



Consortium Chronicle NEWSLETTER

SAVE THE DATE! our next Opioid Consortium Education Series will be an in-person roundtable event on July 17 from 8:30-11:00.



ROUNDTABLE



Northeast Ohio Opioid Consortium
**EDUCATION
SERIES**

The Future of Pain Management: Perspectives, Progress, and Possibilities

Join us for an engaging forum dedicated to pain management, where innovation meets lived experience. This dynamic event brings together leading clinicians and individuals with personal journeys through pain to share cutting-edge treatments, including a strong focus on non-opioid approaches. Explore practical strategies, emerging therapies, and multidisciplinary perspectives that prioritize effective, sustainable, and person-centered care. Whether you're a healthcare professional or someone navigating life with pain, this forum offers a unique opportunity to connect, learn, and amplify the voices of those most affected.

This event is open to healthcare professionals, IT leaders, clinical teams, and community partners interested in using technology as a tool for prevention, treatment, and recovery in opioid use disorder.

ICYMI - Harnessing Health IT to Strengthen Opioid Stewardship:

Watch Now

The Northeast Ohio Opioid Consortium hosted an insightful virtual session on May 8 entitled "Harnessing Health IT to Strengthen Opioid Stewardship: Insights from the CHIME Playbook," which is now available to stream on YouTube. This session featured Dr. Sean Kelly, Chief Medical Officer at Imprivata and Co-Chair of the CHIME Opioid Task Force Clinical Advisory Subcommittee. Dr. Kelly shared actionable strategies from the CHIME Opioid Stewardship Playbook 2.0, a national resource aimed at helping healthcare systems use data and technology to combat opioid use disorder (OUD).

We were also honored to be joined by Dr. Jonathan E. Siff, Chief Medical Informatics Officer at MetroHealth and Professor at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. Dr. Siff offered local perspective on how MetroHealth is applying health IT to improve opioid stewardship and strengthen clinical workflows that support prevention, treatment, and recovery.

Key Takeaways:

- Overview of the CHIME Opioid Stewardship Playbook 2.0 – including frameworks and tools to enhance organizational response to OUD
- Strategies for embedding technology into clinical decision-making to reduce opioid-related harms
- Lessons from the field, highlighting successful implementations across health systems

This session is a must-watch for clinical leaders, informatics professionals, and community partners seeking to leverage digital health solutions in the fight against the opioid crisis.

Watch the full session here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4DEuxWR6Dk>

Resources from CHIME:

- CHIME Opioid Task Force www.opioidactioncenter.com.
- CHIME Opioid Stewardship Playbook 2.0 released in March 2025.
<https://bit.ly/42lyv3s>
- *Navigating 42 CFR Part 2: Evolving Healthcare IT Practices for SUD Data Sharing and Improving PatientCare* <https://bit.ly/4lvqxmG>

- **Podcast:** Clinical Advisory Panel: Current State of Opioid-Related Capabilities in Enterprise Electronic Health Records
<https://chimecentral.org/resource-podcast/clinical-advisory-panel-current-state-of-opioid-related-capabilities-in-enterprise-electronic-health-records>
- **CHIME's 2025 Digital Health Most Wired survey:** Open now – includes focus on health system referrals at <https://info.dhinsights.org/dhmrw-resource-2025>

State / Local Updates



The Ohio 2025 Mental Health & Addiction Conference: *Advancing Care in Communities* will take place on June 9-10 at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Columbus, OH. OACBHA is pleased to continue to expand on the successes of our prior conferences and continues to have a broader focus on addressing mental health and addiction topics. This 15th annual, two-day conference will focus on efforts related to mental health and addiction prevention, education, intervention, treatment, recovery, family supports, community engagement, and more. The conference will help advance the resources and knowledge essential for communities to provide support to those in need. The Center's stigma awareness documentary, *Igniting Compassion*, will be screened on June 9 from 3:00-4:30PM. [Register now](#) to ensure your slot at Ohio's 2025 Mental Health & Addiction Conference! If you have questions about the conference please contact Shelby Embrey at sembrey@oacbha.org.

