



Hundreds Attend Summit on Addressing Childhood Trauma, Mental Health

On Sept. 26, Ohio Governor Mike Dewine, in conjunction with the Ohio Children's Hospital Association, hosted ***Building Resiliency: A Pediatric Mental Health Summit***. The summit focused on helping communities support the mental health needs of their children and featured remarks from Governor Mike Dewine, Lt. Governor Jon Husted, and keynote speaker Mark Anthony Garrett.

"From this spring's tornadoes to the tragic shooting in the Oregon District, children in the Miami Valley are returning to the classroom this fall dealing with more trauma than they've likely ever experienced," said Governor DeWine. "The tragedies are compounded by struggles they, and children across Ohio, are already dealing with in their everyday lives."

"We know that children who face this type of turmoil have increased risk of depression and other mental illness, poor health, and decreased life expectancy," he said. "Fortunately, there are proven ways to help. Parents, teachers, and coaches can play a critical supportive role in helping build resiliency in children and reducing the negative impact of trauma. This summit will give members of the community tools to provide brighter outcomes for our children."

Throughout the day, attendees heard from experts in medical, education, and community engagement fields. Panelists from each field shared their expertise in prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery. Coalescing experts from across the state and across fields, in addition to valuable community and parent input, allowed attendees to view pediatric mental health through a much broader lens.

With an estimated 700 people in attendance, *the Summit* was an important stride in harnessing all the resources available to communities and stakeholders throughout the state. Click here to watch

[**videos**](#)
[**and**](#)
[**download**](#)
[**presentations.**](#)





On the Road with Dir. Criss

A brief recap of some of Dir. Criss' recent activities:

- 9.3 Joined Ohio Department of Agriculture Director Dorothy Pelanda for launch of the #GotYourBack farmer mental health initiative at Weber Farms in Hilliard.
- 9.5 Attended Maryhaven's annual "Restoring Lives" breakfast.
- 9.10 Participated in RecoveryOhio's Day of Collaboration.
- 9.24: Spoke at the Ohio Citizen Advocates for Addiction Recovery's inaugural Recovery Rights Advocacy Day at the Statehouse; Spoke at the Marion-Crawford ADAMH Board's Addiction Symposium in Marion.
- 9.26 Participated in the Building Resiliency: A Pediatric Mental Health Summit in Dayton.
- 9.30 Spoke at the STAND Project's Community Engagement Luncheon



Governor Mike DeWine discusses the increase in vaping among high school students at an Oct. 1 press conference at the Ohio Statehouse. Photo credit: Columbus Dispatch.

Governor DeWine Urges Lawmakers to Ban Flavored Vape Products

As concerns grow about the health effects of vaping Governor Mike DeWine has asked state lawmakers to ban the sale of flavored vape juice and e-cigarette products.

The governor told reporters the ban is needed to protect children from addiction. Although other states have issued emergency bans, the governor said he doesn't have such authority and is seeking legislation.

"Nothing is more important than the safety of our children," DeWine said. "Their health and well-being are clearly today at risk as tobacco and vaping companies target our kids with orchestrated efforts to get them hooked on nicotine, e-cigarettes and vaping products."

Vape products use an "e-liquid" that is heated to create a vapor that is inhaled. E-liquid typically consists of a base such as propylene glycol and vegetable glycerin, flavorings and other ingredients, including nicotine.

State and local public health officials in Ohio have identified 28 cases of severe respiratory illnesses associated with vaping, and are investigating 30 additional cases. Confirmed cases range in age from 15-65 with a median age of 21 years old. Twenty-five cases have required hospitalization. Nationally, 1,080 cases of similar lung illness have been reported, including 18 deaths.

Mental Illness Awareness Week Observed Oct. 6-12

Mental Illness Awareness Week takes place Oct. 6-12. This year, Oct. 10 is **World Mental Health Day** and **National Depression Screening Day**. The **National Alliance on Mental Illness** and **Mental Health America** have a variety of resources, including a **screening tool**.





