

Paddling with a Purpose

Trio Completes Ohio River Journey to Raise Funds, Awareness for Suicide Prevention

Three Ohio men have completed a record-setting, 981-mile adventure down the Ohio River to create conversations and raise awareness of mental health issues and suicide prevention. In doing so, the trio became the youngest men in history to paddle the entire stretch of the river. More importantly, they raised more than \$8,000 for the [American Foundation for Suicide Prevention](#).

Canton resident Jackson Gray got the idea for *Race the River* after his best friend, James Halley, died by suicide. Halley, 18, was a freshman at the University of Akron. Gray and Halley had been best friends since middle school.

Gray, now a senior at Miami University, spent more than a year organizing the trip. He worked with university staff and spoke to various groups on campus and off, urging the importance of talking about mental health and reaching out to individuals in crisis. He even met Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor at a health forum.

"When I lost my best friend, I knew I wanted to do something," Gray said. "Though his death was tragic, it inspired me to help those who struggle from mental illness."

Gray enlisted friends — Quinton Couch, a recent Miami University graduate, and Tyler Brezina, a sophomore at Bowling Green State University — to join him for the adventure. Brezina, also of Canton, was also a friend of Halley's; Couch is from Ross, Ohio.

"The biggest part of our project has just been meeting people [and] starting that conversation about suicide, because suicide's not an easy subject to talk about," said Gray. He hopes that Race the River 2017 will send a message to all those struggling with mental illness: "There are people out there fighting every day for you. You've just got to take it one step at a time."

The three men departed Pittsburgh on May 20 and reached the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers at Fort Defiance Park in Cairo, Ill. on June 29. The group averaged around 25-30 miles per day. Along the way, their journey took them through Wheeling, Parkersburg and Huntington, West Va.; Cincinnati, Madison and Evansville, Ind.; Owensboro and Paducah, Ky., where they interacted with supporters and spread their prevention message.

"One of the main missions of this campaign is to engage in conversation with people of all backgrounds since mental health issues affect all groups regardless of socio-economic status, race, ethnicity and age," said Gray, noting that the crew stops to enjoy meals with locals and shower and get supplies. The three men have made themselves available for media interviews at each stop.

Learn more about the crew's journey on [Facebook](#) or on Twitter @RaceTheRiver17.



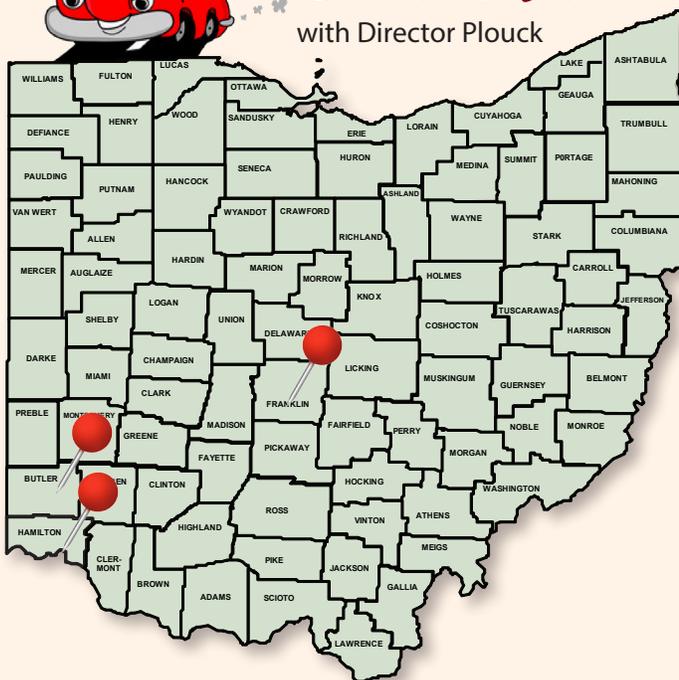
(l-r) Tyler Brezina, Jackson Gray and Quinton Couch.





On the Road

with Director Plouck



A brief recap of some of Dir. Plouck's public activities this month:

- 6.1 Provided opening remarks at the 2017 OhioMHAS Peer Services Conference.
- 6.6 Spoke at a kickoff for the Trauma and Older Adults curriculum (jointly developed with the Ohio Department of Aging) at Summit Behavioral Healthcare in Cincinnati.
- 6.7 Attended unveiling of NAMI Ohio-themed truck owned by The Shelley Company, a statewide concrete company.
- 6.9 Met with representatives from **Greater Good Ambassadors** to discuss faith-based organizations' addiction programming.
- 6.12-13 Attended and provided remarks at Ohio's 2017 Opiate Conference: "Bridges to Recovery." See [presentations](#).
- 6.15 Chaired meeting of the Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council.
- 6.22 Provided testimony before the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee.
- 6.23 Spoke at mental health training for public defenders for counties participating in Ohio's **Stepping Up** initiative.
- 6/27 Provided opening remarks at the second day of the annual Ohio Promoting Wellness & Recovery (**OPEC**) Conference at Miami University.

