

Welcome Message to the Field from OhioMHAS Director Lori Criss



Lori Criss, Director

Lori Criss became director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) on Feb. 4. Criss, who previously served as chief executive officer of the Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers, brings more than 20 years of operations and leadership experience with addiction and trauma treatment to the department. She has extensive experience in policy related to recovery housing, opiate addiction and integrated physical and behavioral health care. She is an active member of the recovery community, including sitting

on the National Alliance of Recovery Residences (NARR), an organization dedicated to supporting individuals in recovery from substance use disorders. Prior to her work with the Ohio Council, Criss worked for many years in women's treatment at Amethyst, Inc., and before that, as a program specialist with the Ohio Commission on Minority Health. She holds a Master's Degree in Social Work from The Ohio State University. Former director Mark Hurst, M.D., will remain with the agency as assistant director for clinical services. Director Criss penned the following column as a greeting to the dedicated professionals who drive Ohio's mental health and addiction prevention, treatment and recovery support services system forward.

Ohio has come a long way toward developing a full continuum of care across the state. However, we still have much work to do. Our top priority at OhioMHAS is to ensure that the men, women, children and families living with and recovering from mental illness and addiction get our best efforts and most efficient and effective use of resources. Together, we can create a future where rising suicide rates, overcrowded jails and prisons, and a flood of overdose deaths are a thing of the past.

One of Governor Mike DeWine's top priorities is to address Ohio's public health crisis. On the night that he was sworn in, he issued two executive orders. The first, created the position of the Director of Recovery Ohio, a cabinet-level point person to advance and coordinate substance abuse and mental health services within state government to better support local communities across the state. The second elevated prevention services to a senior-level position within OhioMHAS to ensure that proven age- and

environmentally appropriate prevention education is provided in kindergarten through 12th grade.

Under Governor DeWine's leadership, OhioMHAS, in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Education and other state agencies, will focus on prevention across the lifespan — ensuring that kids have a good foundation for healthy relationships and positive choices. We will prevent the need for adults to self-medicate for untreated mental illness. We will ensure that older adults are not forgotten in their risk for mental illness and substance use disorders. We will take seriously the role of trauma in the onset of mental illness and unhealthy and dangerous substance use. We will help families and children who have severe emotional disorders get the help they need, closer to home. We will help Ohioans with any mental illness or substance use issue receive quality care in integrated settings, and we will help adults with severe and persistent mental illness thrive in their communities rather than cycling through jails, prisons, hospitals and homelessness.

We will continue to reduce overdose deaths. We will focus on Ohio's addiction crisis, not just our opiate crisis. We will help Ohioans understand that people with mental illness and/or a substance use disorder are struggling with chronic diseases that need long-term responses and support, including treatment, safe housing, meaningful employment and connection to peers who can share their experience, strength and hope. We will sustain and build Ohio's behavioral health workforce. We will continue to provide excellent care in our state psychiatric hospitals for our most vulnerable citizens. We will transfer research into practice while supporting every community in Ohio in building on its unique assets. We will work to support you in providing safe and quality care for those served in Ohio's behavioral health system, and make it easier to use the resources intended to support wellness in our communities and homes.

You have my commitment that in moving toward these goals and making decisions about policies and resources, I will ask myself two questions: ***"How is this decision helping people with mental illness and substance use disorders get better or stay well? How is this decision supporting businesses and local governments in their efforts to help people recover or stay well?"***

I value your expertise and contribution to our system, and our OhioMHAS team looks forward to creating opportunities to listen and learn from you. Together, we can accomplish a great deal and lay a strong foundation for the future. I look forward to our shared work ahead.

