

Consortium Chronicle NEWSLETTER

Don't Miss our Next Webinar on March 20: REGISTER TODAY

We hope you'll join us for our next webinar! Click the flyer below or [register here](#).



Northeast Ohio Opioid Consortium
**EDUCATION
SERIES**

Demystifying Buprenorphine Treatment in the *Outpatient Clinic Setting*

This session is designed to expand knowledge and confidence to integrate buprenorphine treatment into outpatient practices. The focus will be on evidence-based approaches that can help improve patient care and outcomes for those with opioid use disorder. The webinar will provide valuable insights to help providers feel more confident and capable in offering buprenorphine as part of your treatment options.

Topics include:

Buprenorphine Induction Protocols:
A detailed review of both low and high-dose buprenorphine inductions for out-of-office settings, helping you navigate different treatment pathways.

Incorporating Buprenorphine into Your Practice: Practical strategies for adding buprenorphine treatment to your existing care model, with a focus on enhancing patient access and outcomes.

Harm Reduction in Practice:
A discussion on how to apply harm reduction principles effectively in your treatment approach, ensuring compassionate, patient-centered care.

About the Speakers



Opening Remarks
Dr. David Margolius
Director of Public Health
City of Cleveland



Dr. Dodie Rimmelin | Chief of Primary Care, The Centers Ohio

Dr. Dodie Rimmelin is a primary care physician at the Centers Ohio where she serves as the Chief of Primary Care. Dr Rimmelin is board certified in internal medicine and addiction medicine. Her clinical interests lie in comprehensive primary care, low barrier Hepatitis C treatment and addiction medicine. She is passionate about making addiction treatment accessible in the primary care setting.



Dr. Elena Yanchar | Chief of Psychiatry, The Centers Ohio

Dr. Elena Yanchar is a psychiatrist and family medicine physician at the Centers Ohio where she serves as the Chief of Psychiatry. Dr Yanchar is board certified in psychiatry and family medicine. Her clinical interests lie in the care of individuals with severe mental illness, addiction medicine, and homeless healthcare. She is passionate about developing logical and effective models of care that serve individuals who would otherwise not be able to access necessary healthcare.

Join us
March 20
Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Registration is required. Please scan the QR code or [click HERE](#) to register.

If you need further assistance, please email jodi.mitchell@chanet.org or call 216.255.3658.



This event was supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of the Overdose Data to Action: LOCAL (CDC-RFA-CE-23-0003) award. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, CDC/HHS or the U.S. Government.



neohospitals.org

State / Local Updates

Cleveland Launches Care Response Pilot Program

The [Care Response Pilot Program](#) has launched in Cleveland zip codes 44102 and 44105. Care response is a health-first program that has specialized unarmed teams, including a licensed mental health professional and a peer support specialist responding to mental health and addiction crises in the community. Residents in these zip codes may dial 988 to access these crisis services.

The program is seeking feedback from residents and providers in those zip codes at upcoming community meeting to share your insights, meet the care responder teams, and hear an update on the early results of the program:

- ZIP CODE 44105: Monday, March 24th, 5:30pm - 7:00pm
 - Thea Bowman Center, 11901 Oakfield Ave., Cleveland, OH 44105.
 - [RSVP HERE](#)

Meetings are open to residents in 44102 and 44105, or mental health providers who practice in these zip codes.

RSVP [HERE](#): For more information, please contact Daniel Ortiz at daniel@rstrategygroup.com. We look forward to your valuable contribution and hope to see you there!



OneOhio Recovery Foundation Announces Final 2024 Regional Grant Awards Totaling \$3.4M

The [OneOhio Recovery Foundation](#) announced its final grant awards for the 2024 Regional Grant Cycle, awarding \$3.4 million to seven projects. These seven final grant

awards are part of more than \$45.4 million awarded in the 2024 Regional Grant Cycle and were selected from 1,442 funding requests totaling \$581 million from organizations statewide. With all 2024 Regional Grant Cycle awards now announced, a complete list of recipients can be found on their [website](#).

Prison Opioid Treatment Program OK'd For More Funds

An opioid treatment program used in state correctional facilities will see boosted funding of nearly \$2 million, following approval from the [Controlling Board](#) on February 24. The Department of Rehabilitation & Correction contracts with Premier Care of Ohio dba Community Medical Services to lead the department's Medication Assisted Treatment program.

The board's approval of \$1.9 million will cover the opioid medication treatment programming for incarcerated individuals at two new facilities – London Correctional Institution and Southeastern Correctional Institution.

