

Opiate Task Force Meeting 9/23/2022

1. Krista Wasowski: Health Department. Review of the Overdose Fatality summary document.
 - a. Thirteen deaths so far this year, which is lower at this point this year than last year.
 - b. Majority of deaths occurred in Brunswick, which has the largest population in the county.
 - c. Highest death rates are with single white males.
 - d. Fatal overdoses occurred in the home 77% of the time, and non-fatal overdoses occurred in more transient areas.
 - e. There has been a surge in requests for referrals and services. There is new recovery housing in Brunswick through Cathy's House, and Hope Recovery Community has started peer supports in a location in Brunswick as well.
2. Phillip Titterington: ADAMH Board
 - a. Reminded OTF members of the importance of the Medina County Health Department's upcoming levy, including the many collaborations and partnerships that the health department provides and is a part of. He pointed out the levy is not a tax increase.
 - b. Pointed out that there are many treatment agencies throughout Medina County doing great work.
 - c. ADAMH Board updates
 - i. Youth Resiliency & Counseling Center (YRCC): ADAMH Board capital project to help children and families in a trauma-informed manner. OhioGuidestone will operate the facility and provide services.
 - ii. Hope Recovery Community (HRC): ADAMH Board capitol project that will add 3,000 square feet to HRC's Highland House for a total of 7,000 square feet to increase recovery supports and access. HRC has also expanded recovery supports into Brunswick.
 - iii. The ADAMH Board partners with other Boards to provide regional access to detox and crisis services for Medina County residents.
 - iv. Medication assisted treatment is very accessible throughout the county.
 - v. Addiction Treatment Program (ATP) funding through the ADAMH Board provides funding to reduce barriers to treatment to both certified adult and juvenile Drug Courts and Valor (Veterans) Court.
 - vi. Alternative Paths provides services at the Medina County Jail.
 - vii. The Opiate Fatality Review process helps to identify what may be done along the way to have a different outcome.
 - viii. A great deal of recovery supports are offered through OhioGuidestone and Hope Recovery Community, including peer coaching, workforce training. The Discovery Recovery house for women is owned by the ADAMH Board and operated by OhioGuidestone.
 - ix. Cathy's House offers 28 beds for men in Medina County, and they most recently expanded into Brunswick. Cathy's House is certified through Ohio Recovery Housing (ORH).
3. Curt McCune: Medina County Drug Task Force

- a. Methamphetamine continues to be the most prevalent substance in the area. Low prices, large quantity.
 - i. Used to be \$200 gram and 50% pure. Now it is \$80 for three grams, and closer to 90% potency.
 - b. Fentanyl Cases continue to be seen as well, causing seizures and overdoses.
 - i. Rainbow fentanyl is brightly colored as a marketing tactic, but has not been seen in our area yet. It is seen as more of a calling card versus targeting kids.
 - 1. There is a 2-3 month lag in fentanyl testing confirmation.
 - c. The Medina County Drug Task Force has applied for a MX908 device to do instant roadside testing for meth, cocaine, and prescription pills. This can speed up confirmation and is admissible in court. Fentanyl isn't on the list yet but hopefully will be at some point. It has not been decided who/which agency will hold this device. The device should arrive in the next month or two and they are looking for collaboration opportunities.
4. Melissa Romain- OhioGuidestone
- a. Discovery Recovery House has applied for Ohio Recovery Housing (ORH) certification. The house is currently full with 12 women. If there are women on the waiting list, they help to link them with other facilities.
 - b. Programming and hiring has started for the Youth Resiliency & Counseling Center (YRCC) that is under construction. There will be a playroom, art room, conference space, family areas, and potential space for youth and family community groups.
 - c. The Open Access MAT walk-in clinic is currently open two days per week, but is expanding to five days per week.
 - d. A second Recovery Services Navigator position was created through ADAMH Board SOR funding, and these individuals assist with linking patients to detox, housing, in-patient treatment, obtaining medical insurance, and provide family support and transportation as needed. Individuals do not have to be an OhioGuidestone patient to receive this service.
5. Sam Evans: Hope Recovery Community (HRC)
- a. Sam shared that she spoke at the Opiate Task Force meeting several years ago to share her recovery story, and she expressed her gratitude for the many services in Medina County and to be working in the recovery field. She said she is grateful for the continued support of the ADAMH Board and the Medina County Commissioners.
 - b. HRC is working with other groups throughout Ohio and the nation to make recovery more accessible. They have attended events in Summit County, Cuyahoga County, Dayton and Sandusky, and the director is currently in Arkansas for a conference.
 - c. This month, HRC is highlighting people in recovery on social media for National Recovery month
 - d. HRC's Ride for Recovery fundraiser raised over \$45,000, with approximately 200 motorcycle riders and 500 people in attendance.
 - e. HRC is one of only six Recovery Community Organizations (RCO) in Ohio to obtain certification through the National Association of Recovery Community Organizations (ARCO).

