Governor DeWine Addresses Inaugural Ohio START Summit

On June 4, Governor Mike DeWine spoke at the Inaugural Ohio Sobriety, Treatment, and Reducing Trauma (START) Summit that brought together Ohio START caseworkers, supervisors, administrators and family peer mentors involved in the pilot program. Governor DeWine launched this innovative program in 2017, during his time as Ohio Attorney General, with a mission of helping entire families impacted by child maltreatment and parental substance abuse disorders.

“Ohio START has been life-changing to so many across the state,” Governor Mike DeWine said. “Families that were broken are healing because of the intensive support and expanded services Ohio START offers. As the pilot program expands, I anticipate hearing more success stories as they embrace a brighter future.”

Ohio START brings together children's services, juvenile courts and behavioral health treatment providers to support families struggling with co-occurring child maltreatment and substance abuse. In addition, family peer mentorship is a critical part of the program. The mentors are individuals who have personal experience with addiction, who have achieved sustained recovery and who have had prior engagement with the child welfare system as a child or a parent. The accountability and support they provide helps create a community collaboration aimed at helping families succeed.

“We know that childhood experiences set the tone for health and success as adults,” Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Director Lori Criss stated. “Programs such as Ohio START are what will put Ohio's future leaders on a path of happiness and prosperity.”

To date, the initiative has served 725 people, including 320 children. The program is helping mothers struggling with substance use disorder give birth to drug-free babies, reuniting families and helping parents maintain sobriety.

“The feedback we've heard from our county children services agencies has been overwhelmingly positive,” Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Director Kim Hall said. “Right now, 32 counties are participating in Ohio START, and our goal is to expand that to 62 counties over the next two years.”

In his biennial budget proposal, Governor DeWine has included $16 million to fund the expansion of evidence-based programs such as Ohio START. Click HERE to view the Ohio START dashboard.

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The Ohio START Summit included a leadership panel featuring (L-R) Ohio Department of Medicaid Deputy Director of Strategic Initiatives Marisa Weisel; OhioMHAS Director Lori Criss; Ohio Job and Family Services Director Kimberly Hall; LeeAnne Curnyn, Director of Children's Initiatives for Governor Mike DeWine; and Public Children Services Association of Ohio Executive Director Angela Sausser.
Dave Colletti Appointed as CEO at Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare

Dave Colletti has been named Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare (NBH). He had been serving as acting CEO until the appointment was made official on May 12. As CEO, Colletti will oversee a staff of approximately 510 employees and be responsible for the well-being, care, and treatment of 260 patients at the regional psychiatric hospital located in Northfield. In addition to overseeing day-to-day hospital operations, Colletti will also manage hospital relations with the Alcohol Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Boards in the seven-county catchment area served by the hospital. NBH serves residents from Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Portage, and Summit counties.

This will mark Colletti’s second stint as CEO at the northeast Ohio hospital. He left the hospital in 2012 to accept a position as assistant director of hospital services at OhioMHAS Central Office. Then, in 2015, he was named CEO at Heartland Behavioral Healthcare in Massillon.

2019 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. Click HERE to download the 2019 Heat-Related Illness brochure and HERE for a memo from OhioMHAS Medical Director Justin Trevino, M.D.
Specialty Dockets Yield Positive Results, Remain Budget Priority

Stow Municipal Court STRIDE Program Helps Participants Find Pathway to Wellness

Since the onset of his administration, Governor Mike DeWine has sought to expand access to specialty docket courts for those struggling with mental illness and/or addiction who are involved in the criminal justice system. OhioMHAS created the Specialized Dockets Subsidy Project and Legacy Drug Court program to help drug courts and other specialized dockets with funding to manage their adult and juvenile offenders in the community. By doing this, commitments to the state prison system have been significantly reduced.

OhioMHAS is targeting a total of $17.5 million for Fiscal Year 2020-21 towards maintaining current court supports and expanding specialty docket access to more communities. In FY 2018, only 3 percent of the 2,900 adults (or 87 individuals) discharged from these specialized docket programs were committed to the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. Unfortunately, specialty dockets are not currently available in every Ohio community. Governor DeWine has challenged his administration to address the gap in access to specialty docket services and establish at least 60 new specialized docket courts during his administration.

