

Opiate Task Force Meeting – April 25, 2025

Phillip Titterington – Medina County Mental Health & Recovery Board

- State budget update
 - o Concerns over Medicaid expansion continuing to be funded.
 - o Looking at trigger language that will affect local funding if changes happen at the federal level.
 - o OhioMHAS is looking at a new funding formula to push funding out to the ADAMH boards throughout the state in FY2026.
- May is Mental Health Awareness month
 - o The MHRB and providers will have ads out recognizing this.
 - o The MHRB appreciates everyone's efforts to reduce the stigma of mental health issues.
- The jail received a \$50,000 grant for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT).
 - o The goal is to connect individuals to MAT in jail before they are released.
- County opioid settlement funding
 - o Awardees included Alternative Paths, Ohio Guidestone, CATS, Francis House, and Hope Recovery Community.

Krista Wasowski – Medina County Health Department

- The Health Department receives less than 1% of its budget from state funding.
- Medicaid is our concern, and what is happening at the federal level.
- An all-weather harm reduction vending machine for naloxone will be installed outside of Hope Recovery Community. It should arrive at any time.
- The Health Department recently released Community Profiles for each jurisdiction in the County. Link: <https://medinahealth.org/community-profiles/>
 - o Reports include causes of death.
 - o Lots of other good information and data for specific parts of the community.
 - o A potential resource for grant applications and local projects.

Stefanie Robinson – Hope Recovery Community

- Hope Recovery Community serves over 70 individuals per day, 365 days a year.
- The Recovery Farm is doing well and is open for tours and community meetings.
 - o Last year they donated over 4,000 pounds of produce to local sources.
 - o This year they are aiming to donate over 8,000 pounds of produce to fight local challenges to food access.
- Housing expansion
 - o There is an urgent need to expand recovery housing.
 - o They will be able to expand recovery housing due to local and state funding.
 - o They are adding several beds to HRC over the next several months, including a Level 1 house for women.
- They are providing youth services and adding summer programming to the farm.
- The Governor met with and highlighted an HRC staff member from the OhioSTART program.
- Programming
 - o The 24/7 Hope Link peer line continues to meet needs in the community.

- Looking to serve LGBTQ community.
- Looking to increase women's programming.
- Will continue peer support group through funding from Mental Health & Recovery Board.
- The Overdose Awareness Day event will be held on August 31st, and the Ride for Recovery will be upcoming.

Kelsey Vasicek – Alternative Paths Opiate Response Team

- Total referrals for fiscal year – about 307. Most referrals coming from Jail. More MAT coming into jail.
- Community referrals (overdoses in community) – lower this year; 15 so far.
 - Made contact with seven out of 15 reported referrals from community
 - Five people set up an assessment, four people attended the assessment.
- Drug Task Force – They received three referrals from Drug Task Force in 2025.
- Kelsey has been named the Northeastern Regional Representative for the Ohio Deflection Association.
- LOSS Team data
 - They have seen an increase in younger ages.
 - There has been a spike in the Wadsworth area.
 - Still looking at predominately males.
 - Twenty-one were diagnosed with serious medical conditions such as cancer or stroke.
 - Overall, they are working on prevention methods and trying to target Wadsworth and Medina. Looking at billboards to target younger and middle aged individuals.
 - The Step Up to Prevent Suicide Walk is scheduled for September.

Skip Sipos – Medina Metropolitan Housing Authority

- Section 8 - splitting waitlist with mainstream vouchers. This could help open waiting lists.
- On May 29th, MMHA will break ground on a 10-unit facility, The Lafayette, for those who have a disability or are experiencing homelessness. They anticipate it will be opening next year.
 - Every resident will have rental assistance.
 - It will have solar panels and geo-thermal energy.
- Next Step Up emergency shelter.
 - It has a 27 bed capacity and two cribs, with 18 people currently sheltered.
- 137 TANF bed nights so far.
- Pursuing funding for calendar year 2026.
- Asking people to follow them on social media.
- There have been some involuntary discharges, but there have also been many successes of residents transitioning into more appropriate housing.
- The county has been so generous and supportive of these individuals in so many ways. MMHA appreciates the collaborations with the Health Department, HRC, law enforcement, and more.
- How do people refer?
 - Call the main MMHA number. If it is after hours, choose option #2 and someone at the shelter will answer. Please call before coming to Next Step Up.
- It has been great working with law enforcement so far.

Public Comments

- Matt Esterle – Judge Warner received the Veteran’s Advocate Award through the Veteran Service Commission.
- Robert Newman – CATS offering new programs virtually. Parenting classes are being expanded to virtual options. They will also have domestic violence class that will be virtual once that position is filled. Exploring an online drop in assessment. This would be Mon-Fri, but looking at weekends as well. This would get people connected quickly if needed. Hoping to roll that out before end of the fiscal year.
- Kris Quallich – The Medina City School’s girl’s lacrosse team was in a bus fire. All are ok, but they are looking to raise awareness of post-traumatic stress. They are collaborating with local media to focus the story about mental health versus the fire.

Next Meeting is August 29th. If need to connect, reach out to anyone.

The OTF email list is being updated. If there are changes in your organization, connect with Tiffany Shelton.