Members of the Columbus Police Department's Therapy Dog Unit (l-r): Sgt. Chantay Boxill and Andy; Officer John Gagnon and Eddie; Interim Police Chief Thomas Quinlan; Officer Jim Mathys and Lenny; Officer Jon Compson and Ollie; Officer Mike Paulins and Simon.

Therapy Dog Unit Assists Columbus Police in Response to Traumatic Events

The Columbus Division of Police has launched a new program that partners officers with therapy dogs to help promote mental wellness for fellow officers and Columbus-area residents. Proposed by Interim Chief Thomas Quinlan, the Therapy Dog Unit provides police handlers and dogs who are trained and certified to provide comfort to those who have experienced trauma. The unit is a part of the newly formed Columbus Police Wellness Bureau led by Commander Rhonda Grizzell, and aims to promote mental wellness among Columbus police officers.

Deputy Sheriff Darrah Metz from the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, which has its own therapy dog program that started in 2017, trained five officers and their dogs in August. She said that the inspiration for the unit came from wanting to give dogs a second chance so that they could help people, both within the division of police, as well as in the community. Some of the dogs came from Pilot Dogs — Columbus, while others came from the Franklin County Dog Shelter and a therapy dog breeder.

The dogs and their handlers took part in a lengthy selection process where they were matched up based on personality and temperament. Throughout their training, the dogs were taught basic obedience commands, as well as how to act in environments with severe distractions such as restaurants, movie theaters, malls, and the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. On Aug. 30, the officers and dogs participated in a graduation ceremony where the dogs were awarded their own badges and certificates.

In their first month of operation, the officers and dogs have done a variety of jobs across Columbus. They responded to a fatal car accident scene on the east side of Columbus and comforted the witnesses on the scene. They visited local Columbus schools for grief counseling, and took part in

several community events across the city. For their mission on promoting mental wellness among Columbus police officers, the unit has started to visit different bureaus within the Division of Police to help provide stress relief for those who are exposed to trauma every day.

Since the announcement of the Wellness Bureau and Therapy Dog Unit earlier this year, there has been renewed attention on the mental wellness of first responders and how the division can respond to it. Sgt. Chantay Boxill, who leads the Therapy Dog Unit, hopes that the new unit will bring changes to the department.

"[I want to] change the perception as it pertains to mental wellness of first responders," she said.

Sgt. Boxill said that for too long first responders were taught to bury their feelings and move on from traumatic events instead of dealing with them. This has helped contribute to a nationwide rise of suicides among first responders. Sgt. Boxill hopes that over the next few years the unit will build a strong foundation and credibility among the department and build bridges with the Columbus community.

In the coming months, the officers will continue in training on mental health and victim advocacy, with each officer participating in Critical Incident Training (CIT).

For more information about the Therapy Dog Unit or request them for events, email: therapydogunit@columbuspolice.org.



Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost Unveils Projects Aimed at Preventing Opioid Addiction

In an effort to fight the opioid epidemic at its source, Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost recently announced the launch of two scientific projects aimed at preventing addiction.

"While Ohio's first responders and treatment and recovery experts are fighting a heroic battle to curb opioid-related fatalities, the key to victory is to stop people from becoming addicted in the first place," Yost said. "The two projects we are launching aim to prevent people from entering the addiction pipeline."

One project is an unprecedented study to identify the genetic factors that may make an individual more prone to developing an opioid addiction, information that could guide physicians when they prescribe medication for pain management.

"Genetics and addiction often go hand-in-hand, but we need to find out how and translate this knowledge into clinical practice if we want to gain the upper hand in the battle against opioid addiction," Yost said. "If we can prevent the problem, we can ultimately win the war."

The genetic study will be co-led by Dr. Jon Sprague, director of Science and Research for the Attorney General's Office and the Bureau of Criminal Investigation eminent scholar at Bowling Green State University, and Dr. Caroline Freiermuth, an associate professor of Emergency Medicine at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center.