One program that is having a huge impact in the state is the mental health specialized docket known as Successful Treatment Results in Developing Excellence (STRIDE) in Summit County. Established by the Stow Municipal Court in 2009, STRIDE works to reduce recidivism among individuals with severe mental illness in the criminal justice system, reduce periods of incarceration, and successfully graduate participants from the program by providing mental health intervention. To be eligible for STRIDE, the candidate must live in Summit County and must be charged with a misdemeanor that carries a potential jail sentence, although some crimes, such as violent offenses against children and OVIs, don't qualify. The candidate must be diagnosed with a major mental illness, such as schizophrenia or bipolar disorder, and that illness must be a contributing factor in the crime.

Some success stories from STRIDE follow. (Names were purposefully omitted in order to retain anonymity for participants)

“K” entered the program on a hit-and-run conviction, and during the course of the two years was able to achieve mental health stability and continue to grow his career as an artist. Although there were setbacks with alcohol use and social relationships, he redoubled his self-improvement efforts and continued moving forward. K won several art competitions and had re-enrolled in college classes before successfully graduating the specialized docket.

“M” nearly passed on the opportunity to participate in STRIDE when she panicked and fled the courthouse during her sentencing hearing. After a sustained period of sobriety and counseling, she was able to regain control over her co-occurring disorders. Employment coaching helped her obtain a job she enjoyed and save for a new residence. Once she became self-sufficient, her stability led to reconnecting with her estranged children through a shared custody arrangement. She has continued to thrive after graduating the program.

“S” had prior involvement with the court on multiple drug-related charges, but a pre-sentence screening assessment revealed that the underlying cause to her substance abuse was an untreated mental illness. Her battle with her prescription opioid addiction was not an easy one, but after residential treatment, she was able to gain the insight and tools she needed to remain sober.

“D’s” history of turbulent relationships and social anxiety struggles had been a source of frustration she had grown to begrudgingly accept. When she received the first criminal charge of her life — telecommunications harassment — following a break-up, her family convinced her to address her mental health in a more proactive manner. After she entered STRIDE, and changed providers, medications and residences, D began to feel like herself again. Her relationship with a new, more supportive partner blossomed, and together they pursued their shared passion for fostering and training dogs. Through one-on-one employment coaching, she learned to cope with the workplace anxiety attacks which had made keeping a job for any significant length of time a challenge in the past.

“N” was convicted of his second theft charge. During a pre-sentence investigation, it was discovered that he had been suffering from major depression and had grown isolated, emotionally volatile, and was plagued by thoughts of self-harm and ending his own life. Due to childhood trauma he had yet to address, he had trouble seeking support from his family, especially after he dropped out of college shortly before his legal issues began. During STRIDE, he was slow to engage, but after an updated medication regimen, counseling and finding his voice through art therapy, he finally began to open up. Despite losing a job which he enjoyed early in the program, he worked with an employment specialist to overcome his job search-triggered anxiety until he was able to attend interviews unassisted, eventually securing a series of positions until he found the best fit.

Click HERE for more information about Ohio’s specialized dockets, including a map of existing courts.
Living a healthy lifestyle is more than watching what you eat, drinking plenty of water and exercising at least 30 minutes a day. While physical health is important, a healthy lifestyle also incorporates mental health and self-care.

On June 1, officials in Stark County celebrated the grand-opening of a trail at Petros Lake Park, 3519 Perry Dr. S.W., in Canton, dedicated to offering people the opportunity to practice mindfulness, or the “non-judgmental awareness that comes from paying purposeful attention to the present moment,” as it is clinically described, while walking in nature — promoting the benefits of these activities and providing a new way to embrace a self-care lifestyle.

The one-mile, 10-station walk was made possible through a partnership with Stark Parks and Stark County Mental Health & Addiction Recovery (StarkMHAR). The grand opening featured activities that encouraged mindfulness, intention-setting and gratitude for all ages, including children. Representatives from Stark Parks and StarkMHAR presented brief remarks on what the Mindfulness Walk means for the community, followed by an official ribbon cutting.

“We have heard from the geniuses of the mind throughout history that a walk in the park will mend body and soul,” said Bob Fonte, Stark Parks director. “Henry David Thoreau once said ‘An early-morning walk is a blessing for the whole day’ and in the wise words of John Muir, ‘In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks.’ We hear today from those working in the mental health field the reminders about sitting too much, increasing our activity and steps each day or taking breaks from projects or technology. This initiative gives some stepping stones of how we can take a walk in the park and use daily practices and benefits to focus our awareness in a moment.”

