



# News Now

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



June 11, 2020

## >>> COVID-19 Minority Health Strike Force - Virtual Community Meeting – June 16

Over the last few weeks, the Governor's COVID-19 Minority Health Strike Force has been meeting to discuss both our COVID-19 response and our response to the long-standing inequities in Ohio. On May 21, the [Minority Health Strike Force](#) released its [interim report that focused on short-term recommendations](#) that could have an immediate impact on the state's COVID-19 response. The report focuses on four key areas: data, healthcare, education and outreach, and resources. Now, the COVID-19 Minority Health Strike Force is working on its final report and we would like to hear from community leaders. The final report will have a broader focus and will center around the eradication of health inequities and systemic racism in Ohio to ensure that all Ohioans lead healthy, productive lives.



Stakeholders are invited to present their thoughts on these issues and offer suggestions on what the COVID-19 Minority Health Strike Force should consider in drafting its final recommendations at the first Minority Health Strike Force Virtual Community Meeting is planned for **June 16 from 1-3 p.m.** If you are interested in presenting, please submit your PowerPoint or resting slide and outline of remarks to [minorityhealth@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:minorityhealth@odh.ohio.gov) by **Friday, June 12 at 5 p.m.** Remarks will be held to no more than 5-7 minutes. Because we are limited on the number of people who can present, those presenters who are not selected will be invited to submit written testimony. Written testimony will be shared with the strike force members as they prepare for the final report. Those who would like to take part by listening to the remarks made by other organizations can register at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6320571587050811152>. Webinar details, including your unique access link, will be sent in a confirmation email.

## >>> Virtual Crisis Academy – June 25

Save the date! The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS), in partnership with the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities and the Great Lakes Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network, will host a virtual Crisis Academy on June 25 from 10-11:30 a.m. In this edition of the [Ohio Crisis Academy](#), learn how effective crisis service delivery comes through residential crisis programs and peer respite homes, as well as the critical metrics for measuring success. This session will also cover critical considerations for effective crisis service delivery during COVID-19. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.



Related materials:

[Crisis Residential Research Overview: TBD Solutions](#)

[COVID-19 Impact Survey: Behavioral Health Crisis Providers](#)

## >>> Medicaid/CHIP Provider Relief Fund Payment Forms and Guidance

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has announced availability of \$15 billion to eligible Medicaid and CHIP providers that serve Medicaid consumers and did not receive funding from earlier distributions through the Provider Relief Fund. Eligible provider organizations include: behavioral health and substance abuse providers as well as dentists, OB-GYNs, assisted living facilities and other home and community-based service providers, and pediatricians. Providers who are eligible will have delivered health care to Medicaid recipients and directly billed a

state Medicaid program or Medicaid managed care plan between Jan. 1, 2018 and May 31, 2020. Also, providers must not have received funding for the earlier \$50 billion release of funds to Medicare providers. The payment to each provider will be at least 2 percent of reported gross revenue from patient care. The final amount each provider receives will be determined after they submit data, including information about the number of Medicaid consumers they serve. The Ohio Department of Medicaid worked with the Ohio Office of Budget and Management, Ohio Department of Administrative Services, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, Ohio Department of Aging, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Ohio Department of Education, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, and Ohio's Medicaid managed care organizations to submit information to CMS to enable providers' eligibility to receive this enhanced funding.

Before applying through the [enhanced provider relief portal](#), applicants should:

[Read the Medicaid provider distribution instructions \(PDF\)](#)

[Download the Medicaid Provider Distribution Application Form \(PDF\)](#)

### >>> **Presenters Needed: 2020 Peer Support Learning Series**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, OhioMHAS, in partnership with The PEER Center, is producing a 2020 Peer Support Learning Series for [eBased Academy](#) in lieu of an in-person Peer Recovery Supporter Conference. The theme of the series is "Designing Our Future." The goal of the digital 2020 Learning Series is to increase training opportunities for Ohio Recovery supporters and other professionals. The courses are free and on-line. CEU's will be provided. OhioMHAS is currently seeking presenters who have a strong virtual training experience. Presenters must be well versed in the training topics.

