

CONSORTIUM CHRONICLE

NEWSLETTER



YOUR OPINION MATTERS – Consortium Chronicle Survey

The Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education at Case Western Reserve University has developed [the survey](#) to examine the contributions of *WellLink Health Alliance Consortium Chronicle Newsletter* and to get your feedback on various aspects of the newsletter. We value your opinion and therefore request you to take this survey. This survey will not take more than 5-10 minutes to complete. Please complete [the survey](#) once started as you will not be able to save the responses and return later.

Register Today! - “The Right Dose” to help prevent accidental drug overdose

9/23/25 | 10:00-3:00 PM



"The Right Dose" is a community-based accidental drug overdose awareness program developed by MACC (Multi-Ethnic Advocates for Cultural Competence), which is headquartered in Columbus, Ohio. This program is specifically focused on the fastest growing segment of our population who is most at risk of accidental drug overdose - Adults over the age of 65. This FREE event will take place on

Register

Tuesday, September 23, at Case Western Reserve University's Tinkham Veale University Center Ballroom from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. It will feature a fireside chat, medical safety workshops, community roundtables, naloxone training, and of course - plenty of food, refreshments and networking opportunities

SAVE THE DATE! Registration coming soon!

Join us on Nov. 6 at 12:00 for a Northeast Ohio Opioid Consortium/US Attorney Action Plan Prevention and Education Subcommittee panel discussion providing a comprehensive overview of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) by exploring three key themes:

- Understanding Addiction: Exploring the risks, behaviors, and impact of trauma associated with SUD
- Navigating Treatment & Recovery: Outlining the continuum of care, from harm reduction and clinical treatment to community-based support essential for long-term recovery.
- Confronting Community Barriers: Discussing the front-line challenges faced by providers and individuals seeking care in Cuyahoga County.

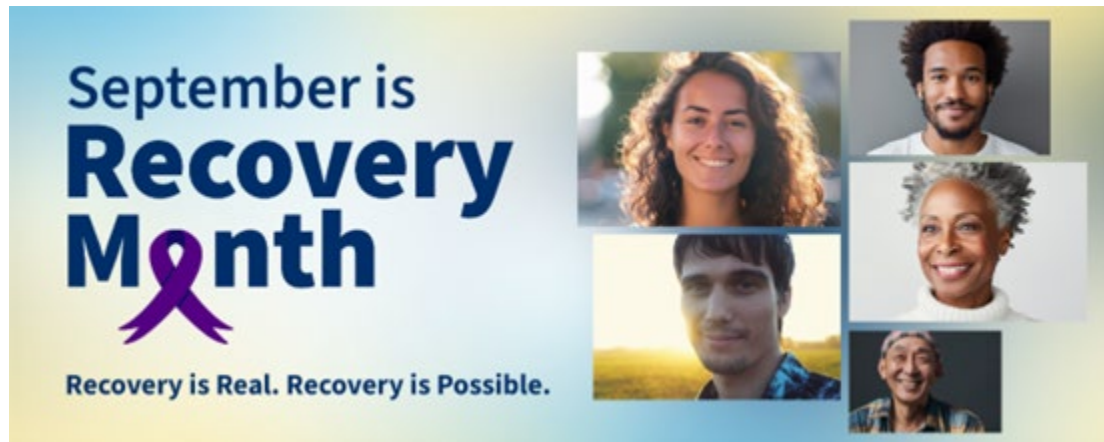
State / Local Updates

RecoveryOhio, OhioMHAS Release Recovery Month Toolkit

September is National Recovery Month, which has promoted recovery and celebrated the resilience of those in recovery since 1989. In support of this mission, OhioMHAS and RecoveryOhio have partnered to provide a free digital toolkit for communities to increase public awareness of recovery, dismantle the stigma around mental health and addiction, and provide resources for those in recovery. The toolkit includes digital resources, social media shareables, and Ohio Governor Mike DeWine's proclamation. Click [here](#) to access Ohio's Recovery Month Toolkit Click [here](#) to access the National 2025 Recovery Month Toolkit released by The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

OneOhio Foundation Honors National Recovery Month

OneOhio Recovery Foundation Executive Director Alisha Nelson authored the following Dayton Daily News op-ed in recognition of National Recovery Month. You can read an excerpt [here](#) and the [full op-ed on the DDN website \(here\)](#).



