

**Medina County Opiate Task Force**  
**February 28, 2020**

**Welcome:** Mr. Phillip Titterington welcomed all gathered and introductions were completed.

**Community Updates:**

**Women's Recovery House Project:**

Mr. Titterington provided an overview of the Women's Recovery House Project. This is a capital project supported by the ADAMH Board. The house is a six-bedroom house that will be able to accommodate up to 12 women with Ohio Guidestone providing a day treatment program and peer support on site for women in recovery. The building construction is expected to be completed very soon. At present, the ADAMH Board is working on the details of service agreements and by-laws. The goal is to eventually house women in recovery with their children. This includes collaborating with JFS for services. The house is scheduled for a tentative ribbon cutting ceremony and open house on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Titterington asked members to save the date! The recovery house is located in a campus-like setting, near the Human Services building that houses OhioGuidestone and Alternative Paths, and close to Medina County Job & Family Services, Medina Metropolitan Housing Authority, Veteran's Affairs, and Hope Recovery Community. It is located next to The Society's (SHC/The Arc) managed apartments and ADAMH Board housing; Northland I and Northland II. The ADAMH Board is also working on building a trauma-informed center for families and children to expand the campus.

**Opiate Response Team:**

Mr. Titterington also provided an update on the Medina County Opiate Response Team (MCORT). Since its inception in November of 2017, 504 referrals were made to the MCORT and 426 face-to-face contacts occurred. Fifty percent of those (214), showed for an initial assessment. Of those, 49%, (208) were still engaged in services after 30 days. In December of 2019, 77 contacts were made with 44 contacts in January and February of 2020. Ms. Paris, the ORT clinician, receives referrals for the program from the community as well as from the Sheriff's Department. The MCORT has become an important part of the continuum of care for Medina County. The services provided at the jail have recently been recognized at both the state and national levels. The program has demonstrated flexibility by working with opiates and other drugs. Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) choices for treatment tend to be cyclical and they are currently exploring additional treatments.

Ms. Paris took a moment to share she is working with four officers at the Sheriff's Department. She then introduced Brian, who is the lead officer. She indicated her goal is to maximize resources as well as fill gaps and link people with services.

**Cathy's House:**

Mr. Jon Robinson is Cathy's House new Executive Director. He, along with the Cathy's House Board members have pursued and received certification through Ohio Recovery Housing (ORH), and have also revamped their policies and procedures as they proceed towards a capital improvement project. The decision to pursue certification through Ohio Recovery Housing was to ensure they were offering appropriate and goal driven measures in order to empower and equip residents with skills to reenter the

community. They have focused on best practices, ensuring oversight, and developing fair treatment and rules for residents.

Since opening in 1998, over 700 residents have lived at Cathy's House. The capital improvement project, funded by the ADAMH Board, has increased room sizes and occupancy. Capacity has increased to allow 12 male residents and eight female residents, which is an increase of four beds. They were also able to free up funds for a female resident manager.

Ohio Recovery Housing (ORH) Certification is a big feat, and there is now a stronger focus on developing the organization and programming. The new resident manager is a graduate of Cathy's House. Mr. Robinson and the Board are committed to being transparent and following best practices. Mr. Robinson introduced new Board president Mr. Kevin Gardener. This is an exciting time for Cathy's House!

Mr. Titterington shared the new Women's Recovery House will also seek certification through ORH.

#### **Opiate Task Force Survey Results:**

Ms. Christy Rickbrodt shared the results of the survey that went out to OTF members in November. The survey included 37 responses that represented a diverse group within the community.

Most respondents reported meetings were relevant to their work in the community and the coalition is making a difference. They report attending when their schedule permits. However, they shared that meetings were held infrequently, on an inconsistent basis, and many were unaware of location, time, and/or date. To remedy this, the OTF meetings will be held quarterly, at the Health Department. Meetings have been scheduled for the remainder of 2020, and the dates are as follows: May 29, August 28, and November 20 at 9 a.m. An email reminder will continue. Most of those involved with the task force have become so due to a direct invitation. Therefore, we plan to share meeting information with the community through additional sources such as emails, websites, and social media to increase awareness.

