

Governor Unveils SFY 2016-2017 Budget

Declaring that Ohio is “winning once again”, Gov. John R. Kasich introduced his State Fiscal Year 2016-17 Executive Proposal on Feb. 2. Dubbed ***A Blueprint for a New Ohio***, the Governor’s budget maintains fiscal restraint and builds on accomplishments from the last four years — addressing areas that are critical to long-term economic success, such as education, tax cuts to improve competitiveness, and opportunities for those most in need of assistance.

In a cover letter to taxpayers and members of the General Assembly, Gov. Kasich emphasized that Ohio’s fiscal position is strong, especially “at a time when many states are struggling to maintain healthy, balanced budgets.”



To help more Ohioans share in the state’s economic success and continue building a strong, jobs-friendly climate, Gov. Kasich said his budget proposals pursue transformational policies that create more opportunities for every Ohioan. These include:

- **Ensuring That Students Are Ready for College and Careers:** “To best-serve Ohio’s children and young adults, we need a world-class education system built at the local level that helps prepare students for careers or college. Our budget helps more students earn credit in new, flexible ways, strengthen opportunities for high school students to earn college-level credit, and ensures that more resources overall are provided to those districts with the least capacity to raise revenues locally.”
- **Helping More Students Get Degrees:** “Ohio’s public colleges and universities are national leaders after adopting a performance-based funding formula that rewards student success and graduation, but affordability remains the nation’s top issue impacting higher education. New strategies will help universities find ways to control costs, so college can be more affordable to students and their families.”
- **Cutting and Reforming Taxes:** “Ohio’s \$3 billion in tax cuts over the past four years has helped fuel our economic

renaissance and my Administration’s budget builds on this proven strategy by cutting the income tax rate by 23 percent and eliminating income taxes altogether for virtually all small businesses. New tax relief for low- and middle-income Ohioans will also help people move up the economic ladder by keeping more of the new money they earn. This budget’s tax reform proposals will help move Ohio away from its traditional,

excessive reliance on taxation of income, which stifles investment, savings and economic growth.”

- **Helping Ohioans Move Up and Out of Poverty and into Jobs:** “Our new Office of Human Services Innovation is bringing

badly needed reforms to the state’s array of programs to help break the cycle of poverty. This budget creates the framework for a person-centered case management system where services are based on an individual’s needs in order to better support them as they move toward self-sufficiency. An initial focus will be on low-income teens and young adults, ages 16-24, where we can have the greatest impact on helping those with some of the highest unemployment rates.”

Ohio’s behavioral health services system is also prominently featured in the Governor’s budget proposals. Visit the [OhioMHAS Budget and Legislation web page](#) and the [Office of Health Transformation website](#) for testimony, policy one-pagers, PowerPoint presentations and reactions. OhioMHAS Director Tracy Plouck is scheduled to provide testimony before the House Finance Health and Human Services Subcommittee on March 4. A copy of her testimony will be posted to that web page.

“The reforms in this budget will help create opportunities and jobs for all Ohioans — keeping us on the road toward solid, sustained prosperity throughout this great state,” Gov. Kasich said. “Together, we have done so much to lift up Ohioans, much remains to be done and I know we can continue to make Ohio the best place to work, live and raise our families.”

