

Opiate Task Force Meeting | Medina County | August 29, 2025

Phillip Titterington – Medina County Mental Health & Recovery Board

- Challenges over a new funding formula from OhioMHAS.
 - o They are looking at social determinants and distributing funding based on areas such as population, poverty, percentage of individuals uninsured, overdose rates, suicide rates, jail bookings, median rent, and the percentage of households without a vehicle.
 - o Since Medina County is doing well in many of these areas, we are anticipating funding cuts.
 - o We need to identify gaps, monitor Medicaid changes.
- Legislators want to provide relief from high property taxes, however \$26 billion is raised annually for some type of levy. If property taxes go away, how would that hole be filled?
- The MHRB has received SOS State Opioid and Stimulant Response funding for the last five years.
 - o This funding supports many of our county agencies and other programs. The MHRB is preliminarily set to receive the same amount of funding for this year, which is good news.
- The OneOhio grant phase two amounts were released. Region 19 has \$3 million potentially available. More information is available on the OneOhio website.
- The MHRB was awarded \$260,000 in ATP (Addiction Treatment Program) funding for FY26, which allows the MHRB to partner with the specialized court dockets to provide recovery supports to individuals in those programs.
- The MHRB owns the Discovery Recovery House, a 12-bed Level 3 women's recovery house that is managed by OhioGuidestone. The MHRB also has 44 supportive housing units, which are full.
- August 31st is National Overdose Awareness Day. Thank you to the commissioners who sent out a proclamation regarding this.
- September is National Recovery Month and Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. The *Step Up to Prevent Suicide* walk is on September 21 on the square in Medina.

Krista Wasowski – Medina County Health Department

- Lots of uncertainty at the state and federal level, but we have strong partnerships and will work together to get through this.

Amy Farmer – Research Communications Specialist at OSU

- HEALing Communities Study increases overdose education and naloxone distribution
 - o Increases access to medications for opioid use disorder.
 - o Increases safer opioid prescribing.
- Blend of urban and rural communities.
- Used Communities that Heal framework.
 - o Communications campaign, evidence-based practices, and community engagement
- Social media, billboards, newspaper ads, movie theatre ads, radio ads, other printed ads.
- Partnered with healthcare, behavioral health, and criminal justice partners.
- The website has a lot of community resources.

Darren Stout – Medina County Drug Task Force

- Harm reduction program
 - o Kicked off this past April full time and have received great feedback so far.
 - o He is thankful for the community support from the Health Department, MHRB and AP.
 - o They are trying to be one more support touch point for all the people we interact with.
 - o Operation BRIDGE is a public facing resource fair that will be held on September 25 from 9-5 p.m. Many community partners will be participating. This is one of the first in Northeast Ohio.

Stefanie Robinson – Hope Recovery Community

- Hope Recovery Community (HRC) is open 365 days a year, and are partnering and collaborating with numerous entities: AP JFS, OGS, Medina Jail, Next Step Up shelter, and more.
- Approximately 75 people a day come to HRC.
- The recovery farm has had a tough farming season due to the weather, however lots of lessons have been learned.
- They continue to provide items for produce pantries around the county.
- HRC has opened a Level 1 women's recovery house. They are thankful to MMHA for their help with this project.
- The basic needs pantry is ongoing.
- The farm will add four recovery housing beds.
- Harm reduction vending machine.
 - o Lots of positive feedback and support from Medina County.
 - o 380 items dispersed in first three months. People are utilizing this service.
 - o Using data to make decisions.
 - o Open 24/7 and all is free
- The MHRB applied for and received the Overdose Prevention Day grant from OhioMHAS, which will be utilized by HRC to provide the Overdose Awareness Day event and personal hygiene items.
- Speaking at SAMSHA conference in D.C.
- Received grants to expand chickens at the farm.
- Sunday is the 8th annual Overdose Awareness Day event at HRC.
 - o This is a very impactful event.
- September is National Recovery Month. HRC's annual Ride4Recovery fundraiser will take place on September 20. HRC has already surpassed their fundraising goal, and they are very thankful.

Teegan Plackowski – Medina County Health Department

- Dashboard
 - o Seven unintentional overdose fatalities so far in 2025. Comparable to last year.
 - o Overdose data dashboard is on MCHD website:
<https://medinahealth.org/community/data-reports/drug-related-fatality-report/>
 - o Data can be used for information, grant applications, and overall awareness.
 - o Dashboard has filters on left side of page to filter data to see trends for different age groups.

- Data to Action page has highlights of outcomes for our projects and where people can get naloxone.

Holly Phillips – Medina County Health Department

- Decrease in overdose deaths.
- The MCHD applied for the Integrated Harm Reduction grant. Thanks to all who provided letters of support.
- August is a busy month with many events. National Night out. We trained library staff.
- We have a fake pills billboard campaign.
- The IH grant has allowed us to put out 5 more purple naloxone boxes.
- The Harm Reduction grant has been a great resource for the community.
- The MCHD has funding for another vending machine, and are hoping this one can be placed at Lodi Hospital.

Kelsey Vasicek – Alternative Paths Opiate Response Team

- In FY25, there were 19 community overdoses reported. The Opiate Response Team made contact with nine of them. Seven people set up and attended an assessment.
- AP has participated in many events in August, with more coming in September.
- Loss team data:
 - Saw an increase in suicides in Wadsworth.
 - Guns are most common method of suicide.
 - An increase in females.
 - Averaging two LOSS team activations per month.

Open comments

- <https://medinahealth.org/community/data-reports/drug-related-fatality-report/>
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