Drug-Free Action Alliance Announces New Name, Expanded Mission

Columbus-based Drug-Free Action Alliance will now be known as **Prevention Action Alliance**, a move that underscores its new mission — leading healthy communities in the prevention of substance misuse and the promotion of mental health wellness.

"Now, more than ever, we need comprehensive, prevention solutions to the opiate epidemic," said Marcie Seidel, executive director, Prevention Action Alliance. "It's vitally important to educate children and parents on the dangers of misusing substances, but it's just as important to build a healthy, safe community so our youth aren't polluted by their surroundings and turn towards drugs.

"Similarly, we can't allow our youth to be polluted from the inside," Seidel continued. "By educating about and promoting mental health wellness, we can nurture our youth and prevent substance misuse later in life."

At the same time, Seidel said the agency will move to a new location in Columbus at 6171 Huntley Road, Suite G. There, the agency will have access to a training room to aid and better serve those working in prevention.

Prevention Action Alliance began 30 years ago as the Ohio Association of Parents for Drug-Free Youth, according to Seidel.

"Everyone has a role in prevention now," Seidel said. "We've learned that over the years, and have expanded to work with parents, teachers, youth, faith leaders, and those who have lost a loved one to the opiate epidemic as well as many college campuses and community coalitions."

Prevention Action Alliance is a 501(c)3 nonprofit based in Columbus, Ohio, working to lead healthy communities to prevent substance misuse and promote mental health wellness. Prevention Action Alliance offers a number of programs and networks to encourage prevention throughout the state and nationally, including: *Know!*, *Parents Who Host Lose The Most: Don't Be A Party To Teenage Drinking*, *SMART Bet*, the *Statewide Prevention Coalition Association*, *The GAP Network*, the *Ohio College Initiative to Enhance Student Wellness* and the *Ohio Youth-Led Prevention Network*.

For more information, visit the Prevention Action Alliance website at www.PreventionActionAlliance.org.

NEW MISSION: Leading healthy communities in the prevention of substance misuse and the promotion of mental health wellness.

**Prevention
Action Alliance**
Lifetime Prevention | Lifetime Wellness

Quality in Service Important to Peer Recovery Supporters

More than 270 people attended each day of the second-annual Peer Recovery Supporter Conference to focus on its themes of "Professionalizing the Workforce." The event on June 1-2 in Worthington, included approximately 30 breakout sessions to educate and



One of Phil Valentine's messages from his 28 years in recovery and working as an advocate: "There is incredible wisdom and power in the experience, strength and hope in ONE person's recovery."

enhance the quality of the expanding peer workforce.

"Your work is critically important in reinforcing our recovery-oriented system," said OhioMHAS Director Tracy Plouck in welcoming the crowd.

Day one featured a keynote by Phil Valentine, executive director for the Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery, who has been honored repeatedly for his advocacy efforts since his own recovery from alcohol and cocaine addiction in 1987. In 2015, he completed a thruhike of the Appalachian Trail and likened that trek of 2,189 miles to his journey of recovery.

Fred Frese, Ph.D., had keynote honors on the second day. Dr. Frese spoke from his own experiences about several psychotic breaks and hospitalizations as a young man, and his subsequent 40 years of work within the state psychiatric hospital system and as a faculty member at Northeast Ohio Medical University and Case Western Reserve University.

The focus on professionalism included tips on ethics and boundaries, personal attire, financial literacy and self-care, as well as training about how to help people who have been victims of sexual assault, human trafficking or emotional trauma, and the mandated duty to report suspected abuse or risk of harm. Other sessions educated peers on available recovery resources such as housing and medication-assisted treatment, or myths about individuals living in poverty.

Ohio began formally certifying Peer Recovery Supporters as of July 1, 2016. Since then, 329 peers have successfully met the criteria for certification and passed the state test.

The conference was financially supported by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and The Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation.

View [more photos](#) on the OhioMHAS Flickr page.

Cleveland Plays Host to International IPS Learning Committee Annual Meeting

OhioMHAS supports innovative efforts to increase job opportunities and improve workforce participation for individuals in recovery. On May 24 and 25, Ohio hosted the International Individual Placement and Support Learning Community Annual Meeting in Cleveland. This event welcomed practitioners from throughout the U.S. and the world to network and learn. Countries represented included Canada, Iceland, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway and Spain.