My best — Lori



On the Road

with Dr. Hurst



A brief recap of some of Dr. Hurst's January activities:

- 1/2 Hosted call regarding behavioral health redesign with representatives from the following organizations: NAMI Ohio, OACBHA, the Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers, Mental Health and Addiction Advocacy Coalition, Ohio Alliance of Recovery Providers, and Ohio Citizen Advocates for Addiction Recovery.
- 1.4 Attended the dedication of Kasich Hall (formerly Cardinal Hall) at the Ohio State Fairgrounds.
- 1.10 Attended the press conference with former Gov. John Kasich regarding the Pfizer Foundation's \$500,000 donation to the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio in support of youth resiliency programming.
- 1.11 Attended the quarterly meeting of the Ohio Jail Advisory Board.
- 1.14 Attended the swearing in ceremony for Mike DeWine as Governor at the Ohio Statehouse.
- 1.25 Provided remarks to the OhioMHAS Planning Council, a federally-mandated group that advises OhioMHAS on substance abuse and mental health block grants and advocates for persons with mental health and/or substance use disorders.
- 1.29 Attended OACBHA Legislative Day luncheon and awards ceremony.

2019 Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force Report Released

The Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force released its **January 2019 report** detailing the administration's efforts to build a coordinated statewide response to human trafficking. Former Gov. John R. Kasich created the Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force by executive order in 2012 and charged state agencies to combat the exploitation of men, women and children in Ohio.



The report outlines the Task Force's policy priorities and accomplishments to prevent trafficking, protect survivors and prosecute offenders. The report notes that all 10 prevention, protection and prosecution priorities were completed in the past year, but stressed that combatting trafficking must remain a priority.

"In 2019, we still have some people who do not believe this crime exists in their communities," Anti-Trafficking Coordinator Sophia Papadimos wrote in a cover letter. "This only highlights the importance of data, which demonstrates the reality of human trafficking and assists with understanding the scope of the problem and where to target resources."

"We must always remember one case is one too many, and that all lives have value and all people — men, women and children, regardless of race, language or religion, have the fundamental right to a life free from exploitation, abuse and prejudice."

Ohio Awards More Than \$90,000 for Human Trafficking Prevention

The Ohio Children's Trust Fund (**OCTF**), in collaboration with the Governor's **Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force**, awarded more than \$90,000 in grant funding to seven organizations to develop and implement human trafficking prevention programs across Ohio. These projects will identify and assist at-risk youth and provide them with information and resources to prevent human trafficking. Funded organizations include:

- Asian American Community Services, *Franklin County*
 - The Children's Center of Medina County
 - COMPASS Family & Community Services, *Mahoning County*
 - Gracehaven, *Franklin County*
 - Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program, *Athens, Gallia, Hocking, Meigs, Morgan, Perry and Vinton Counties*
 - YMCA Youth Opportunities Program, *Lucas County*
 - YWCA-Hamilton, *Butler County*
- Click **HERE** to read the media release.



Governor DeWine signs off on the creation of the RecoveryOhio Advisory Council at a Jan. 18 announcement held at The P.E.E.R. Center.

Governor DeWine Forms RecoveryOhio Advisory Council to Guide Mental Health, Addiction Policy in Ohio

Just days after taking office, Governor Mike DeWine announced the creation of the *RecoveryOhio Advisory Council* to advise the Governor's Office on critical matters concerning mental illness and substance use prevention, treatment and recovery support services in Ohio. RecoveryOhio Director Alisha Nelson will chair the council.

Council members include:

- *Ted Strickland*, former governor of Ohio
- *Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton*, retired, project director, Ohio Stepping Up Initiative
- *John Tharp*, Lucas County sheriff
- *Greg Delaney*, pastor
- *Suzanne Dulaney*, executive director, County Commissioners Association of Ohio
- *Joan England*, executive director, The Mental Health & Addiction Advocacy Coalition
- *Orman Hall*, High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area/Ohio University
- *Dr. Navdeep Kang*, director of Operations Behavioral Health, Mercy Health Cincinnati
- *Teresa Lampl*, associate director, Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Service Providers
- *Jessica Nickel*, founder, Addiction Policy Forum
- *Terry Russell*, executive director, National Alliance on Mental Illness Ohio

- *Dr. Shawn Ryan*, chair of Payer Relations, Ohio Society of Addiction Medicine
- *Brenda Stewart*, founder, The Addict's Parent United
- *Sarah Thompson*, executive director, Ohio Citizen Advocates for Addiction Recovery
- *Cheri L. Walter*, CEO, Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities
- *Juliet Doris Williams*, executive director, The P.E.E.R. Center

Additional members will be announced at a later date. Council members will be tasked with issuing actionable recommendations to Governor DeWine and each cabinet-level state agency, board and commission that provides services to individuals with mental illness or substance use disorders. DeWine has directed the council to issue recommendations on several pressing issues including, but not limited to: school-based prevention and early intervention programming; treatment; peer support, employment, and housing; justice services; outcomes; underserved populations (including youth, older adults and veterans).

