

## **Medina County Opiate Task Force**

### **May 21, 2021**

**Welcome:** Mr. Phillip Titterington welcomed all gathered.

#### **Community Updates:**

##### **ADAMH Update:**

Mr. Titterington provided an update on ADAMH Board involvement and progress on local projects. Details below in individual reporting.

##### **Discovery Recovery House:**

Ms. Romain updated those present on the status of Discovery Recovery House. She anticipates the house will open in mid-June. Ms. Robinson and her team are training and preparing for the opening. The plan is to open slowly by adding in two residents at a time. Eligibility requirements include those above the age of 18 and older, with county residents being prioritized. The house is designated as a Level III recovery house and the house manager will complete an initial screening on each individual. An open house/ribbon cutting ceremony will be scheduled for the fall. During the interim, a video tour is being completed and a social media campaign is in the works. Mr. Titterington added that Cathy's House is a level II recovery house.

##### **Medina County Drug Task Force:**

Mr. Stout provided an update on the Medina County Drug Task Force. He indicated that the county has experienced one fatal and four non-fatal overdoses in the past month. While the county is experiencing a decrease in analogs and hallucinogens, the Drug Task Force recently confiscated a large amount of THC in hash oil. He reported that the dramatic increases in meth over the past year are starting to wane, but shared that the meth that is being imported has higher levels of purity, and is cheaper. DUMP sites have collected 2,363 pounds of unwanted prescriptions in the past six months, including opiates. Mr. Stout encouraged anyone with additional questions to reach out.

##### **Opiate Response Team:**

Ms. Houk shared that referrals are made to the Medina County Opiate Response Team (MCORT) through the community and the jail. The census at the jail has recently gone up and there are currently 233 inmates. Every inmate receives a toxicology screen upon entry, and the MCORT is experiencing increases in jail referrals. She indicated that they are seeing more hallucinogens, which can lead to psychosis and hospitalizations.

The MCORT has received 844 referrals since November 2017. The team has made contact with 60% of these individuals, and have found that if they are able to connect and the individual attends a first appointment, 90% are still engaged in services after 30 days. Ms. Houk reported that funding for MCORT is received through the ADAMH Board's SOR dollars and an Ohio Attorney General grant. The team has received recognition at the state level.

##### **Cathy's House:**

Mr. Robinson shared that Cathy's House is a level II recovery house for both men and women. The entire staff are now trained as peer supporters, and the residence is fully MAT compliant through assistance from ADAMH Board SOR funding. He shared that in addition, with support and funding from the ADAMH Board and Heartland Church, they have purchased and are in the process of renovating a level

I recovery house for men. This level is for those in sustained recovery and offers more freedom, while still providing recovery supports.

**Hope Recovery Community:**

Ms. Robinson provided an update on Hope Recovery Community (HRC). She updated the task force about the number of peer supporters, stating there are currently 12 and that they continue to work to build up the workforce. HRC continues to receive requests for additional supports and they are currently working in collaboration with AP to provide peer support services through the 24/7 Crisis & Behavioral Health Helpline and the Medina County Jail. They have also started a Family Peer Support program in collaboration with Robby's Voice, which has had four referrals since May 1. Additionally, HRC works with the OhioSTART program through JFS, to provide a full time peer supporter that works as a part of that team. They will also provide peer support to residents at the new Discovery Recovery House. Ms. Robinson shared that Medina has become very recovery friendly. She indicated that HRC is also working with the health department to dispense Narcan.

**Francis House:**

Mr. Constanzo shared that Francis House is a 501c3 transitional recovery house that opened in March. He shared that the house is 3,000 square feet, has five bedrooms, and can accommodate up to nine men with two in each room. One individual resides at the home as a steward. He indicated that Francis House is currently accepting referrals. They are also working to become certified through Ohio Recovery Housing (ORH). Francis House runs under a membership charter, and members are required to have a 12-step sponsor and a peer recovery coach. They are encouraged but not required to have a spiritual and job coach. For additional questions or referrals, reach out to Mr. Constanzo at [santo@francishouserecovery](mailto:santo@francishouserecovery).

**Overdose Fatality Review:**

Ms. Rickbrodt provided information about the Overdose Fatality Review (ORF) committee. She shared that the committee held their initial meeting and had representation from Medina Hospital, the ADAMH Board, Alternative Paths, Hope Recovery Community, the Medina County Opiate Response Team, Job & Family Services, the Medina County Drug Task Force, Medina Health Department, and the Sheriff's Office. The committee will utilize data and investigate fatal overdoses in order to provide recommendations to the Opiate Task Force. The purpose of the OFR committee is to focus on prevention, bring together a multidisciplinary team to review cases, identify missed opportunities for prevention and intervention, develop data driven strategies, and generate information about the decedent as well as their interaction with services in the system. Currently the group is establishing case criteria and reviewing data as well as choosing a cases to investigate more extensively. The group plans to provide the OTF with an annual report as well as make recommendations and identify prevention programming.

**Good of the Order:**

- Mr. Titterington provided an update on the youth and family trauma-informed care outpatient facility that is a pending ADAMH Board capital project. He also shared that there is a homelessness initiative in the county, and a consultant has been hired to study and provide recommendations about how to combat homelessness in Medina County.
- Commissioner Hutson shared information about the American Rescue Funds and stated discussions about how these funds may be dispersed have commenced.

Adjourn 10:30am.