The study will recruit up to 1,500 emergency department patients at the University of Cincinnati and The Ohio State University. The specific goals of the study are to:

- Determine which genetic markers are associated with the development of opioid use disorder.
- Develop an addiction risk score to better classify patient likelihood for future opioid use disorder.
- Determine the prevalence of genetic markers associated with addiction

risk in the general population.

Patients will be asked about factors associated with opioid addiction, including details of previous opioid exposure, current opioid use and other health history. The research team will collect a cheek swab from each patient for DNA testing to determine the presence of 180 genetic markers suspected to be associated with opioid addiction. Samples of those with opioid use disorder will be compared to those without to determine which genetic markers are associated with opioid use disorder.

The genetic research team is made up of scientists from The Ohio State University, the University of Cincinnati, Bowling Green State University and Case Western Reserve University. Genemarkers, a leader in genomic research based in Kalamazoo, Mich., will provide scientists for analysis, and InXite, of Columbus, will provide researchers for advanced machine learning algorithm processing.

Attorney General Yost's second initiative is a task force charged with identifying and potentially developing innovative prevention techniques and strategies. Dr. Sprague has assembled a team of experts in medicine and pharmacy practices, nursing, behavioral economics, data analysis, epidemiology and medical anthropology.

"We want to know why two people can take the same drug in the same dosage and only one becomes addicted," Yost said. "Answering that question could help us get in front of this epidemic."

The panel is called the **Scientific Committee on Opioid Prevention & Education**, or SCOPE. It will look for the circumstantial, environmental, social, behavioral and psychological factors that incline some people to substance use disorder.



CMS Approves Ohio's Substance Use Disorder Demonstration Waiver to Improve Patient Treatment Options

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has approved Ohio's substance use disorder (SUD) demonstration waiver to improve patient care for Medicaid-enrolled individuals with an opioid use disorder or other SUD. This demonstration allows Ohio to enhance residential treatment services as a crucial component in the continuum of SUD benefits by permitting Ohio to receive federal funding for Medicaid services for individuals with an opioid and/or substance use disorder who temporarily live in inpatient or residential treatment facilities.

"Through this waiver, Ohio will continue to have access to substance use disorder treatment services helping our efforts to confront the opioid epidemic," said Governor Mike DeWine. "Over the years, Ohio has tragically been hit hard with overdose deaths, but progress is being made in helping prevent, identify, treat, and support the recovery of those with substance use disorder. Initiatives such as the SUD demonstration waiver will help us save even more lives."

The demonstration expands efforts to implement models of care focused on increasing support for individuals in the community and home — outside of institutions — and improve access to a continuum of high-quality, evidence-based SUD services. This continuum of care is based on the American Society of Addiction Medicine criteria that reflects nationally recognized clinical treatment guidelines. During the five-year demonstration period, Ohio seeks to increase adherence to and retention in treatment, while reducing the use of emergency departments and inpatient hospital settings through improved access to other continuum of care services.



Recovery Advocates Push Recovery Bill of Rights at Statehouse Advocacy Day

Advocates for fair and equitable addiction care gathered at the Statehouse on Sept. 24, continuing to advance efforts to pass a Recovery Bill of Rights in Ohio.

The "Advocacy Day" led by Ohio Citizens Advocates for Addiction Recovery (OCAAR) comes on the heels of the organization's inaugural Recovery Rights Summit in August. The Statehouse event was meant to draw attention to continued efforts for fairly-insured health care, sober rehabilitation housing, and representation at the table when crafting addiction-related legislation.

OCAAR created the ***Recovery Bill of Rights*** in December 2018. The 10-point plan includes:

1. The right to coverage for addiction recovery as part of a health insurance plan.
2. The right to find a recovery center nearby.
3. The right to proper referrals.
4. The right to informed consent and individualized care.
5. The right to evidence-based treatment.
6. The right to 42 CFR Part 2 protection (referring to privacy of medical records).
7. The right to aftercare.
8. The right to standardized recovery housing.
9. The right to higher education.
10. The right to work.

