

# Consortium Chronicle NEWSLETTER



## Opioid Consortium Education Series **Effective Communication and Engagement with Individuals Facing Substance Use Disorders**

On November 21, the Northeast Ohio Opioid Consortium hosted an educational series webinar entitled: “Effective Communication and Engagement with Individuals Facing Substance Use Disorders”. Substance use disorders (SUDs) present complex challenges, not only for individuals but also for those who work with and support them. This webinar offered valuable insights into best practices for communicating with and engaging individuals struggling with SUDs.

A recording of the webinar is available [HERE](#).

Proceedings from the September 20, 2024 Opioid In-Person Roundtable event are available [HERE](#).



## **YOUR OPINION MATTERS – Consortium Chronicle Survey**

The Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education at CWRU has developed [the survey](#) to examine the contributions of *The Center for Health Affairs Consortium Chronicle Newsletter* and to get your feedback on various aspects of the newsletter. We value your opinion and would like to improve this communication to meet your interests. 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.

## **State / Local Updates**

### **ADAMHS Levies Successful**

Voters in communities throughout Ohio showed their support for mental health and addiction services. Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Boards had twelve levies on the ballot, and all passed. Congratulations to the Boards on their success!

### **Governor DeWine: Ohio's Overdose Deaths Drop for Second Consecutive Year, Outperforming National Average**

On October 30, Governor Mike DeWine announced newly verified data demonstrating that the number of overdose deaths in Ohio have dropped substantially for a second consecutive calendar year. The Ohio Department of Health (ODH)'s 2023 Ohio Unintentional Drug Overdose Report, released on October 30, revealed a 9% decline in verified overdose deaths across the state. In 2023, Ohio recorded 4,452 unintentional drug overdose deaths, down from 4,915 in 2022. Read more [HERE](#).

### **Governor DeWine Announces \$100 Million in Federal Funding to Fight Opioid Use, Prevent Overdose Deaths in Ohio**

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) Director LeeAnne Cornyn [announced](#) earlier this month the award of \$100 million in federal grant funding that will be used in communities across the state to advance ongoing efforts to fight opioid use disorder and prevent overdose deaths.

This marks the fourth round of State Opioid and Stimulant Response (SOS) grant funds awarded throughout Ohio. These SOS 4.0 grants were received by OhioMHAS through the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to support local organizations that offer prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and long-term recovery services for Ohioans struggling with an opioid or stimulant use disorder.

### **List of Grant Awardees - ADAMHS Boards and Community Providers**

More than \$68.7 million is being awarded to Ohio's county Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) boards and community-based providers. OhioMHAS will also use a portion of the funding to partner with state agencies to ensure life-saving [naloxone](#) and other community resources are available throughout the state.

OhioMHAS coordinated with statewide partners, state-level agencies, and Governor DeWine's [RecoveryOhio initiative](#) to identify Ohio's goals for SOS 4.0 funding. Key priorities include:

- Reducing unintentional overdose deaths
- Increasing access to substance use disorder treatment
- Preventing youth substance use
- Increasing recovery support services
- Supporting responsible prescribing practices and statewide education efforts
- Promoting integrated harm reduction practices

Click [HERE](#) to read more about Ohio's SOS grant activities. For questions about SOS 4.0, please email [SOS4@mha.ohio.gov](mailto:SOS4@mha.ohio.gov).

### **Governor DeWine Announces Work Group Recommendations to Help More Ohioans Access Mental Health Treatment**

Governor DeWine and Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) Director LeeAnne Cornyn released the final recommendations of the Governor's Work Group on Competency Restoration and Diversion on November 21. The recommendations aim to free up more beds in the state's psychiatric hospitals, while also expanding local options for mental health treatment and support across Ohio. For more information, see the state release [HERE](#).