Governor DeWine also instructed the council to prepare a report, including recommendations on fiscal appropriations in the state biennial budget, no later than March 8. The council will meet no less than quarterly thereafter.

New Website, Public Awareness Campaign Promote Foster Care, Adoption in Ohio

You don't have to be wealthy or have an advanced degree to open your home to children in need. You just need "100 percent heart." That's the message of a new foster care and adoption [website](#) and public awareness campaign launched this month by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), which oversees the state's child protective services programs.

"This new website and public awareness campaign will help Ohioans interested in foster care and adoption better access information about the process with the goal of encouraging more families to open up their homes and hearts to children in need," said Governor Mike DeWine. "Every child deserves to grow up in a safe and loving home. Because of the opioid crisis ravaging our state, the need for families is greater than ever."

The announcement comes at a time when nearly 16,000 children are in the custody of Ohio county children services agencies. The state's addiction epidemic has caused foster care needs to soar 28 percent in recent years as children are removed from homes for extended period of times while parents and caregivers receive treatment.

The website contains information for both current and prospective foster and adoptive families.



OhioMHAS Recovery Supports Chief Invited to Present at American Psychological Association Annual Conference

Mindy Vance, chief of Recovery Support services at OhioMHAS and a person in long-term recovery, has been invited to present her dissertation research entitled "Peer Recovery Support: Impact on Identity Through Implementation" at the 2019 American Psychological Association's annual conference in Chicago Aug. 8-11.



Mindy Vance

The annual APA conference is where scientists, practitioners, applied psychologists and educators gather to explore the most compelling issues in the discipline.

Presentations are intended to offer an expert opinion, a unique perspective, or groundbreaking research with colleagues.

Vance, who will earn her Ph.D. in Psychology from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology this June, is a member of the Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society established through Yale and Howard Universities. The Society recognizes outstanding scholarly achievement and promotes diversity and excellence in doctoral education and the professoriate.

\$3 Million Targeted to Help Ohio's At-Risk Youth

OhioMHAS will provide a one-time, \$3 million funding boost to help counties address the unmet and uninsured needs of multi-system youth who are on the cusp of removal from their homes or at risk of entering the justice or foster care systems. These flexible funds will help meet the unique needs of families and promote a safe home environment. Funds will be made available through Ohio's FFY 2019 Mental Health Block Grant.

Multi-System Youth (MSY) refers to children with significant mental health, addiction and/or developmental delays who are involved, or at risk of being involved, with child protection and/or juvenile justice. Often these children are unable to access the right services or supports to remain stable and in their own home. They may have complex needs that cannot be met by a single system. When children have intensive needs that exhaust the resources of both the family and community, parents sometimes face a decision to relinquish custody to a child protection agency to access necessary services.

The funds will be channeled to Ohio's 50 county Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services boards following a two-tiered formula. Each board will receive \$15,000 as a base amount. The remaining \$2.5 million will be distributed to boards based on the number of children with intellectual disabilities and mental health diagnoses and/or involvement in multiple public systems, such as child protective services. Boards will have until the end of the state fiscal year (June 30) to expend the funds.

"Our goal is to meet the needs of children with intense behavioral health needs and keep families together," OhioMHAS Dir. Lori Criss said.

OACBHA Honors Leaders, Advocates at Annual Legislative Day Awards Luncheon

As part of its Annual Legislative Day at the Ohio Statehouse, the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) honored leaders and advocates who have been working to ensure that community mental health and addiction services and supports are available for all Ohioans.

The *2018 Award for Legislative Excellence* was presented to Rep. Emilia Sykes (D-Akron) and Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green).

The *2018 President's Partnering for Quality Award* was presented to Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor for her ongoing support for individuals and families impacted by addiction and mental illness and her leadership in defeating Issue 1 in November 2018.