We've made inroads with opioid epidemic. Proposed Medicaid cuts threaten that **Opinion by John Bartlett**

Should Medicaid be cut, nearly half [of people receiving treatment for OUD](#) nationally will not receive it. Cuts to Medicaid could potentially lead to fewer people receiving medications like methadone and buprenorphine that help them stay sober and regaining function as contributing members of society. Losing access to their medications and other sources of treatment will place this population at increased risk of relapse and overdose.

Medicaid cuts would also leave health care systems with a greater burden of uncompensated care because Medicaid is no longer paying for the care of these patients. To offset the increased burden of uncompensated care, health care

systems will charge patients with commercial health insurance more, thereby increasing health care costs and decreasing health care access for everyone.

Medicaid has enabled millions of people addicted to drugs or alcohol to get care for their addiction. Politicians need to carefully consider the consequences of cutting the health care coverage of this vulnerable patient population, many of whom are now functioning and contributing members of society. Nurses and other health care professionals need to educate the political decision makers on the science of addiction, and how addiction treatment, even if it is paid for by the taxpayers, is well worth the investment.

[OHA Overdose Data Sharing Program - Ohio Hospital Association](#)

The Ohio Hospital Association launched this interactive dashboard in April 2018 with downloadable files to provide state, regional and county-level data on opioid overdose encounters at Ohio hospitals to assist local community health and human services organizations as they address the crisis at the local level. OHA will release annual and quarterly rates of opioid overdose encounters at our member hospitals.

Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring Network (OSAM)

The [Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring Network \(OSAM\)](#) tracks local substance use trends, combining statewide data with real insights from community professionals and people with lived experience. Their reports help treatment providers understand emerging trends and respond more effectively. Explore OSAM's reports such as:

- OSAM-O-Grams: Quick summaries of urgent trends
- OSAM initiatives: Specialized studies on addiction and mental health
- Drug trend reports: In-depth insights from focus groups

Ohio Medical Board Amends Rules for Medication Treatment of Opioid Use Disorders

This clinical [QuickNote](#) provides a concise overview of the recent amendments made by the State Medical Board of Ohio (SBMO) concerning the treatment of Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) with medications. Effective Oct. 31, 2024, these revisions aim to reduce administrative barriers making it easier for physicians and physician assistants to prescribe life-saving medications for OUD. This QuickNote

serves as a resource for healthcare providers to understand and implement these new rules, enhancing clinical practice in the management of OUD.

Governor DeWine Supports Local Drug Task Forces with \$2.2 Million in RecoveryOhio Funding

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine recently announced that nearly three dozen local drug task forces in Ohio are receiving state support to aid in their work to disrupt the drug trade and promote substance use awareness, prevention, and recovery. More than \$2.2 million in grants from Governor DeWine's RecoveryOhio Law Enforcement Fund will be awarded to 34 existing drug task forces to help officers identify high-level drug traffickers, dismantle large drug trafficking organizations, interrupt the flow of money and drugs from international cartels, and prevent the sale of illegal narcotics.



Changing the Narrative of Mental Health

OACBHA's latest edition of the Developing a Better Understanding series is titled, Changing the Narrative of Mental Health. With May being Mental Health Awareness Month, it's important to recognize that stigma still exists around mental health conditions and treatment. Mental health conditions are common, and more treatments are available than ever to help people cope, recover, and thrive. However, stigma can prevent or delay people from seeking care or cause them to discontinue treatment. People living with mental health conditions have experienced stigma across many generations, cultures, and societies. Although there is more understanding and acceptance today about mental health conditions, many individuals and communities still hold negative attitudes or beliefs about those living with mental health conditions. When stigma leads to discrimination, people living with mental health conditions may be treated negatively.

