

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.



WellLink Launches Compassion in Action to Honor Northeast Ohio's Heroes of Health and Well-Being

The Compassion in Action Awards will spotlight individuals across a wide range of healthcare positions in four categories:

- Guardian of Service Award – For steadfast dedication to service and community.
- Heart of Healthcare Award – For exemplifying empathy, kindness, and compassion.
- Inclusive Impact Award – For advancing equity, inclusion, and belonging in healthcare.
- Rising Star Award – For early-career professionals who show exceptional promise and impact.

[Nominate Here](#)

Each honoree will embody the values that align with WellLink's purpose: to promote health and well-being through collaboration, advocacy, and education. For more info, click [HERE](#).

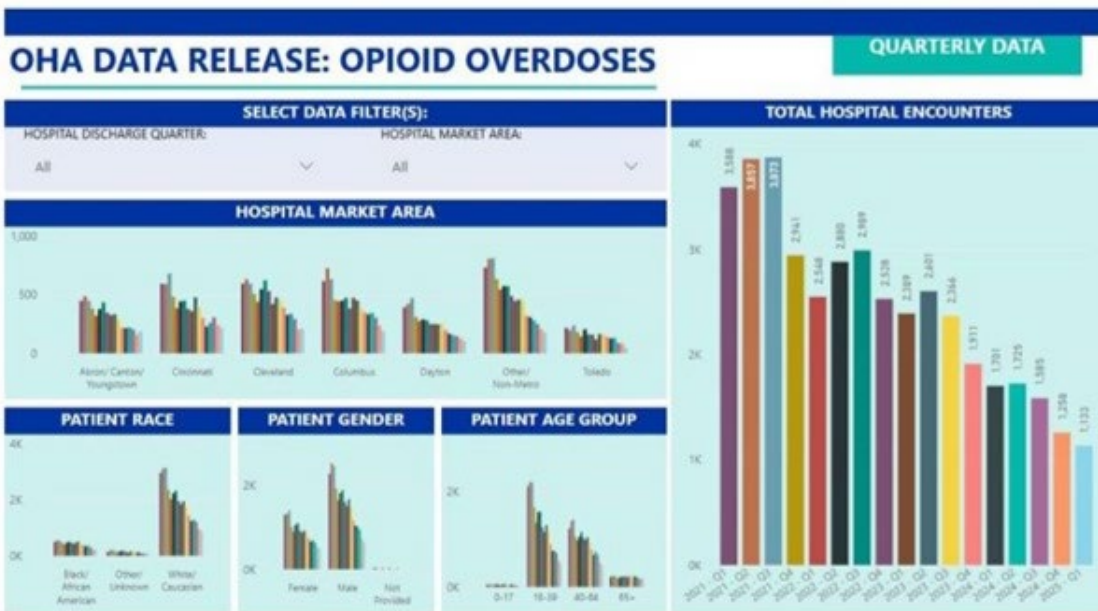
State / Local Updates

Cuyahoga County Receives State Funding to Prioritize Mental Health and Substance Abuse Disorders in Corrections Center: *County is currently Seeking Proposals for Corrections Center Peer Navigator Services*

Cuyahoga County has been awarded funding by the Ohio Attorney General's Office to help residents of the Corrections Center who suffer from mental health and substance abuse disorders. An allocation from the Opioid Remediation Grant will be used to develop and implement a Peer Navigator and Support program to provide both in-custody and post release services to residents of the Corrections Center. To initiate this process, the County has released a Request for Proposals (RFP), asking local partners and service agencies to submit ideas to offer strategic support and connection to resources.

Mental health issues and substance abuse disorders have a significant impact on the Cuyahoga County Corrections Center, affecting both residents and daily operations. Data shows that these challenges impact about 70% of the center's daily population, leading to various health and safety challenges for residents and staff. By providing access to peer navigator support, the Corrections Center will be able to offer critical guidance, reduce crises, and create a safer, more stable environment for those who reside, visit, or work within the facility.

The selected service provider will engage three full-time peer navigators/supporters to work with the Cuyahoga County Corrections Center's eligible residents. Peer navigators will initiate engagement while their clients are in-custody and continue the support post-release for a limited time. The program will operate in partnership with the Corrections Center's medical provider, MetroHealth. Proposals were due on August 8, 2025. To view a copy of the full RFP, visit [here](#).



Q1 2025 data from OHA's Opioid Overdose Dashboard shows the lowest number of hospital overdose encounters since tracking began in 2016.

🔗 Explore the updated dashboard: <https://bit.ly/4lYdIXx>

🔗 Learn more about OHA's Opioid Stewardship initiative: <https://bit.ly/40N4TBU>

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 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.

Multiethnic Advocates for Cultural Competence, Inc. (MACC) presents

The Right Dose!