The *2018 CEO's Award for Distinguished Leadership* was presented to Theresa Snyder-Kane of Perry Behavioral Health Choices for her commitment to Recovery-Oriented Systems of Care principles and her support of OACBHA's Recovery is Beautiful work.

The *2018 Advocate of the Year Award* was presented to Joey and Mary Supina



Governor Mike DeWine speaks with county board executives during OACBHA's Legislative Day at the Ohio Statehouse.

from the Sandusky Artisans Recovery Community Center.

Earlier in the day, attendees heard from Governor Mike DeWine, who dedicated much of the time to field questions and suggestions from local alcohol, drug addiction and mental health recovery board directors. Attendees also heard from Ohio House Speaker Larry Householder and Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor. OhioMHAS Director Lori Criss and RecoveryOhio Director Alisha Nelson were also on hand.

News & Research Roundup

Partnership for Drug-Free Kids, Center on Addiction Announce Merger

Center on Addiction and Partnership for Drug-Free Kids **announced** they are merging under the name Center on Addiction. As mortalities mount from drug overdoses in this country, the organizations are uniting to accelerate progress against this deadly disease and transform how the nation addresses addiction. The merger combines research, policy, media, direct-to-family resources and services, as well as communications expertise, allowing Center on Addiction (formerly the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse) to be the go-to national organization for addressing every aspect of substance use and addiction, from prevention to recovery. The nonprofit will empower families to support loved ones, advance effective addiction care and shape public policies that prevent and treat addiction as a public health issue. "Ultimately, this strategic combination will help ignite a movement to change the way addiction is perceived in this country, extinguishing deep-rooted misperceptions and stigma," the organizations said in a release announcing the merger.



Odds of Dying From Opioid Overdose Now Greater Than Vehicle Crash Death

For the first time in U.S. history, Americans are more likely to die of an accidental opioid overdose than a motor vehicle crash, according to the National Safety Council (NSC). In a new **analysis**, the NSC found the odds of dying accidentally from an opioid overdose have increased to one in 96, compared with one in 103 for a motor vehicle crash.

CDC: Drug Overdose Deaths Among Middle-Aged Women Soar

Drug overdose deaths among women ages 30 to 64 more than tripled between 1999 and 2017, according to a **new report** from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The rate increased from 6.7 deaths per 100,000 people (4,314 deaths total) to 24.3 per 100,000 (18,100 deaths). The report found large increases in deaths involving fentanyl, heroin and benzodiazepines.

SAMHSA Launches the 2019 Communities Talk: Town Hall Meetings to Prevent Underage Drinking

Alcohol continues to be the most widely used substance of abuse among America's youth. Recognizing the power of community to raise awareness of the prevalence and consequences of underage alcohol use and mobilize local action to prevent underage drinking, SAMHSA supports the **Communities Talk: Town Hall Meetings to Prevent Underage Drinking initiative**. Click the link to locate a *Communities Talk* event in your area or to learn how to host a meeting.



Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking (STOP) Act Grants

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), is **accepting applications** for fiscal year 2019 Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking (STOP) Act grants. The goal of this program is to prevent and reduce alcohol use among youth and young adults ages 12-20. The activities that are implemented in the project will aim to address community norms regarding alcohol use by youth, reduce opportunities for underage drinking by limiting youth access to alcohol, create changes in underage drinking enforcement efforts, address penalties for underage use, and/or reduce the prevalence of negative consequences associated with underage drinking (e.g., motor vehicle crashes, sexual assaults). In addition, applicants will build on strategic plans that were developed under a DFC grant. SAMHSA plans to issue 20 grants of up to \$50,000 per year for up to four years. Applications are due March 22.

Study: Bullying Alters Brain Structure, Raises Risk of Mental Health Problems

New research suggests that bullying may cause physical changes in the brain and increase the chance of mental illness. The **study** appeared recently in the journal *Molecular Psychiatry*. The goal of the study was to assess the brain development and mental health of young adults through questionnaires and high-resolution brain scans, taken when the participants were 14 and 19 years old. Researchers found that more than 30 of the participants had experienced chronic bullying. Then, they compared the data with those of young people who had not been victims of chronic bullying. The analysis showed that severe bullying was linked to changes in brain volume and levels of anxiety at age 19. The authors say that the physical changes in the brains of adolescents who were constantly bullied partly explain the relationship between peer victimization and high anxiety levels at the age of 19. Click the link to read more.



