

CONSORTIUM CHRONICLE

NEWSLETTER



Registration is now open for our next education series webinar: Managing Stigmatizing Language in Substance Use Disorder Treatment

September 17 | 12-2 p.m.

The purpose of this training is to engage practitioners in understanding the immediate and lasting impact that stigma can have on the potential treatment of and recovery from Substance Misuse and Prevention. By highlighting how we refer to, speak to, and document the experiences of clients, we can identify how our actions affect how we connect with and treat them.

Speaker Details:

Laura Hinds, MSW, LCSW
Founder and Principal Partner of
Hindsight Consulting Group, LLC

Continuing Education:

We are partnering with MACC (Multiethnic Advocates for Cultural Competence) to provide an opportunity to our network to engage in the training 'Managing Stigmatizing Language in Substance Use Disorder Treatment.' This training has been approved for 1.5 CEUs through the Ohio CSWMFT, OCDP, and Peer Supporter Boards for those who

This training will spotlight the negative impact that our word choices can have on our clients and will highlight our professional and ethical responsibility to be mindful in how we speak to and about clients living with substance use disorders.

[View flyer](#) for more details.

attend
and complete the session.

[Register Here](#)

Opening Date Set for Cuyahoga County's New Crisis Center

A new mental and behavioral health crisis center, The Centers' Glick Recovery Campus, will officially open its doors in Cleveland's Central neighborhood on September 14, 2026. Located at 2322 E. 22nd Street, the new campus will centralize critical crisis services under one roof.

This new facility brings several vital emergency care capabilities to the local community:

- The campus will accept walk-ins and patients who require involuntary holds for mental health reasons.
- It features 20 short-term "chairs" designed for patients to immediately receive medication and mental health treatment.
- Existing psychiatric beds from FrontLine Service's West Side crisis stabilization unit (which is closing at the end of August) will transition to the second floor of the new campus.
- A community health clinic will operate on the top floor.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Glick Recovery Campus is scheduled for August 20. Read the full article on Signal Cleveland [here](#)

State / Local Updates

Spotlighting the Epidemic: New Cannabis and Pregnancy Campaign

The One Ohio Recovery Foundation recently launched a new public education campaign focusing on cannabis use and pregnancy. With shifting landscapes surrounding cannabis access, this initiative aims to provide expectant mothers with fact-based information regarding the risks of cannabis exposure to their babies.

The campaign underscores that the medical community agrees there is no known safe amount of cannabis to use while pregnant. Key facts highlighted by the initiative include:

- THC can pass through the placenta and has been linked to complications such as premature birth, low birth weight, and stillbirth.
- Children exposed to cannabis in the womb may face higher rates of attention problems, anxiety, and learning difficulties as they grow.
- THC can enter a baby through breastmilk, meaning the risks do not end at birth.

Importantly, the campaign takes a compassionate, risk reduction approach by offering safe, healthy alternatives to manage common pregnancy discomforts—such as anxiety, sleeplessness, and nausea—without turning to cannabis. It provides practical tools like acupressure techniques, guided breathing exercises, and nutritional strategies, while encouraging open dialogue with healthcare providers.

To view the full campaign, access printable resources, or find evidence-based guidance to share with your community and patients, please visit the [OneOhio Recovery Foundation's Cannabis + Pregnancy page](#).

[Study Finds Teens with Cannabis Use Disorder Facing Delays for Treatment](#)

A recent study highlighted by the Health Policy Institute of Ohio reveals a concerning trend regarding adolescents seeking care for Cannabis Use Disorder (CUD). These findings underscore the growing systemic barriers to accessing timely behavioral healthcare for youth. Key study findings include increased wait times, a sharp increase in delays for teens awaiting treatment, a prevalence of 11% of adolescents who use developing cannabis use disorder within a single year. Additionally, around 4.7% of all adolescents (ages 12-17) meet the diagnostic criteria for CUD, a condition where marijuana use becomes difficult to control and actively interferes with daily life.

These prolonged treatment delays are occurring simultaneously with federal discussions regarding the potential reclassification of marijuana under federal drug laws. [Read the Study](#)

The Safeguarding Children Study Seeks Participants

The Safeguarding Children Study conducted by The Ohio State University funded by the National Institute of Justice invites participants to complete a 15-30 minute survey to better understand overdose response practices related to children on

the scene of an overdose. Participation is completely voluntary, and your responses are confidential.