The treatment services have been available at 10 facilities:

- Correctional Reception Center.
- Ohio Reformatory for Women.
- Lorain Correctional Institution.
- Grafton Correctional Institution and Grafton Reintegration Center.
- Allen Oakwood Correctional Institution.
- Toledo Correctional Institution.
- Warren Correctional Institution.
- Lebanon Correctional Institution.
- Pickaway Correctional Institution.
- Dayton Correctional Institution.

Ohio Senate Adopts Fentanyl Continuing Resolution

On February 26, The Ohio Senate unanimously adopted [Senate Continuing Resolution \(SCR\) 1](#) to urge the 119th Congress to introduce and pass legislation similar to the Stop Our Scourge Act of 2023, directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to designate illicit fentanyl as a weapon of mass destruction. This resolution has been forwarded to the House for action.

Ohio SUD COE Releases New Clinical QuickNote

The Ohio Substance Use Disorders Center of Excellence (SUD COE) has released a new Clinical QuickNote. Family Grief and Loss Experiences Following Unintentional Lethal Overdose is a concise, evidence-based guide for clinicians on supporting families after an unintentional overdose death. It emphasizes the importance of understanding grief, addressing stigma, and connecting families to timely support such as counseling, peer groups, and community resources, while promoting compassionate, individualized care. Click [here](#) to view the QuickNote.

New 988 Data Available

More Ohioans in crisis are becoming aware of the help that is available through the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. Since launching in July 2022, Ohioans in crisis have reached out to 988 for help through more than 456,000 calls, chats, and texts. The Lifeline is now averaging more than 18,200 contacts per month. Click [here](#) to view the 988 By the Numbers: 2024 Year in Review.

988 By the Numbers | 2024

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline launched in Ohio and across the nation on July 16, 2022. Ohioans who are experiencing a mental health or addiction crisis, and their family members, are able to call or text 988, or chat 988Lifeline.org to reach a trained call specialist who can offer help and support.

456,008

total 988 contacts (calls, chats, and texts) since July 2022.

18,209

average number of 988 contacts per month.

1,728

average number of chats received per month from Ohio area codes.

3,836

average number of texts received per month from Ohio area codes.

12,645

average number of monthly 988 calls from Ohio area codes, including veteran and Spanish-speaking calls routed to specialized national call centers.

0.9%

average percentage of calls rolled over to a national back-up call center.

25 Seconds

average speed to answer rate in Ohio, compared to **34 seconds nationally.**





Project White Butterfly



🍀 MARCH 2025 🍀



NEW LOCATION
SOFT OPENING THIS MONTH

Peer Support, Resources,
Recovery Meetings,
Solution-Focused
Conversation, Weekly Dinner

Our mission is to create a judgment-free and supportive community that fosters diversity, personal growth, and a sense of belonging on a person's unique path to holistic and sustained recovery.

6184 Ridge Road, Parma 44129
Thursdays 4pm-9pm
Fridays - 12pm-9pm

6400 Memphis Ave, 44144
Saturdays 12pm-9pm

**AS WE ARE TRANSITIONING INTO OUR NEW BUILDING, PLEASE STAY UP TO DATE WITH MEETING SCHEDULES VIA OUR SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS OR:
CALL US AT 216-727-8725
EMAIL US AT
SUPPORT@PROJECTWHITEBUTTERFLY.ORG**



OUTREACH AND SPECIAL EVENTS

12
Weds

OUTREACH - EDWINS BUTCHER SHOP
13024 Buckeye Road - 44120
2:00pm-4:00pm

15
Sat

PWB BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
6184 Ridge Road - 44129
10:00am-12:00pm

19
Weds

OUTREACH - WEST 73RD
West 73rd and Brinsmade - 44102
2:00pm-4:00pm

22
Sat

CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH AT COMMUNITY DINNER
6400 Memphis Ave - 44144
6:00pm-7:00pm

26
Weds

OUTREACH - ST AUGUSTINE
2486 West 14th Street - 44113
11:00am-1:00pm

26
Weds

OUTREACH - POP UP
2323 Broadview Rd Parking Lot
2:00pm-4:00pm

Policy & News Updates

Changes in Drug Overdose Mortality and Selected Drug Type by State: United States, 2022 to 2023

Between 2022 and 2023, deaths from drug overdose (drug poisoning) in the United States decreased (1,2). Drug overdoses are a persistent health problem and a large contributor to unintentional injury, which is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States (3-5). This report describes changes in age-adjusted drug overdose death rates between 2022 and 2023 by state (and the District of Columbia) and selected type of drug. [PDF Version \[PDF - 727 KB\]](#)

Garnett MF, Miniño AM. Changes in drug overdose mortality and selected drug type by state: United States, 2022 to 2023. NCHS Health E-Stats. 2025. DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.15620/cdc/174578>.