Celebrate Diversity: February is Black History Month

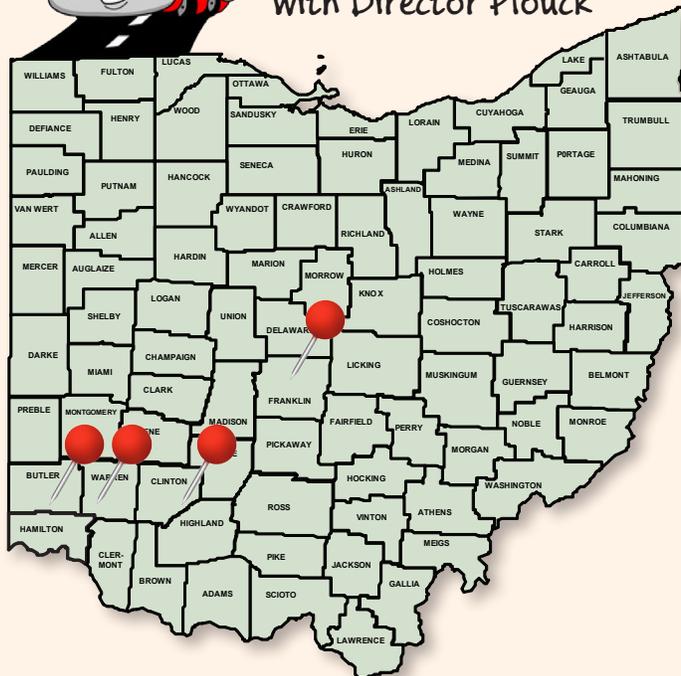
“Black History Month is a time for all Ohioans to remember the lessons and teachings of those who helped build our nation, took a stance against prejudice to build lives of dignity and opportunity, advanced the important cause of civil rights, and strengthened families and communities,” – John R. Kasich and Mary Taylor, Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Ohio

[Governor’s Resolution](#) [Ohio History Connection website](#) [OhioMHAS Cultural Competence initiatives](#)





On the Road with Director Plouck



Between stakeholder briefings and testimony before the Ohio Legislature, it's been a whirlwind February for OhioMHAS Director Tracy Plouck. The focus? Gov. John R. Kasich's *Blueprint for a New Ohio* biennial budget for State Fiscal Years 2016-17. The executive budget proposal will once again take center stage on Feb. 24 when Dir. Plouck joins other Cabinet members in Clinton County for Gov. Kasich's fifth State of the State Address at 7 p.m. at the Roberts Centre in Wilmington. Dir. Plouck has a busy schedule leading up to the address. Planned visits include:

- 10:30 a.m.** Participating in Medicaid coalition event at Health Source of Ohio's Wilmington Family Practice. The event will include representatives from local hospitals, the business community and personal stories.
- 2:30 p.m.** Touring *Centerpoint Health*, a not-for-profit Federally Qualified Health Center in Warren County.
- 4:00 p.m.** Visit to *Turtle Creek Center*, a halfway house for adult male offenders in Lebanon.

"The story of Wilmington is, in many ways, the story of Ohio. Hit with hard times and an unemployment rate of 14.4 percent just four years ago, the people of Wilmington and Clinton County came together and persevered, attracting new business, growing their economy and reducing unemployment to just 5.8 percent today."

— Rob Nichols, press secretary to Gov. Kasich

OSU Named Wounded Warrior Project Subcontract Recipient

The Ohio State University recently announced its selection as a 2014 Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP) grant recipient through a subcontract with The Military Family Research Institute (MFRI) at Purdue University.

The WWP grant program bridges gaps in services and supports for this generation of injured service members by strengthening organizations that provide programming in remote or underserved regions. Through teamwork and collaboration, the \$250,000 grant will enhance support for these service members and foster healthy readjustment to civilian life through programmatic activities aimed at training civilian behavioral health specialists.

More than 50,000 servicemen and women have been physically injured in recent military conflicts, another 320,000 have experienced a traumatic brain injury while on deployment, and as many as 400,000 additional service members live with the invisible wounds of war including combat-related stress, major depression and post-traumatic stress disorder.

"The WWP Grant Program allows us to collectively broaden the network of support and services that are available to injured service members," said Steve Nardizzi, CEO, Wounded Warrior Project. The award will be used to increase regional approaches to *Star Behavioral Health Providers (SBHP)*, a program that MFRI first created in Indiana. SBHP is a training and registry system that prepares civilian behavioral health providers and other community-based professionals to serve members of veteran and military families. Three tiers of training range from cultural competence to evidence-based treatments, and qualified providers can attend trainings in multiple tiers. OhioMHAS is collaborating with the OSU Wexner Medical Center, the Ohio National Guard, Ohio Department of Veterans Services, American Red Cross and Ohio-CARES to launch the program in the state. Trainings will be offered throughout Ohio beginning in April. Click [HERE](#) for registration information.