If you are interested in participating in this survey, please [Click Here](#) if you lead an overdose response team or are a department head (such as police, fire, or EMS department lead) or [Click Here](#) if you are a member of an overdose response team (deflection/QRT/RRT/CIT, etc.) or a first/secondary responder who has been on the scene of an overdose (EMS, law enforcement, fire, social work, or others).

If you know someone who may be interested in participating, please forward the links to them as well. If you have any questions or concerns about this study, please contact Krystel Tossone, PhD at SparkOhio@osu.edu or 1-614-293-8873.

Cuyahoga County Crisis Mapping

The Cuyahoga County Crisis Response Mapping Project — an effort focused on mapping the crisis response system and developing recommendations for improved coordination and outcomes is seeking participants for the next phase of their project **on September 10 from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm**. The initial workshop involved in-depth conversations with behavioral health professionals, individuals with lived experience, law enforcement representatives, and other community stakeholders about the county's crisis response processes and coordination among responding agencies.

During the follow-up workshop, participants will review and consolidate key findings about how individuals move through the crisis response system and identify opportunities to strengthen service coordination and improve outcomes for people experiencing a crisis. Participants of the workshop will review and comment on the first draft of the Crisis Map, which brings together the experiences of people who have had a crisis, families/friends, community agencies, hospitals, parole/probation officers, police, and co-responders.

Everyone is welcome to attend the follow-up workshop, and attendance at the first workshop is not required.

Interested parties can click [here to register](#).



SUPPORTING & EMPOWERING FAMILIES (SEF)

Youth Focus

CITY of CLEVELAND
MAYOR JUSTIN M. BIBB
PUBLIC HEALTH

Program Benefits:

- Connect with peers
- Achieve goals and build coping skills
- Delay alcohol, cannabis, and tobacco use
- Reduce high-risk behaviors like binge drinking and bullying
- Lower symptoms of depression, anxiety, and behavioral issues
- Manage impulsivity and reduce suicidal thoughts
- Decrease cannabis and tobacco use frequency

Join Us
Thursdays
1:00–2:30 pm

August 13, 2026
August 20, 2026

Call to register (216) 664-3891

City of Cleveland Department of Public Health PreVenture Program

Location: Collinwood Neighborhood Resource Recreation Center

Office of Mental Health Addiction Recovery (OMHAR)

Cleveland Department of Public Health Youth PreVenture Program

The Cleveland Department of Public Health (CDPH) Office of Mental Health Addiction Recovery is hosting a youth PreVenture class at the Collinwood Neighborhood Resource Recreation Center. We welcome all city youth ages 13 to 17 to attend.

The program takes place on Thursdays, specifically August 13, 2026, and August 20, 2026, from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm. The sessions will focus heavily on suicide prevention, drug prevention, social and emotional learning (SEL), and social skills development.

To register a participant, please call (216) 664-3891.

Ohio Department of Public Safety to Host Operation Bridge Day – August 26, 2026

Operation BRIDGE Day

Lakewood Womens Pavilion

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2026

2:00pm--6:00PM



Building Community Partnerships

The Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) in collaboration with other state, local and private entities are driving statewide community outreach days called Operation BRIDGE Days. BRIDGE (Bridging Recovery Interdiction Data Gathering Enforcement), combines the law enforcement & substance use treatment resources in a coordinated effort focusing on the reduction of supply and demand, simultaneously prioritizing treatment for those who qualify. Operation BRIDGE Days will be a collaborative effort to identify resources and build partnerships between law enforcement and outreach within the community.

Operation BRIDGE Days Goals

- Deflection/Quick Response Teams focus on their outreach by conducting door knocks, social media contacts, and pop-up informational tents.
- Those without Deflection Teams can participate by making connections to the community's prevention, treatment and/or recovery centers to raise awareness of resources in their area.

We Hope You Will Join Us!

