

Medina County Opiate Task Force

February 26, 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. He indicated that the ADAMH Board hired a Community Relations Director, who started in January. He stated that the ADAMH Board has successfully partnered with the Medina County Schools to provide K-12 prevention funding for evidence-based programming. ADAMH Board treatment services has included increased access to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), expanded access to detox and residential treatment, as well as a day treatment program coming soon through OhioGuidestone. Mr. Titterington shared that the ADAMH Board has invested heavily to provide a comprehensive array of recovery support services which includes recovery housing through the Discovery Recovery House, which is tentatively set to open in April, as well as increased capacity and pending expansion through Cathy's House. Mr. Titterington indicated that the ADAMH Board successfully secured several federal grants that are allowing for the implementation of a Recovery Support Services Navigator and the expansion of the Open Access MAT walk-in clinic through OhioGuidestone, continued funding of the Medina County Opiate Response Team (MCORT) through Alternative Paths, a family peer support program through Hope Recovery Community (HRC), and a partnership between HRC and Alternative Paths to offer peer support through their crisis team 24/7 and in the Medina County Jail. Mr. Titterington indicated that the ADAMH Board has worked to strengthen community collaboration, and have also partnered with Kent State University to apply for an additional federal grant that would allow for the expansion of youth and family treatment and support services in a partnership with OhioGuidestone and HRC.

Overdose Numbers for Medina County:

Ms. Wasowski complimented Mr. Titterington and local providers on the development and implementation of programming for the community. She confirmed that by passing the Human Services Levy, voters in Medina County have helped to provide funding to create a network of providers in key positions to make connections with community members in need. She stated that due to the COVID pandemic, the last 12 months have been stressful on this community and that increased support has been necessary. Ms. Wasowski noted that the overdose rates in 2020 were right at the three-year average, and that the community would have liked to see a bigger decrease. She stated that programming and support continue to expand and that this will prove to be impactful. The Health Department's role is collecting data and sharing that information with partners to assist in making decisions about what needs to happen in the community, what is different, and explaining what the data means.

Mr. Titterington reiterated that the strong, partnership between Medina County Health Department (MCHD) and Medina County ADAMH Board is essential.

Ohio START Program:

Ms. Kiley, Director of Medina County Job & Family Services, introduced staff to share information about the OhioSTART program implemented in May 2020 at Job and Family Services. Ms. Bennet, the OhioSTART Supervisor, shared details of the program. Highlights are below:

- The goal of the program is parental recovery while maintaining children in home to reduce trauma.
- Currently 46 counties in Ohio have the program, and they are adding six more in 2021.
- It is a strength-based program that provides wrap around support for the family unit.
- Staffing includes a child welfare worker and a peer supporter.
- Both staff provide support about how to navigate and understand the process with JFS, and the legal system. They provide connection to community resources, have involvement with family, and encourage accountability.
- The process goes rapidly:
 - An intake worker visits the home for an assessment.
 - They ask six questions and if three or more are answered positively, the case is referred to the OhioSTART program.
 - Contact is made within 30 days.
 - OhioSTART reaches out to see if the family is willing to engage in the program, and if so, an assessment is completed.
 - They move as quickly as possible to develop a case plan:
 - Determine appropriate services.
 - Develop a safety plan for children.
 - Hold a case review every 90 days to determine progress, identify additional needs, and provide drug screening.
- Home visits
 - A caseworker provides home visits weekly for the first 60 days.
 - A peer supporter visits weekly for 90 days.
 - They may meet more frequently if needed.
 - Case plans can be extended as needed.

Suicide Prevention Coalition:

Ms. Althen, Community Prevention Specialist at Alternative Paths, gave an overview of the Suicide Prevention Coalition's initiatives and activities implemented during COVID. Ms. Althen has provided QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer) training to businesses and agencies throughout the COVID pandemic. She completed several trainings for staff at the Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Ms. Althen reported that the Suicide Prevention Coalition received a CARES Act grant for \$22,000. The coalition was able to implement several initiatives listed below:

- Each school district received 100+ masks stating "Life is tough so are you."
- Each school received 100 notebooks, which school counselors are using with positive messaging and crisis line information.
- Five Thousand plastic bags were provided to food banks for food distribution that stated "Make mental health a priority" along with 24/7 Crisis and Behavioral Health Helpline information provided.
- Updated services rack cards were created.
- A new youth services rack card was created.
- Ten thousand goodie bags were distributed, which included post-it notes, magnets, and jar openers with positive messaging.