### **OneOhio Recovery Foundation Announces 36 New Grant Awards Totaling \$7.7 Million to Support Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Efforts Across Ohio**

The OneOhio Recovery Foundation announced it has awarded more than \$7.7 million in grants to support 36 projects across the state to help combat substance misuse by supporting prevention, treatment and recovery efforts across Ohio. The below list includes funding received by Region 3.

|  |   |              |           |
|--|---|--------------|-----------|
| <a href="#">Academy Of Medicine Education Foundation</a>                                     | Training Primary Care, Emergency, and Resident Physicians to Provide Office-Based Opioid Treatment      | \$8,900.00   | 12 months |
| <a href="#">Circle Health Services dba The Centers</a>                                       | Pathway to Recovery Program   | \$253,590.00 | 12 months |
| <a href="#">Hispanic Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program</a>           | 15-Passenger Van Acquisition  | \$60,000.00  | 12 months |
| <a href="#">Legal Aid Society of Cleveland</a>   | Improving Access to Justice for Individuals with OUD in Recovery through Legal Aid                      | \$130,000    | 12 Months |
| <a href="#">Lesbian Gay Bisexual &amp; Transgender Community Center of Greater Cleveland</a> | Expansion of SMART Recovery Evidence-Based Addiction Programming for Cuyahoga County's LGBTQ+ Community | \$123,185.64 | 24 Months |
| <a href="#">Mental Health Services for Homeless Persons dba FrontLine Service</a>            | Trauma Therapy Services for Children and Families Impacted by Opioid Addiction                          | \$293,422    | 24 Months |

## Policy & News Updates

### **CMS Releases CY 2025 Medicare Outpatient and Physician Fee Schedule With Opioid Treatment Provisions**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued its final payment rules for the calendar year (CY) 2025 Medicare Outpatient Prospective Payment System and Physician Fee Schedule on November 1.

**Access to Non-Opioid Treatments for Pain Relief:** CMS finalizes its proposal to provide temporary additional payments for certain non-opioid treatments furnished in hospital outpatient departments or ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs), consistent with the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA), 2023. As required by law, the additional payments would be available from Jan. 1, 2025 through Dec. 31, 2027.

### **Opioid Treatment Programs: CY 2025 Updates**

**CMS updated Opioid Treatment Program information for CY 2025, including: [What's new](#), [Payment rates](#), [Locality rates](#)**

### **Buprenorphine/Naloxone vs Methadone for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder**

*JAMA*

This population-based retrospective cohort study assessed whether the use of buprenorphine/naloxone is associated with lower risk of treatment discontinuation and mortality compared with methadone. It included 30,891 individuals initiating treatment for the first time during the study period and found that the risk of treatment discontinuation was higher among recipients of buprenorphine/naloxone compared with methadone (88.8% vs 81.5% within 24 months), and the risk of mortality was low while in either form of treatment (0.08% vs 0.13%).

### **State-Level Strategies for Supporting Community-Level Harm Reduction (NASHP)**

Harm reduction strategies — or interventions intended to prevent overdoses and reduce negative outcomes related to drug use — are backed by research and have been operational in the U.S. for decades.

However, access to legally sanctioned and publicly funded harm reduction services has varied in practice. NASHP spoke to state officials and partners in Georgia, Maryland, Utah, and Vermont to understand how they are crafting harm reduction approaches to meet their state's unique needs.

Read key takeaways in the [full case studies](#) on [state-level strategies](#) for supporting community-level harm reduction across diverse states.

### **Responding to the Evolving Substance Use Crisis: Key Takeaways from NASHP's Annual Conference**

NASHP's Annual Conference session "Recovery in Action: Addressing the Changing Landscape of Substance Use" examined how leaders in the substance use space are adapting services in the face of rapid change. Despite increased attention and investments related to the opioid crisis — and evidence of recent declines nationally — overdose deaths remain a leading cause of mortality across the U.S. [This blog post](#) highlights key insights from speakers on how states are adjusting their priorities to respond to the new challenges and trends.