The Mindfulness Walk aims to increase the overall availability of self-care tools for residents of Stark County and beyond. Stations along the trail are placed about every tenth of a mile, and are marked with a 16x20 sign that offers the walker a different way to embrace the moment. One station incorporates a musical instrument; another involves stacking stones; yet another encourages the use of the different senses. Stations were developed by combining existing natural elements with input from clinicians to maximize the benefits of the walk.

“So often in our daily lives we have to multi-task — which is actually just forcing our minds to switch back and forth very rapidly between different activities,” said John Aller, executive director of StarkMHAR.

“We think we’re really good at this, but our brains can get fatigued and we should always be looking for ways to re-charge. I would encourage people to do this walk as often as they’d like as part of an overall self-care lifestyle.”

The trail is free and open to the public.
CHC Addiction Services Hosts Maternal Opiate Medical Support (MOMS) Community Partner’s Kick-off

CHC Addiction Services hosted a Maternal Opiate Medical Support (M.O.M.S.) Community Partner’s Kick-off at Quaker Station in Akron in late April. Panelists included Christine Sielski from OhioMHAS and Kathy Paxton, statewide M.O.M.S. trainer, who spoke on the important resources that will now be available to residents of Summit County. Other panelists included Dr. Gregory Johnson, CHC medical director, and Karen Cole, MOMS care coordinator. Staff from three local hospitals, Summit County ADM Board, Summit County Common Pleas Drug Court — Turning Point, Children’s Services Board, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, housing providers and many other community stakeholders also participated. CHC has 25 years of experience treating pregnant women with alcohol and substance use disorder, and the M.O.M.S. grant provides an opportunity for expansion of services to serve this vulnerable population.

Ohio’s Maternal Opioid Medical Support (M.O.M.S.) Project Highlighted in Journal

The Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment recently published an article highlighting Ohio’s efforts to address opioid use disorder among pregnant women. The article, *A statewide quality improvement (QI) initiative for better health outcomes and family stability among pregnant women with opioid use disorder (OUD) and their infants*, appears in the June 2019 edition.

OhioMHAS staff members Mark Hurst, M.D. and Rick Massatti, Ph.D., partnered with colleagues from the Ohio Departments of Job and Family Services and Medicaid, The Ohio State University Medical Center and Tri-State Maternal-Fetal Medicine Associates to discuss Ohio’s efforts to expand use of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) through a maternal medical home (MMH) model that coordinated behavioral health and prenatal care with social supports for pregnant women with opioid use disorder (OUD) enrolled in Medicaid.

NEOMED Awarded $500,000 Grant to Develop Med School Curriculum for Pain Management, Opioid Use Disorder

As part of Ohio’s State Opioid Response grant initiative, OhioMHAS recently awarded $500,000 to Northeast Ohio Medical University to work with Ohio’s other medical schools to develop a common curriculum on pain management and opioid use disorder treatment. Case Western Reserve University, Ohio University, The Ohio State University, University of Cincinnati, University of Toledo, and Wright State University were named as sub-awardees.

Each medical school will make a unique contribution to the collaborative curriculum, aligned with the disciplines and expert interests of their team members. The team includes medical faculty in the areas of family medicine, internal medicine, emergency medicine, psychiatry, and pain management — supported by psychologists, pharmacists, and experts in curriculum development and community health.

The SOR Project focuses on building a community system of care (prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery supports) that emphasizes service integration between physical health, emergency health care, behavioral health care, criminal justice, and child welfare. The population of focus is adolescents and adults with a diagnosis of opioid use disorder and those at risk for misuse of opioids.

Through an existing collaborative between Ohio’s seven medical schools, NEOMED will develop and implement a train-the-trainer program that will train at least 21 faculty (three per school) during a three-day summit to teach and implement a medical student curriculum in response to the opioid epidemic. This resulting development will be a clinical workforce that improves systems of prevention and treatment for OUD and expand access to OUD medication-assisted treatment (MAT).

The improved systems will build upon the work already established by Ohio’s 21st Century CURES State Targeted Response initiative.

Core members of the NEOMED team who are involved in the project include Dr. John Boltri, principal investigator; Stacey Gardner-Buckshaw, Ph.D., M.P.A., co-director and author; Rebecca Fischbein, Ph.D., program evaluator; L. Austin Frederickson, M.D., course director for prerequisite to the clinical curriculum; Russell Spieth, Ph.D., senior consultant, trainer/motivational interviewing; and Ryan Palmer, Ph.D., associate dean for curriculum.