News & Research Roundup, cont.

Study Finds Higher Suicide Rates Among Youth Who Were Medicaid Enrollees

According to a [new study](#) published in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, nearly four in ten of all youth who died by suicide in 16 states between 2009 and 2013 were Medicaid enrollees. While the overall rate of suicide was consistent for Medicaid and non-Medicaid groups and the highest suicide rates in both groups were among older youth and males, there were notable differences in a few demographic subgroups. For example, there were significantly higher percentages of suicide among the Medicaid population of youth aged 10 to 14 years, females (regardless of age) and individuals who died by hanging. This is valuable information that can be used to better target screening and prevention efforts and help meet the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention's Research Prioritization Task Force (RPTF)'s goal of reducing suicide deaths and attempts by 20 percent by 2025. [Read more.](#)



Outpatient Medical Visits That Led To A Benzodiazepine Prescription Doubled From 2003-2015

NPR recently [reported](#) that the percentage of outpatient medical visits that led to a benzodiazepine prescription doubled from 2003 to 2015, research indicated, with about half of those prescriptions coming from primary care physicians. *Medscape*, meanwhile, [reported](#) the study also found that "benzodiazepines are often coprescribed with opioids and other sedating medications, frequently for conditions other than anxiety and insomnia," researchers concluded after analyzing data on "more than 386,000 ambulatory care visits from 2003 through 2015." The [findings](#) were published online Jan. 25 in *JAMA Network Open*.

Parents' Mental Illness Increases Risk of Reactive Attachment Disorder in Children

Reactive attachment disorder (RAD) is a disorder of social functioning where a child's ability to form normal attachment relationships is disrupted. RAD is characterised by ambivalence about seeking comfort from a caregiver, emotional withdrawal, lack of social approach, reduced positive affect and unexplained fear or irritability. If left untreated, the disorder will affect the course of the child's entire life, ability to function, and later relationships. A [new study](#) shows that, if both parents had a psychiatric diagnosis, the child's risk of RAD diagnosis was 51 times higher than that of children whose parents were not diagnosed with a disorder. Mother's mental health diagnosis increased the child's risk of RAD by nine-fold and father's diagnosis by six-fold.

Slower Development of Young Children May Be Linked to Excess Screen Time

A [new study](#) published in *JAMA Pediatrics* suggests children aged 2 and 3 years who spend a greater amount of time watching TV or playing on a smartphone or computer than their peers may be less likely to meet developmental milestones by age 5. The researchers identified a statistically significant association between above-average screen time at 24 months and 36 months and lower developmental questionnaire scores at 36 months and 60 months, respectively.

Sensorimotor Domain Added to the RDoC Framework

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) [announced](#) the addition of the new Sensorimotor domain to the Research Domain Criteria (RDoC) framework. The aim of the new domain is to help foster earlier and more precise identification of the role of motor systems disruptions in psychopathology and aid in the development of more effective treatments for people who are affected with these disruptions.

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Resources

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Teen DV Month (sometimes called TDVAM) is a national effort to raise awareness about abuse in teen and 20-something relationships and promote programs that prevent it. The Violence Free Coalition has created a [digital toolkit](#) with social media graphics to help raise awareness. Enter your email and download the zip file for free. Please use the hashtag #OHDateSafe if you share graphics on social media.



Campaign Empowers Students to Lobby Schools to Add Crisis Resources on Student IDs

Active Minds, Crisis Text Line and The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline [announced](#) a new campaign to support high schools, colleges, and universities in their efforts to add mental health and suicide prevention crisis numbers to student ID cards. The organizations jointly developed the new resource, called *Transform Your Campus: ID Cards Campaign*, to provide students with ideas and action steps on how to lobby school administrators and other policymakers to make hotlines such as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and Crisis Text Line readily accessible on student identification cards.

