

# CONSORTIUM CHRONICLE

NEWSLETTER



*Join us!*

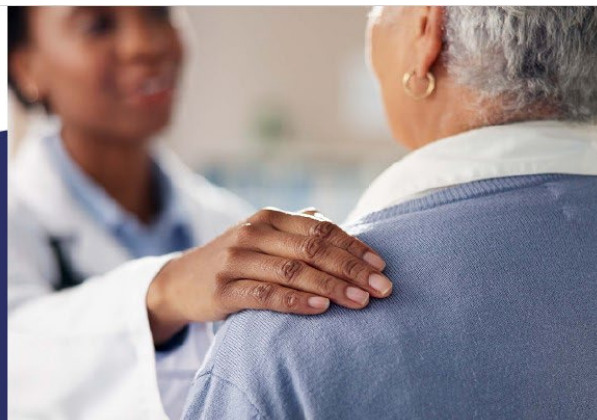
## EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACHES TO MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT (MAT) FOR OPIOID USE DISORDER

Nov 20 | 8:00AM - 12:00PM

6111 Oak Tree Blvd. S, Independence, Ohio 44131

This event is open to physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, pharmacists, and behavioral health providers

This activity has been approved for 3.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™, ANCC Contact Hours, AAPA Category 1 CME Credits, and Continuing Pharmacy Education (CPE) Credits



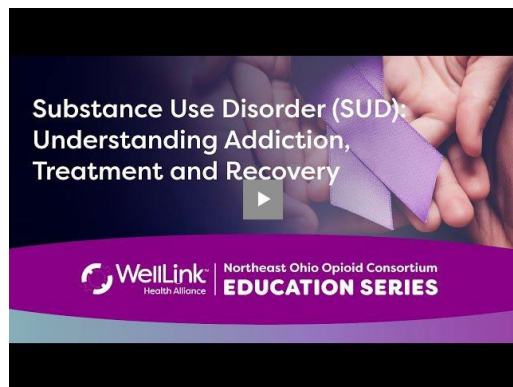
### REGISTRATION

We hope to see you there!  
Space is limited and registration is required.

**SIGN UP NOW**

**Meet your DEA Requirements: Local MAT Training – Nov 20** | Register [here](#).

View shareable flyer with session information and learning objectives [here](#).



### RECORDING AVAILABLE: Northeast Ohio Opioid Consortium Education Series – November 6

The Northeast Ohio Opioid Consortium hosted a webinar on Nov. 6 featuring a US Attorney Action Plan Prevention and Education Subcommittee panel discussion providing a comprehensive overview of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) including treatment and recovery.

### [‘Enemy number one’: Cocaine now deadlier than fentanyl in Cuyahoga County - cleveland.com](#)

For the first time in decades, cocaine is killing more people in Cuyahoga County than opioids, including fentanyl. The news marks a historic shift that Medical Examiner Dr. Thomas Gilson says should spark an urgent change in prevention strategies.

### **Drug overdose deaths down in U.S. and Ohio, new data shows**

Illicit drug overdoses and the deaths they cause are trending down this year, despite spikes in a handful of states, according to a Stateline analysis of data from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Source: “[The ‘hard, slow work’ of reducing overdose deaths is having an effect,](#)” Ohio Capital Journal, Nov. 4).

A more timely indicator of overdoses — nonfatal suspected overdose patients in hospital emergency departments — was down 7% this year through August compared with 2024, according to Stateline’s analysis of [CDC statistics](#).

In Ohio, the monthly rate of nonfatal overdose ED visits dropped from 62.7 in August 2023 to 41.1 in August 2025, the most recent month for which data is available.

As of April, deaths nationally were at 76,500 for the previous 12 months — their lowest level since March 2020. A pandemic spike in overdose deaths drove the number as high as almost 113,000 in the summer of 2023, according to federal statistics.

### **OHA Opioid Overdose Dashboard Updated with Q2 2025 Data**

OHA’s Opioid Overdose Dashboard has been updated with data through the second quarter of 2025. The data is derived from the more than 39 million annual coded hospital encounters in Ohio. The release of per-capita rates by county as well as by market area are intended to assist health policymakers, funders and local collaboratives in their work.

While Q1 2025 had the fewest overdose encounters (1,133) since OHA began tracking the data in 2016, Q2 saw an increase of 262 more overdose encounters. The data does not reflect overdoses that did not present for care at a hospital or

overdoses that occurred among Ohio residents who were cared for at hospitals outside the state.

View the data [here](#). Learn more about OHA's Opioid Stewardship initiative [here](#).

### **OneOhio Announced Launch of 2026 Grant Cycle**

OneOhio Executive Director Alisha Nelson and Director of Partnership and Outreach Sarah Anstine announced that the Foundation will launch its next grant cycle in December 2025. Lessons from the first grant round and feedback provided through region surveys have been used to streamline Regional Grant Cycle 2 processes and help set clear funding priorities to guide applicants.