“According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, the primary care workforce is ‘the answer’ to the opioid crisis,” said Dr. Boltri. “And that’s just what we’re doing: putting the entire team on it.”
OhioMHAS e-Update

May 2019

$11M Grant to Help Address Workforce Issues Related to the Opioid Epidemic

Governor Mike DeWine recently announced the state will invest $11 million over the next two years to help employers and unemployed workers across the state overcome issues related to the opioid epidemic. The resources provided by a National Health Emergency Disaster Recovery Dislocated Worker Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor will support employers who hire individuals in recovery and provide job training and other services to help unemployed workers recover from substance use disorder and find jobs.

“This federal grant is an example of what RecoveryOhio is all about. We collaborate to address the unique needs of residents,” said Governor DeWine.

“Recovery involves not just treatment, but ongoing supports to help individuals lead healthy, productive lives.”

The grant will be distributed among Ohio’s 20 local workforce development areas. Services will be tailored to local needs, but may include any of the following:

- The testing of innovative approaches to combat addiction issues — for example, by supporting employers that develop second-chance policies and hire individuals in recovery.
- Job training, career services and supportive services for unemployed workers who have been directly or indirectly affected by the opioid crisis.
- Temporary employment to alleviate workforce issues related to the opioid crisis — for example, to hire 911 operators, first responders, peer recovery supporters or children services aides for up to 12 months or 2,040 hours.
- Building the addiction treatment, mental health and pain management workforce.

RecoveryOhio has many partners in this effort, including OhioMeansJobs centers; Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services boards; two-year colleges; community action agencies; libraries; mental health treatment providers; the Ohio Bureau of Workers’ Compensation; the Governor’s Office of Workforce Transformation, and the departments of Job and Family Services, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Higher Education, Medicaid, Public Safety, and Health.

2019 Trauma-Informed Care Summit Focuses on Creating Environments of Resiliency and Hope

More than 400 professionals from various human service disciplines gathered at the sixth annual Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) Summit on May 14-15. This year’s theme was “Creating Environments of Resiliency and Hope in Ohio”. The featured keynote speaker was Dr. Vincent Felitti, one of the world’s foremost experts on childhood trauma. Dr. Felitti is the co-principal investigator of the internationally recognized Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study, a long-term, in-depth analysis of more than 17,000 adults. Also featured was Dr. Salvador D. Treviño. Drawing on his more than 40 years of clinical work with Latino immigrants and families, Dr. Treviño furthers the national conversation on social matters like cultural diversity, the impact of historical trauma on Latino behavioral health, the psychology of racism, and social justice from a psychoanalytic perspective.

Workshops were provided by staff from Ohio agencies and organizations. These workshops provided information on how to advance trauma competence in communities, agencies and organizations. Persons with lived experienced representing peer recovery supporters, first responders, Court Appointed Special Advocates, and Holocaust survivors shared their personal stories of resilience and recovery.

PICTURED: (Top photo) OhioMHAS Director Lori Criss presents the “2019 Ohio Trauma-Informed Care Champion” award to Gayle Channing Tenenbaum. (Bottom photo) Dr. Salvador Treviño, executive director of the California-based Guadalupe Counseling and Psychological Services, provides keynote remarks on day 2.

Click HERE to view more photos from the 2019 TIC Summit.
New Video Educates Teens About Brain Science of Addiction

The national nonprofit Addiction Policy Forum and Prevention Action Alliance, a statewide organization in Ohio, released Addiction & the Brain, a video for teens that explains how repeated substance use can hijack brain function, and the importance of delaying use until the brain has fully developed. By explaining the basics of neuroscience, teenage viewers will better understand why they should protect their brains from substance use during such a crucial phase of development.

“The earlier we educate young people about the effects of substance use on the brain, the better we will be able to decrease the risk of addiction,” said Jessica Hulsey Nickel, founder and president of Addiction Policy Forum. “It is important that we educate and empower kids when it comes to preventing addiction, not scare them or make them feel afraid to discuss the issue.”

Ohio is one of the states hit hardest by the opioid epidemic, but recent reports have shown that evidence-based programs implemented throughout the state have decreased drug overdose fatalities. Prevention Action Alliance has played a crucial role in addressing substance use and addiction throughout the state through programs designed to assist healthy communities in the prevention of substance misuse and the promotion of mental health wellness.

