

OTF Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: March 27, 2026 | Medina County Addiction & Recovery Coalition

Krista Wasowski, Medina County Health Department (MCHD)

Phillip Titterington, Medina County Mental Health & Recovery Board (MHRB)

Welcome and Introduce New Coalition Name

- **Welcome & Dashboards (Krista):** Krista welcomed the group and presented interactive dashboards showing overdose trends over time.
- **10-Year Retrospective (Phillip):** Phillip highlighted achievements over the past 10 years, emphasizing that progress was made possible through strong community collaborations.
- **Coalition Name Change:** Official name change to Medina County Addiction & Recovery Coalition.

Mike Barnhardt, Medina County Drug Task Force

- **Drug Takeback Day:** Scheduled for April 25 from 10-2 throughout Brunswick, Wadsworth, and Medina. Collects approximately 2,000 lbs. per year.
- **BRIDGE Event:** The upcoming BRIDGE event is scheduled for May 26-27 for law enforcement.
- **Office & Staffing Transition:** Transition taking place in the office; harm reduction services will continue uninterrupted even if specific positions change.
- **Substance Trends:** Cocaine and Methamphetamine remain very popular in the area. Methamphetamine is currently extremely cheap.
- **Deflection Program:** Focuses on providing treatment options for individuals facing low-level felonies; several success stories have come from the program.
- **Upcoming Initiatives:** Active efforts are ongoing to address underage vaping and illegal sales of Kratom.

Sam Wonkovich, Hope Recovery Community (HRC)

- **Peer Services Growth:** Sam shared personal journey—spoke at OTF in January 2019 regarding lived experience and is now an employee. Expanding housing and additional farm beds.
- **Hope Link peer line:** Provides 24/7 peer support connections for immediate recovery needs. Generated over 900 referrals last year.
- **Jail peer support:** Connects individuals to immediate resources directly upon release, provide group and individual services.
- **OhioSTART:** An HRC peer supporter works with the OhioSTART team at JFS. The program is to decrease child and family trauma. They've been awarded a grant to expand the program. Laurel R. (peer supporter) was officially recognized by Governor DeWine last year.
- **Street Outreach & Hope Hub:** A new street outreach team is currently being launched. The Hope Hub harm reduction vending machine disperses hundreds of items every month, supported by the Medina County Health Department.
- **Hope Haven:** Provides free access to personal care and hygiene items, allowing individuals to choose what they need.
- **Recovery Farm Updates:** Farm season is underway. To date, over 12,000 lbs of food have been donated. Looking for volunteers (volunteer hours can count toward community service).

- **Kiwanis Grant & Farm Dedication:** HRC was awarded \$250 from the Breakfast Kiwanis. A local youth wrote a letter explaining how HRC saved his father's life; a section of the farm will be named in his honor.

Emily Magistro, Hope Recovery Community

- Emily shared her story as a person in long-term recovery who now works for HRC. Shared how HRC provided critical support.

Rebecca Parkhurst, Medina County Health Department

- **Tobacco and vaping update:** Current trends and connection with tobacco cessation and substance use recovery.

Kelsey Vasicek, Alternative Paths

- **Suboxone/Brixadi Transitions:** Seeing an increase in Suboxone being prescribed. The jail is transitioning from Suboxone to Brixadi in the jail.
- **Logged 334 total referrals to the Opiate Response Team** from July–June.
- **Community Overdose Outreach:** Eleven overdoses were reported via community contacts. Eight individuals were successfully contacted, and all were contacted and attended treatment.
- **Ohio Deflection Association:** Kratom Lunch & Learn event scheduled for 4/29/26 with Summit County Public Health.

Open Comment Period

- **Facility Expansion (Matt Esterle):** Presented updates on the new building construction.
- **Harm Reduction Expansion (Stephanie Young):** The Medina County Health Department is installing a new Harm Reduction vending machine in Lodi.
- **Naloxone Distribution (Holly Phillips):** Previously had five purple boxes and added five more, 67% Naloxone distribution rate.
- **CATS Annual Fundraiser (Robert Newman):** Scheduled for August 14 at Bunker Hill.
- **Commissioner Request (Commissioner Hambley):** Requested copies of all PowerPoint presentations shown during the meeting.
- **CASA Program Update (Erin Grohe):** CASA first-class swearing-in conducted; new staff member successfully hired.