WellLink | Northeast Ohio Opioid Consortium

CONSORTIUM CHRONICLE

NEWSLETTER

Reminder: Register for this Thursday's 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.

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.

Speaker Details:

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

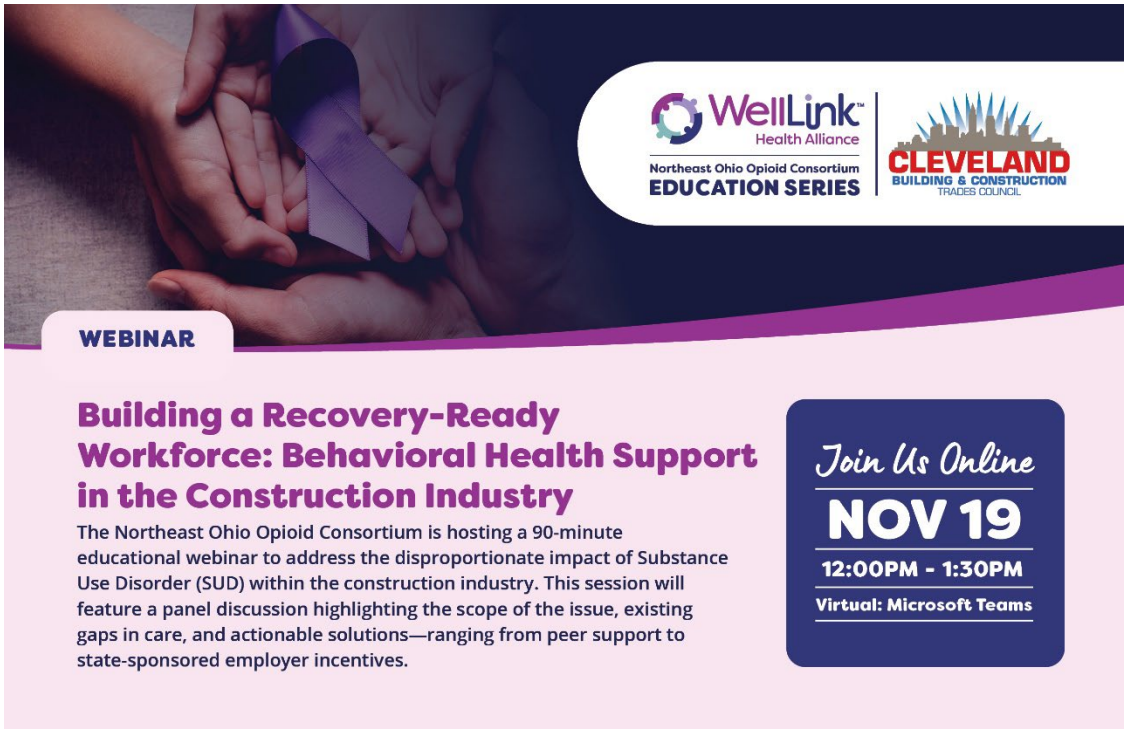
Continuing Education:

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 attend
and complete the session.

Register Here

Plus! Registration is now open for our November webinar. Find more information below and register here.



State / Local Updates

OneOhio Recovery Foundation Awards $3.45 Million to Local Projects

The OneOhio Recovery Foundation recently announced $3.45 million in funding through its Regional Grant Cycle 2 to support 11 local projects in Region 8 (Montgomery County). These awards will fund locally driven, evidence-informed initiatives focused on saving lives, preventing addiction, expanding access to treatment, supporting recovery, and strengthening community resilience for those impacted by substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health conditions.

Projects receiving funding cover a wide range of essential services, including human trafficking survivor support, medication-assisted treatment access in correctional and healthcare settings, youth prevention programs, and recovery

housing expansion. To see the full list of Region 8 awardees and learn more about how these opioid settlement dollars are making a meaningful difference in the community, please visit the OneOhio Recovery Foundation's official announcement.

Upcoming Free Layperson Naloxone Training with CDPH

Join the Cleveland Department of Public Health (CDPH) for a free in-person community training on opioid overdose recognition and response. Supported by the Overdose to Action Local (OD2A LOCAL) grant, these sessions will teach you how to recognize an overdose, administer the reversal medication naloxone, and utilize harm reduction supplies to save lives.

The next training will take place on **Wednesday, September 23, 2026,** from **1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Sessions are held at the CDPH Blanket Mills Health Center, located at 3466 Saint Rocco Court, Cleveland, OH 44109. Secure your spot by completing the **CDPH Naloxone Training Registration Form** online, or call CDPH at 216.664.3891 with any questions.



LOCAL SPOTLIGHT

Support Project White Butterfly at the Annual Butterfly Bash

Mark you calendars for the

4th Annual Butterfly Bash

Project White Butterfly

Saturday, October 3rd 12p-3p

St. Albert the Great Parish Life Center
6667 Wallings Road, North Royalton, OH 44133



JOIN US for an afternoon of FUNdraising that includes:



- **Guest Speakers**
  - Gabriella and Bre Kreuz
- Raffle Baskets, Silent Auction
- 50/50 Raffle - **Cash ONLY!**
- Aladdin's Catering
- Project White Butterfly Card Corner
- Dispelling Stigma Display
- Photo Booth

SCAN TO REGISTER NOW

ADULTS $35
CHILDREN $12

Thanks to our Generous Sponsors!

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Scott Britton

KFR
FRANK
KERN'S
PBHS
HR
ADAMHS
ON Technology Partners
Carnival Recovery Hub
Trade Medics
Suburban Physical Therapy
HOPE

Policy & News Updates



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.