"We have an extraordinary partnership in Ohio that will enhance our ability to train civilian behavioral health providers in our state so that our military service members and their families are better able to access appropriate care in the communities in which they live," said John D. Corrigan, Ph.D., director of the program at The Ohio State University.





Symposium Highlights Importance of Peer Services

Seven counties in Northeast Ohio were invited to participate in a one-day Peer Services Symposium held on Jan. 30 to provide a state and local perspective about peer services. Peer services are supports offered to individuals with an addiction and/or a mental health diagnosis. The Symposium, which drew about 60 participants, was organized by the Public-Private Partnership team located in this region. The team is comprised of individuals representing private psychiatric hospitals, community mental health and addiction services boards, community providers and Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare, one of the six psychiatric hospitals administered by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Click [HERE](#) for more information about the Symposium. [View more photos](#) on the OhioMHAS Flickr page.

Comprehensive Interventions for First Episode Psychosis Show Promise in Helping Young People Stay Out of Hospital, Return to School

The [American Psychiatric Association](#) recently published a study in the journal [Psychiatric Services](#), suggesting that, "a comprehensive intervention for First-Episode Psychosis (FEP) helps young people stay out of hospital and return to school or the workforce." In the study, which involved 120 patients, researchers found that "more than 75 percent of FEP patients who had access to services, such as cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), vocational supports and family education, avoided hospitalization during a one-year period compared with more than 50 percent of those allocated to usual care."

OhioMHAS is currently utilizing set-aside funds from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to assist [Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services](#) and [Coleman Professional Services](#) in the development and/or expansion of FEP projects in Allen, Auglaize, Cler-

mont, Hamilton, Hardin, Lucas, Portage, Stark and Wood counties. The programs implement best practices and a comprehensive team approach directed toward persons ages 15-25 who are experienc-



ing their first episode of psychosis. Preliminary results have been encouraging. In the [Hamilton and Clermont counties project](#), for instance, 78 percent of individuals enrolled are now working or in school, as compared to 20 percent prior to enrollment.

RSS Provides Critical Housing Support

The Residential State Supplement (RSS) Program still has funds available to provide assistance to adults who have increased housing support needs due to a disability that is not severe enough to require long-term care in an institution, such as a nursing home or hospital.

Individuals use RSS, which supplements their income, to pay the monthly allowable fee (or "rent") for accommodations supervision, and personal-care services at eligible living arrangements in the community.

During the last biennium, OhioMHAS expanded program enrollment to the community, including current residents of Adult Care Facilities (including Adult Family and Group Homes) and Adult Foster Homes. More information regarding the RSS Program, including application instructions and forms, are available on the [OhioMHAS website](#).



Drug-Free Rally, Resiliency Ring Slated for April 30

The 2015 *We are the Majority* concert, resiliency ring and rally will be held April 30 in Columbus. The featured speaker will be singer/actor [Corbin Bleu](#) and entertainment will be provided by local alternative pop/rock band [Truslow](#).

The day will consist of events being held at Huntington Park followed by a march to the Ohio Statehouse for a rally and to form a resiliency ring. The event is free and includes lunch. A travel stipend of up to \$500 may also be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Rally partners include the [Ohio Youth-Led Prevention Network Drug-Free Action Alliance](#), [NAMI Ohio](#) and OhioMHAS.

Scioto County Crisis Center Celebrates Successful First Year

The Crisis Center — a collaboration of The Counseling Center and the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Adams, Lawrence and Scioto counties — is celebrating its one-year anniversary.



The **Crisis Center and 24 Hour Hotline** is designed to assist individuals who are experiencing an acute psychiatric and/or addiction crisis or emergency.

In addition to the 24-Hour Hotline, the Crisis Center offers a 10-bed residential facility providing a safe, secure, supervised environment for individuals 18 or older to promote stabilization of symptoms, while connecting them with treatment services. Services offered include support, information, referral services, ambulatory opiate detox, individual and group counseling, and diagnostic assessments.