"Nothing like this across the country exists," said OCAAR Executive Director Sarah Thompson. "This is the first of its kind. The hope is that people take it seriously and that people

THE
RECOVERY
BILL OF RIGHTS

Ribbon Cutting Caps Off Exciting Month for Ohio's First Recovery High School

Governor Mike DeWine joined community and school leaders on Sept. 23 for the official ribbon cutting of Ohio's first recovery high school.

Heartland High School, which operates out of the Broad Street Presbyterian Church in downtown Columbus, opened for class on Sept. 3. Seven students are currently enrolled in the school. Three weeks into the school year, several of them said they are grateful for the opportunity to attend class there.

"It's way more calming than other schools," said student Brayden Murphy. "I don't have to worry about people bringing drugs or anything, and I like it. It's keeping me sober." Dr. Paige Stewart, head of school, said earlier this month that kids coming out of treatment or diversion programs who then return to their old high school are likely to relapse.

"We've got to get rid of the stigma of this illness and we need to look at it as a medical problem," Governor DeWine said during the ceremony, adding that he is hopeful more schools like Heartland will open soon.

"What we hope is that the results will be good, we expect them to be, and that this can be duplicated or replicated in other parts of the state," he said.



Ohio's Youth-Led Prevention Efforts Recognized in Peer-Reviewed Article

Dr. Jessica Collura, Dr. Holly Raffle, Aimee Collins and Haley Kennedy of Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs, recently published a peer-reviewed article on Ohio's youth-led prevention community.

Creating Spaces for Young People to Collaborate to Create Community Change: Ohio's Youth-Led Initiative is an open-access article that takes readers through an abridged history of youth-led prevention in Ohio up through the work of the Ohio Youth-Led Prevention Network, OhioMHAS and the Voinovich School to build capacity in the field via grant funding, as well as training and technical assistance.



Lynette Blasiman, assistant CARE team director at the Stark County Educational Service Center (left), and Fran Gerbig, assistant executive director of Prevention Action Alliance, were honored with Hope Taft Awards at the Ohio Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Steering Committee's third annual awareness event, held Sept. 20 in Columbus. The award, named for the former first lady of Ohio who was instrumental in starting the committee in 2003, was created to recognize those who have had a significant impact on individuals and families with FASD. For more information about Ohio's FASD initiative, visit mha.ohio.gov/fasd.

OSPF Seeking Shoes for Traveling Exhibit

The Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation (OSPF) is accepting donations of old shoes for children and adults — all sizes — to be used as part of a statewide traveling exhibit spreading awareness about the 1,740 lives lost to suicide in 2017.

Shoes can be mailed to OSPF's offices at 1225 Dublin Road, Suite 50, Columbus, Ohio, 43215, no later than Oct. 31.

For more information about the traveling exhibit, please contact Michelle Price at michelle.price@ohiospf.org.



News & Research Roundup

National Bullying Prevention Month

October is National Bullying Prevention Month, a nationwide campaign that encourages schools, communities, parents, and children to work together to stop bullying and cyberbullying by increasing awareness of the impact of bullying on children of all ages. Click [HERE](#) for more information and resources.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM). Domestic violence is a serious, violent crime that includes both physical and emotional abuse. It is frequently hidden from public view. Many victims suffer in silence, afraid to seek help or not knowing where to turn. The traumatic effects of domestic violence also extend beyond the abused person, impacting family members and communities. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

2019 State Health Assessment Released

The [2019 State Health Assessment](#) by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is now available. The assessment (SHA) is a comprehensive look at the health status of Ohio's residents and includes a [summary report](#) of key health factors across the state prepared by the Health Policy Institute of Ohio (HPIO). This year, ODH has also added an [interactive website](#) to make data more easily accessible for local partners. The SHA reports that the overall well-being for Ohioans has declined, and that the average life expectancy for Ohioans has dropped from 77.6 years in 2010 to 76.5 years in 2017. The assessment also found that many Ohioans lack the opportunity to reach their full health potential and that underlying drivers of health, such as adverse childhood experiences and tobacco use, must be addressed. Click [HERE](#) to view the full report.

