19 and the future of mental health](#)
- 12.2.20 | *Stanford Children's Health* [Teen mental health during the pandemic](#)
- 12.1.20 | *McGill University Newsroom* [Lottery tickets aren't child's play](#)

Please share widely and encourage your colleagues to subscribe to *OhioMHAS eNews* on our [website](#). Also, be sure to join us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), [Flickr](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Pinterest](#)!