News & Research Roundup, cont.

Brain Biomarkers Could Help Identify Those at Risk of Severe PTSD

A new National Institutes of Health-funded [study](#) sheds light on the neurocomputational contributions to the development of post-traumatic stress disorder in combat veterans, finding distinct patterns for how the brain and body respond to learning danger and safety depending on the severity of PTSD symptoms.



SAMHSA Launches Serious Mental Illness Adviser

The Clinical Support System for Serious Mental Illness (CSS-SMI) initiative launched by SAMHSA in partnership with the American Psychiatric Association, supports implementation of evidence-based, person-centered pharmacological and psychosocial interventions for individuals with SMI, and increasing access to care that includes a set of recovery support services provided by professionals including peer support specialists. Using an [online portal](#) and app, the project offers expert consultation services and learning opportunities nationwide to support clinicians — including physicians, nurses, psychologists, recovery specialists, peer-to-peer specialists and others — who provide evidence-based care for individuals living with SMI. The SMI Adviser initiative will develop a number of resources for clinicians who care for individuals with SMI, as well as tools for patients and family members, including webinars, resource centers, fact sheets, implementation guides, toolkits, practice guidelines and self-management tools.

NASADAD Releases Overview of Buprenorphine Patient Limits



The National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) has released an [overview of buprenorphine patient limits](#), offering a brief review of who can prescribe buprenorphine for the treatment of opioid use disorders and how many patients a qualifying practitioner can treat. The overview also includes a history of the issue, beginning with the Drug Addiction

Treatment Act (DATA) of 2000, the 2016 final rule on medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorders and the impact of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 and the SUPPORT Act of 2018.

FDA Releases New Youth-Focused e-Cigarette Resources

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is working with Scholastic to distribute youth e-cigarette prevention posters to every high school in the U.S. These posters were developed as part of FDA's "The Real Cost" E-Cigarette Prevention Campaign, which launched last September, and aims to educate teens on the dangers of e-cigarette use. In addition to providing the "The Real Cost" campaign posters to high schools, FDA has developed [two new posters](#) for use by doctors, youth groups, churches, state and local public health agencies, and others who may find these resources helpful in educating youth on the dangers of e-cigarette use.

ONDCP Releases National Drug Control Strategy Report

The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) has released its latest [National Drug Control Strategy](#), outlining the Trump Administration's priorities for addressing drug trafficking and use in the U.S.

Training Opportunities

Psychosocial Supports Academy Training

The Psychosocial Supports Academy Training is an opportunity for licensed behavioral health providers to obtain clinical expertise in evidence-based practices as part of treatment for opioid-use disorder. Through a blend of customized virtual and in-person trainings, participants will learn pragmatic skills related to the implementation of cognitive behavioral therapy, contingency management, relapse prevention and motivational interviewing, in addition to other skills vital to the delivery of effective services. Training is free and includes 19 CEUs and a text book. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Stage II: Treating the Disordered Gambler (Dayton) — Feb. 14-15

OhioMHAS and Recovery Resources will host a Stage II: Treating the Disordered Gambler training Feb. 14-15 at the Delco Park Meeting Place in Dayton. Click [HERE](#) to register. Questions? Contact mbuzzelli@recres.org or call 216.431.4131, ext. 2612.

Training Opportunities, cont.

Problem Gambling Prevention and Treatment Overview (Lancaster) — Feb. 22

The Fairfield County ADAMH Board is partnering with the OhioMHAS to present the Problem Gambling Prevention and Treatment Overview on Feb. 22 at 9 a.m.-noon or 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfield County ADAMH Board Building, 111 S. Broad St., Lancaster. The sessions are open to the community. Topics include: the prevalence of gambling in Ohio and local survey data; focus populations, screening, and assessment; evidence-based treatment; cultural competency and suicidality; types of gambling and gambling terms; and prevention and community awareness. Three CEUs/RCHs are available. Register [HERE](#) for one of the two identical sessions by Feb. 15.