- f. HRC now has a Medina and Brunswick location. The Medina location is open daily, and the Brunswick location is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays. At the Brunswick location a Fresh Start group has been started for individuals impacted by criminal justice.
 - g. Peer support is being provided in the Medina County Jail.
 - h. HRC purchased a vehicle and is providing assistance with transportation to help with access to services.
 - i. An event was held for Overdose Awareness Day on August 31st, with over 160 people in attendance.
 - j. HRC created the Hope Link peer line, which is a 24/7 recovery support line designed to support and connect individuals who are waiting to get into services. Over 40 calls per month have been received so far.
 - k. HRC is on track to place over 500 people in residential treatment, recovery housing or detox services this year. They average 4,000 recovery touches per month.
 - l. HRC is looking to launch workplace recovery friendly initiative, as well as the Loveland Farm project.
6. Gail Houk: Alternative Paths
- a. The LOSS (Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors) Team has been dispatched 17 times in the first year. The team consists of 14 clinicians who respond to the scene of a suicide when called by police. The clinicians provide support to families.
 - b. Review of Opiate Response Team (ORT) data.
7. Kelsey Vasicek: Alternative Paths
- a. There has been a spike in overdoses this month, with five occurring already
 - b. The Opiate Response Team (ORT) has been going to areas known to be high risk for overdoses, such as Motel 6, Red Roof Inn. They knock on doors and provide resources. They have also gone into area businesses, schools, and community programs and events to provide overdose awareness and distribute Narcan; Leadership Medina County, area schools, Medina County Fair, Ravago.
8. Commissioner Bill Hutson: OneOhio
- a. OneOhio is being stood up as non-profit organization and bi-laws were just passed.
 - b. Working on policies and to build infrastructure.
 - c. Funds should be available by the end of the year, and individuals can then begin to apply for grants.
 - d. Our region is Region 19, and should receive 6% of the total funding.
9. Jon Robertson: Cathy's House
- a. Medina County and Cathy's House are becoming well known for the services and supports being provided. Cathy's House walks through an individual's recovery journey with them.
 - b. There was a law passed, stating funding support cannot be provided to a recovery house unless they are certified or in the process of becoming certified. Ohio Recovery Housing (ORH) standards are being followed at Cathy's House. They are the only ORH certified men's housing in Medina County and Mr. Robinson is one of five lead reviewers for ORH.
 - c. The Cathy's House annual fundraiser was a Cornhole tournament this year, which started after a cornhole league was formed.

- d. Cathy's House currently has 28 beds, which are all currently full.
 - e. There is a greater focus on what happens after people leave Cathy's House, and alumni are becoming more involved to assist in moving from a protected recovery to a sustainable recovery.
 - f. Planning a family day in October for residents and families to come together.
 - g. Cathy's House utilizes OhioGuidestone's Recovery Services Navigators as well as HRC's Hope Link peer line and Hope on the Move transportation.
 - h. They average 25 bed requests per month and the average length of stay is 150 days for the level 2 homes and over 500 days for their level 1 home. There are eight individuals currently prescribed MAT.
 - i. Cathy's House is planning to expand through the Loveland Farms project with the Medina County Parks Department in 2023.
10. Holly Phillips: Health Department. Naloxone Distribution
- a. Project DAWN update.
 - i. Plans: Set up service agreements, create standard operating procedures, train prevention educators. Also:
 - 1. Updated materials, update website, and create naloxone distribution policy to include mail order.
 - ii. Nine naloxone distribution sites now running.
 - iii. Improvement needed:
 - 1. Improve advertisements via social media
 - iv. Dispersed over 400 naloxone kits. Goal was 250.
 - v. Collaboration with community agencies is invaluable
 - b. Overdose awareness events
 - i. Theme was We remember, We honor, We Hope
 - ii. Increase overdose awareness and reduce stigma.
 - iii. Went to a variety of community events