Speakers included: Oscar Jimenez-Solomon, New York Psychiatric Institute at Columbia University; Melody Riefer, Advocates Human Potential, Inc.; Mark McGovern, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University School of Medicine; and Justin Metcalfe and Gary Bond, The IPS Employment Center at the Rockville Institute.



Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Supported Employment is an evidence-based practice that helps people with severe and persistent mental illness or co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders find and maintain competitive jobs. IPS is assertive about helping people find the work they want as soon as they express a

desire to become employed.

There are 22 qualified IPS providers in the state who utilize this evidence-based practice to help individuals become employed so they can maintain independence and self-sufficiency.

Learn more [HERE](#). View more [photos](#) on the OhioMHAS Flickr page.

Transforming Behavioral Health for Children, Youth and Families

Ohio Adds to Strategic Investments for Children's Behavioral Health with Two New, Four-Year Federal Grants Totaling \$15.2 Million

The OhioMHAS Bureau of Children and Families has been hard at work this year applying for federal grants to strengthen programming for youth and young adults. Those efforts have paid off to the tune of \$15.2 million over the next four years.

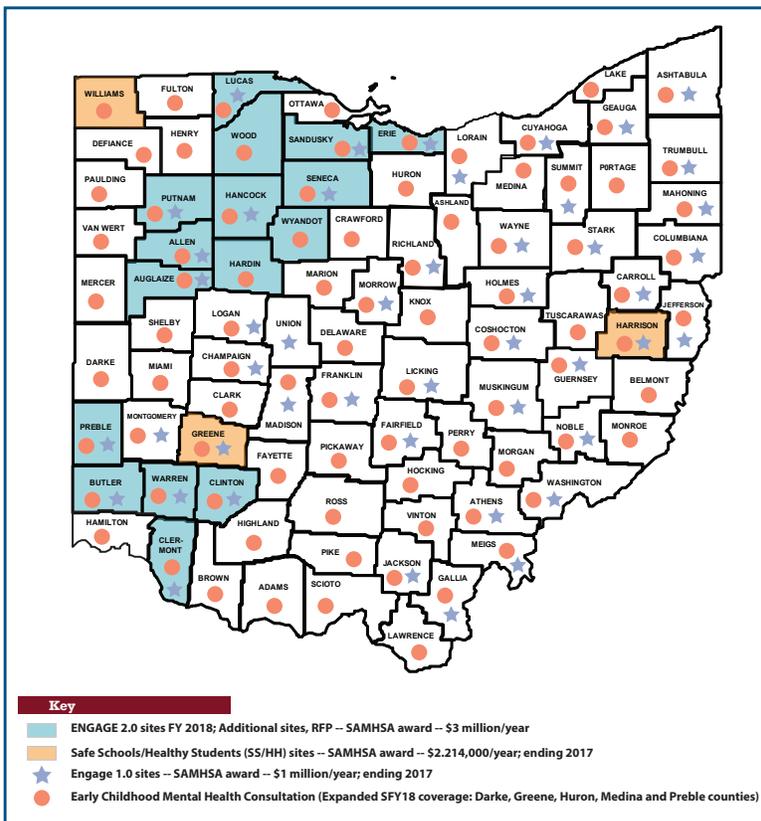
The Bureau was awarded a four-year, \$3 million **System of Care (SOC) Expansion and Sustainability Cooperative Agreement** and a four-year, \$800,000 **State Youth Treatment Implementation (SY-I) grant** — both from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Combined with other existing strategic investments, including **Early Childhood Mental Health** and **Safe Schools, Healthy Students**, more than \$35 million is currently committed to transforming behavioral health for children, youth and families in Ohio.

"These federal and state investments have strategically positioned Ohio at the forefront for systemic expansion and sustained modernization of behavioral health service delivery for children, youth and transition-age youth in Ohio," said Bureau Chief Grace Kolliesuah.

The SOC award, dubbed "Ohio System of Care for Children: ENGAGE 2.0" (Engaging the New Generation to Achieve their Goals through Empowerment), builds on Ohio's original four-year **ENGAGE implementation grant** (2013-17).

The Department envisions this opportunity as a bold and strategic investment to "scale up" mobile response and stabilization services (MRSS),



high-fidelity wraparound, and intensive service coordination for children and youth ages 0 to 21 with severe emotional disturbances and their families.

The plan will advance collaboration across systems to promote person-centered social, emotional wellness and recovery for Ohio's children, youth and families. Two local planning jurisdictions for children's behavioral health (Butler and Lucas counties) will lead a multi-county region "Hub Center." The MRSS teams will provide a 24/7 hotline, on-site mobile response triage, clinical assessments, referrals and follow-up services, including wraparound, for approximately 5,000 children, youth, young adults and families annually. Over the four year grant cycle, the project will serve approximately 20,000 Ohioans.

