



# News Now

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



May 5, 2020

## >>> SOR 2.0 Application Stakeholder Feedback Webinars – May 6-7

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) is developing an application for federal funding for SOR 2.0 funding to support prevention, treatment, and recovery support services for opiate use and stimulant use disorders and those with co-occurring conditions. The application will focus on integration of services across the continuum of care, ensuring access to services for minority communities and ensuring services are targeted toward the individuals most impacted across the lifespan. The following webinars will provide a brief overview of the OhioMHAS plan and provide a forum for feedback from our stakeholders. Please see the [funding opportunity announcement](#) and click the links to register. For any questions, email [jennifer.lewis@mha.ohio.gov](mailto:jennifer.lewis@mha.ohio.gov).



[County Behavioral Health Authority Discussion](#) | May 6 – 10 a.m.

[Associations and Council Discussion](#) | May 7 – 10 a.m.

[Behavioral Health Provider Discussion](#) | May 7 – 1 p.m.

## >>> Guidance Document on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

For most types of workers, the risk of infection with COVID-19 is similar to that of the general public. Workers whose jobs do not require contact with people known to be, or suspected of being, infected with COVID-19, nor frequent close contact with (i.e., within 6 feet of) the general public are at lower risk of occupational exposure. However, certain behavioral health workers are likely to perform job duties that involve medium, high, or very high occupational exposure risks. Behavioral health workers' job duties affect their level of occupational risk, which may change as workers take on different tasks within their positions. OhioMHAS has released a [PPE guidance document](#) to assist with questions you may have.

## >>> Addressing Bias and Opioid Use Disorder Virtual Trainings

OhioMHAS is sponsoring a series of free trainings for physical and behavioral health professionals to understand ways to address bias, especially for people with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD). We all have implicit biases that affect our understanding, action, and decisions in an unconscious manner. In addition, people may have explicit preferences and bias that influence decisions. When acted upon, these biases contribute to health disparities. Some of the biases people with OUD may face are complex and varied. These biases show in a variety of ways including, but not limited to: biased language used against individuals with substance use disorders; bias against people with OUD who are “criminalized”; racial bias; socio-economic or class bias; secondary level characteristics such as education level, professional status, parenting status, region, etc.; and social desirability bias. Click the links below for training dates and registration information. For more information, contact [Mindy.Vance@mha.ohio.gov](mailto:Mindy.Vance@mha.ohio.gov).

[Addressing Bias and Opioid Use Disorder](#)

[Addressing Bias With Lived Experience of Opioid Use Disorder](#)

## >>> USDA Resources for Telecommunications Infrastructure

Telecommunications and access to broadband is an ongoing issue for states, especially those with large rural areas. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has many resources available for the development/enhancement of telecommunications infrastructure. Please see below some USDA programs that may be of interest.

[Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans and Loan Guarantees](#) | [Fact Sheet](#)  
[Rural Broadband Access Loan & Loan Guarantee](#) | [Fact Sheet](#)  
[Community Connect Grants](#) | [Fact Sheet](#)  
[Distance Learning and Telemedicine](#) |  
[ReConnect Loan and Grant Program](#)

**>>> Coping with COVID-19 for Medical and Health Professionals Webinars**

Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED) is hosting two upcoming “Coping with COVID-19” webinars for medical and health professionals. Click the links below for more information and to register.

[COVID-19: The Pandemic of Loneliness for Medical and Wellness Professionals](#) | May 13 -- Noon-1:30 p.m.  
[COVID-19: Post Traumatic Growth for Medical and Wellness Professionals](#) | May 27 – Noon-1:30 p.m.

**>>> Upcoming Ohio Coaching and Monitoring Network (OCAM) Webinars**

The Ohio Coaching and Monitoring (OCAM) Network has released an [updated listing](#) of spring training webinars. Topics include: prevention ethics, working from home, grant writing for prevention, building youth resiliency, enhancing presentation skills, and the State Strategic Prevention Framework. For more information, email Allison Harrison at [allison.ocam@gmail.com](mailto:allison.ocam@gmail.com).

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**

5.5.20 | *Lorain Morning Journal* [Virtual rally to raise youth awareness](#)  
5.5.20 | *Ashtabula Star-Beacon* [Courts work under pandemic](#)  
5.4.20 | *Youngstown Vindicator* [Virus shakes up stability, leads people to seek mental health services](#)  
5.4.20 | *Lima News* [Group home dedicated to helping the homeless with mental problems](#)  
5.4.20 | *The Daily Beast* [Don't forget the other pandemic killing thousands of Americans. Authorities nationwide report uptick in fatal opioid overdoses.](#)  
5.4.20 | *WEWS-TV* [Mental health and crisis counselors say telehealth should stay even after pandemic](#)  
5.4.20 | *Norwalk Reflector* [Huron County partners offer support for safely reopening](#)  
5.4.20 | *WOSU 89.7* [For people struggling with addiction, isolation can be deadly](#)  
5.4.20 | *The Washington Post* [Coronavirus pandemic is pushing America into a mental health crisis](#)  
5.4.20 | *NPR* [Flood of calls and texts to crisis hotlines reflects Americans' rising anxiety](#)  
5.3.20 | *Columbus Dispatch* [Pediatric research: COVID-19 will lead to more childhood trauma. Health care must take it into account.](#)  
5.3.20 | *The Post* [Social isolation can hurt struggling students' mental health](#)  
5.2.20 | *Lorain Morning Journal* [Lorain County helps inspire statewide effort](#)  
5.2.20 | *Dayton Daily News* [Centerville student hosting virtual statewide teen drug-free rally](#)  
5.2.20 | *Marietta Times (Column)* [Reflections from WCBH providers during this pandemic](#)  
5.2.20 | *Columbus Dispatch* [Finding a therapist can be challenging, but myriad Columbus-area resources exist](#)  
5.2.20 | *Columbus Dispatch (Column)* [Mental Health Month and children](#)  
5.1.20 | *WRGT-TV* [Coping with grief during COVID-19](#)  
5.1.20 | *Healio* [Important updates from the American Psychiatric Association Spring Highlights Meeting](#)

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