Consider participating in Operation BRIDGE Days by:

- **HOSTING** a community outreach event
- **CONNECTING** with local Department of Healths and ADAMH boards
- **DISTRIBUTING** Naloxone and other harm reduction resources

To participate or for more information, please email nkyle@westshorebureauoh.gov or call 440.336.2371



Department of
Public Safety
Operation BRIDGE

RecoveryOhio



To participate or for more information, please email
nkyle@westshorebureauoh.gov or call 440-336.2371.



AUGUST RISK REDUCTION RESOURCE CALENDAR

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
3 ● MT. NERO OUTREACH 12701 SUPERIOR AVE 1-4	4 ● KINSMAN/E142ND OUTREACH 2-5 ● OUTREACH 12-4 3711 E65TH	5 ● W73RD/LORAIN OUTREACH 12-3	6 ● NEIGHBORHOOD PETS OUTREACH 12-4 3711 E65TH	7 ● MT. NERO OUTREACH 12701 SUPERIOR AVE 1-4	8 ● PROJECT NOELLE BACK-TO- SCHOOL PREVENTION & RESOURCE EVENT 2P-5PM 8220 SMITH RD #3228
10 ● MT. NERO OUTREACH 12701 SUPERIOR AVE 1-4	11 ● WSCC OUTREACH 9-12 3135 LORAIN AVE ● NEIGHBORHOOD PETS OUTREACH 12-4 3711 E65TH	12 ● OUTREACH AT EDWINS 2-5 13024 BUCKEYE AVE	13 ● NEIGHBORHOOD PETS OUTREACH 12-4 3711 E65TH	14 ● MT. NERO OUTREACH 12701 SUPERIOR AVE 1-4	15 ● STELLA MARIS BIKE NIGHT 1320 WASHINGTON AVE 4P-8P
17 ● MT. NERO OUTREACH 12701 SUPERIOR AVE 1-4	18 ● REMEMBER LOVE RECOVERY PROJECT 1-5PM 12201 EUCLID AVE ● NEIGHBORHOOD PETS OUTREACH 12-4 3711 E65TH	19 ● W73RD/LORAIN OUTREACH 12-3 ● W105TH/LORAIN OUTREACH 2-5	20 ● OUTREACH 5-8 1428 E110TH ● NEIGHBORHOOD PETS OUTREACH 12-4 3711 E65TH	21 ● OUTREACH 12-3 PAGE AND EUCLID AVE ● MT. NERO OUTREACH 12701 SUPERIOR AVE 1-4	22 ● AKRON PRIDE OUTREACH ● BACK TO SCHOOL OUTREACH 12701 SUPERIOR 1-4
24 ● MT. NERO OUTREACH 12701 SUPERIOR AVE 1-4 ● OAD COOKOUT 10-3 2370 W25TH ● MT. NERO OUTREACH 12701 SUPERIOR AVE 1-4 OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY ● MEMORIAL AT UPPER EDGEWATER PARK 6PM	25 ● OUTREACH 2-4 6827 SUPERIOR AVE ● ENCAMPMENT OUTREACH 11-5 ● NEIGHBORHOOD PETS OUTREACH 12-4 3711 E65TH ● COMMUNITY MEAL 6-8PM 1905 SPRING RD	26 ● OUTREACH 11-1 KENILWORTH & W15TH ● JAZZMAN OUTREACH 2-5 17720 BUCKEYE ● OPERATION BRIDGE 2-5PM LAKEWOOD WOMEN'S PAVILLION	27 ● STEADFAST OPEN HOUSE 3-5PM 6700 PEARL RD ● NEIGHBORHOOD PETS OUTREACH 12-4 3711 E65TH	28 ● MT. NERO OUTREACH 12701 SUPERIOR AVE 1-4	29 ● OBSERVATION OF INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY 8164 RIDGE RD 8PM ● CROBAR OUTREACH 9-12
ORG COLOR KEY=		THE CENTERS	THRIVE FOR CHANGE	METROHEALTH	PROJECT WHITE BUTTERFLY

Thrive for Change: Risk Reduction Calendar

Staying connected to local support is vital, and we are pleased to share the Risk Reduction Calendar compiled by our partners at Thrive for Change. This calendar serves as a centralized resource for community members to locate citywide risk reduction supplies, distribution sites, and wellness information. We encourage you to visit the [Thrive for Change website](#) to view the latest calendar dates and access these community tools.