LOCAL SPOTLIGHT: 2nd Act

(Prevention Plays, Improv Workshops, Drama Therapy)



2ND ACT OHIO

ENCORE

6.12.25 | 5:30PM



Come support 2nd Act's spring fundraiser to raise awareness & drive change through theater, prevention education, & drama therapy focused on substance use disorder.

BUY TICKETS HERE!

The Academy of Medicine of
Cleveland & Northern Ohio
6111 Oak Tree Blvd
Independence, OH 44131

Policy & News Updates

Addiction medicine providers appeal to improve access to methadone

Current regulations on methadone dispensing are [holding back](#) effective treatment, according to the American Society of Addiction Medicine. The society, along with the National Community Pharmacists Association and other interest groups, penned a letter to U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi and acting Drug Enforcement Agency Administrator Derek Maltz March 26. In the [letter](#), the groups

argued that strict regulations on where methadone can be prescribed should be eliminated as part of the work of the Department of Government Efficiency.

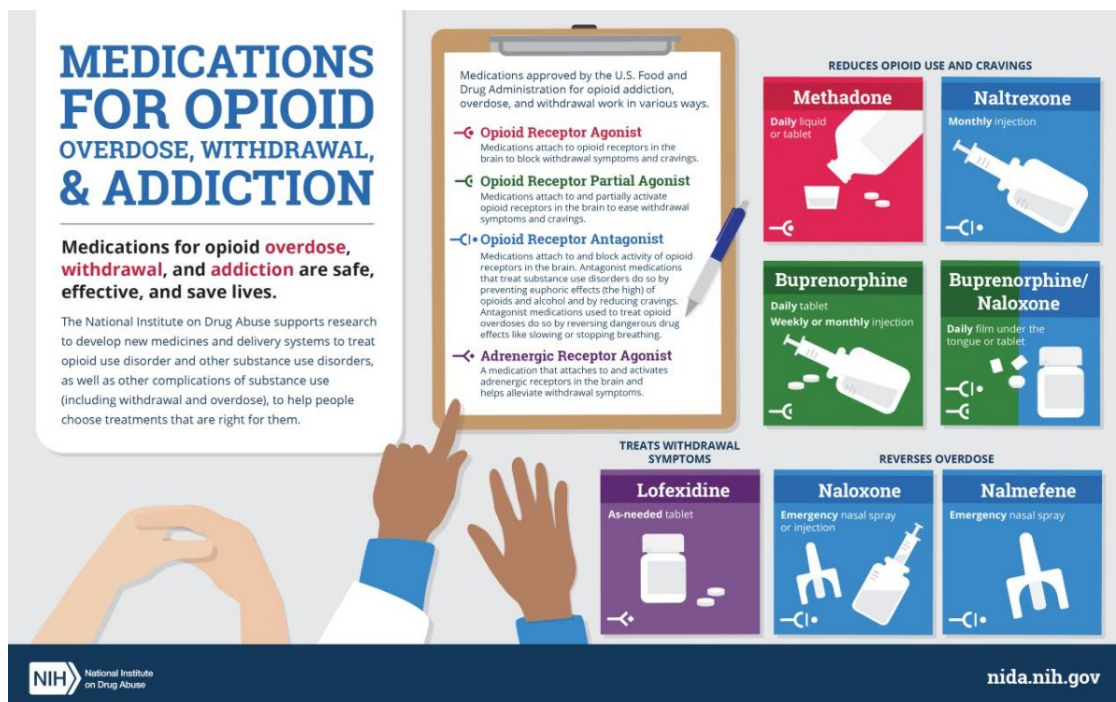


SAMHSA recently released a new publication titled **"Coverage of Selected Behavioral Health Services Among Older Medicare and Medicaid Beneficiaries"**. The primary objective of this report and issue brief is to analyze and understand trends, patterns, and disparities in mental health and substance use disorder screening, collaborative care, and OUD/AUD medication treatment service utilization among older adults