The Center saw 465 admissions — including 173 people for substance abuse and 235 for mental health issues — in its first year. The average length of stay at the facility was 4.79 days. Meanwhile, the hotline received 7,622 calls during 2014.

“The need for services was so great in our area, and we worked hard with community partners like The Counseling Center to open this Crisis Center to serve anyone who is experiencing a crisis, both mental health and addiction clients. The services are free of charge and for anyone who calls, 24-7-365, there is a caring person who will listen to them and help them,” said Susan Shultz, executive director of the MHRS Board.

“We’ve seen what happened when this community was without a crisis center. There was an increase in incarceration rates, increases in inappropriate psychiatric hospitalization,” added Jay Hash, associate executive director and clinical director for The Counseling Center.

Prescription Drug Drop Box Program a Success

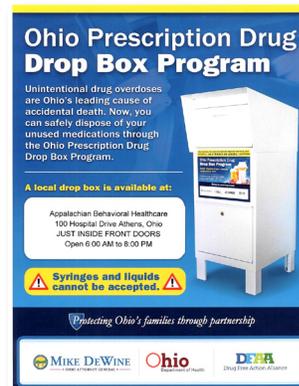
Athens hospital collects more than 225 pounds of unused medications

As efforts to stem the tide of opiate abuse and addiction in Ohio continue to intensify, communities and organizations across the state are answering the call to be part of the solution.

At Appalachian Behavioral Healthcare (ABH) Hospital in Athens, CEO Jane Krason said the hospital is doing its part by participating in the Ohio Attorney General’s permanent Prescription Drug Drop Box Program — an initiative focused on reducing diversion and accidental poisonings.

Staff installed a durable, tamper-proof container — which resembles a metal mailbox — just outside the police entrance, giving the community a means to properly dispose of unused and/or expired prescription medications.

“The Drug Box Program provides an excellent means by which our staff, visitors and community we serve can safely dispose of prescriptions drugs no longer needed, and promotes positive community relations,” said Joe Sprague, ABH chief of police. So far, the hospital has collected and disposed of more than 225 pounds of prescription medications.



Sobriety Celebrated as Marysville Recovery House Opens Doors

More than 40 community members attended a celebration of sobriety when the Buckeye Village Recovery House in Marysville held its ribbon cutting ceremony and open house Feb. 12. Helping residents cut the ribbon were Sen. Dave Burke (R-Marysville), Union County Court of Common Pleas Judge Don Fraser and Union County Juvenile and Probate Court Judge Charlotte Coleman Eufinger. Also in attendance were representatives from the Mental Health and Recovery Board of Union County and Wings Enrichment Center, a local peer support agency, which manages the house.

To live in the house, residents must have an addiction, a desire to be sober, be willing to work and pay rent. The house, which has a capacity for eight residents, currently has six adults and an infant daughter of one of the residents living there. The development of Buckeye Village was supported by OhioMHAS funds set aside to support recovery housing in the state. [View more photos](#) from the event on our Flickr page.

Participation Sought for Gambling Awareness Survey

Community leaders and the State of Ohio are watching the effects of 11 new casinos and racetrack gambling venues in the state, along with all the other gambling available, such as lottery, bingo and sports betting. It is important that individuals and families know how to gamble responsibly and where to turn for help.

A group of behavioral health professionals and research scientists have collaborated on a brief survey to assess the current level of awareness related to gambling issues. The team is seeking your help in encouraging the **general public** (ages 18 and older) to respond to an anonymous, **10-question survey** to help gauge current awareness of gambling issues. The survey will be live through **March 13**.

Please distribute to family members, community coalitions, board members, parents, faith and community groups, and encourage them to share the survey widely.

Cuyahoga County Expands Addiction Treatment, Sober Beds

The Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County recently announced funding to support additional community residential treatment and sober living beds, offering more county residents a chance to save and restart their lives from addiction to opiates and heroin.