Go "Beyond Narcan"

While Naloxone (Narcan) is a crucial first line of defense in reversing overdoses, comprehensive care and support extend much further. To help deepen our community's understanding of holistic risk reduction strategies, we encourage you to view our recent video feature. "Beyond Narcan" explores how broader risk reduction strategies, community support, and proper education work together to save lives.

You can watch the video on the WellLink Health Alliance YouTube channel here: [Beyond Narcan](#).



Monthly Policy Watch! We are sharing our second policy segment from WellLink Health Alliance's Daniel Lettenberger-Klein. Each month, Daniel breaks down the latest legislative trends and explains exactly what they mean for our local behavioral health community.

This month Daniel looks at key developments in Medicaid, prior authorization, behavioral health and other areas, and what healthcare organizations should be preparing for in the months ahead. Read the full update on [our blog](#) below.

[Read Blog Here](#)

[Availability of Naloxone in Retail Pharmacies Following Introduction of Over-the-Counter Status](#)

A study by Eldridge, et al published in the JAMA Network, provides a critical baseline for understanding over-the-counter (OTC) naloxone access. The national secret shopper study found that while 61.4% of U.S. retail pharmacies offered same-day, prescription-free naloxone at an average out-of-pocket cost of \$52.07, significant disparities in availability remain. Specifically, independent and medical-affiliated pharmacies, as well as those located in communities with lower proportions of White residents, were significantly less likely to stock the medication compared to corporate chains. Ultimately, these findings indicate that while federal OTC approval was a necessary policy shift, achieving truly equitable access will require our consortium to direct targeted support, price transparency initiatives, and educational outreach toward independent pharmacies and underserved neighborhoods.

[SAMHSA Releases Annual National Survey on Drug Use and Health](#)

The 2025 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) by SAMHSA reveals shifting national trends in substance use and mental health. Encouragingly, the prevalence of substance use disorders among individuals aged 12 and older decreased to 15.3% (44.6 million people) in 2025, down from 16.7% in 2021, and youth populations are showing steady declines in past-month binge drinking, nicotine, and marijuana use. However, overall marijuana consumption has increased from 19.0% in 2021 to 21.2% in 2025, remaining the most commonly used illicit drug. Additionally, mental health challenges persist, with 20.6% of

adults experiencing any mental illness in the past year and 18.0% of adolescents reporting recent moderate to severe anxiety symptoms.

Training Opportunities

SUD COE Training: Medical Professionals

The [Ohio Substance Use Disorders Center of Excellence](#) (SUD COE) at Case Western Reserve University's Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences invites practitioners to deepen their understanding of substance use disorder (SUD) treatment. We are pleased to offer a series of training programs designed to equip professionals with the latest and most effective strategies in SUD treatment. Also, check out the SUD COE website for [free trainings](#) (with CEUs!), as well as a wealth of [other resources](#)

Upcoming Sessions:

- **Getting Started with Medications for Treating Opioid Use Disorder**
 - August 20, 2026
- **Women and Substance Use Disorder: Treatment Success and Barriers for Care**
 - September 1, 2026
 - September 15, 2026

Check out the SUD COE calendar to register for these and other upcoming free trainings.

Upcoming Training: Xylazine & Medetomidine

Join CompDrug for a training on the clinical impacts of xylazine and medetomidine—two highly potent, non-opioid veterinary sedatives increasingly found in the local drug supply. This session will cover:

- **Current Trends:** Understanding the rapid rise and extreme potency of these central nervous system depressants.
- **Overdose Response:** Why naloxone does not reverse sedation from these drugs, and how to prioritize airway support and rescue breathing.
- **Wound Care:** Specialized strategies to manage the severe, slow-healing skin wounds associated with these substances.

Dates: August 27

- [Register for the training here.](#)

WellLink SPEAK Bureau

Substance Use Prevention, Education, Advocacy & Knowledge (SPEAK) Bureau is a collaborative training and technical assistance network facilitated by Northeast Ohio Opioid Consortium. Our mission is to connect organizations across Northeast Ohio with leading local experts to expand knowledge, enhance skills, and improve service delivery on complex and emerging issues in polysubstance use and substance use disorder treatment and recovery. We serve as a centralized resource for organizations seeking customized, expert-led education to better address the challenges of substance use in our community. The types of groups and organizations we hope to connect to this form of education include hospitals, clinics, social service agencies, nonprofits and more. Access the SPEAK Bureau [here](#).