## **New SAMHSA Guidance Advances Recovery**

SAMHSA recently released a new report entitled "National Substance Use and Mental Health Services Survey (N-SUMHSS) 2023: Data on Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Mental Health Treatment Facilities". The N-SUMHSS is a voluntary annual survey of all active substance use and mental health facilities in the United States, its territories, and D.C. The annual report presents findings on the key operational characteristics of substance use and mental health treatment facilities, use of pharmacotherapies, language assistance services, and suicide prevention assistance services. [National Substance Use and Mental Health Services Survey 2023: Data on Substance Use and Mental Health Treatment Facilities](#)

## **Addressing the Addiction Treatment Gap**

*Gary Tsai, MD, FAPA, FASAM, Director, Substance Abuse Prevention and Control Bureau, County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Health*

If the [data around substance use disorder \(SUD\) treatment-seeking](#) data around substance use disorder (SUD) treatment-seeking teach us anything, it's that most people with these conditions are not actually interested in the services we offer.

A big part of the reason for this is not because the SUD field doesn't have an amazingly dedicated workforce or offer lifechanging services. Instead, the fact that readiness for SUD treatment is often defined as synonymous with readiness for complete abstinence from substances has set a treatment bar that is too high and unrealistic for most. While the influences of stigma and the criminalization of addiction on treatment-seeking cannot be ignored, it is generally easier to shape our practices than to solve these bigger societal issues.

In recognition of the need for fresh approaches to address addiction, ASAM recently approved a clinical considerations document focused on the [Engagement and Retention of Nonabstinent Patients in Substance Use Treatment](#).

Developed via an extensive literature review and expert consensus and refined through a robust public comment process, the strategies highlighted in this document serve as a roadmap for designing treatment systems, services, and processes that can better engage all populations with SUDs, particularly those who are more upstream on the readiness to change continuum.

[Read the full editorial here.](#)

## **CMS Releases Sickle Cell Disease Provider Toolkit**

CMS released a [Sickle Cell Disease Provider Toolkit](#) which focuses on strengthening the infrastructure across care settings to care for people with SCD, improving care management, and supporting the needs of people with SCD and other chronic conditions. SCD Toolkit consists of 6 sections that equip healthcare providers in delivering quality care to individuals with sickle cell disease. This toolkit is designed to assist the care team in supporting people by introducing SCD, including the common barriers to care, and summarizing CMS program coverage for services around social determinants and drivers of health as well as and new sickle cell disease treatments.

## **FDA Approves Difficult-to-Tamper Opioid**

Protega Pharmaceuticals Inc., an innovative specialty pharmaceutical company focused on responsible pain management and the development of novel abuse-deterrent products, announced that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved ROXYBOND™ (oxycodone hydrochloride) immediate-release (IR) CII 10 mg tablet for the management of pain severe enough to require an opioid

analgesic and for which alternative treatments are inadequate. ROXYBOND is the first and only FDA-approved abuse-deterrent IR 10 mg oxycodone formulation that is expected to reduce abuse by intranasal and intravenous routes.

### **SAMHSA Launches National Behavioral Health Workforce Career Navigator**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), announced on November 13 the launch of the [Behavioral Health Workforce Career Navigator](#), designed to help current and aspiring behavioral health professionals identify state requirements for a range of behavioral health careers.

SAMHSA also published the [Practical Guide for Expanding the Community-based Behavioral Health Workforce](#), which presents best practices for expanding community-initiated prevention and care and the role of behavioral health support specialists. It offers examples of community-based models of care and provides resources for communities working to ensure community members' well-being.

### **Engagement and Retention of Nonabstinent Patients in Substance Use Treatment**

ASAM has released new guidance to empower substance use treatment programs to address the complexities of patient nonabstinence during treatment, reduce administrative discharges, and implement strategies to improve care for this patient population. The document also outlines federal and state policy considerations to aid programs' efforts to improve patient engagement and retention.