“We are proud to partner with Addiction Policy Forum in disseminating this valuable tool,” said Marcie Seidel, executive director of Prevention Action Alliance. “These types of free resources are extremely valuable to all communities working to reduce substance use disorders.”

This new video will help further the effort of both organizations to increase awareness about addiction among youth and prevent substance use and addiction in communities throughout Ohio and across the nation. Addiction & the Brain is a youth-friendly version of Addiction Policy Forum’s What Is Addiction? video which, upon its release in 2018, reached hundreds of thousands of households across the country.

Montgomery ADAMHS Earns Four National Achievement Awards

Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) is being recognized with four Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo). The awards, three in human services and one in information technology, honor innovative, effective county government programs that strengthen services for residents.

The human services category focuses on the ability to assist residents, particularly veterans, children, and the elderly and/or disabled residents, and recognizes ADAMHS for the Montgomery County Rx Medication Safety Campaign, which has distributed 65,000 free medication disposal bags throughout the county since 2017, resulting in the proper disposal of nearly three million pills; the Montgomery County Prevention Coalition, which is working on more than 40 community-wide strategies that impact issues such as gambling, suicide prevention, and opioid misuse; and the Montgomery County Training Institute, which provided crisis skills to more than 5,000 behavioral health professionals and community members in 2018.

The information technology category recognizes creative uses of technology that make county processes more efficient and cost-effective and recognized ADAMHS for the Montgomery County Emergency Room Overdose Notification System, which provides an alert to community providers when there is a suspected drug overdose.

Knox County Teen Advisory Council Creates “Be a Parent, Not a Friend” PSA

The Knox County Teen Advisory Council (TAC) recently debuted a new public service announcement (PSA) designed to educate parents about the dangers of underage alcohol consumption and to remind them that providing an environment for their child and his/her friends to drink is illegal. Instead, the PSA encourages parents to provide a safe environment for their child and his/her friends to hang out by promoting healthy choices.

Production of the Be a Parent, Not a Friend PSA was entirely youth-led. TAC members created the characters, wrote the script, identified shoot locations, participated in lead roles/supporting cast members and assisted with editing and production.

TAC, which is comprised of youth in grades 9-12 from schools throughout Knox County, is a youth-led prevention team of New Directions and the Knox Substance Abuse Action Team. In developing the PSA, the youth utilized data from the 2017 PRIDE survey, which identified alcohol abuse as a significant problem among their peers. The survey results indicated students who reported using substances as a significant problem among their peers. The survey results indicated students who reported using substances as a significant problem among their peers.
NAMI Ohio Hosts Statehouse Advocacy Day, Honors Legislators

More than 300 members of the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Ohio made their voices heard on May 15 at the biennial NAMI Ohio Legislative Advocacy Day at the Ohio Statehouse.

NAMI Ohio, the state’s voice on mental illness, presented a Lifetime Achievement Award to Maureen Corcoran, director of the Ohio Department of Medicaid, and special awards to two state lawmakers Sen. Dave Burke of Marysville and Rep. Jay Edwards of Nelsonville.

Also addressing NAMI members were OhioMHAS Director Lori Criss, Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation Director Tony Coder, and others from the mental health community.

After the meeting, NAMI members fanned out for meetings with legislators where they advocated for the organization’s top priorities in the pending state budget. Those priorities include expanding crisis care, increasing access to affordable supportive housing, improving access to mental health care for children, and more attention to suicide prevention.

NAMI Ohio Executive Director Terry Russell urged members to be aggressive advocates for mental health.

“NAMI is the state’s voice for mental health and you have to scream,” he said. “We have to present the stories of thousands and thousands of others around the state who need you to be their voice.”

Russell said he was pleased with Governor Mike DeWine’s inclusion in his proposed budget of $550 million for mental health access in Ohio schools. The Ohio House, in its budget deliberations, added another $125 million, bringing the total to $675 million. The two-year state budget is now under consideration in the Ohio Senate and must be finalized and enacted by July 1.

Corcoran, after receiving the NAMI Lifetime Achievement Award, admitted the recognition was “a little bit overwhelming.”

“We will not rest until we work out the problems for the people Terry mentioned who need help for addiction and mental health services,” she said.

Coder urged NAMI members to be a “lifeline” by joining the campaign to reduce the epidemic of suicides, which increased 30 percent nationally and 36 percent in Ohio.