New SAMHSA Publications:

The Sequential Intercept Model: SAMHSA has published a [new brochure](#) that provides an overview of the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM). The SIM is a strategic planning tool that helps communities better understand the gaps and resources they have in helping those with mental illness or substance use disorders who are in the criminal justice system. SAMHSA also

News & Research Roundup, cont.

released a [***Data Collection Across the Sequential Intercept Model \(SIM\): Essential Measures manual***](#). This publication provides a starting place for jurisdictions looking to use data to better understand and improve the outcomes of people with mental and/or substance use disorders who come into contact with the criminal justice system.

Implementing Tobacco Cessation Treatment for Individuals with Serious Mental Illness: A Quick Guide for Program Directors and Clinicians: Tobacco use is widespread among individuals with serious mental illness (SMI), and the high prevalence of tobacco-related mortality among them is well-documented. Research shows that individuals with SMI who smoke are as interested in quitting as those without SMI, and can do so without jeopardizing their mental health recovery. SAMHSA's recently released [***Implementing Tobacco Cessation Treatment for Individuals with Serious Mental Illness: A Quick Guide for Program Directors and Clinicians***](#) guide can help clinicians implement a tobacco-cessation program for individuals with SMI.

Methamphetamine Resources and Videos from SAMHSA

SAMHSA released new [***videos***](#) and other resources to help stop the use of methamphetamine (meth) and offer support to those in need of treatment. Meth is a highly addictive drug and its use is on the rise. It causes short- and long-term devastating effects, sometimes including death. With the right treatment plan, recovery is possible. Help stop meth use before it starts. Learn more at [***www.samhsa.gov/meth***](http://www.samhsa.gov/meth).



CDC Reports that THC Products Play Role in Outbreak of Lung Injury

The latest findings from the investigation into lung injuries associated with e-cigarette use, or vaping, suggest THC products play a role in the outbreak. Most of the people (77%) in this outbreak reported using THC-containing products, or both THC-containing products and nicotine-containing products. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently launched a multi-state investigation into the serious lung illnesses associated with e-cigarette products, working closely with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, states and other public health partners, and clinicians to determine the cause. Most recently, 805 confirmed and probable cases of lung injury associated with vaping have been reported to the CDC. Updated information on the CDC's investigation of lung injury associated with the use of e-cigarette or vaping products is available [***HERE***](#).

Mayo Clinic Study: Medication-Assisted Treatment Under-used in Treating Opioid Addiction

Medication-assisted treatment for opioid addiction is underused, according to a [***new study***](#) from the Mayo Clinic. There are three types of medication-assisted treatment approved by the Food and Drug Administration: naltrexone, buprenorphine and methadone. The study found these drugs may be underused partly because access to buprenorphine and methadone is limited by some legal requirements regarding who can write prescriptions for them, [***UPI reported***](#). In addition, opioid use disorder can develop slowly, making it difficult to identify for primary care doctors. Read [***more***](#).

New Video: Faith Leaders' Guide to Self-Care After a Suicide

Faith leaders are often called upon to provide care and support after a suicide in their community. To help them navigate the unique stressors they may experience during this time, the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention (Action Alliance), the nation's public-private partnership for suicide prevention, and its Faith Communities Task Force released a new video, [***Faith Leaders' Guide to Self-Care After a Suicide***](#). This new resource highlights the importance of self-care among faith leaders and shares guidance on what faith leaders can do to care for themselves and their own well-being. The video, informed by faith community leaders and national suicide prevention experts, is part of the Action Alliance [***Faith.Hope.Life. campaign***](#) — a national initiative that provides resources and information to help faith communities promote mental health and suicide prevention. The video also complements another recently released Faith.Hope.Life. campaign resource, [***Suicide Prevention Competencies for Faith Leaders***](#), which helps equip faith leaders with the capabilities needed to prevent suicide and provide care and comfort for those affected by suicide.