DEA and HHS delay implementation of buprenorphine final rule

On February 14, 2025, the Drug Enforcement Administration and Department of Health and Human Services [announced](#) that the effective date for the [final rule](#) regarding telemedicine prescribing of buprenorphine will be delayed from Feb. 18 to March 21. As outlined in the [Jan. 20 White House memorandum](#) announcing the regulatory freeze, the agencies decided to delay the implementation of rules to review any questions of fact, law and policy.

The DEA and HHS clarified that the waiver provisions outlined in the [third extension](#) of telemedicine flexibilities for prescribing controlled substances will remain in effect to waive in-person visit requirements through Dec. 31, 2025.

Once implemented, the DEA's final rule for the telemedicine prescribing of buprenorphine will enable practitioners to prescribe a six-month initial supply of Schedule III-V medications to treat opioid use disorder via audio-only telemedicine interaction without a prior in-person evaluation.

Senate Hearing on Combatting the Opioid Epidemic

On February 26, The Senate Special Committee on Aging convened a hearing entitled, "[Combating the Opioid Epidemic](#)." The Committee heard from expert witnesses on ways to confront this devastating crisis that claims the lives of more than 70,000 Americans each year. This hearing sought to identify solutions that can help mitigate the toll of opioid addiction, enhance prevention efforts, and strengthen support for those responding to and affected by this ongoing public health emergency. The hearing amplified the stories of grandparents raising grandchildren due to the impact of opioids. Witnesses included (testimony available at the above link):

- [The Honorable Dennis Lemma](#), Sheriff, Seminole County Sheriff's Office, Sanford, FL
- [The Honorable Greg Duckworth](#), Commissioner, Raleigh County Commission, Beckley, WV
- [Dr. Bradley D. Stein](#), Director, Opioid Policy, Tools, and Information Center, RAND Corporation, Pittsburgh, PA
- [Malik Burnett, MD, MBA, MPH](#), Vice Chair, Public Policy Committee, American Society of Addiction Medicine, Baltimore, MD
- Elizabeth Mateer, Grandparent Caregiver, Pittsburgh, PA

Combating Stigma with Knowledge

By: Madeline Beasley Peacock, Ph.D., Public Health Advisor and Robert Baillieu, M.D., M.P.H., Physician and Senior Advisor, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment

Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) are chronic disorders of the brain with a risk of recurrence but from which people can, and do, recover. Like other medical conditions, some people are more susceptible to developing a SUD than others. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) National Survey on Drug Use and Health, only about 25 percent of people who had used alcohol and illicit drugs within the past year met the criteria for a SUD diagnosis. For this subgroup of people, the brain disease model underscores the brain changes that happen with SUDs and that drive a person to continue using substances despite all the negative consequences and harms that follow. Read more [HERE](#).

FORE Awards Grant to Tradeoffs to Expand Reporting on the Opioid and Overdose Crisis

FORE awarded a \$65,702 grant to Tradeoffs, a nonprofit dedicated to reporting on health policy issues, to support new reporting on the opioid and overdose crisis over the coming year. The funding will enable Tradeoffs to develop two in-depth podcast episodes, complemented by written articles and visuals, that highlight innovative approaches to addressing opioid use disorder and overdose prevention. You can find Tradeoffs' previous reporting on the opioid crisis here. <https://tradeoffs.org/tag/opioid-crisis/>

WEBINAR: Medicaid's Ongoing Critical Role in the U.S. Response to the Opioid and Overdose Crisis (3/26/2025)

Medicaid is the largest payer of opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment in the United States, covering an estimated 40% of adults under the age of 65 with OUD, and plays additional roles in supporting recovery services by funding peer recovery coaches and health-related social needs, and prevention initiatives such as school-based health services. With a wide range of new Medicaid policies now under discussion at the national level, proposed changes have the potential to significantly impact access to OUD treatment and related services which have contributed to a nearly 25% decline in fatal overdoses in the past year. FORE grantees are on the frontlines studying the various roles Medicaid plays in preventing, treating, and recovering from OUD, as well as reducing overdose deaths.

Please join FORE on **Wednesday, March 26 at 2pm EST** as they welcome Jocelyn Guyer, MPP, Bradley Stein, MD, PhD, Gabrielle de la Guéronnière, JD, Katie Greene, MPP as they discuss the most recent data on the vital role of Medicaid in preventing overdose deaths, proposed changes to Medicaid programs, and their potential impact on the U.S. opioid and overdose crisis. The webinar will run until 3:30 p.m. to allow for an extended discussion and Q&A session following the presentation. [Register for the Webinar](#)



HRSA Rural Communities Opioid Response Program

HRSA Administrator Tom Engels spoke at a convening in Washington D.C. that included over 650 participants of [HRSA's Rural Communities Opioid Response Program \(RCORP\)](#).