Walgreen's Opioid Settlement

Walgreens has agreed to pay \$300 million to the federal government in a settlement over allegations that the major pharmacy illegally filled invalid opioid prescriptions, the Department of Justice said April 21, 2025. As a result, the U.S. will drop a complaint it filed in court in January, alleging that between August 2012 and March 2023, Walgreens knowingly filled millions of unlawful prescriptions for controlled substances, including opioids. The federal complaint also alleged Walgreens pressured its pharmacists to fill prescriptions quickly. In addition to paying the federal government, Walgreens signed an agreement with the Drug Enforcement Administration and HHS's Office of Inspector General to implement certain compliance measures for the next seven years.

Medications for opioid use disorder can prevent and reverse overdose. They also reduce opioid use and cravings. They are safe, effective, and save lives. Learn more about these medications and how they work on the graphic below and on NIDA's opioids webpage: <https://go.nih.gov/1nC1MYU>



AI may aid screening for opioid use disorder

An artificial intelligence (AI) screening tool identified patients at risk for opioid use disorder and helped reduce readmission to hospitals. The findings hint that AI screening could be a cost-effective way to recognize at-risk patients and increase their access to addiction treatment. For more information, see [NIH Research Matters](#).

Training Opportunities

Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder for Pregnant Patients (8 Credits)

The ASAM Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder for Pregnant Patients Course provides the education essential for providers to identify, assess, diagnose, and manage pregnant and postpartum patients with opioid use disorder (OUD).

As an accredited organization named in Section 1263 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, ASAM certifies that completion of this course meets the DEA requirement for 8 hours of education on substance use disorder(s).

See [ASAM eLearning: Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder for Pregnant Patients](#) for registration information.

Benzodiazepine Tapering Webinar Series

Registration is now open for ASAM's Benzodiazepine Tapering Webinar Series, which was designed to support implementation of the [Joint Clinical Practice](#)

[Guideline on Benzodiazepine Tapering: Considerations When Risks Outweigh Benefits.](#)

Rewriting the Narrative: Learning from Hamsterdams: How Zoning, Real Estate, and Public Policy Create Drug Containment Zones

Many cities, and especially cities with high real estate prices, have clearly defined zones in which public drug use and sales are implicitly tolerated while more stringent enforcement continues everywhere else. Given that addiction services (like methadone clinics or residential programs) are often mobilized to serve these zones and/or deliberately segregated to remain within them—what should our relationship to these zones be as addiction care providers? The podcast will explore the challenges, problems, and opportunities these zones can create for people who use drugs and the providers who care for them.

Sponsoring organization: [Association for Multidisciplinary Education and Research in Substance use and Addiction](#)

Access the podcast HERE - [AMERSA Podcast Series - AMERSA](#)

Buprenorphine Implementation: Addressing Common Challenges in Hospital and Clinic Settings

This 1-hour advanced-level course is designed for physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, pharmacists, and other clinicians working in primary care, emergency/urgent care, psychiatry, or addiction treatment settings. Using engaging, case-based scenarios, you'll explore real-world challenges in buprenorphine prescribing—from clinical and patient-related issues to legal, regulatory, cost, and organizational barriers. You'll learn practical, evidence-based strategies to address these obstacles and improve outcomes across a range of healthcare environments.

Register HERE [ASAM eLearning: Buprenorphine Implementation: Addressing Common Challenges in Hospital and Clinic Settings](#)

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 has added the [May calendar](#) with new trainings available.

CWRU Opioid Response Network (ORN) Trainings

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.



California Bridge has an online academy with many valuable resources. Their Navigator Training resources are foundational and provide entry level education to explain many different topics.

[Learn more here.](#)

Other Resources



Educational Resources Available from The Center

- [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 Managerment](#)
- [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](#)

[Previous Issues of The Consortium Chronicle Newsletter](#)

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