[Read more.](#)

### **DAWN Network Watch**

SAMHSA's Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) has released the DAWN Network Watch. When drug names are identified in DAWN's substance related emergency department visit data, they are checked against DAWN's drug database (Drug Reference Vocabulary). Any drug name or street name not currently listed in the database is added. This Network Watch presents drug street names that appeared in DAWN data for the first time from January 2023 to August 2024. Understanding drug slang improves communication and awareness, helps identify substance abuse, and can avoid misunderstandings of the substances involved in street drugs. Click [HERE](#) for more info.

## **Training Opportunities**

### **ASAM Accredited Courses**

ASAM offers accredited courses to help prescribers meet the DEA's 8-hour substance use disorder education requirement. Topics range from foundational to advanced, covering all specialties and care settings.

#### **Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder (8 Credits)**

Equip yourself to assess, diagnose, and manage opioid use disorder (OUD) with interactive learning that addresses misconceptions, stigma, and complexities associated with OUD.

[Learn more](#)

#### **Fundamentals of Addiction Medicine (8 Credits)**

A case-based course for those new to addiction medicine, ideal for primary care physicians, nurse practitioners, and behavioral health specialists.

[Learn more](#)

### **Pain & Addiction: Essentials (6 Credits)**

Covers pain science, stigma, screening, and treatment, focusing on interdisciplinary approaches to pain and addiction.

[Learn more](#)

### **[SAMHSA'S PCSS-MOUD: Inequities in Black People Accessing and Receiving Substance Use Treatment — Webinar](#)**

**Thursday, December 5, 2–3 p.m. ET**

SAMHSA's Providers Clinical Support System - Medications for Opioid Use Disorders (PCSS-MOUD) is hosting a webinar on Inequities in Black People Accessing and Receiving Substance Use Treatment. The webinar, led by Dr. Michelle P. Durham, addresses systemic inequities that Black individuals face in accessing substance use treatment. It highlights issues of systemic racism and discrimination, that are linked to U.S. drug policies and the War on Drugs. Dr. Durham advocates for culturally responsive treatment approaches and emphasizes the importance of social determinants of health.

The webinar explores the psychological impact of these challenges and offers innovative strategies for creating equitable treatment environments. It empowers healthcare providers to advocate for systemic changes in healthcare and the criminal justice system, ultimately inspiring action for a more just and equitable future. The webinar aims to:

- Describe racial inequities in substance use disorders.
- Review federal and state policies that influenced the criminalization of substance use.
- List individual and programmatic strategies to decrease inequities in treating substance use disorders.

[Register Here](#)

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### **Upcoming SUD COE Trainings**

The Ohio Substance Use Disorder Coordinating Center of Excellence (SUD COE) has recently added a new series of training programs designed to equip professionals with the latest and most effective strategies in the provision of SUD treatment.

A variety of essential/core topics are continually available, as well as newly added content areas each month which include:

- Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)/Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD)
- Stages of Change
- Motivating Behavior Change
- Clinical Documentation

All sessions are offered **free of charge** to ensure accessible professional development with **complimentary CEUs** with active participation. Click [HERE](#) to view a list of upcoming trainings.

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## CWRU Opioid Response Network (ORN) Trainings

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

### The Grayken Center for Addiction

has online training both live and pre-recorded

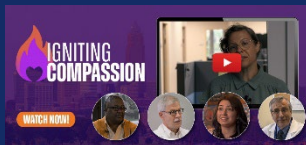
[Upcoming trainings](#) | [Training](#) | [Grayken Center for Addiction TTA](#) | [Boston Medical Center \(addictiontraining.org\)](#)



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 from The Center

- [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](#)
- [Previous Issues of The Consortium Chronic Newsletter](#)
- [NEO Opioid Consortium Education Series: Effective Communication with Individuals with SUD](#)

This newsletter is in association with the Cuyahoga County OD2A Local Group.



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