All proposals must be received by June 22, 2020. Click [HERE](#) for more information on the topic titles and to submit a proposal.

### >>> **Legal Compliance Trainings for Recovery Housing Operators**

Recovery Housing operators must navigate a complex network of laws and regulations that pertain to their operations. These webinars seek to provide recovery housing operators with information on the law as well as best practice strategies for managing legal risk in the areas of health care fraud and abuse, landlord tenant, employment and medication-assisted treatment (MAT), and fair housing. Leading legal and subject matter experts will be available to provide information and answer questions. Upcoming webinar dates include: July 8, July 10, Aug. 5, Aug. 17, and Aug. 21. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

### >>> **NAMI Ohio Honors "Mental Health Heroes"**

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Ohio is honoring mental health heroes on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the past week, NAMI Ohio staff and volunteers delivered thank you yard signs to all certified mental health providers and ADAMH Boards throughout Ohio, thanking behavioral health care professionals for continuing to provide care to the most vulnerable. "Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of minimizing health risk and addressing the increased anxiety for those you serve," said NAMI Ohio Executive Director Terry Russell. "Thank you for not giving up and shutting your doors. Thank you for your compassion and support. Thank you for your careful treatment. We appreciate all of your hard work and dedication today and every day." Click [HERE](#) to read more.



### >>> **Mental Health Disparities Booklet**

The National Hispanic and Latino Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network has published [Mental Health Disparities Among Hispanic and Latino Populations](#). This publication emphasizes the social determinants of health (SDOH), as well as non-medical health-related social needs (HRSN) and their impact on mental health outcomes. It offers recommendations for mental health providers, researchers, and consumers to reduce disparities among Latino communities, including increasing awareness and the importance of being trained in culturally grounded evidence-based interventions.

For more information on Ohio's response to COVID-19, visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://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](mailto:covid19BH@mha.ohio.gov). For COVID-19-related OTP questions, email [OTP\\_COVID19@mha.ohio.gov](mailto:OTP_COVID19@mha.ohio.gov), for Housing questions, email [COVID19Housing@mha.ohio.gov](mailto:COVID19Housing@mha.ohio.gov) and for Telehealth questions, email [COVID19BHTelehealth@mha.ohio.gov](mailto:COVID19BHTelehealth@mha.ohio.gov). COVID Careline 1-800-720-9616.

### In the News

- 6.11.20 | *The New York Times* [What's worrying teenagers right now](#)
- 6.11.20 | *Youngstown Vindicator* [Grieving over suicide? Agency can offer help](#)
- 6.10.20 | *Clermont Sun* [Danei Edelen – My COVID-19 coping strategy: drawing is helping me to heal](#)
- 6.10.20 | *Harvard Business Review* [How organizations can support the mental health of black employees](#)
- 6.10.20 | *WEWS-TV* [Local racial unrest has mental health calls for help up 25-30 percent](#)
- 6.10.20 | *Cleveland.com* [Cuyahoga County reports near-record 66 drug overdose deaths in May, and number could rise, medical examiner says](#)
- 6.10.20 | *WSYX-TV* [Ohio lawmakers introduce five bills to combat opioid crisis](#)
- 6.9.20 | *Cincinnati Enquirer* [Hamilton County's mental health court: battling addiction, mental health issues during a pandemic](#)
- 6.9.20 | *HealthDay News* ['ISO,' a deadly new synthetic opioid has hit American streets](#)
- 6.8.20 | *WVXU 91.7* [Cleveland Clinic study finds suicide-related ER visits down during Ohio's stay at home order](#)
- 6.8.20 | *U.S. News and World Report* [Older gays, lesbians at higher odds for drug, alcohol abuse: study](#)
- 6.7.20 | *Sandusky Register* [Sandusky Artisans begins major renovation project](#)
- 6.7.20 | *The Associated Press* [Pandemic triggers big swings in prescription drug use](#)
- 6.5.20 | *Cleveland.com* [Girls on the Run program addresses social-emotional health](#)
- 5.18.20 | *Medical News Today* [COVID-19: The mental health impact on people of color and minority groups](#)
- 5.12.20 | *Stateline* [Fear, isolation, depression: The mental health fallout of a worldwide pandemic](#)

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