The biggest shift in recent weeks has been from broad federal policy development to state-level implementation and provider readiness. With the elections approaching on November 3 and a compressed congressional calendar, the next several months will be shaped by Medicaid implementation, federal funding decisions, hospital payment policy, behavioral health investments, and the transition into 2027.

Read the full update on our blog below.

Read Blog Here

Celebrate National Recovery Month This September

September marks **National Recovery Month**, an important time to celebrate individuals in recovery from substance use and mental health disorders and to reinforce the message that recovery is possible for everyone.

This month provides a vital opportunity for our community to come together to raise awareness, reduce the stigma surrounding addiction, and highlight the evidence-based treatment and recovery practices that are actively saving lives in our region.

To help community partners promote this observance, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has released its digital toolkit for National Recovery Month, which you can access HERE. The toolkit is designed to make community outreach easy and impactful, providing ready-to-use social media graphics, sample posts, educational materials, and official



hashtags like #RecoveryMonth. We encourage all consortium members to utilize these digital resources across their networks to amplify the message that treatment works, support is readily available, and recovery is a reality.

Expanding Peer Support to Keep Families Together

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has expanded resources to support families dealing with substance use disorders by adding new peer support programs to the Title-IV Prevention Services Clearinghouse. This expansion means states can now receive federal reimbursement for providing evidence-based services to families. The initiative is a key part of efforts to help parents overcome addiction and prevent children from entering the foster care system, which is heavily impacted by parental substance use.

The new additions to the Clearinghouse include "Family-Based Recovery," an intensive in-home clinical treatment that includes weekly peer support for parents of young children, and the "Wellness Recovery Action Plan" (WRAP), a peer-led group program designed to support individuals facing mental health challenges and addiction. By incorporating peer support specialists—individuals with lived experience in recovery—these programs aim to provide parents with the hope, connection, and guidance needed to achieve long-term recovery and maintain stable homes for their children.
Learn more about this initiative HERE.

Post-Overdose Response Teams: A Community-Based Approach to Public Safety

A recent feature in the Grantmakers in Health's 'Views from the Field' feature explores Post-Overdose Response Teams (PORTs) as a community-based approach to public safety. PORTs are collaborative, rapid-response initiatives that engage individuals shortly after a nonfatal overdose to prevent future emergencies. By pairing first responders—such as paramedics—with peer recovery support specialists and social workers, PORT models leverage a critical window of opportunity to provide harm reduction supplies, overdose prevention education, and connections to evidence-based treatments like medication for

opioid use disorder. Studies indicate that when coordinated by county agencies or community organizations, these multidisciplinary teams successfully decrease the risk of subsequent fatal overdoses by establishing trusted, compassionate touchpoints directly in the field.

For these programs to achieve long-term impact, they must operate within a comprehensive recovery ecosystem that addresses social determinants of health, such as housing and economic stability. Intentional collaboration among local healthcare providers, social services, and law enforcement is essential to deliver a seamless continuum of care tailored to an individual's readiness. The article highlights how grantmakers and local coalitions can strengthen these efforts by funding peer specialists, expanding referral networks, and centering individuals with lived experience in program design.

Read the article HERE

Navigating Increased Federal Scrutiny and Compliance in Addiction Treatment

As the federal government continues to put a microscope on behavioral health spending, addiction treatment and substance use disorder (SUD), providers are facing unprecedented pressure to avoid fraud, waste, and abuse. Industry and legal experts note that enforcement of anti-kickback statutes and regulatory crackdowns are currently at a decade-high across both state and federal levels. This heightened scrutiny has put the sector under a strict spotlight, making a robust compliance infrastructure, rigorous clinical programs, and sustainable growth more critical than ever for organizations seeking to secure investments and maintain proper reimbursement.

Despite these growing pains and challenges—including potential Medicaid cuts and negative headlines—the SUD treatment industry remains optimistic about its future. Providers are adapting to the market by shifting away from rapid, high-multiple expansions toward a more grounded approach focused on demonstrating clinical value, cost containment, and strict accountability. Recommendations for providers include modeling best practices such as documenting their compliance and demonstrating appropriate utilization and billing.

Training Opportunities

Webinar: Incorporating SUD Screening and Treatment within Primary Care Organizations

Hosted by the Central East ATTC, the upcoming webinar "Incorporating SUD Screening and Treatment within Primary Care Organizations" will equip multidisciplinary healthcare professionals with essential strategies for integrating substance use disorder (SUD) screening and treatment into primary care settings. The session will cover the SBIRT framework, appropriate screening tools, and available primary care treatment options to help support patients and combat the ongoing public health crisis. Presented by Myra L. Mathis, MD, Medical Director for Strong Recovery at UR Medicine, this session will cover essential strategies for integrating SUD screening and treatment into primary care. Attendees will learn how to explain the SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment) framework, identify appropriate screening tools, and describe the types of treatment that can be offered in primary care settings.

- **Date:** Thursday, September 17, 2026
- **Time:** 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. EDT
- **Registration Link:** Register Here
- **Contact Hours:** Eligible for up to 1.25 contact hours (Certificate of Attendance)

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:

- **Foundations of Trauma Informed Care - Key Concepts and Core Principles**
    - September 21, 2026
- **Kratom in Ohio – What Every Clinician Needs to Know**
    - September 22, 2026

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

WellLink Launches 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 SPEAK 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':

Listen Here

Enhancing Addiction Care through Care Touchpoints
Stephen M. Taylor MD, MPH, DFAPA, DFASAM

Michael Fingerhood, MD, FACP, DFASAM

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 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
- 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

OD2A LOCAL Cuyahoga County

Local Data, Local Partners, Local Solutions

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