

Opiate Task Force Meeting Minutes – April 26, 2024

Krista Wasowski – Medina County Health Department

- The Living Well Medina County collaborative is working on the Community Health Improvement Plan.
- A survey is going out and a meeting will be held on June 5th to discuss strategies and priorities.

Phillip Titterington – Medina County ADAMH Board

- May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and he expressed thanks to all behavioral health agencies.
- MMHA’s new emergency shelter, “Next Step Up” is still on target to open in January 2025 and they are collaborating with many entities.
- OneOhio update for Region 19:
 - o The application portal is open, and applications are due May 3rd.
- Many treatment options are available for substance use, and individuals have options available to enter detox on the same day they seek services.

Kelsey Vasicek – Alternative Paths, Inc.

- They are seeing a decrease in opiate use, and an increase in THC and meth usage.
- Citizens Circle group – agencies work with people to re-enter society from the criminal justice system.
- The Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors (LOSS) Team received the STAR award from the Medina County Sheriff’s Department.
- LOSS Team data shows an average of 1-2 calls per month.
- There is a slight increase in suicide attempts within the 19-30 age group, and this will be monitored.

Stephanie Robinson – Hope Recovery Community

- Hope Recovery Community has fully merged with Cathy’s House.
- They are fully staffed.
- An average of 70 people per day visit the Medina center.
- They have a peer supporter collaboration with Alternative Paths.
- The Hope Link peer line received 25 calls this week.
- Staff attended a Recovery Leadership Summit.
- Farm updates:
 - o New mini donkey, three baby goats delivered by residents.
 - o Doubling the garden size, added a children’s garden, future programming will target youth.

- Their men's Recovery housing beds are full, and HRC is looking to expand recovery housing.

Darren Stout – Drug Task Force

- Applying for an Opioid Stimulant Program grant.
- Looking to expand the Ohio Deflection Program – which gives the option of jail or treatment.
- Seeing an increase in cocaine use and have seized more cocaine this year than in the last two years combined.
- There is not much guidance from the state yet regarding the legalization of marijuana.

Mary O'Connell – Medina County Job and Family Services

- There are currently 129 children in custody.
 - o 48% are in custody due to family substance use concerns, but a higher percentage are being reunited.
- There are currently four OhioSTART cases, which is a voluntary, collaborative program to keep children in the home as caregivers seek substance use treatment.
- They are applying to be OhioSTART certified.

Public Comments

- Holly Phillips – Medina County Health Department
 - o Doing numerous trainings in the community on naloxone.
 - o Working to reach youth, with naloxone being dispensed to youth ages 13 and up.
 - o Keeping an eye on the use of xylazine, however fentanyl, is still the primary concern.