Cleveland Catholic Charities opened 17 beds in addition to its 34 beds that serve adult men with addictions at ***Matt Talbot Inn*** located at its Parmadale site. Onsite

alcohol and other drug treatment services such as individual and group counseling will be provided. The additional 17 beds will serve 188 men.

The ADAMHS Board also provided funding to ***Stella Maris*** and the ***Cleveland Treatment Center*** (CTC) for a Sober Bed Pilot Program.

Through contracts with Cleveland-area halfway houses, Stella Maris and the CTC will provide long-term living environments (minimum of 90 days) to provide aftercare support to a newly sober individual rather than returning the person to the setting where the addiction may have begun. The funding will provide room and board for individuals who have just completed a detoxification and/or a Medication-Assisted Treatment program. The pilot program will serve about 375 men and women, according to a media release.



Coalition for a Drug-Free Cincinnati Now PreventionFIRST!

The Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati has announced a new name and expanded vision of the organization. It will be known as PreventionFIRST! and will promote substance abuse prevention as a healthy lifestyle choice across the lifespan. The organization has been an integral part of prevention in Cincinnati since it was founded in 1996 by U.S. Sen. Rob Portman.



News & Research Roundup

New Behavioral Health Publications from SAMHSA

The federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has released several new behavioral health resources, including:

SAMHSA Enrollment and Outreach Resources Lists resources outreach programs can use to ensure people with mental and/or substance use disorders benefit from health care reform. Resources address diverse populations, including the homeless, those within the criminal justice system and more.

New Interactive Tool Illustrates How Pain Medicine Abuse Can Lead to Heroin Addiction

The Partnership for Drug-Free Kids has released a new web resource to help drive awareness and action around the dangerous risks of prescription medicine abuse among teens. The tool is an ***interactive infographic*** that illustrates the path leading some teens and young adults from prescription painkiller abuse into heroin addiction. The is the latest resource from ***The Medicine Abuse Project***, a five-year national action campaign that aims to prevent half a million teens from abusing medicine.

American Academy of Pediatrics Reaffirms Opposition to Marijuana Legalization

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recently issued a ***statement*** opposing the legalization of marijuana, citing the drug can be harmful to adolescent health and development. The AAP stated in a ***news release*** marijuana can cause memory and concentration problems that may lead to difficulties in school, impair motor control, coordination and judgment, leading to an increased risk of accidental injury and death. Regular marijuana use is also associated with psychological problems, worse lung health and an increased risk of drug dependence in adulthood, according to the release. The AAP also said it opposes medical marijuana "outside of the usual process by the Food and Drug Administration to approve pharmaceutical products." It noted there has been little research on medical marijuana for adults, and there have been no published studies on marijuana involving children. The group supports further study of marijuana for medical conditions.

News & Research Roundup, cont.

Use of Mental Health Courts Reduces Risk of Later Violence

Participation by felony defendants in a mental health court reduced perpetration of violence during the following 12 months, according to a recent report in *Psychiatric Services in Advance*. In the early days of the mental health court movement, cases were largely confined to nonviolent misdemeanors, but more courts have begun accepting felony cases in recent years. However, there has been little prospective research on whether involvement of felony defendants in mental health courts can affect later risk of violence. For this reason, researchers led by Dale McNeil, Ph.D., a professor of psychiatry at the University of California San Francisco School of Medicine, compared 88 mental health court enrollees with 81 matched jail detainees who received treatment as usual. About 72 percent of each cohort had been arrested on felony charges. Using both self-report and arrest records, researchers found that 25 percent of the court participants perpetrated violence in the follow-up year, compared with 42 percent of the comparison group (odds ratio = 0.39). A history of violence in the six months prior to entry was strongly associated with the likelihood of violence (odds ratio = 3.52).