SENIOR OVERDOSE
PREVENTION SUMMIT



Tuesday, September 23, 2025
10am - 3pm



INTERACTIVE
ACTIVATIONS



MED SAFETY
WORKSHOPS



NALOXONE
TRAINING

Fireside Chat & Community Roundtable

REGISTER TODAY! <https://bit.ly/CLETheRightDose>

WORKSHOPS | REFRESHMENTS | NETWORKING

SCAN ME
TO REGISTER



**Case Western Reserve University
Tinkham Veale University Center Ballroom**
11038 Bellflower Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44106



MULTIETHNIC ADVOCATES FOR
CULTURAL COMPETENCE, INC.



CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY
Weatherhead School
of Management

LOCAL SPOTLIGHT: International Overdose Awareness Day

On International Overdose Awareness Day on August 31, we come together as one big family to take action on overdose. The overdose crisis doesn't just shatter our families, it fractures our communities. Every story shared, every voice raised and every step we take brings us closer to a future free from overdose.

Join our family this IOAD. #OneBigFamily #DrivenByHope #IOAD2025
#EndOverdose Project White Butterfly is hosting community events to honor
International Overdose Awareness day. For more information and a social media
toolkit, see [Campaign resources - International Overdose Awareness Day](#).

Overdose Awareness Day

Honoring Healing Connecting

Public Square Cleveland Ohio

12-3 Saturday August 30 2025



**Submit a memorial photo to
help@themilesgroupneo.org**

**Event Continues with Project White Butterfly
4-8 @ Christ Church 6400 Memphis Old
Brooklyn Ohio**



International Overdose
Awareness Day



Project
White Butterfly

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necessarily represent the official views of SAMHSA**

Observance of International Overdose Awareness Day

Join us for a special Community Night at The Recovery Collective to memorialize and honor our loved ones lost to overdose.

- **When:** Saturday August 30th, 6pm-8pm
- **Where:** 6400 Memphis Ave, Cleveland 44144 (Christ Church Old Brooklyn)
- **What:** Join us for a free dinner, safe space to share stories and memorialize our loved ones, a guest speaker, and a candlelit sound bath



Brought to you by:



Policy & News Updates

Opioid Overdose Data Collection Enhancement Act Passes Out of Committee

The Opioid Overdose Data Collection Enhancement Act (S 1098) passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on July 28, 2025 and awaits full consideration by the US Senate. This bill expands the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Grant Program to include an overdose data collection program. Under the program, a state, local government, coalition of law enforcement agencies, or Indian tribe develops and implements a data collection tool, including mobile data mapping applications, with which it can easily and quickly track the locations of suspected fatal and

nonfatal overdoses and the administration of opioid overdose reversal medication by first responders.

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.

SAMHSA Releases Annual National Survey on Drug Use and Health

On July 28, 2025, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released the results of the [2024 National Survey on Drug Use and Health \(NSDUH\)](#), which shows how people living in the United States reported their experiences with mental health conditions, substance use and pursuit of treatment. This year marks the first year since 2020 in which there are at least four years of comparable data for key NSDUH outcomes to enable reporting of trends. Click [HERE](#) for the release.

HR 2351 Passes in the House; Awaiting Senate Activity to Require Coast Guard to Provide Access to Naloxone

This bill requires the Coast Guard to provide access to naloxone (a medication to reverse opioid overdoses) at its facilities, track distribution of the medication, and monitor the illegal use of controlled substances. The bill directs the Coast Guard to update its policy regarding the use of medication to treat drug overdoses to require naloxone or a similar medication to be made available to members on all Coast Guard installations and in each operational environment.

Further, the Coast Guard must participate in the Department of Defense (DOD) tracking system for naloxone distribution and the illegal use of fentanyl and other controlled substances. (The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 directed DOD to establish the tracking system.) The bill requires the Coast Guard to finalize a memorandum of understanding with DOD to facilitate Coast Guard access to the tracking system.

The bill also specifies that laws that prohibit manufacturing or distributing controlled substances on vessels apply when controlled substances are intentionally or knowingly placed or caused to be placed on board a vessel (e.g., without the crew's knowledge or on board an unmanned vessel).

Further, the bill requires the Coast Guard to brief Congress within two years after the bill's enactment about the use of opioids and overdose medication at Coast Guard facilities by members and personnel. The briefing must describe the Coast Guard's progress in implementing its updated policy, the prevalence and incidence of the illegal use of controlled substances, and its processes to mitigate substance abuse.

Explore NASHP's Revamped Opioids and Substance Use Disorder Resource Hub

State strategies to address the opioid and substance use crises extend beyond traditional health systems, requiring cross-agency partnerships and the coordination of evidence-based investments to improve the health of people across all communities. NASHP elevates and facilitates the exchange of best practices across states to reduce overdoses, connect people with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) or Substance Use Disorders (SUD) to care, and integrate services and supports across systems. See the NASHP Hub [HERE](#) (Funded by Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts (FORE)).