“These folks can’t fight alone,” Coder said. “We lose five people a day. It’s affecting everybody.”

OhioMHAS ECMH Staff Member Honored, Lead Named to Georgetown IECMH Advisory Group

Dr. Maureen Black (pictured at right with OhioMHAS Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) lead Dr. Valerie Alloy) was named 2019 Public Sector Psychologist of the Year by the Ohio Psychological Association.

Dr. Black coordinates ECMH Workforce Development activities, including credentialing and training for OhioMHAS’ Whole Child Matters ECMH Initiative. Dr. Alloy, meanwhile, was recently invited to join the Georgetown University Infant and Childhood Mental Health Advisory Group.

Children’s Mental Health Matters!
OhioMHAS Addiction Services Chief Recognized by NASADAD

OhioMHAS Chief of Addiction Services Joyce Starr (pictured, left) was awarded the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) President’s Award for her leadership in the field of addiction and service as president the past four years of the National Treatment Network (NTN). Starr received the award at NASADAD’s 2019 Annual Meeting in Bethesda, Md. The NTN partners with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) and other national organizations pursuing activities designed to promote effective and efficient substance use disorder services that are cost-effective, high-quality and uniquely designed to serve diverse populations. The NTN also provides a nationwide organized structure to assist CSAT and support the Recovery-Oriented Systems of Care initiative that supports person-centered and self-directed approaches to care that build on the strengths and resilience of individuals, families and communities to sustain personal responsibility, health, wellness and recovery from substance use disorders.

Have You Heard About the Ohio Healthy Youth Environments Survey — OHYES!?

The Ohio Healthy Youth Environments Survey (OHYES!) is a voluntary, free, on-line survey all Ohio schools can use with students in grades 7-12 to collect local data to help determine areas of critical need and in allocating resources to create healthy and safe school environments.

OHYES! gathers data on health risk and protective factors facing Ohio’s young people. The survey has been revised for Fall 2019. The current version of the survey includes 110 questions (focusing on topics such as alcohol, tobacco/vaping and other drugs; bullying/safety/violence; mental health and suicide; gambling; physical health and well-being; school success, and school climate; and family/peer/community factors, along with an optional nine sex-related questions.

Coalitions and communities may be interested in survey results for assessing local youth needs and targeting efforts to build and sustain safe and healthy home and school environments. These results can help inform community-level planning, and data can also satisfy federal and/or state data reporting requirements for supplemental grant funding.

Boards can use the data for their community plans, helping inform resource allocation decisions, provide a snapshot of community youth, guide policy development and to help collect required outcomes measures for discretionary grants.

Schools can use the data in planning for Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS), planning for Ohio Improvement Process (OIP), to support the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Title IV Part A, and in Emergency Operations Planning (EOP) — identified needs can become physical safety issues (i.e. bullying or drug use).

OHYES! data can also be useful for health departments to support Community Health Assessments and Community Health Improvement Plans.

OHYES! recruits participation every four years, but is available annually to all schools.

OHYES! is a collaborative effort by the Ohio Departments of Education, Health, and Mental Health and Addiction Services, and representatives from Ohio National Guard, higher education, juvenile courts, foundations, and community-service providers.

News & Research Roundup

CDC: Overdose Deaths Linked to Cocaine and Methamphetamine are Surging

Deaths due to overdoses linked to cocaine and methamphetamine are on the rise, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Of the more than 70,000 drug overdose deaths in the U.S. in 2017, nearly one-third involved cocaine, psychostimulant drugs including meth, or both, HealthDay reported. The CDC found 20 percent of drug overdose deaths (almost 14,000) involved cocaine — a 34.4 percent rise from 2016. Almost 15 percent of fatal drug overdoses in 2017 (about 10,000) involved psychostimulants — an increase of 37 percent from the previous year. Almost three-fourths of cocaine-related deaths in 2017 also involved opioids, as did about half of psychostimulant-related deaths. Fentanyl often was involved in these deaths, the researchers found.

mha.ohio.gov
Growing Number of States Raise Legal Sales Age for Tobacco Products to 21
An increasing number of states are raising the legal sales age for tobacco products to 21, according to the American Heart Association (AHA). So far this year, eight states have enacted measures to raise the legal sales age of tobacco products to 21, bringing the total number of state laws to 14. New York and Texas are expected to enact similar laws soon. Governor DeWine has supported Tobacco21 legislation as part of the Ohio biennial budget bill. Walmart, Walgreens, and Rite Aid have announced they will soon stop selling tobacco to anyone under the age of 21, the AHA article noted.

