

First responders celebrated for efforts against addiction

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MEDINA — Medina County is recognizing first responders this week for ongoing efforts to combat the opioid epidemic.

The Medina County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Board is honoring local police departments with a “Week of Appreciation” for life-saving work. Communities across the state are hosting similar appreciation events.

Phillip Titterington, ADAMH executive director, said the organization is continuing to fight the issue at many different levels.

“The ADAMH Board continues our work in providing a continuum of care for those struggling with mental health and addiction problems,” he said in a statement. “From prevention at the preschool level to intervention during late-stage addiction, we focus on providing care for the entire person at every stage of life.”

Titterington said he is proud to work with community partners such as the Medina County Health Department, Alternative Paths, Catholic Charities, and OhioGuidestone.

Last year, Medina County officially launched a County Hub through the Medina County Opiate Task Force to combat opiate addiction. The hub was created to expand and strengthen local efforts in eradicating Ohio’s opioid epidemic.

In partnership with the county health department, the ADAMH Board will host a full Opiate Task Force meeting in June, where it will recognize the

efforts of those who are making impactful changes in Medina County's fight against addiction.

The Opiate Task Force has resulted in three working subcommittees.

Titterington said a need for services has exceeded the funding and capacity of the county's ADAMH Board.

"The ADAMH Board tries to meet the needs in Medina County, but the needs simply exceed our current funding and capacity," Titterington said.

"As a community we should do more, and as the only county of our size in Ohio that does not have a dedicated levy to fund these types of human services, we can do more.

"Collectively, the board is working to build a comprehensive focus on education, prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery. We will continue working every day to bring hope to our community and build the understanding that treatment works and people recover."

The ADAMH Board is planning on collaborating with two other agencies to put a social services levy on the ballot in November.

The Medina County Office for Older Adults, and Job and Family Services' Children's Services is exploring options to be on the levy with the ADAMH Board with the ADAMH board's focus for levy dollars to be to provide peer recovery support.