“Therapeutic Workplaces” Aim to Help Employees Tackle Drug Addiction

Researchers at Johns Hopkins University stated that workplaces designed to help employees who are addicted to drugs can help them tackle their addiction. These “therapeutic workplaces” have been shown in studies to increase abstinence from drugs and maintain abstinence over long periods. These workplaces require frequent drug tests, and give employees unlimited second chances, *Scientific American reported*. Employees who stay off drugs are given cash bonuses. Those who test positive are sent home, but can return the next day. If they test negative, they can work full-time for an hourly wage until their next drug test. The studies found about 80 percent of employees in therapeutic workplaces remained abstinent and refrained from other addictive behaviors, compared with half of those who worked without cash bonuses, the article noted.

Marijuana-Related Calls to Poison Control Centers in Colorado and Washington Rise

More people have been calling poison control centers in Colorado and Washington state since recreational marijuana became legal for adults 21 and older in those states, the *Associated Press recently reported*. Colorado’s Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center received 151 calls for marijuana exposure in 2014, up from 88 calls in 2013 and 61 in 2012. Calls about exposure to marijuana combined with other drugs rose to 70, from 39 the previous year. The Washington Poison Center received 246 calls for marijuana exposure last year, compared with 158 in 2013, the AP noted. Calls regarding young children accidentally eating marijuana edibles nearly doubled in both states. In 2014, Washington poison centers received 48 calls involving children 12 and under, while Colorado received 45 calls involving children eight and under.

Latest OSAM Drug Trend Report Available

The OhioMHAS Office of Quality, Planning and Research has released the latest Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring (OSAM) Network drug trend report. *Surveillance of Drug Abuse Trends in the State of Ohio: January-June 2014* is now available.



Funding Announcements

SAMHSA: Cooperative Agreements for Expansion and Sustainability of the Community Mental Health Services for Children with Serious Emotional Disturbances

WHAT: The purpose of this program is to improve mental health outcomes for children and youth (birth to age 21 years of age) with serious emotional disturbances (SED) and their families. This program will support the wide-scale operation, expansion and integration of the system of care (SOC) approach by creating sustainable infrastructure and services that are required as part of the Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children with Serious Emotional Disturbances (also known as the Children’s Mental Health Initiative or CMHI).

RFA NUMBER: SM-15-009

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS: State governments, counties, cities, towns, among others. See the [announcement](#) for complete details.

AMOUNT: Total available funding \$45,000,000; 15-45 anticipated awards.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 10, 2015.

Training Opportunities

Problem Gambling Prevention and Treatment Regional Training Schedules

A number of upcoming problem gambling prevention and treatment training opportunities are available. Treatment sessions are offered for foundations and advanced levels from Recovery Resources. Also open for registration is a series of free Stacked Deck: A Program to Prevent Problem Gambling Training of Trainers events. Stacked Deck is an evidence-based practice program for preventing problem gambling among 13-17 year-olds. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about these CEU-based sessions.

OhioMHAS Disparities and Cultural Competency Advisory Committee Learning Series

The OhioMHAS Disparities and Cultural Competency Advisory Committee has released a schedule of upcoming trainings. Get a complete list of topics and locations [HERE](#).

CWRU Center for Evidence-Based Practices Trainings

The Case Western Reserve University Center for Evidence-Based Practices has released its schedule of upcoming trainings. Click the links below for more information:

- March 3 — [Promoting Health-Behavior Change Among People with SPMI \(Parma\)](#)
- March 10 — [Foundations of Motivational Interviewing, Part 1 \(Northeast\)](#)
- March 10 — [Promoting Health-Behavior Change Among People with SPMI \(Columbus\)](#)
- April 7 — [Foundations of Motivational Interviewing, Part 2 \(Northeast\)](#)
- April 28 — [Promoting Health-Behavior Change Among People with SPMI \(Cincinnati\)](#)
- May 13 — [Promoting Health-Behavior Change Among People with SPMI \(Toledo\)](#)
- June 23 — [Promoting Health-Behavior Change Among People with SPMI \(Athens\)](#)

Problem Gambling Treatment Regional Training Schedule

Upcoming problem gambling treatment training opportunities are available this spring. OhioMHAS-funded treatment sessions remaining for this year are offered by Recovery Resources for Stage II on April 16-17 in Cincinnati, Advanced Disordered Gambling Training on May 26-27 in Cleveland, and May 28-29 in Columbus. The two-day advanced session focuses on the Pathways Model, which helps professionals identify the appropriate treatment strategies for individuals with a gambling disorder. The training will be led by Lia Nower, J.D., Ph.D., professor and director of the Center for Gambling Studies at Rutgers University. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about these CE-based sessions.