Prevention Action Alliance “Legislative Day” – Feb. 26

Prevention Action Alliance (PAA) will host a Legislative Day on Feb. 26 to provide an opportunity for citizens to advocate with their legislative representatives to support the needs of prevention and increase the visibility of prevention coalitions in Ohio. Once registered, PAA will schedule individual appointments for participants to meet with legislators from their communities. PAA will offer busing from its headquarters in Worthington to downtown Columbus, where it has reserved a room at the Riffe Center for breakfast and a discussion on advocacy. Click [HERE](#) to register. For more information, email

Contact@PreventionActionAlliance.org.

16th Annual Ohio Problem Gambling Conference — Feb. 28-March 1

The 16th Annual Ohio Problem Gambling Conference “Mitigating Harm, Maximizing Effectiveness” will take place Feb. 28-March 1 at the Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center in Lewis Center. The conference will feature keynote speaker Rachel Volberg, Ph.D. BA, BCE, research associate professor, University of Massachusetts. Full conference registration is \$150. See more details [HERE](#).

Assessing and Managing Suicide Risk (AMSR) Trainings

OhioMHAS and the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation will offer two free Assessing and Managing Suicide Risk (AMSR) trainings in March for Ohio behavioral health professionals. Through role-play, active discussions and lectures, professionals will gain an understanding of suicide ideation. All participants will learn how to approach work with suicidal patients, how to form accurate judgements on client well-being, how to engage in safety planning and how to respond to suicide related-behaviors in clients. Upcoming trainings include: March 8 — [Delaware County](#), March 20 — [Muskingum County](#) and April 5 — [Hardin County](#). Click the links for more information and to register.

14th All-Ohio Institute on Community Psychiatry — March 15-16

OhioMHAS will partner with Northeast Ohio Medical University and University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center to host the [14th All-Ohio Institute on Community Psychiatry](#) March 15-16 at the Crowne Plaza Columbus North — Worthington. Individuals wishing to submit abstracts for workshops, showcases or poster presentations should contact AllOhio2019@uhhospitals.org. Register [HERE](#).

Glenn Hopkins Memorial 5k St Patrick’s Day Run/Walk — March 17

The Main Place of Newark will hold its first annual [Glenn Hopkins Memorial 5k St Patrick’s Day Run/Walk](#) March 17 at 11 a.m. A “Sober Party” will follow the conclusion of the event. Proceeds will go toward a new art space/studio and gallery where consumers can create and sell artwork. For more information, email RGibson@themainplace.org.

Ohio Collective Impact Summit — March 20

OhioMHAS will host the Ohio Collective Impact Summit, “Collective Impact: A Framework to Address the Social Determinant of Opioid Addiction” on March 20 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Columbus. The Summit will bring together funders, backbone organizations, key partners and community members for cross-sector dialogue and peer learning focusing on preventing opioid use and abuse and reducing opioid-related deaths and how these principles and practices can be applied across complex social problems. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the Community Collective Impact Model for Change Initiative.



Training Opportunities, cont.

Ohio Counseling Association Spring Conference — March 20-21

The [Ohio Counseling Association](#) will host its annual spring conference March 20-21 at the Embassy Suites — Dublin. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

DEA-X Waiver Training — March 23

Nationwide Children's Hospital will host an 8-hour DEA-X Waiver Training March 23 in room ED 131 of the main building at 700 Children's Drive, Columbus. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

Ohio Early Childhood Systems Conference — March 25-28

OhioMHAS is pleased to partner with the Ohio Departments of Developmental Disabilities, Health, Medicaid, Education and Job and Family Services to host the [2019 Ohio Early Childhood Systems Conference](#) "Infant and Early Childhood Wellness: A Systems Approach to Integrated Care" March 25-28 at the Hilton Easton in Columbus. Each state agency partner will have a daily focus while incorporating cross-systems sessions designed to promote increased collaboration across all early childhood serving professionals. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

Ohio Recovery Housing 2019 Annual Conference — April 2-3

Early registration is now open for Ohio Recovery Housing's 2019 Annual Conference "Bringing Recovery Home" scheduled for April 2-3, at the Embassy Suites — Dublin. Click [HERE](#) to view the agenda and [HERE](#) to register.