The two lead local jurisdictions (Butler and Lucas counties) have a long history with wraparound in their communities.

Each works closely with local schools, juvenile courts, developmental disabilities boards, children's service agencies and their Family & Children First Council. They also work across county lines and share resources among providers in the catchment area. The two counties will also serve in their respective regions as the coordinators to the neighboring counties named by OhioMHAS in the grant, and will each select an additional county partner by year three of the award. They will also commit to working with OhioMHAS to be a leader in technical assistance and consultation to other local county jurisdictions — including ADAMHS Boards, youth- and family-serving community organizations,

and youth and family peer support organizations — for scaling up the project into a third regional approach in years two and three.

The SY-I grant, meanwhile, expands upon the work of Ohio's (2016-2017) State Youth Treatment Planning Grant for \$250,000 per year for state-level strategic planning. Ohio's YT-I project will increase the availability and access of substance use disorder and co-occurring substance use disorder and mental health evidence-based assessments, treatment models and recovery services in Ohio with a focus on the disparities in rural and Appalachian counties for **transition-aged youth** ages 12-25.

The Bureau of Children and Families will soon release a request for proposals in the near future to select the four required providers. Be sure to check the **OhioMHAS Funding Opportunities page** for an announcement.

NAMI Ohio Partners with Construction Company to Increase Mental Health Awareness, Reduce Stigma



On June 7, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Ohio in partnership with Smith Concrete, a part of The Shelly Company, unveiled the 2017 NAMI Ohio-themed concrete truck at the Ohio Statehouse.

The Shelly Company's Ready Mix Division created the themed truck program in 2009 as part of its community outreach. Since the program began, they have partnered with more than 20 organizations to create the "rolling billboards" with their trucks. The program offers, at no cost to the selected organization, the opportunity to have their logo, phone number, website and branding painted on the truck.

The NAMI Ohio truck will be based in Zanesville and will travel throughout the southeast region of Ohio working

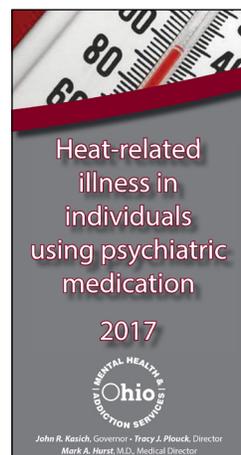
on various ready-mix concrete projects. The truck will also be made available for community outreach events.

As part of the unveiling, NAMI Ohio Executive Director Terry Russell shared that in his more than four decades working in mental health he has never seen a private company do something so remarkable for mental health awareness. "Because of this truck, lives will be saved," Russell said. "We are extremely grateful to The Shelly Company for this opportunity."

Themed truck drivers are specially selected to participate in this program and are permanently assigned to their specific truck. The driver of the truck will carry NAMI Ohio brochures and be able to refer individuals seeking information or resources to the NAMI Ohio office for further assistance.

OhioMHAS Releases Updated Heat-Related Illness Brochure

Now that warmer weather has arrived, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) today announced the release of the [2017 Heat-related Illness brochure](#). Some medicines and medical conditions can make the body overheat, especially during hot and humid weather. When the body overheats, heat-related illness can cause death if not treated. Almost all psychotropic medications except benzodiazepines (e.g. anti-anxiety drugs, sedatives) are among medications that decrease the body's response to heat. Alcohol, narcotics and street drugs can also affect heat tolerance. Read this brochure and check with your doctor or pharmacist about your medications to stay safe during hot weather. Read a [memorandum](#) from OhioMHAS Medical Director Mark Hurst, M.D.



OSAM Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring Network

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: June-January 2017* is available to view/download/print [HERE](#).

The OSAM Network consists of eight regional epidemiologists (REPIs) located in: Akron-Canton, Athens, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Toledo and Youngstown. The Network conducts focus groups and individual qualitative interviews with active and recovering drug users and community professionals (treatment providers, law enforcement officials, etc.) to produce epidemiological descriptions of local substance abuse trends.

Please contact OSAM Principal Investigator R. Thomas Sherba, Ph.D., with questions at 614.466.9020 or email Tom.Sherba@mha.ohio.gov.

Family, Friends of Service Members/Veterans Needed for Focus Group

MEE Productions/REACH Communications is seeking family members and friends of veterans/service members to participate in videotaped focus groups seeking feedback and opinions for a suicide prevention campaign that engages families and friends to get involved ("step up") for active and returning family members who may be struggling to re-adjust to civilian life.

The groups will be held in Columbus on July 19-20 from 6-8 p.m. Participants will receive \$80 as compensation for time and travel.