Ohio Problem Gambling Conference — March 5-6

The *Ohio Problem Gambling Conference 2015 — Growing Awareness, Building Capacity* is March 5-6, at the Crowne Plaza Columbus-Worthington, 6500 Doubletree Ave. Hosted by OhioMHAS and sponsored by [Ohio for Responsible Gambling](#), the training will feature Dr. Jeffrey Derevensky of McGill University, an expert in prevention and treatment of problem gambling among adolescents. The second day features Dr. Lori Rugle, director of Maryland's Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling, who will present on Gambling and SBIRT and recovery promotion. The afternoon of the second day will offer a three-hour session on ethics, with a focus on problem gambling treatment — especially useful for the new Ohio Chemical Dependency Professionals Board Gambling Endorsement. A Continuing Education application has been made. [Register](#) today.

Drug-Free Safety Program: Train the Trainer — March 12

Recovery Resources is offering a [Drug Free Safety Program \(DFSP\) "Train-The-Trainer"](#) package which will allow you to have a trained individual within your organization who is able to provide DFSP education/training to your employees. This training will be held on March 12 from 12-4 p.m. at the MLK Branch of the Cleveland Public Library, 1962 Stokes Blvd. For more information, contact Colleen Fitzgibbons at cfitzgibbons@recres.org or call 216.431.4131, Ext. 1123.

Ohio Council ICD Training — March 13

The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers has scheduled an *ICD Diagnosis and DSM Changes: The New Horizon* training on March 13 at the Crowne Plaza Columbus North—Worthington. Click [HERE](#) for the training brochure, which includes agenda and presenter information. Click [HERE](#) to register online. Deadline for registrations is March 5. Fees: Ohio Council Members \$110, Non-Members \$150. For more information, visit www.theohiocouncil.org or call 614.228.0747.

Training Opportunities, cont.

Telemental Health in Ohio: Connecting Care for the Future Conference — March 13

The Children's Hospital Medical Center of Akron will host the [*Telemental Health in Ohio: Connecting Care for the Future Conference*](#) on March 13 at the Akron Children's Hospital, Considine Professional Building Auditorium, 215 W. Bowery St., Akron, 44308. The training is open to all primary care providers, mental health providers and administrators. [View](#) the conference brochure.

PASSR Implementation Training — March 26

OhioMHAS will partner with the Ohio Departments of Medicaid, Aging, Developmental Disabilities and Health to host an all-day intensive training explaining the Pre-admission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) requirement and how it relates to current initiatives around rebalancing long-term care. The training will focus on PASRR as a key tool to divert and transition individuals diagnosed with mental illness or intellectual disability from nursing facilities through HOME Choice, Recovery Requires a Community, Residential State Supplement, and other state and local resources. For more information, contact Brandon.sturgill@mha.ohio.gov.

12th All-Ohio Institute on Community Psychiatry — March 27-28, 2015

University Hospitals Case Medical Center and the Case Western Reserve University Department of Psychiatry, in cooperation with OhioMHAS and Ohio Medicaid, will host the [*12th All-Ohio Institute on Community Psychiatry*](#) "Integrating Care: Preparing Your Workforce for the Future" March 27-28 at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Cleveland East in Beachwood, Ohio. Register online at <http://casemed.case.edu/cme/> and click on Activities & Events. For more information, visit the [conference website](#) or call 800.274.8263.

Ohio's 2015 Conference on Opiates and Other Drugs — March 30-31

The Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities is pleased to announce that its sixth annual Opiate Conference, "Ohio's 2015 Conference on Opiates and Other Drugs," will take place on March 30-31, 2015, at the Hyatt Regency in Columbus. This year, the conference scope has been expanded to provide education on opiates, as well as other drugs that impact Ohioans. Michael Botticelli, director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, will serve as keynote. Register today on the [OACBHA website](#).