Hepatitis C Pilot Launched

SAMHSA has launched a [\\$100 million Hepatitis C pilot funding](#) up to 40 projects to prevent, test, and treat the disease in people with substance use disorders or severe mental illness, with emphasis on communities affected by homelessness. The initiative comes amid broader public health funding reductions.

AHA: 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 CDC-has released an evidence-informed toolkit built in collaboration with clinical teams at OHSU Health Care, Trinity Health of New England and the University of Kentucky.

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. With overdose still the leading cause of death for U.S. adults 18–44, this toolkit arrives at a pivotal moment for health systems striving to close gaps and enhance outcomes. Access the toolkit and start strengthening your care transitions: <https://www.aha.org/oud-stud>

Co-involvement of stimulants with opioids in North America: A 'silent epidemic' *PLOS Mental Health*

The opioid epidemic unfolded in 3 distinct waves, with the latest being deaths attributed to illegally manufactured synthetic opioids. Using US and Canadian data, researchers reviewed evidence for a 'silent epidemic,' alongside the opioid epidemic, that is characterized by the co-ingestion of stimulants including methamphetamine and cocaine leading to an increasing number of deaths. Trends for stimulant and opioid use were analyzed using Joinpoint regression, and public interest in the substances was assessed via Google Trends. While stimulant use and its role in deaths are rising, public interest in stimulants has declined since its peak in 2004-05. Co-use of opioids and stimulants leads to more deaths than use of either drug alone. Urgent strategies are needed to reduce harm and raise awareness among health professionals, policymakers, and the public about the dangers of stimulant-opioid co-use.

FORE Awards \$1.1 Million to Expand Access to Treatment and Recovery Supports for People with Opioid Use Disorder

On July 30, 2025, FORE announced four awards, totaling \$1.1 million, to organizations working to expand access to prevention, treatment, and recovery services for people affected by the opioid and overdose crisis. The new funding supports initiatives focused on Medicaid policy, healthcare delivery innovation, and community-based solutions to improve outcomes for those most impacted by this public health emergency. Recipients included: Georgia Southern University, Thomas Jefferson University, Legal Action Center, and the Healthy Schools Campaign. See [HERE](#) for the full press release.

Training Opportunities



CHIME
OPIOID ACTION CENTER
United in the fight against the opioid crisis

LIVE WEBINAR:
ENHANCING CLINICAL INFORMATICS TO SUPPORT OPIOID MANAGEMENT: INSIGHTS FROM THE CHIME OPIOID STEWARDSHIP PLAYBOOK 2.0
SEPTEMBER 3, 2025 | 1:00 PM ET



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Chief Medical Officer and SVP
Customer Strategy, Healthcare
Imprivata
Attending Physician, Beth Israel
Lahey Health, Assistant Professor
of Emergency Medicine, part-time,
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UCSD Medication Process Team
Director, PGY2 Pharmacy Informatics
Residency
UC San Diego Health



SPEAKER
JOHN LEE, MD
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The MetroHealth System,
Emergency Medicine Physician
Edward-Elmhurst Health



SPEAKER
GREGORY R. POLSTON, MD
Clinical Informaticist, Associate Medical
Director, Center for Pain Medicine
UC San Diego Health
Second Chief of the pain service
VA Medical Center La Jolla

[Register here](#)

[ASAM Fundamentals of Addiction Medicine Online](#)

This course provides an overview of the basics of addiction medicine needed to screen, diagnose, treat, and/or refer patients with addiction.

[The ASAM Pain & Addiction: Essentials Online](#)

This series consists of 6 modules that cover the foundations of pain and addiction including the science, stigma, screening and assessment, treatment, and interdisciplinary approaches.

[Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder](#)

The course covers the essential information for providers to identify, assess, diagnose, and manage patients with opioid use disorder (OUD) and provides the latest information on medications and treatments for OUD.

[Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder for Pregnant Patients](#)

This 8-hour, online course provides the education that is essential for providers to identify, assess, diagnose, and manage pregnant and postpartum patients with opioid use disorder (OUD).



Perinatal Substance Use Care: *Listening, Trust, and Treatment* (ASAM Practice Pearl)

In this episode, **Dr. Stephen Taylor** and **Dr. Cara Poland** explore the unique challenges of perinatal substance use care. They discuss the impact of stigma, the importance of compassionate care, and the use of medications for addiction treatment in pregnancy. Additionally, they address polysubstance use, physiological changes during pregnancy, and the critical postpartum period, sharing insights from their clinical experience and emphasizing a patient-centered, non-judgmental approach to improve treatment outcomes for mothers. Listen [HERE](#).

Understanding Pain Management and Opioids (OnDemand Education)

This four-part microlearning video series equips healthcare professionals with essential skills to enhance their approach to pain management. Learners will gain insights into pain types, discover patient education techniques, develop effective communication strategies, and learn principles for creating patient-centered treatment plans. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

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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