Call 1.877.633.7763 to be screened for eligibility.

Updated Community Family Partnership Team Guidelines

Active and purposeful involvement by individuals with a lived experience of a mental health and/or substance use disorder is essential to helping ensure that Ohio's behavioral health system is person-driven, collaborative, culturally and linguistically competent, trauma-informed and recovery-oriented. **OhioMHAS' Community Family Partnership Team (CFPT)** is designed to increase the voice of individuals with a lived experience with a mental health and/or substance use disorder or their family members by sharing their experience, strength and hope on OhioMHAS committees and workgroups.

CFPT funds may be used to assist individuals with a lived experience of a mental health and/or substance use disorder or their family members by reimbursing mileage, compensating OhioMHAS committee and workgroup participation through stipends, hosting in-state conferences, paying honorariums for OhioMHAS-initiated speaking engagements, paying for lodging and registration for in-state events and providing technical assistance. Individuals participating on OhioMHAS workgroups and committees are eligible to receive a stipend based on length of the meeting or workgroup, as well as mileage reimbursement. Individuals attending conferences may receive mileage reimbursement, prepaid lodging and conference registration fees. Click [HERE](#) for revised guidelines and an updated application form.

Addiction Treatment Waitlist Law Takes Effect July 1

Beginning July 1, 2017, Ohio Revised Code section (ORC) 5119.362 requires that all community addiction services providers maintain a waiting list for opioid and co-occurring drug addiction services and recovery supports.

A training video has been recently added to the OhioMHAS website to assist community addiction services providers in complying with waiting list requirements. The training and other information about the waiting list can be found [HERE](#).

View the OhioMHAS [training](#) related to the waiting list requirements. [Click here](#) for the training PowerPoint presentation.

Please contact [James Lapczynski](#), assistant director for Administration, if you have any questions.

Help Hotline Becomes Help Network of Northeast Ohio



Mahoning County's Help Hotline Crisis Center, Inc., has changed its name to Help Network of Northeast Ohio as part of a re-branding effort to better reflect its menu of community services. Launched in 1971, the Network fields an average of 16,000 calls per month. Although suicide prevention and intervention is still a major component of the organization's mission, the Network provides assistance to those with mental health issues, substance abuse disorders and homelessness. It also offers programs for veterans, seniors, victims and those with special needs. In addition to an updated name and logo, the agency also launched a [new website](#)

Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services Named Top 10 Workplace



Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) has been awarded a [2017 Top Workplaces](#) honor by the *Cincinnati Enquirer*. This year's award marks the eighth year in a row for [GCB](#), which is the only nonprofit organization in Greater Cincinnati to achieve this recognition. The Top Workplaces lists are based solely on the results of an employee feedback survey administered by [WorkplaceDynamics, LLC](#), a leading research firm that specializes in organizational health and workplace improvement. "This award is a testament to our hard-working staff," said GCB President and CEO Jeff O'Neill. "They are making a difference every single day in the lives of the people in our community who are affected by mental illness and addictions."

Unison Health Sub-Acute Detox Unit Opens

To help combat the opioid epidemic in Lucas County, Unison Health has opened a 16-bed, sub-acute detox facility at their 1212 Cherry St. location. The unit is expected to serve 400-500 individuals per year, with patients averaging stays of 7-10 days.

According to Jeff De Lay, president and CEO of Unison Health: "This could not have been possible without our community partners. The heroin epidemic plaguing communities across our country cannot be solved by one individual or provider, but together we can make a difference."

In sub-acute detox, patients will receive 24-hour, medically monitored care that is tailored to help them detoxify based on their individual condition.

The Unison Health sub-acute detox facility was made possible with support from OhioMHAS, the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Lucas County, Mercy St. Vincent Medical Center, Mercy Health Foundation and Northwest Ohio Labor Fest, Inc. Click [HERE](#) for more information about Unison Health.



Ohio State Legal Services Association Awards Grant to Partner with Scioto County Counseling Center to Offer Legal Services as Part of Addiction Treatment Services

It took five years to create and fund, but the first known partnership in the United States between a legal aid law firm and a drug/alcohol addiction treatment center has begun work in Portsmouth. State Legal Services Association (known locally as SEOLS or Southeastern Ohio Legal Services) and The Counseling Center (TCC) initiated a partnership in December with the help of a \$50,000 grant from the Ohio State Bar Foundation to enhance the likelihood of long-term recovery.

The new project places a SEOLS lawyer inside TCC offices once a week in Portsmouth and West Union. Although the legal assistance to TCC clients will not be different than that generally available from SEOLS, the partnership focus is on the civil legal problems most often impacting those persons in drug/alcohol addiction treatment, including: employment barriers, access to subsidized housing and costs related to past criminal court actions.