ASAM Practice Pearls features in-depth discussions on addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery. This series explores the latest evidence-based approaches to addiction medicine. Listen to interviews with leading experts as they delve into critical topics and share practical tools you can use to improve patient care and promote public health.

Access at: [ASAM Practice Pearls](#) | [ASAM Education](#)

Listen to ASAM Practice Pearls':

Enhancing Addiction Care through Care Touchpoints

Stephen M. Taylor MD, MPH, DFAPA, DFASAM

Michael Fingerhood, MD, FACP, DFASAM

[Listen Here](#)

In support of improving patient care, ASAM is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

[Clinical QuickNotes on Substance Use Disorders](#)

The Ohio Substance Use Disorders Center of Excellence (SUD COE) has developed “Clinical QuickNotes on Substance Use Disorders” as a tool to provide busy treatment providers with quick overviews of clinically relevant topics. These QuickNotes are designed to be easily digestible, offering essential information that can be reviewed in just a few minutes. Check out each topic below!

- [Cannabis and Mental Health: Navigating Clinical Realities in Ohio](#)
- [Treating Opioid Use Disorder During Pregnancy and the Postpartum Period](#)
- [Medications for Opioid Use Disorder \(MOUD\) in Adolescents and Young Adults](#)
- [What’s Happened with Alcohol Use Disorder?](#)
- [Ohio Medical Board Amends Rules for Medication Treatment of Opioid Use Disorders](#)
- [Responding to Provider Trauma, Grief, and Loss Following Unintentional Lethal Overdose](#)
- [Family Grief and Loss Experiences Following Unintentional Lethal Overdose](#)

The **Opioid Response Network's (ORN)** mission is to reduce overdoses and address opioid and stimulant use disorders, and play a key role in tackling the current epidemic. For more information, go to www.OpioidResponseNetwork.org and learn how you and your organization can make a request for free training and education.

- [Hot Topics - On-Demand - AOAAM Learning Portal](#)

Other Resources

Educational Resources Available from WellLink

- [Igniting Compassion Documentary](#)
- [Igniting Compassion Shorts](#)
- [Opioid Consortium Education](#)
- [Naloxone Toolkit](#)
- [A Clinician’s Guide: Dental Consequences of MOUD + Solutions](#)
- [Clinicians Guide: on Xylazine Wound Management](#)
- [A Clinician's Guide: The Intersection of Human Trafficking and Substance Use Disorders](#)

- [NEO Opioid Consortium - Beyond Narcan: Treating Opioid Use Disorder in the Field](#)
- [Opioid Roundtable: Using Collaboration to Address the Opioid Crisis in Northeast Ohio](#)
- [NEO Opioid Consortium Education Series: Effective Communication with Individuals with SUD](#)
- [NEO Opioid Consortium Education Series: Appreciative Approach: From Medical Dominancy to Relational Recovery](#)
- [NEO Opioid Education Series: Demystifying Buprenorphine Treatment in the Outpatient Clinic Setting](#)
- [NEO Opioid Education Series: Harnessing Health IT to Strengthen Opioid Stewardship](#)
- [Previous Issues of The Consortium Chronicle Newsletter](#)
- [NEO Opioid Education Series: The Future of Pain Management: Cutting-Edge, Non-Opioid Solutions](#)
- [NEO Opioid Consortium Education Series - Chronic Pain: Bridging Clinical Insight & Lived Experience](#)
- [NEO Opioid Consortium Education Series: SUD Understanding Addiction, Treatment & Recovery](#)
- [Northeast Ohio Opioid Consortium Education Series: Human Trafficking, SUD, and Emerging Drug Trends](#)
- [Northeast Ohio Opioid Consortium Education Series: Stimulant Use & Heart Health](#)
- [Northeast Ohio Opioid Consortium Education Series: The Primary Practice Physician Program for Chronic Pain \(4PCP\)](#)
- [Northeast Ohio Opioid Education Series: Voices for Non-Opioid Choices](#)



This newsletter is supported by the CDC OD2A LOCAL Grant to the Cuyahoga County Board of Health.