Novel Combination Drug Shows Promise as Depression Treatment
Treatment with a novel combination of two common medications was associated with “a rapid and significant reduction in symptoms of depression,” compared with treatment with one of the components, according to a poster presented at the American Psychiatric Association’s Annual Meeting. Eighty adults with moderate or severe major depressive disorder were randomized to the combination drug, AXS-05, or bupropion in the six-week trial. AXS-05 consists of dextromethorphan, the active ingredient in Robitussin cough medicine, and bupropion, a popular antidepressant. Patients taking AXS-05 demonstrated a statistically significant mean reduction from baseline in the total score on the Montgomery-Åsberg Depression Rating Scale. Their score declined by 13.7 points, compared with 8.8 points for the bupropion group. Read more.

Cariprazine Improves Depressive Symptoms in Bipolar Mania
The antipsychotic cariprazine was effective in improving depressive symptoms in patients with bipolar depression and concurrent manic symptoms, according to a poster presented at the American Psychiatric Association’s annual meeting. The poster analyzed pooled data from three randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trials, involving 1383 patients with bipolar I disorder and a current depressive episode. Of those patients, 808 (58.4%) patients also had concurrent manic symptoms (mixed features). In the patients with manic symptoms, cariprazine 1.5 mg/day and 3 mg/day significantly outperformed placebo in the least squares mean change from baseline to week six on the Montgomery-Åsberg Depression Rating Scale (MADRS) total score. The least squares mean differences in the Hamilton Depression Rating Scale total score and the Clinical Global Impressions-Severity score were also significantly higher in the cariprazine group, vs the placebo group, for both dosages. Read more.

Youth Suicides Increased After 13 Reasons Why Release
Suicides among 10- to 19-year-olds increased in the three months after Netflix released 13 Reasons Why — a popular series about a fictional teenage girl’s suicide — according to a JAMA Psychiatry study. Researchers examined CDC suicide data from 1999 through 2017; the series debuted on March 31, 2017. They found that from April through June 2017, when the show peaked in popularity, there were 66 more suicides than would be expected among males aged 10–19 years (a 12 percent increase) and 37 excess suicides among girls that age (a 22 percent increase). Of note, suicides by hanging increased significantly after the show’s debut, while suicides by cutting (the method depicted in the show) were rare. Suicides in other age groups did not show the same increase. The researchers concluded, “Caution must be taken in interpreting these findings; however, the suicide increase in youth only and the signal of a potentially larger increase in young females all appear to be consistent with a contagion by media.”

New Publication: Older Adults Living with SMI: The State of the Behavioral Health Workforce
SAMHSA’s new brief, Older Adults Living with Serious Mental Illness: The State of the Behavioral Health Workforce, describes the state of the behavioral workforce for older adults living with serious mental illness (SMI). Population projections show that Americans are living longer, and that women typically outlive men. The population of adults who are 65 years old and older is becoming more diverse. Of the 49.2 million adults over 65 years old, 1.4 to 4.8 percent suffer from SMIs. This brief provides a broad-based overview of workforce issues to consider when addressing the needs of older adults living with SMI.
Training Opportunities

Criminal Justice MAT Symposia
As part of the State Opioid Response grant (SOR), the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) is sponsoring 10 medication-assisted treatment (MAT) Symposia for criminal justice professionals. The free trainings focus on the nature, application, efficacy and implementation of MAT. Trainings are hosted by Moore Counseling and Mediation Services, Inc. Workshops have been approved for (6) CLEs and CEUs. Click HERE for the full training schedule and HERE to register.

ASAM/Ohio DEA DATA 2000 Waiver Training Schedule Released
The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS), in partnership with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) have released a schedule of upcoming ASAM/Ohio DEA DATA 2000 trainings for physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants who are interested in becoming eligible to prescribe buprenorphine for the treatment of opioid use disorder. Day one features ASAM's eight-hour Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder course, where participants will learn about all medications and treatments for opioid use disorder and the education needed to obtain the waiver to prescribe buprenorphine. Day two features a four-hour training provided by OhioMHAS designed to enhance the prescriber's knowledge about opioid prescribing and buprenorphine policies (e.g., low-dose prescribing according to federal and state guidelines and DEA guidance on documentation). Click the links below for more information and to register. If you have questions, please contact education@ASAM.org.