Mark J. Cardosi, managing attorney of SEOLS, stated that the idea for the

partnership arose in the context of the national model of medical-legal partnerships (MLP). There are nearly 300 such partnerships in the U.S., and all unite the medical and legal communities under a common mission to address and prevent health-harming social conditions for patients and the community.

Despite the national successes of MLPs nationwide, there was no MLP between a legal aid law firm and a treatment center (solely) for drug/alcohol addiction.

Albrecht said that the inclusion of legal services is an essential element to the success of addiction treatment.

"Stressors, like those presented by legal problems, adversely impact



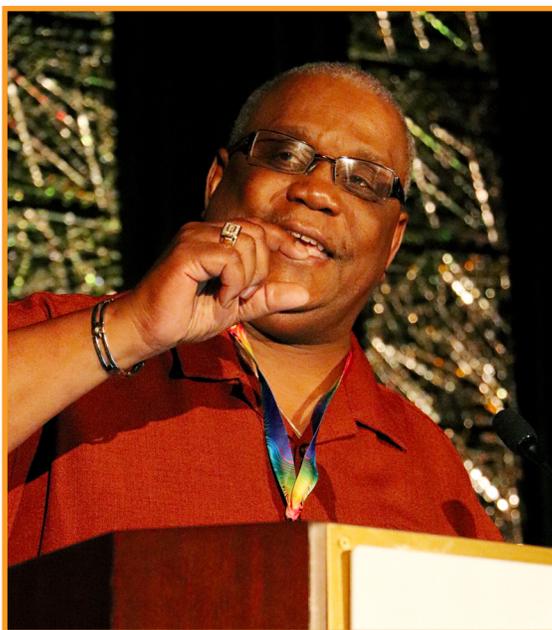
Attorney Mark Cardosi provides legal guidance to a client at The Counseling Center, Inc.

everyone, but especially those recovering from drug/alcohol addiction," he said.

TCC and SEOLS staff are seeking a university-based research partner to help examine the usefulness of the combined efforts of the legal and addiction treatment professionals.

Annual Opiate Conference Sets Record

Dennis Baker, executive director of the Mansfield Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program, Inc., presented the keynote address during the first day of **Ohio's 2017 Opiate Conference**: "Every day that the sun comes up is an opportunity for someone to find recovery." More than 1,200 individuals from throughout the state attended the eighth annual conference held June 12-13 in Columbus. The conference was sponsored by the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities with support from OhioMHAS and the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. View [more photos](#).



Symposium Focuses on Enforcement Efforts

About 200 public safety professionals attended the **2017 Drug Interdiction, Disruption and Reduction Symposium** on May 31 to enhance Ohio's efforts in combatting the opioid epidemic.

The Ohio Department of Public Safety, OhioMHAS, Ohio National Guard and the Ohio Task Force Commanders' Association partnered to host the Symposium.

[View photos](#) from the Symposium.



2017 Drug Interdiction, Disruption & Reduction Symposium

News & Research Roundup

New Resources from SAMHSA

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released a series of fact sheets about anxiety disorder, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), bipolar disorder, depression, first episode psychosis and obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). These fact sheets provide the latest scientific information about symptoms and a range of treatment options, as well as peer support groups and services. Click the links below to access the new resources.

[Understanding Depression Caregiver](#)

[Understanding First-Episode of Psychosis Young Adult: Get the Facts](#)

[Understanding Depression Young Adults](#)

[Understanding Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder Young Adults](#)

[Understanding ADHD Young Adults](#)

[Understanding ADHD Caregiver](#)

[Understanding Anxiety Disorders Young Adults](#)

New Report Now Available: Trends in Substance Use Disorders Among Adults Aged 18 or Older

SAMHSA's Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality has released [Trends in Substance Use Disorders Among Adults Aged 18 or Older](#). The report, based on data from the annual National Survey on Drug Use and Health, highlights the number of American adults with substance use disorders in the past year and trends in substance use disorders between 2002 and 2014.

Get Connected Toolkit: Linking Older Adults with Resources on Medication, Alcohol & Mental Health

SAMHSA has updated the [Get Connected Toolkit: Linking Older Adults with Resources on Medication, Alcohol and Mental Health](#). The revised toolkit, which notes that almost 20 percent of older adults unintentionally misuse alcohol, over-the-counter medications, and prescription drugs, features materials such as fact sheets and handouts on preventing, identifying, screening, educating, and referring older adults with mental health or substance misuse issues. SAMHSA also released a new video, [It Can Happen to Anyone: Alcohol and Medication Among Older Adults](#).