2019 Fostering Pathways to Success Conference — April 3

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio Reach and JOURNEY to Successful Living are partnering to host the [2019 Fostering Pathways to Success Conference](#) on April 3 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. This conference is a statewide event for youth in foster care between the ages of 14-18 and young adults formerly in foster care, ages 19-21. Independent Living coordinators, ongoing case managers, agency administrators, workforce professionals and others working with foster youth are encourage to attend as well.

Ohio Children's Alliance Annual Spring Conference — April 23-24

The Ohio Children's Alliance will hold its 2019 Spring Conference "Advocate," on April 23-24 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton — Columbus-Dublin. Sessions will focus on advocacy and public policy, best practices and innovative approaches in behavioral health and child and family services, advancements in trauma-informed care, best practices in management and leadership and clinical interventions and behavior management strategies. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

25th Annual National TASC Conference on Drugs, Crime and Reentry — April 29-May 1

National TASC will host its 25th Annual Conference on Drugs, Crime and Reentry April 29-May 1 at the Hilton Cleveland Downtown. The conference brings hundreds of individuals from around the country together to explore the latest advancements and issues in the treatment and recovery of justice-involved individuals with behavioral health needs. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Save the Date! 2019 We Are the Majority Rally — April 30

The Ohio Youth-Led Prevention Network will host the 2019 "We Are the Majority" Rally April 30. More information will be available [HERE](#).

41st Annual Ohio Forensic Centers Continuing Education Conference — May 9-10

The Association of Ohio Forensic Evaluation Centers, in partnership with OhioMHAS, will host the 41st Annual Ohio Forensic Centers Continuing Education Conference "Controversies in Forensic Mental Health Assessment and Forensic Report Writing," May 9-10 at the Embassy Suites — Dublin. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

Training Opportunities, cont.

Sixth Annual Trauma-Informed Care Summit — May 14-15

OhioMHAS will partner with the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities to host the sixth annual Trauma-Informed Care Summit May 14-15 at the Marriott Columbus University Area. Workshop [proposals](#) are currently being accepted. Conference registration is expected to open in late February.

Save the Date: Ohio's 2019 Opiate Conference — June 10-11

The Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities, in partnership with OhioMHAS, will host *Ohio's 2019 Opiate Conference: Promoting Solutions for Substance Use Disorders Across Ohio* on June 10-11 at the Hyatt Regency in Columbus. The conference will focus on efforts related to opioid and other substance use disorder prevention, education, intervention, treatment, recovery, family supports and community engagement. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Mental Health America's 2019 Annual Conference — June 13-15

Mental Health America will host its 2019 Annual Conference, "Dueling Diagnoses: Mental Health and Chronic Conditions in Children and Adults" June 13-15 in Washington, D.C. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

Save the Date! 2019 Ohio Prevention Conference — June 24-26

The 2019 Ohio Prevention Conference (formerly known as OPEC) will take place June 24-26 at the Ohio Union on The Ohio State University's campus in Columbus. The conference will bring together prevention practitioners to learn about the latest in prevention science, increase competency in the selection and implementation of evidence based practices, and provide opportunities for sharing and networking of prevention efforts across the state founded in cultural competency and equity. The call for proposals is now open. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the conference and how to submit your proposal.

2019 Health Disparities Research Institute — Aug. 12-16

The National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) will host the Health Disparities Research Institute (HDRI) from August 12-16, in Bethesda, MD. The HDRI aims to support the research career development of promising minority health/health disparities research scientists early in their careers and stimulate research in the disciplines supported by health disparities science.

10th National Conference on Alcohol and Addiction Disorders — Aug. 14-18

The Institute for the Advancement of Behavioral Healthcare will host the 10th Annual National Conference on Alcohol and Addiction Disorders, "Connecting Our Community," Aug. 14-18 in Baltimore, Md. Counselors, therapists, psychologists, interventionists, social workers, advocates, law enforcement and agency executives are encouraged to attend. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

PreventionFIRST 2019 Coalition Academy — Sept. 10

PreventionFIRST will host its 2019 Coalition Academy on Sept. 10 at the Great Wolf Lodge in Mason. For more information, contact aconnstarner@prevention-first.org or call 513.751.8000, ext. 13.



**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.**