Three-Digit Suicide Hotline Number in the Works

With suicides on the rise, the Federal Communications Commission wants to make the national crisis hotline easier to reach with a 3-digit suicide hotline number. Once implemented, people will only need to dial "988" to seek help. Currently, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline uses a 10-digit number, 800-273-TALK (8255). Callers are routed to one of 163 crisis centers, where counselors answered 2.2 million calls last year. [***Read more***](#).

Training Opportunities

Ohio's 2019 Recovery Conference — Oct. 14-15

The Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities, in partnership with OhioMHAS, will host Ohio's 2019 Recovery Conference on Oct. 14-15 at the Hyatt Regency in Columbus. The Recovery Conference is for individuals in recovery from a mental illness and/or addiction, family members and support givers, peers working in the field, and allied professionals. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

Ohio Council's 2019 Annual Conference and Exhibit Hall — Oct. 17-18

The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers will hold its annual conference and exhibit hall on Oct. 17-18 at the Marriott Columbus — University Area. Please visit www.theohiocouncil.org or contact Brenda Cornett, cornett@theohiocouncil.org, 614.228.0747, for more information.

ODVN Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Training — Oct. 17 and Oct. 30

Save the dates! The Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) is hosting Diversity, Equity and Inclusion trainings in two locations this fall: Oct. 17 (Pickerington) and Oct. 30 (Mansfield). Registration materials will soon be available on the [ODVN website](#).

Private Psychiatric Inpatient Provider Conference — Oct. 18

Save the date! OhioMHAS will host the 2019 Private Psychiatric Inpatient Provider Conference, "Transforming Behavioral Healthcare Through Prevention," Oct. 18 at the Quest Conference Center in Columbus. Registration information is forthcoming.

Cuyahoga ADAMHS "Roads to Recovery Conference '19" — Oct. 21

The Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County will host its 2019 Roads to Recovery Conference, "Navigating Person-Centered Care...Recovery, Resiliency and Beyond" on Oct. 21 at the Cleveland Airport Marriott. The conference provides training, information and inspiration to: mental health and addiction prevention, treatment and recovery support providers; social workers; counselors; RN/LPNs; psychologists; psychiatrists; students; individuals in recovery or living with mental illness and/or addiction; and family members and friends of people living with mental illness and/or addiction. Cost is \$100. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

Clergy/Lay Minister Certification in Gambling Addiction Prevention, Education, Awareness and Spiritual Outreach Care — Oct. 29-Nov. 1

The International Gambling Counselor Certification Board (IGCCB) Clergy/Lay Minister Certification in Gambling Addiction Prevention, Education, Awareness and Spiritual Outreach Care training will be held Oct. 29-Nov. 1 in Columbus. The cost for the training is \$50, which will include all coursework, breakfast and lunch for each day. There is an administration fee of \$50 for certification, however the Problem Gambling Network of Ohio will pay the IGCCB administrative fee, provided all certification requirements are met. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

2019 Ohio Cultural Competence Conference – Nov. 1

The Multiethnic Advocates for Cultural Competence will host its [2019 Ohio Cultural Competence Conference](#) on Nov. 1 at the Ohio Union on the campus of The Ohio State University. Exonerated Central Park Five member Yusef Salaam will provide keynote remarks. Salaam was 15 years old when he and four other boys were tried and convicted of the brutal rape and assault of a woman on April 19, 1989, in New York City's Central Park. The boys, dubbed the "Central Park Five," served prison sentences before their convictions were vacated following positive identification of DNA in the case. Since his release, Salaam has committed himself to advocating and educating people on the issues of false confessions, police brutality and misconduct, press ethics and bias, race and law, and the disparities in America's criminal justice system. He was appointed to the board of the Innocence Project in 2018, and has released a Netflix Feature limited series called "When They See Us." The conference plenary panel will spotlight the impact of the opioid epidemic on African-American and Latino-American communities.