Marijuana Advocacy and Policy Summit — April 1-2, 2015

Drug-Free Action Alliance will host the 2015 Marijuana Advocacy and Policy Summit April 1-2 in Columbus. The conference, which drew attendees from 27 states this past year, will provide an opportunity to learn from other states and communities about their efforts to combat further legalization and explores progress in advancing sound policies related to marijuana at the local, regional and national levels. To apply to attend, visit DrugFreeActionAlliance.org. For more information, contact Derek Longmeier at 614.540.9985, ext. 16 or DLongmeier@DrugFreeActionAlliance.org.

Housing Ohio: The Steps Home — April 13-15

The Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO) will host Housing Ohio 2015: The Steps Home April 13-15 at the Sheraton Capitol Square in Columbus. The statewide conference will feature 30 workshops. Click [HERE](#) for the conference brochure and to register online.

2015 NAMI Ohio Conference — April 24-25

Register today to attend the [*2015 NAMI Ohio Conference*](#), "Dorothea Dix Presents: A Matter of Life, STRIFE or Death," April 24-25 at the Hyatt Regency, 350 N. High St., Columbus. The first day will focus on the historical and contemporary institutionalization of persons with mental illness in America's jails and prisons, paying special tribute to Dorothea Dix. Workshops will explore, in a live theater role-play format, the various points in the criminal justice system at which a person with mental illness can be "intercepted" and kept from becoming more deeply entangled in the system. Cook County (Chicago) Sheriff Thomas J. Dart will deliver the keynote address, "The Shameful Criminalization of Mental Illness in the Midwest and Beyond." The second day will feature affiliate support and development, legislative initiatives, building youth supports, recovery, resiliency and wellness workshops. Please direct questions about the conference to Jessica Poprocki at 419.953.7063 or namiconference@gmail.com.

Training Opportunities, cont.

Ohio Council Compliance Training for Behavioral Health Providers — May 8

The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers has scheduled a Compliance training for behavioral health providers on May 8 to be held at the Ohio Department of Transportation in Columbus. The program will be presented by Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease, LLP. Agenda and online registration will be available in March at www.theohiocouncil.org. For more information, contact Brenda Cornett at cornett@theohiocouncil.org or call 614.228.0747.

Save the Date! Ohio Prevention and Education, Early Childhood Conference — June 29-July 2, 2015

Mark your calendar! The 2015 Ohio Prevention and Education, Early Childhood Conference (OPEC) will take place June 29-July 2 at the Ohio University campus in Athens. Registration is \$100. More information is forthcoming.

Out of the Darkness Community Walk — Oct. 11

Mark your calendar! The [American Foundation for Suicide Prevention](http://www.afsp.org) will host an *Out of the Darkness Community Walk* fundraising event at Alum Creek State Park Beach on Oct. 11. Family members, friends and colleagues walk three to five miles to raise awareness about suicide prevention, and end the stigma that surrounds depression and other mental disorders.

Save the Date! Ohio Council 2015 Annual Conference & Exhibit Hall — Oct. 22-23

The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers will hold its Annual Conference & Exhibit Hall on Oct. 22-23 at the Hilton Columbus/Polaris. More information will be available later this year at www.theohiocouncil.org.



Fresh A.I.R. Gallery Hosting “The Evolution of Stripes” Exhibit

Fresh A.I.R. (Artists in Recovery) Gallery will host “The Evolution of Stripes” a collection of never-before-exhibited, large-scale acrylic paintings by Michael J. Halliday. The exhibition runs through April 10. Halliday, who has battled depression, celebrated 30 years of sobriety in January. [Fresh A.I.R. Gallery](http://www.freshairgallery.com) is a project of [Southeast, Inc.](http://www.southeastinc.com), a comprehensive provider of mental health, chemical dependency, physical healthcare and homeless services serving Central Ohio. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. For more information, call 614.225.0980.



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