June 13-14 | Columbus (The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center)
June 21-22 | Cincinnati (University of Cincinnati College of Medicine)
June 28-29 | Newark (Shepherd Hill)
July 19-20 | Marietta (Marietta PA School)
Aug. 23-24 | Ashtabula (Ashtabula County Medical Center)
Sept. 12-13 | Columbus (Grant Medical Center)
Sept. 17-18 | Cleveland (Metro Health)

Gambling, Game-bling and Gambling and Financial Literacy Regional Trainings
Prevention Action Alliance is hosting four regional “Gambling, Game-bling and Financial Literacy” training opportunities. Participants will learn about the impact of technology on the gambling market, tools to help break the stigma of problem gambling, and gain insights into the social and economic impact of the gaming industry. Upcoming dates include June 10 (Cincinnati), June 11 (Columbus), June 12 (Toledo) and June 13 (Cleveland). Click HERE to register.

OACBHA System Level Implementation of Trauma-Informed Care Training — June 25
The Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA), which has been named as the State of Ohio partner for the Great Lakes Region 5 Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC), will host a System Level Implementation of Trauma-Informed Care Training June 25 at Xenos Café Auditorium, 1340 Community Park Drive, Columbus, 43229. OACBHA has partnered with Randi Tolliver, Ph.D., CADC, and Ann Schissel, Ph.D., L.P., of the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation for a training geared towards coalition, community, clinical and Board leadership on building trauma-informed and responsive systems of care through a culturally competent lens. 4.75 CEUs will be offered for the training. Click HERE to view the agenda and HERE to register by June 18. For questions, please contact Courtney Ebersole at 614.224.1111 or cebersole@oacbha.org.

Collaborating with the Faith Community Webinar — June 26
The Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation is hosting a Collaborating with the Faith Community webinar on June 26 from noon-1 p.m. Dr. Melinda Moore, assistant professor and licensed psychologist, as well as co-author of the book The Suicide Funeral, will provide tips and strategies for collaborating with the faith community in suicide prevention and postvention. Click HERE for more information and to register.

Cuyahoga Problem Gambling Coalition Annual Symposium — June 28
Attend the 4th Annual Cuyahoga Problem Gambling Coalition Annual Symposium on June 28 at the Mather Mansion of Cleveland State University. Registration is $15 and offers 5.25 CEUs, lunch and snacks throughout the day. Hear from problem gambling prevention and treatment experts, as well as from recovery speakers and gaming industry partners.
Training Opportunities, cont.

Fairfield County Fourth Annual Recovery Conference — June 28
The Fairfield County ALcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board is hosting its fourth annual Recovery Conference “Making Connections” on June 28 at the Crossroads Ministry Center in Lancaster. Click HERE for more information and to register.

33rd National Conference on Problem Gambling — July 17-20
The National Council on Problem Gambling will host its 33rd National Conference on Problem Gambling in Denver July 17-20. Click HERE for more information and to register.

2019 Addiction Studies Institute — July 31-Aug. 2
The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center’s Talbot Hall will host its annual Addiction Studies Institute July 31-Aug. 2 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. The Institute will include national keynote speakers, more than 60 concurrent sessions and exhibits designed for the clinician. Click HERE for more information.

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.

Veterans Affairs Behavioral Health Summit — Aug. 16
Save the Date! The Central Ohio Veterans Affairs Healthcare System is hosting its 7th annual Behavioral Health Summit from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. on Aug. 16 at the 4H Center on the campus of The Ohio State University. This year’s Summit will have a special focus on women veterans and suicide prevention.

OCAAR Recovery Rights Summit — Aug. 21
Ohio Citizens Advocates for Addiction Recovery will host the Recovery Rights Summit on Aug. 21 at the MaKoy Center in Hilliard. The Summit will be a chance for recovery advocates to come together and hear speakers discuss the Recovery Bill of Rights and to have a chance to have their voice heard regarding potential policy solutions to the addiction epidemic. Contact avincent@oca-ohio.org for more information.

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.

OhioMHAS Housing University — Sept. 16-17
Residential Facility Class 2, Recovery Housing, and Permanent Supportive Housing owners, managers, and operators are encouraged to attend the third annual OhioMHAS Housing University, Sept. 16-17 at the Marriott Columbus University Area hotel. Registration materials will be available in July.

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.