Gov. DeWine calls for state ban on kratom

Gov. Mike DeWine this week asked the Ohio Board of Pharmacy to designate all natural and synthetic versions of kratom as illegal (Source: "[Ohio kratom ban: Gov. Mike DeWine wants to declare it an illegal drug](#)," Columbus Dispatch, Aug. 26). If approved, Ohio would be the first state in the country to do so. Made from the leaves of a Southeast Asian tree, kratom is pitched as a treatment for chronic pain, opioid dependence, anxiety, depression and other disorders. It's sold online and in stores as powders, gummies and drinks. While it has gained popularity in recent years, kratom can be modified into highly addictive synthetic versions that cause psychosis, seizures, hallucinations and death. Kratom caused more than 200 unintentional overdose deaths in Ohio between 2019 and 2024, according to Ohio Department of Health data.

[Cannabis and Mental Health: Navigating Clinical Realities in Ohio](#)

This [Clinical QuickNote](#) addresses the complexities regarding the use of cannabis. In many states, cannabis has been legalized for medical use, recreational use, or both, as is the case in Ohio. Despite its legal status and potential medical uses, cannabis remains a drug that can lead to addiction in vulnerable individuals. This QuickNote addresses the conundrum that this creates, and discusses the research on both potential medical uses of cannabis and cannabis use disorder to help physicians and other healthcare providers

negotiate these complexities and aid in having direct and evidence-based discussions with those they treat.

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.

Anstine also unveiled a new webpage that will serve as the central hub for Regional Grant Cycle 2. This page provides an overview of the upcoming grant process and resources to help applicants prepare for the RFP launch. Additional updates and materials will be posted as they become available. Members of the public should visit OneOhioFoundation.com/Grants to learn more.

OhioMHAS Unveils New Webpage Featuring Behavioral Health Disaster Preparedness and Response Resources

Just in time for Ohio Preparedness Month, OhioMHAS is pleased to announce the launch of a new Behavioral Health Disaster Preparedness and Response webpage. The page functions as a resource hub where Ohioans and behavioral health system boards and providers can find important information to help prepare and respond to disasters. The mobile-friendly webpage can be easily accessed during and after a disaster or traumatic event.

Behavioral health is an essential component of community resilience in the aftermath of a disaster or traumatic event. It is vital for Ohio's behavioral health care system and emergency response personnel to collaborate and respond to

the immediate and long-term behavioral health care needs of those adversely impacted by such events.

Click [here](#) to view the Disaster Preparedness and Response webpage

Click [here](#) to access the OACBHA one-pager on Disaster Preparedness

LOCAL SPOTLIGHT: Hitchcock Center for Women and Families Announces Expansion

The Hitchcock Center is Cuyahoga County's only residential treatment provider focused on women and their children, up to age 12, who can live with their mothers as the women receive substance use disorder treatment. Now its expanding with a new facility that adds more space for women seeking residential treatment, increasing the capacity from 30 to 42 women at a time. For more info, click [HERE](#).

Policy & News Updates

September is Recovery Month

September is [Recovery Month](#), a time when we celebrate the millions of Americans who are in recovery and remind those struggling with mental health and substance use issues that recovery is REAL (Restoring Every Aspect of Life). Use the [Recovery Month Toolkit](#) to learn more about recovery resources and how to share a message of hope with your audiences. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those in or seeking recovery from mental and substance use disorders.

SUPPORT Act Passes and Heads to President for Signature

The Senate passed the [SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act of 2025](#) on September 18 reauthorizing major legislation to prevent and treat illicit opioid use, after two years of failed attempts to advance it. This bill will reauthorize billions of dollars to fight the opioid crisis. The original version of the SUPPORT Act, enacted in 2018, was one of the most significant domestic policy laws of the President's first term. The bill includes funding for addiction treatment for pregnant women and for training and equipment to help first responders. The law lapsed two years ago, and lawmakers, , have tried to reauthorize it since.

Congress has nonetheless continued to fund the services to prevent and provide treatment and support to people with opioid use disorder.

New Toolkit Advances Care Continuity for Patients with Substance Use Disorders

Transitions between inpatient, primary care and pharmacy settings can make or break recovery pathways for individuals living with opioid or stimulant use disorder. To address these critical touchpoints, the American Hospital Association— supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — has released an evidence-informed toolkit built in collaboration with clinical teams at Oregon Health and Science University Health Care, Trinity Health of New England and University of Kentucky Healthcare. This resource offers practical strategies to improve linkage to and retention in care, tailored to each care setting and grounded in real-world clinical application. [Access the toolkit.](#)

WellLink Health Alliance Supports HANDS Act

As convener of the Northeast Ohio Opioid Consortium, WellLink Health Alliance [expresses strong support](#) for the Hospitals as Naloxone Distribution Sites (HANDS) Act (HR 5120) introduced in Congress on September 3, 2025. This legislation would remove barriers to life-saving treatment by requiring Medicare and Medicaid to cover the cost of naloxone provided by hospitals to patients at risk of overdose prior to discharge.