The survey identified gaps in membership including the courts, hospitals and health care, the faith-based community, schools, and people in recovery. Task force leadership has started to work on this area through outreach to the court and faith-based entities, and will continue to reach out to the areas identified above. The goal is for an inclusive coalition that is an accurate representation of the entire community.

Respondents indicated that information and resource sharing are the most important items covered at meetings, followed by planning and coordination. Members would like to have educational offerings at the meetings as well as time to network. This includes an opportunity to learn about other evidenced-based programs that are in the county, or something that may be able to be developed. Lastly, they would like success stories shared at meetings. OTF meetings already offer many of the elements mentioned above. Leadership is exploring what types of educational opportunities members would like incorporated into meetings, and additional time will be left at the end of meetings for those who wish to network.

Seventy-five percent of respondents would like the Opiate Task Force to include tobacco and other substances, and vaping in particular was identified as an area of focus. Feedback also stressed the importance of moving forward with the task force developing a strategic plan to ensure sustainability into the future. They would like a clear mission, vision, and goals to be established.

Our next step in planning is completing a SOAR Analysis.

**Opiate Task Force SOAR Analysis:**

Ms. Krista Wasowski shared that the SOAR Analysis is a strategic planning framework and approach that focuses on strengths, opportunities, aspirations, and results. This analysis will help the task force identify what we doing well, what can be improved, and what is most important for our stakeholders and community.

**STRENGTHS:**

- Diverse representation
- Cross pollination/collaboration
  - To develop additional programming in the community
- Increase in public awareness and community
- Levy support
- Identify community needs
- Networking within region
- Treatment resources
- Regional collaborative
- Elevation of excellence
- Supportive network for those in recovery/Peer support programming
- Family involvement
- Decrease in stigma
- MAT

**Opportunities:**

- Employers
- Faith based community
- Education/ Prevention focused on youth
- Name focus expanded to encompass
- Increase awareness about Substance Use Disorder
  - Improbable players
- Evidenced based best practice
- Access to treatment
- What is the root cause?
- Media as a vehicle/ resource
- Vocational Training- Economic Development Corp
- Connect providers with employers (KB & ED)
- Ohio Means Job – Recovery friendly workplace
- Geographically expand services
- Grandparent/kinship care
- Veteran’s Court

**Aspirations:**

- Name
- Logo
- MC Recovery Task Force

## Subcommittees

### Employment

Invite reps from other coalitions to report out

### Data

Increase recovery housing

Recovery center in each community

Increase support and resources to families

## Results:

Resources to kin families

Marketing

“Street Card” – other counties

Increase education and awareness

Grandparent peers JFS

Veteran treatment court

**We are asking all of you to review the SOAR Analysis and share your ideas for Results.**

## 2020 Cares Award:

Ms. Tiffany Shelton shared that the ADAMH Board is asking for interested Opiate Task Force members and other individuals to complete a nomination form for the 2020 Cares Award. This award is given annually to first responders and frontline workers who go above and beyond in helping individuals, families, and their communities deal with the adverse effects of Ohio’s opiate epidemic. The forms are due Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> to Courtney Ebersole at [cebersole@oacbha.org](mailto:cebersole@oacbha.org).

Ms. Shelton also shared the news that Mr. Titterington is slated to receive the Catholic Charities’ 2020 Faithful Servant Award on April 24<sup>th</sup>. She stated that Mr. Titterington has strived to be a good collaborator in the community, and that this is shown through the many initiatives that are being in put in place to help Medina County residents.

## Good of the Order:

- New program for veterans through municipal court.
- LCADA Way is opening a program for expectant mothers.
- Holly Phillips shared the decrease in overdose deaths has increased the lifespan for Americans.
- Cindy McQuown shared information on the upcoming Sister-to-Sister program.
- Rep Steve Hambley encouraged all those attending to vote in the upcoming primary election.
- Commissioner Hutson shared the county is anticipating funds from the Ohio Opioid Settlement. The amount is unknown at this time.