

Medina County Opiate Task Force

January 28th 2022 at 9 am

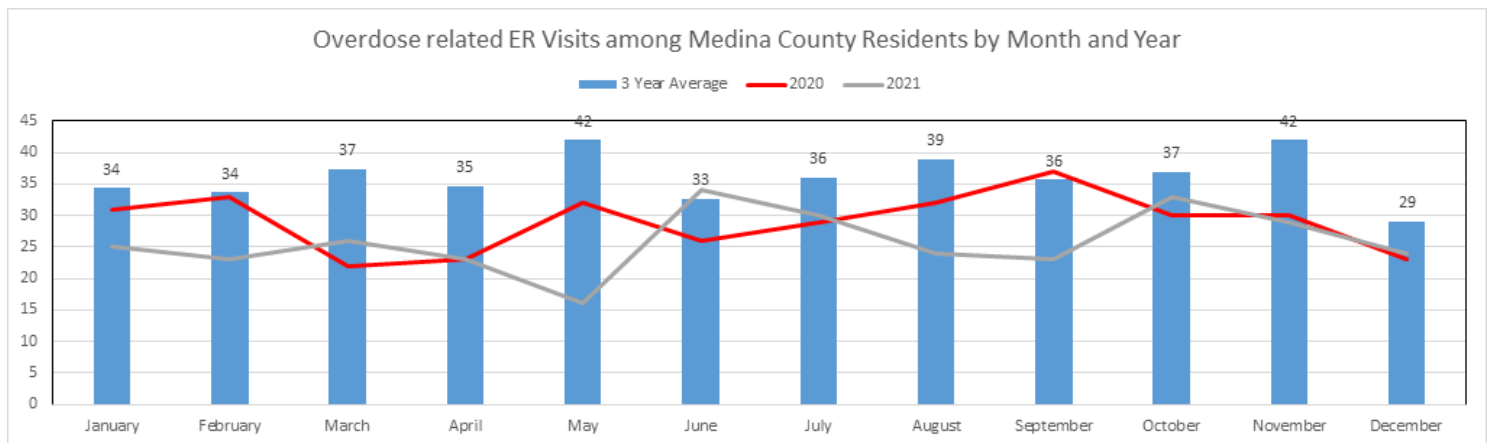
Community Updates

ADAMH Board Updates – Phillip Titterington presented:

- Mr. Titterington reported that the ADAMH Board website has been significantly updated to make it more user-friendly with increased information. He indicated that the ADAMH Board has been working hard to assure that there are many great initiatives in place in Medina County to support mental health and substance use needs in the community.

Health Department Updates – Krista Wasowski presented:

- Ms. Wasowski stated that the ongoing monitoring of ER data shows there have been 304 ER visits for overdoses in 2021, however this includes a very broad definition of overdose that may include child poisonings, etc. She indicated that overdose death data takes time to fully process and will not be final until later in the year. She reported that the 3-year average is 37, and as of now there have been 29 overdose deaths of Medina County residents in 2021. This is a decrease from 2020, in which there were 42, and she stated that the overdose death average is improving due to all of the services being provided in the community.



Medina County Drug Task Force – Darren Stout presented:

- Mr. Stout reported that there have been 228 criminal investigations in 2021, as well as an increase in first degree felony arrests, and a 32.2% increase in total arrests. He stated that preliminary data shows 31 overdose fatalities in 2021, made up of 18 males and 13 females. Mr. Stout stated that the most prevalent drug being used is methamphetamines, and there are also high rates of polysubstance use. Lastly, he indicated there has been an increase in fake pills that look like opioids, such as OxyContin, etc. that actually contain fentanyl. These are likely coming from Cuyahoga and Summit Counties.

Alternative Paths (AP) – Nicole Hosking presented:

- Ms. Nicole Hosking is the new CEO for Alternative Paths. She introduced herself and stated that AP is seeking new fundraising opportunities and striving to become an educational hub for internships. Ms. Hosking provided an update on crisis services and the 24/7 Crisis & Behavioral Health Helpline. She also reported that there are AP clinicians working at the Cleveland Clinic Medina Hospital. She stated that AP is receiving an average of 220 - 280 calls to the crisis hotline per month.

Job and Family Services – Debbie Kiley presented:

- Ms. Kiley reviewed that a part of the OhioSTART (Sobriety, Treatment and Reducing Trauma) program is collaborating with community partners to get input, data, and feedback, as well as share program successes.

Along with Ms. Kiley; Ms. Cindy Kollert, Ms. Laurel Ridenour, and Ms. Karen Bennet provided an update about the program. It was reported that after two years, 14 total cases have been served and that all but one of those youth have been able to remain in the custody of their parents. As a part of the program, the team meets with the families at least once per week for 90 days, and a peer supporter helps families on their recovery journey by attending their first four appointments with them. It was noted that the program is demonstrating great success, and the team expressed gratitude for the community collaborations that are assisting with this. Ms. Kathy Spirk, a Technical Assistance Consultant and Coach from the Public Children's Services of Ohio spoke very highly of Medina's program. A video summarizing the OhioSTART program was shown to the Opiate Task Force members.