HHS to Enforce Substance Abuse Confidentiality Policies

HHS Secretary Kennedy has [directed](#) the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) to enforce the “Confidentiality of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Patient Records” policies under 42 CFR Part 2. Compliance with the updated regulations is required by Feb. 16, 2026. This move follows a Feb. 2024 [final rule](#) that aligns Part 2 with HIPAA, enhances privacy protections, and improves care coordination. OCR can now investigate violations, impose civil penalties, and require corrective actions. The rule also mandates breach notifications and allows individuals to file complaints. A fact sheet on the rule can be found [here](#).

[Injectable-Only Overlapping Buprenorphine Starting Protocol in a Low-Threshold Setting](#) JAMA Network Open

Injectable-only buprenorphine protocols represent an exciting new strategy for buprenorphine initiation, particularly in the fentanyl era. In this cohort study, 95 patients with moderate to severe opioid use disorder received care in a low-threshold setting in Seattle. Of patients included in the study, 79% were experiencing homelessness or living in permanent supportive housing. Patients selected a long-acting injectable (LAI) buprenorphine initiation protocol, which included 3 escalating doses of LAI buprenorphine over 3 days, with no sublingual buprenorphine and without cessation of fentanyl/opioid use. Seventy-five percent of the patients completed the protocol, and 64% received a second monthly dose of LAI buprenorphine.

Clinical Practice Guideline: Assessment and Treatment of Adolescents and Young Adults With Substance Use Disorders and Problematic Substance Use (Excluding Tobacco) Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry

This clinical practice guideline highlights 5 empirically supported treatment suggestions for substance use disorder (SUD) and problematic substance use (PSU) in youth. Suggested safe and effective short-term treatments for SUD/PSU in adolescents and young adults include brief (1-2 session) motivational interviewing for alcohol use; non-brief (>2 sessions) motivational interviewing, family therapy, or cognitive behavioral therapy for alcohol use or disorder with or without other drug use; motivational interviewing plus cognitive behavioral therapy for illicit drug disorders; behavioral interventions for college students with problematic alcohol use; and longer-term buprenorphine treatment and slower buprenorphine taper for opioid use disorder. The Strength of Evidence (SOE) was insufficient to support suggestions or recommendations for the pharmacological or behavioral treatment of any other adolescent SUD/PSU. Despite the magnitude of the problem, there is a paucity of safe and effective treatments for adolescents and young adults with SUD/PSU, suggesting the urgent need for additional research.

SAMHSA Strategic Priorities

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration recently released a detailed overview of SAMHSA's strategic priorities. Through these priorities, SAMHSA will lead the Department's efforts in changing the trajectory of increasing serious mental illness, addiction, and loss of life. SAMHSA is committed to execution of these strategic priorities by first and foremost being the HHS agency that is responsive and targeted in responding to Departmental

and Administration priorities. Using this continual lens, SAMHSA will leverage their data, expertise, resources, training, and technical assistance to advance:

- Preventing substance misuse, abuse, and addiction
- Addressing serious mental illness
- Expanding crisis intervention care and services
- Improving access to evidence-based treatment for mental illness, substance use, and co-occurring disorders
- Helping individuals achieve long-term recovery and sobriety
- Identifying and addressing emerging behavioral health threats

Click [here](#) to learn more about the priorities and to download the official PDF document.

Health Affairs’ Releases Special Issue – “Insights About the Opioid Crisis”

Health Affairs released [a thematic issue](#) on the opioid and overdose crisis on September 3, 2025 including timely research on new practices and policy solutions. Their peer reviewed papers and commentaries offer new findings on how payment policy affects access to medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) and residential treatment. They also describe the benefits and challenges of increasing access to MOUD in jails, prisons, and emergency departments. To advance the national dialogue on opioid policy, all of the research articles, data analyses, and commentaries will be freely available to all readers. The issue also includes contributions from people in recovery and with lived experience.