- Gun cleaning clothes were provided to all gun ranges and stores, stating “Set your sights on mental health”.
- Nine billboards throughout the county were rented to circulate the message, “Reaching out is a sign of strength.”
- Air fresheners with messaging was provided to car dealerships.
- They ran ads in local newspapers, magazines, and articles.

Medina County Drug Task Force:

Mr. Stout provided an update on the Medina County Drug Task Force. The MCDAC Levy passed, and he thanked all those present for their support. The Drug Task Force completed 181 criminal investigations with 133 arrests and 190 individuals charged. He indicated that fentanyl and carfentanil usage is down in the county. However, meth usage has skyrocketed.

Mr. Stout stated he has applied for a Recovery Ohio Program Grant. Funding would provide the opportunity for a full time uniformed officer and a canine that could be utilized by the entire county for police investigations. The funding would also support an innovative awareness campaign. He stated he will follow up with information as it becomes available.

Opiate Response Team:

Ms. Paris shared that the Medina County Opiate Response Team (MCORT) has received 766 referrals since its inception. She has had face-to-face interaction with over 500 of these individuals, with 270 of them scheduling an assessment and 95% of those attending the assessment. Ms. Paris stated that the MCORT has made over 1,600 contacts by phone or face-to-face. She shared several success stories of program participants. Ms. Paris will also begin facilitating peer support services within the jail setting.

Ohio Guidestone:

Ms. Romain provided an update on four initiatives Ohio Guidestone is currently working on:

- 1) A Recovery Services Navigator will be a full-time position that will provide navigation and linkage to appropriate recovery services based on need. The Recovery Services Navigator will provide services for youth and adults.
- 2) An expanded intensive outpatient program and a partial hospitalization program.
- 3) The expansion of their MAT open access walk-in clinic. Ohio Guidestone will offer increased access by eight additional hours per week. This includes walk-in diagnostic evaluations.
- 4) The Discovery Recovery House is set to open in April. The house is furnished and ready. A house manager is in place. In the future, the house will offer sober living to women with children.

Cathy’s House:

Mr. Robinson shared that Cathy’s House has hired a second resident coordinator. This position oversees expanded MAT services, which includes Suboxone. This role also provides outreach to those on the waiting list and connects them to services. Mr. Robinson indicated at this time they are working on a project that takes those in recovery from protective recovery to sustainability. Sustainable recovery housing offers residents additional freedoms and adds additional support prior to independent living. They are currently looking at a home that would house six men. Money has been raised through Heartland Church with additional funding from the ADAMH Board.

Hope Recovery Community:

Ms. Robinson provided an update on Hope Recovery Community. HRC has offered over 200 Zoom meetings with over 2,000 participants throughout the country. They are averaging over 3,000 recovery touches per month. Ms. Robinson stated they received \$15,000 in CARES Act grants. This money was used to keep HRC open over 350 hours and provide over 700 meals during the holiday season to provide additional support.

Ms. Robinson shared they are working on developing a family peer support program. Currently there are none in Ohio. However, she is looking at training materials from a program offered in Pennsylvania. They are adding a peer support specialist at Medina Hospital. This will be done virtually for patients in the emergency department and intensive care unit. She is also working on developing a Recovery Life Institute for Excellence. The focus will be on working with those in recovery to develop sobriety for the entire person. This includes budgeting, cleaning, cooking, wellness, career assistance, and learning to be a strong contributing member of the community.

Good of the Order:

- Rep. Hambley provided an update on HB71. He encouraged those present to reach out to Representatives Ray and Hicks.
- Commissioner Hutson praised all the work being completed through levy funding.
- Ms. Rak provided an update on the Lodi Family Center.
- Ms. Pearce provided an update on Community Action Wayne/Medina programming available to those in Medina County.

Adjourn 10:37am.