OneOhio staff has been working with the 19 OneOhio Regions over the past several months to help them prepare for the next grant round, and that work will continue through November as the Regions establish funding priorities ahead of the Request for Proposals (RFP) release in December. The Foundation will then begin accepting Funding Inquiries in January 2026, with submission reviews expected to start in February.

Members of the public should visit [OneOhioFoundation.com/Grants](https://OneOhioFoundation.com/Grants) to learn more.

### **Ohio Department of Behavioral Health Awards \$10 Million to Expand Treatment for Pregnant and Parenting Women with Substance Use Disorders**

In 2023, the Ohio Medicaid Assessment Survey (OMAS) found that nearly 76,000 Ohio women received treatment for alcohol or drug use, yet an estimated 13,700 women who needed care did not receive it. To help close this gap, the Ohio Department of Behavioral Health has awarded more than \$10 million in grants to 45 providers across 31 counties to expand access to treatment and support services for pregnant women and mothers of young children living with substance use disorders. The funding will help an estimated 8,500 Ohio families access evidence-based, family-centered care.

Funded through the Women's Treatment portion of the federal Substance Use Block Grant (SUBG), these awards are designed to reduce barriers to care by supporting programs that integrate services for both mothers and their dependent children. Funded services may include behavioral health and medication-

assisted treatment, OB/GYN and pediatric care, primary care coordination, and therapeutic services for children. These investments promote early engagement, reduce stigma, and improve health outcomes for mothers and babies across Ohio. Click [here](#) to reach the full press release.

## Ohio Recovery Friendly Workplace

Supporting employees in their recovery journey by becoming a recovery-friendly workplace benefits everyone. It not only aids your team but also improves your bottom line, boosts productivity and reduces turnover. To explore becoming an Ohio Recovery Friendly Workplace, review the benefits to your organization, discover practical steps to foster a supportive environment and get a designation through the Ohio Department of Behavioral Health. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

## LOCAL SPOTLIGHT



**Short Scenes**  
PREVENTION PLAY & TALK BACK

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2025  
12:00 PM

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Cleveland Clinic  
LUTHERAN HOSPITAL  
1730 WEST 25<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
CLEVELAND, OH 44113  
• CASTELE AUDITORIUM

Sponsored By:  
**ADAMHS**  
BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY  
ALCOHOL DRUG ADDICTION & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

**Short Scenes**  
Synopsis

- Prescription Drug Slam - Stats about substance use
- Doin' The Line - Role of prescriptions in Opioid Use Disorder
- Social Media Spiral - The impact of social media on mental health
- Casey's Story - A story about addiction and asking for support
- Seduction of Pills - A story about a parent and the role of prescriptions in developing Substance Use Disorder

2nd Act is a collective of artists in recovery which uses theatre, film and drama therapy to address the impact of substance use. Together we empower diverse and inclusive communities to promote understanding in the face of stigma.



*Holiday*  
**PARTY & BRUNCH**  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH  
FROM 11AM - 3PM

Sponsored by: United Healthcare

Every year, Thrive for Change hosts a free holiday meal and party for their community. The purpose of this event is to provide a special space for connection, joy, and celebration. We bring everyone together, whether you utilize Thrive for Change's services, volunteer with them, are one of their valued partner organizations, or would like to check it out for the first time!

[Click Here](#)

## FREE COMMUNITY DINNER at The Recovery Collective

Made possible with help from  Neighborhood Leadership Development Program  
A Connection for Community Change

- **Where:** 6400 Memphis Ave, Cleveland 44144
- **When:** **EVERY SATURDAY AT 6:00pm**
- **What:** Join us for a free meal and socializing
- **Who:** Open to everyone - people in recovery, recovery allies, community members, and children welcome!

## Policy & News Updates

### Government Shutdown Ends

Last week, the President signed into law a continuing resolution (CR) (H.R. 5371), bringing an end to weeks of halted federal operations as a result of the longest government shutdown in history. This is an important *temporary fix* as this measure extends federal funding for most agencies and programs through **Jan. 30, 2026** and full fiscal year (FY) 2026 appropriations bills for Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies; Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies; and Legislative Branch - funding key programs in those bills through September 30, 2026.

In addition, the legislation extends through the end of January healthcare provisions that expired in September, ensuring a continuation of critical programs until the new deadline including:

- Continuing Medicare telehealth flexibilities (originally extended in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023) through January 30, 2026;
- Reauthorizing the Community Health Center Fund, the National Health Service Corps, and the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education program through January 30, 2026;
- Reinstating the federal workforce to levels existing before Oct. 1, 2025;
- Preventing the furlough of federal employees during the duration of the CR; and
- Prohibiting the unregulated sale of intoxicating hemp products like Delta-8, beginning 365 days after enactment.