2019 Forensic Conference — Nov. 7

OhioMHAS will host the 2019 Forensic Conference "Balancing Risk and Recovery: Helping People Maintain Hope Within the Forensic System" Nov. 7 at the Embassy Suites Columbus — Dublin. This year's conference will feature three concurrent, two-hour workshops. One will focus on mental health courts in Medina and Ashtabula counties. Another workshop will highlight the experiences of three people who have lived experience within the forensic mental health or developmental disability



Training Opportunities, cont.

systems. The third workshop will detail recovery-oriented principles and programs within hospitals and community settings. This year's legal update will be presented by two judges: The Honorable Hollie Gallagher, Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, and The Honorable Stephen L. McIntosh, administrative judge, Franklin County Court of Common Pleas. Click [HERE](#) to view the conference booklet and [HERE](#) to register online.

First Responder Mental Health & Wellness Conference — Nov. 7

The [Franklin County Suicide Prevention Coalition](#) is partnering with 1st Responder Conferences to host a Mental Health and Wellness Conference for first responders, active military, veterans, and their spouses on Nov. 7-8 in Dublin. National and local speakers will present on a variety of topics including post-traumatic growth, suicide prevention, and yoga for first responders. Certificates for law enforcement and fire will be available, and Nationwide Children's Hospital will provide EMS CE's. Register [HERE](#). 1st Responder Conferences can be [contacted directly](#) regarding scholarships if financial assistance is needed to cover registration.

Coalitions Rising 2019 — Dec. 4

Prevention Action Alliance, in collaboration with OhioMHAS, will host Coalitions Rising 2019 on Dec. 4 at the Renaissance Columbus Westerville—Polaris Hotel. Coalitions Rising brings together community coalitions, behavioral health care providers, youth-led prevention groups, and others to equip them with best practices for prevention. Coalitions Rising will bring national and state leaders in prevention to present on a variety of topics, including how to put cultural competency at the core of your work in prevention, sustainable funding practices, and how to engage key partners such as Ohio's faith leaders and the Ohio National Guard, among other topics. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

Prevention Action & Advocacy Summit on Vaping — Dec. 5

Prevention Action Alliance will host a Prevention Action & Advocacy Summit on Vaping on Dec. 5 at the Renaissance Columbus Westerville—Polaris Hotel. Cost is \$100. Registration includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

2019 Ohio Youth-Led Prevention Network Adult Allies Summit — Dec. 6

Prevention Action Alliance, in collaboration with OhioMHAS and the Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs at Ohio University, will host the Ohio Adult Allies Summit on Dec. 6 at the Renaissance Columbus Westerville—Polaris Hotel. The Summit aims to inform the work of adult allies who, in turn, empower youth leader in prevention. Cost is \$50. Registration includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

17th Annual Ohio Problem Gambling Conference — Feb. 20-21, 2020

Save the Date! The 17th Annual Ohio Problem Gambling Conference has been scheduled for Feb. 20-21, 2020, at the Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center in Columbus. The conference will bring together national experts, state leaders, and local innovators in problem gambling prevention, intervention, treatment, recovery, research, administration and responsible gambling. Those interested in prevention and treatment of Gambling Disorder should attend, as well as behavioral professionals who want to learn more about the high incidence of co-occurring risky behaviors among youth, and addiction and mental illness disorders across the lifespan that are often identified as co-morbid with gambling problems. In addition, gambling industry professionals interested in promoting responsible gambling and working with service providers should attend.

Call for Proposals: 2020 Ohio Prevention Conference

OhioMHAS and the College of Social Work at The Ohio State University, will host the Ohio Prevention Conference (OPC) on June 29–July 1, 2020, at the Ohio Union at The Ohio State University. The goal of the OPC is to expand opportunities for prevention practitioners to receive knowledge on cutting-edge 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 and will close on Nov. 22, 2019.



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.