Recording of Health Affairs’ Webinar - [Insights About The Opioid Crisis | Health Affairs](#)

Training Opportunities

Ohio SUD COE Cannabis Use and Cannabis Use Disorder Trainings

Clinical Approaches to Cannabis Use Disorder

As states continue to legalize recreational cannabis use, it is becoming increasingly accessible, and use is more commonplace. For mental health clinicians, it is essential to assess patients’ cannabis use and offer treatment for

individuals with risky or unhealthy cannabis use. This session will provide an overview of evidence based treatments with a focus on learning applied techniques to help patients reduce or stop cannabis use. This topic will be offered virtually on 9/16, 9/17 and 9/24. [Register now!](#)

Cannabis and Mental Health

The United States is undergoing rapid legislative change affecting the accessibility of cannabis products. Since cannabis use is associated with the onset and progression of certain mental health conditions, it is imperative for clinicians to remain educated about potential risks while identifying hazardous use patterns. This presentation will provide a comprehensive review of cannabis to discuss its evolving pharmacology and mental health impact to promote thoughtful and informed discussions with patients. We are offering this session on 9/22, 9/26, and 9/29 via Zoom. Space is limited, so [sign up now!](#)

Ohio Alliance for Population Health Hosts Safety in the Field Training

Manufacturing Technology Center

2415 Woodland Avenue, Room 262 Cleveland, Ohio, 44115

September 26, 2025 12:00pm – 4:15pm

Speaker: Kerri A. Shaw, MSW, LISW-S, C-CHW Program

This course was developed to provide relevant tools, resources, and knowledge to maintain personal and professional health, safety, and integrity while faced with professional demands, challenging workplace climates, and exposure to trauma. Content is applicable to healthcare fields including but not limited to community health workers, nurses, counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists. This interactive training equips participants with concrete assessment and goal-setting tools and self-care techniques that can be used in the field

Register Now! Use the QR Code below or click here [HERE](#)





Join us!

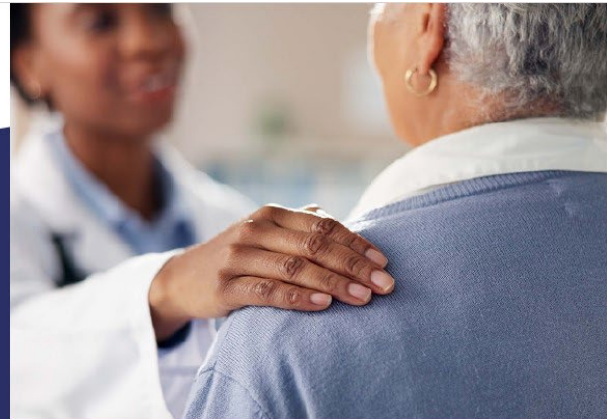
**EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACHES TO
MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT (MAT)
FOR OPIOID USE DISORDER**

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](#).

Ohio Prevention Free Webinar on Trauma-Informed Care

The 2025 Ohio Prevention Conference kicks off this fall with three unique opportunities to engage, learn, and connect. The first is a virtual pre-conference that is free to attend.

October 9th Virtual Pre-Conference

Theme: Integrating Trauma-Informed Care into Prevention

Time: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

This virtual session will explore how trauma-informed care can strengthen and support prevention efforts across communities.

[Click here to learn more and register](#)



Welcome to the **Season 1 finale** of **ASAM Practice Pearls!**
Overdose Awareness: Preventing, Responding, and Intervening

In recognition of Overdose Awareness Day

Episode Overview: In this episode, Drs. Stephen Taylor and Alexander Walley discuss the increase of fentanyl and other contaminants in the drug supply, the impact of racial and geographic disparities, and the importance of community-specific responses. They highlight the value of compassionate overdose care, data-driven interventions, and strategies to help individuals post-overdose. Together, they discuss the need to lower barriers to treatment and foster future leaders in addiction medicine. [LISTEN HERE](#).

Introduction to Opioid-Induced Constipation (OIC)

This educational activity is designed for any clinician interested in OIC, including primary care physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, emergency room physicians, and pediatricians. The course will be available from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025.

After participating, participants should be better able to:

- Understand the pathophysiology of OIC.
- Recognize the clinical presentation of OIC.
- Review diagnostic criteria and tools for a diagnosis.
- Discuss pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic interventions for OIC.

AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. This credit is accepted by the AAPA for Physician Assistants and by the AANPCB and ANCC for Nurse Practitioners and Nurses. This activity is supported by an educational grant from Salix Pharmaceuticals.

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](#)"

CWRU Opioid Response Network (ORN) Trainings

[Opioid Response Network \(ORN\) Trainings | Center for Evidence-Based Practices | Case Western Reserve University](#)

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.



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 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](#)

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