As part of the deal struck, the Senate pledged to bring to the floor next month a bill to extend the Affordable Care Act (ACA) enhanced subsidies, which expire at the end of the year. The Administration is also considering its own healthcare package so stay tuned for additional policy developments.

### [New Model Predicts Stimulant Overdose Risk](#)

Rebecca Arden Harris, Cheryl Bettigole, Elizabeth Nesoff, Sean Hennessy, and colleagues used Medicaid data to develop a prediction tool to identify individuals at highest risk for stimulant-involved overdose.

### **Study examines increase in states banning prior authorization in private health plans for OUD medications**

A Health Affairs [study](#) published Nov. 3 examined an increase in states banning prior authorizations in private insurance plans for opioid use disorder medications. It found that from 2015 to 2023, such bans increased from two states to 22, with variations in the scope of the provisions. During that period, seven states established laws prohibiting prior authorization entirely for all OUD medications, while the other 15 states adopted legislation that still permitted prior authorization under certain conditions. Of those 15 states, four transitioned from partial to full bans, and the remaining 11 maintained partial bans, with many broadening the scope of their prohibitions. Researchers said that future studies should investigate the effects of prior authorization bans on access to OUD medications, treatment outcomes and patient preference.

## Training Opportunities

### [Hot Topics - On-Demand - AOAAM Learning Portal: Worried About Nights, Weekends, and Wait Times? Try Tablets, Peers & Parking Lots was held on Wednesday](#)

Presenter: Rachel Winograd PhD

This session will explore innovative strategies to improve post-overdose response and linkage to care for individuals with opioid use disorder. Drawing on findings from the recently published "What About Nights, Weekends, and Wait Times?" study, Dr. Rachel Winograd will describe how facilitated, on-demand telemedicine and integration of peer support specialists can reduce delays in initiating buprenorphine treatment. The talk will highlight lessons learned from Missouri's EPICC-Rapid Access model, discuss the persistent challenges of racial

disparities and treatment gaps, and offer practical policy and system-level implications for scaling patient-centered, life-saving interventions



**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.

#### **Recent Episodes:**

- [Overdose Awareness: Preventing, Responding, and Intervening](#)
- [Perinatal Substance Use Care: Listening, Trust, and Treatment](#)
- [Listening First: The Future of Women's Addiction Treatment](#)

**Listen Here** - [ASAM Practice Pearls | ASAM Education](#)

#### **Treatment of Stimulant Use Disorder Course**

**The Treatment of Stimulant Use Disorder Course (StUD)** has been reimaged—condensing *six hours* of trusted ASAM education into *four focused modules*. This streamlined training will help you build the essential skills to *recognize, treat, and manage* stimulant use disorder effectively. **2 CE | Online Course**

***Upon completion, you will be able to:***

**Understand StUD:** Discover how stimulants affect the brain—and what makes this disorder so unique.

**Treat Effectively:** Apply proven behavioral and pharmacological techniques that make a real difference in patient outcomes.

**Reduce Overdose Risk:** Gain practical, research-backed strategies and tools to help patients stay safe and supported at every stage of care.

**Register Here:** - [ASAM eLearning: Treatment of Stimulant Use Disorder](#)

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](#)"

### **[Nov. 12 | Medication Assisted Treatment Part 1: Contextual Foundation in Opiate Addiction and MAT](#)**

Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) has been proven effective in facilitating recovery for individuals with Opioid Use Disorder. Participants will engage in reflective exercises and dialogue designed to explore and uncover personal and professional constructs that influence how they relate to others who experience addiction and co-occurring mental health disorders. Participants will be encouraged to explore their own belief systems surrounding addiction and recovery and increase their understanding of the benefits of medications for opioid use disorder.

### **[Nov. 19 | Medication Assisted Treatment Part 2: Opiates, MAT and the Brain](#)**

Participants will be guided through the process by which substances impact the brain and its ability to function in addition to the chronicity of addiction in severe substance use disorders. Participants will walk away from this training on Nov. 19 with a thorough understanding of the advances in the neurobiology of addiction to clarify the link between addiction and brain function to broaden the understanding of addiction as a brain disease and the behaviors associated with it.

### **[Nov. 25 | Medication Assisted Treatment Part 3: Therapeutic Interventions and MAT](#)**

Research supports the perspective that opioid use disorder is a medical disorder that can be treated effectively with medications when they are administered under conditions consistent with their pharmacological efficacy and when treatment includes necessary supportive services such as psychosocial counseling, treatment for co-occurring disorders, medical services, and vocational rehabilitation. This training on Nov. 25 will describe the screening and assessment procedures for admission in medication assisted treatment (MAT) programs, engagement and retention in services, the phases of treatment within

effective MAT programs as a dynamic continuum of care, and specialized behavioral interventions strategies.

### [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](http://www.OpioidResponseNetwork.org) and learn how you and your organization can make a request for free training and education.

### Other Resources

#### Educational Resources Available 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](#)



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