Binge Drinking Rate Declines Among Teens and Young Adults

The rate of binge drinking among U.S. teens and young adults has declined over the past six years, according to a [new report](#) from SAMHSA. Among teens and young adults ages 12 to 20, 14 percent report having engaged in binge drinking in the past month. The findings are based on an annual survey of 67,500 people. The states with the highest levels of underage binge drinking— 21 percent — were New Hampshire, North Dakota and Vermont. States with the lowest levels were North Carolina (11.6 percent), Tennessee (11.45 percent) and Utah (10.9 percent). Ohio came in at 15.66 percent.



Fewer Teens Using E-Cigarettes and Other Types of Tobacco

Fewer teens are using e-cigarettes and other types of tobacco, according to a [new study](#) by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The study found 11.3 percent of high school students used e-cigarettes in 2016, down from 16 percent the previous year. This represents the first decline in e-cigarette use since the CDC began keeping track in 2011. Only 8 percent of high school students said they smoked cigarettes last year, and 20 percent said they used any tobacco product, including cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigars, hookahs, pipes and smokeless tobacco. Those numbers are the lowest on record, the CDC said in a [media release](#).

Study: Cost of Heroin Use in the U.S. Tops \$51 Billion

The total cost of heroin use in the U.S. reached more than \$51 billion in 2015, according to a new study by researchers at the University of Illinois at Chicago. The cost estimate includes heroin-related crime and imprisonment, as well as addiction treatment and chronic infectious diseases contracted through heroin use, such as HIV, tuberculosis and hepatitis B and C, [HealthDay reported](#). Other costs include treating newborns with heroin-related medical conditions, overdose deaths and lost productivity on the job. On average, the societal cost per person who uses heroin is \$50,799, according to a [university news release](#). The findings are published in the journal [PLOS One](#).



Training Opportunities, cont.

2017 Addiction Studies Institute — Aug. 2-4

The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center Talbot Hall will host the 2017 Addiction Studies Institute Aug. 2-4 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. The Institute is the largest midwest conference of its kind, providing an array of dynamic educational sessions for the chemical dependency counselor, social worker, professional counselor, marriage and family therapist, prevention specialist, nurse, psychologist, physician, other health care specialists, criminal justice professional, clergy and educator. In addition to general sessions, participants can select from more than 60 workshops. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

National Conference on Addiction Disorders — Aug. 16-20

The 2017 National Conference on Addiction Disorders, "Navigating Passages to Recovery" will be held Aug. 16-20 in Baltimore, Md. Topics include: co-occurring disorders, counseling/clinical strategies, ethics, IDDT, leadership and management, prevention/intervention, prescription drug and opioid abuse, recovery housing, technology and more. Click [HERE](#) for agenda, featured speakers and registration information.

2017 Summit for Kids Professional Symposium — Aug. 18

Summit for Kids, in partnership with Summit County Children Services, will host "[*The Opiate Epidemic's Effects on the Family*](#)" on Aug. 18 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Akron Summit Public Library. Cost is \$50 and includes breakfast and five hours for social workers and counselors and 4.75 Continuing Legal Education hours. For more information, contact Jill Adams at 330.643.2560 or email jadams@summitoh.net.

State of Mental Health Disparities in the African-American Community Conference — Aug. 18-19

The Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition will host [*State of Mental Health Disparities in the African-American Community Conference*](#) "The Case for Correcting Cultural Trauma" Aug. 18-19 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Beachwood. The conference will examine the state of mental health disparities by exploring its impact on cultural trauma through historical documentation, systems exploration and personal testimonies. View [speaker bios](#). Cost is \$100. Click the link for registration information.

Collaboration Assessment and Management of Suicidality (CAMS) Training — Aug. 25

The Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation, in collaboration with the Licking County Suicide Prevention Coalition, will host a [*CAMS \(Collaboration Assessment and Management of Suicidality\) Training*](#) on Aug. 25 from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel—Newark. Cost, which includes lunch, CEUs and registration, is \$30. For more information, contact Shawna Hite at 614.429.1528 ext. 402 or email Shawna.hite@ohiospf.org.

Fourth Annual Families of Addicts (FOA) Rally 4 Recovery — Aug. 27

Families of Addicts (FOA) will partner with [*Mahajan Therapeutics*](#) to host the Fourth Annual FOA Rally 4 Recovery from 3-6 p.m. on Aug. 27 at Dayton Courthouse Square in downtown Dayton. For more information, contact Lori Erion at 937.307.5479 or email info@FOAfamilies.org.

Save the Date: Fourth Annual Statewide Suicide Prevention Conference — Sept. 8

The Ohio State University Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health, in partnership with OhioMHAS, will host the Fourth Annual Statewide Suicide Prevention Conference on Sept. 8 at the Ohio Union Performance Hall. Click [HERE](#) to receive conference updates.