Cathy's House – Jon Robinson presented:

- Mr. Robinson provided an update about Cathy's House, which is an all men's recovery house that currently has the capacity to serve 23 men. He stated that the Level 1 expansion house in Medina is now full, and he shared that on average, the men will stay 400 days at Level 1 with no set time to leave. Cathy's House served 40 individuals in 2021, 35% of whom were engaged in Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) services. OhioGuidestone and Hope Recovery Community provide valuable support for residents and he reported that Cathy's House currently has an 80% successful discharge rate with only 14% men returning to use. Mr. Robinson indicated that these were not set goals, but that these great results stem from providing robust treatment and recovery supports to those in recovery. Lastly, Mr. Robinson shared that Cathy's House is in the process of expanding into Brunswick through a collaboration with the Brunswick Church of the Nazarene and ADAMH Board support. Remodeling of the house is under way with the goal of serving five additional men beginning in March.

OhioGuidestone, Discovery Recovery House (DRH), and Hope Recovery Community (HRC) – Stefanie Robinson presented:

- Ms. Robinson reported that the OhioGuidestone peer support program continues to grow and is serving hundreds of individuals with lived experience, which provides powerful insight and support. She stated that workforce programs are helping individuals to develop job skills, tutoring, and reducing barriers to employment. Several kinds of IOP services are being provided both in person and virtually. She stated that the peer navigator position is helping to fill gaps such as transportation and is also providing a warm handoff between various providers. The Open Access MAT clinic continues to provide services.
- Ms. Robinson shared that the first resident is now leaving DRH and moving into independent housing. She stated that the DRH is currently full with a waitlist, however they are still accepting applications and linking individuals with other facilities as needed. The DRH is in process of obtaining Ohio Recovery Housing certification.
- Ms. Robinson reported that HRC has expanded their hours and are now open over 90 hours per week, 365-days a year, providing over 2000 recovery touches monthly. She stated that between 300 and 400 individuals are being placed in detox, residential or recovery housing on a yearly basis, with 35 individuals being placed in January 2022. Ms. Robinson shared that the HRC staff collectively represent 76 years of recovery. Regarding prosocial activities, they are developing robust workforce initiatives through their Recovery Life Institute, they have a recovery bowling league with 38 individuals, and Saturday evening meals that typically serve 75-100 people who stay at least 2-3 hours. Lastly, Ms. Robinson shared that the ADAMH Board is funding an 1,800 square foot expansion to HRC to allow for more programming and capacity. She also reported that HRC is partnering with the Church of the Nazarene in Brunswick to expand recovery services to the Brunswick area.

Opiate Task Force Survey Update – Rebecca Parkhurst from Medina County Health Department presented:

The OTF survey completed in 2019-2020 identified opportunities for improvements. Some of the recommended improvements have been made. The following areas were identified as areas to focus efforts:

1. Widen the scope of the task force to include more substances and consider a name change to reflect widened scope. (ex: The Recovery Task Force)
2. Improve communication regarding the dates and times of meetings and access to the meeting minutes. (see updated ADAMH Board website)
3. Continue to invite members to attend, and renew efforts to invite representation from various sectors such as:
 - Providers (Community Based Behavioral Health Agencies, hospital, primary care, non-profits)
 - Members of the Recovery community
4. Improve resource listing and resource sharing options
5. Continue efforts to address the following gaps
 - Vaping
 - Youth outreach
 - Elderly outreach
 - Homeless shelters
 - Transportation

Alternative Paths – LOSS (Local Outreach for Suicide Survivors) Team, Opiate Response Team (ORT) – Gail Houk presented

- Ms. Houk reported that the LOSS team has responded 11 times since its implementation, and that trends continue to show that middle age men are the priority population that is most at risk. She shared that the LOSS team is working closely with law enforcement and that the Coroner has been supportive of the program; even seeking ways to involve the LOSS team in the planning for a mass casualty event if needed.
- Ms. Houk stated that there were 352 ORT referrals in 2021 and that of these, 274 referrals have been come through the jail. She shared that 78 referrals came from law enforcement. In 2021, approximately 2200 people were booked in total at the jail, and 12% of those tested positive for opiates. Ms. Houk stated that since the ORT started in 2017, there have been approximately 1,100 referrals, and that the team has made contact with 86% of those individuals. Of the referrals, 45% set up and attended their initial assessment, and of those that completed an assessment, 90% were still involved with treatment after 30 days. Ms. Houk reported that the CIT liaison is working with law enforcement to identify outreach areas. They have started targeting hotels and other housing/business areas that have been common locations for overdoses and mental health crises. Ms. Kelsey Vasicek presented a recent intervention example that occurred at a motel in Wadsworth, in which the ORT went door to door with plain clothes police officers to connect people to resources and talk to residents about current needs and concerns. She also stated that Narcan trainings are being planned for hotels, with six hotels expressing interest so far. The ORT is also reaching out to truck stops and other business. She indicated that prevention efforts in the schools are underway, with classes being taught at Highland last month and Wadsworth next month. Kelsey has also been involved in a number of Narcan Trainings for community members and clinicians.

Community Comments:

Cindy Kollert – Social Worker for Ohio START program at Job and Family Services

- Expressed gratitude for the work of the community.

Holly Phillips – Project DAWN coordinator at Medina County Health Department

- Naloxone kits are available for first responders through funding from OhioMHAS. Please call in advance to get a kit. Training secondary locations on dispensing naloxone is underway.
- Funding from Ohio Department of Health providing Naloxone kits to various locations throughout the county.
- Currently looking at dispensing sites in Lodi and Brunswick
- Mail order options are underway.

Next meeting is April 29, 2022 at 9 a.m.