Cincinnati Children's Pediatric Mental Health Symposium — Sept. 11

Cincinnati Children's Hospital will host its 2017 Pediatric Mental Health Symposium on Sept. 11 at Great Wolf Lodge in Mason. Cost is \$125 (if registered by Aug. 1) and \$150 (Aug. 2 through Sept. 1). Click [HERE](#) to register.

Ohio's 2017 Recovery Conference — Sept. 11-12

The Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities, in partnership with OhioMHAS, will host [*Ohio's 2017 Recovery Conference*](#) on Sept. 11-12 at the Hyatt Regency in Columbus. In an effort to strengthen the recovery community in Ohio, this conference will offer education on topics relevant to recovery from a mental illness and/or addiction. The target audience for this conference will be individuals in recovery from a mental illness and/or addiction, family members, peers working in the field and allied professionals. For more information, please contact Alaina Herrel at 614.224.1111 or aherrel@oacbha.org.

Training Opportunities, cont.

Central Ohio “Out of the Darkness Walk” — Sept. 24

The Central Ohio Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) will host an [Out of the Darkness Community Walk](#) at Alum Creek State Park (Beach Pavilion) from noon-4 p.m. on Sept. 24. The event seeks to raise awareness and funds that allow AFSP to invest in new research, create educational programs, advocate for public policy and support survivors of suicide loss. For more information, contact Molly Boggs at 614.205.9614 or molly.boggs92@gmail.com.

28th Annual UMADAOPs of Ohio State Conference — Sept. 26-28

The Ohio Federation of Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Programs (UMADAOP) will host its 28th Annual State Conference on Sept. 26-28 at the Mid-Ohio Conference Center in Mansfield. This year's theme is “A Call to Action: Restoring and Strengthening Our Communities.” Click [HERE](#) for more information or call Gwendolyn Woods at 614.915.9716.

2017 Ohio Rally for Recovery — Sept. 29

Ohio Citizen Advocates for Addiction Recovery will host the 2017 Rally for Recovery on Sept. 29 at the West Plaza of the Ohio Statehouse from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. In addition to fellowship, food, speakers, exhibits, and other activities, rally attendees are invited to advocate for individuals in recovery by meeting with local legislators. For more information, contact cgifford@oca-ohio.org. Click [HERE](#) for information about exhibit tables.

Save the Date: The Ohio Council's 2017 Annual Conference & Exhibit Hall — Oct. 19-20

The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers will hold its Annual Conference & Exhibit Hall Oct. 19-20 at the Hilton Columbus/Polaris. Please visit www.theohiocouncil.org or contact Brenda Cornett at cornett@theohiocouncil.org or 614.228.0747 for more information.

Private Psychiatric Inpatient Provider Conference — Oct. 20

The OhioMHAS biennial Private Psychiatric Inpatient Provider Conference will be held Oct. 20 at the Quest Conference Center in Columbus. This year's conference theme is “Innovation in Behavioral Health Care — What's New?” Topics will include: decriminalizing individuals with a mental illness, treatment refractory patients, substance abuse issues, bullying and social media, threat assessment and trauma, peer support, LGBTQ awareness, suicide prevention, specialized care for first episode psychosis, and more. Details and registration information will be forthcoming.

ICCA 25th Annual International Research Conference — Oct. 29 - Nov. 1

The International Community Corrections Association (ICCA) will host its 25th annual research conference [Doing What Matters: Integrating Public Health and Criminal Justice Reform](#) Oct. 29-Nov. 1 in Seattle, Wash. Keynote speakers include Faith Lutze, Ph.D., professor, Washington State University Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, and Richard Cho, director of Behavioral Health at the Council of State Governments Justice Center.

Save the Date: Annual Forensic Conference — Nov. 1

Hold the date! OhioMHAS will hold its Annual Forensic Conference Nov. 1 at the Dublin Embassy Suites Hotel. Joel Dvoskin, Ph.D., will serve as keynote speaker. More information will be available soon.

4th Annual Current Concepts in Integrated Healthcare — Nov. 4

Save the Date! Northeast Ohio Medical University, in partnership with the Ohio Osteopathic Foundation, Oriana House and the Summit County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Board will host the 4th Annual Current Concepts in Integrated Healthcare conference Nov. 4 at the [Cleveland Clinic Akron General Health & Wellness Center—Bath in Akron](#). This training is designed for physicians, nurses, physician assistants, psychologists, pharmacists, counselors, social workers and anyone with an interest in addiction and mental health. Click [HERE](#) for vendor information.



Have a news story or training opportunity you'd like to share with colleagues?
Please forward submissions to Eric.Wandersleben@mha.ohio.gov for consideration.