The three-day event was an opportunity for RCORP grantees to engage, collaborate, and share lessons learned with peers, federal officials, and partners to expand treatment, prevention and recovery efforts for rural Americans affected by opioid and substance use disorders, including from fentanyl.

Training Opportunities

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.

Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder for Pregnant Patients (8 Credits)

The ASAM Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder for Pregnant Patients Course provides the education essential for providers to identify, assess, diagnose, and manage pregnant and postpartum patients with opioid use disorder (OUD). Register [HERE](#).



Upon completion, you will be able to:

- Identify, assess, and diagnose pregnant and postpartum patients with opioid use disorder while considering severity, chronicity, individual characteristics, and psychiatric and medical comorbidities.
- Explain the clinical pharmacology, safety, and efficacy of medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) in pregnant people as well as in antepartum, postpartum, and breastfeeding/chest feeding time periods.
- Examine misconceptions, stigma, and complexities (bioethical, social, clinical, public health) associated with opioid use disorder and the use of trauma-responsive approaches and medications to treat opioid use disorder.

As an accredited organization named in Section 1263 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, ASAM certifies that completion of this course meets the DEA requirement for 8 hours of education on substance use disorder(s).

The Pain Management & Opioids: A Patient-Centered Approach Course provides evidence-based education on pain management and opioid use disorder (OUD). This course covers the pathophysiology of pain, patient assessment, creating patient-centered pain treatment plans, nonpharmacologic pain management options, and strategies for managing patients on opioid analgesics.

Upon completion, you will be able to:

- Recognize the origin(s) and types of pain as they relate to pain management and opioid use disorder (OUD).
- Fully assess persons experiencing pain, including risk for OUD.
- Develop safe and effective pain management plans using nonpharmacologic and pharmacologic (non-opioid or opioid) options.
- Partner with patients to reduce risks when taking opioid therapy.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

PCSS-MOUD Pain Core Curriculum Updated

[View Course](#)

Developed by leading experts Melissa Weimer, DO, MCR, FASAM, Roger Chou, MD, FACP, and Kevin Sevarino, MD, PhD, this comprehensive, 14-module curriculum is designed for clinicians and healthcare professionals dedicated to treating pain and addressing opioid use disorder (OUD).

Led by top clinical experts from diverse fields, this curriculum covers essential pain management strategies, multimodal treatment approaches, and the complexities of opioid use. You'll explore:

- Core principles of pain evaluation and treatment
- The risks and benefits of opioid use for pain management
- Recognizing and treating opioid use disorder (OUD) with evidence-based approaches
- Patient-centered communication and care strategies
- Managing pain in special populations
- Non-pharmacological therapies & real-world perspectives from those with lived experience
- and more.

Gain practical, expert-driven knowledge and elevate your approach to pain management and OUD treatment.

Please note that all 14 modules can be applied toward the DEA training requirements. Look for more information about treating chronic pain and opioid use disorder and additional trainings at www.pcass-moud.org.

ASAM Practice Pearls

ASAM Practice Pearls is pleased to present a four-episode podcast series designed to enhance hospital and clinic-based buprenorphine treatment for opioid use disorder.

Each episode features addiction medicine experts sharing practical strategies, real-world solutions, and clinical insights to help you navigate challenges and improve patient care.

Hear from: Dr. Stephen Holt, Dr. Carolyn Chan, Dr. Shawn Cohen, Dr. Catherine Trimbur, and Dr. Marlene Martin.

Check out the episodes below:

- Episode 1: Overcoming Barriers to MOUD at Discharge: Ensuring Continuity of Care from Skilled Nursing Facilities | Key challenges and solutions in ensuring continuity of care for patients receiving medication for opioid use disorder during discharge from skilled nursing facilities.
- Episode 2: Creating Realistic Follow-Up Plans for Unstable Patients | Effective strategies for managing unstable patients and creating realistic follow-up plans that prioritize patient engagement and continuity of care.
- Part 3: Balancing Patient Confidentiality and Legal Obligations | Managing the delicate balance between protecting patient confidentiality and fulfilling legal responsibilities when responding to requests from parole officers, child welfare agencies, and other external entities.
- Part 4: Managing In-Hospital Substance Use | Navigating the complexities of in-hospital substance use and how hospital-based providers can effectively address these challenges with confidence and compassion.

Visit the eLearning Center for more education on [buprenorphine implementation](#) and earn CE credits for [the podcast series](#).

Peer Leadership Training

Courage to Caregivers has announced a new Peer Leadership Training series featuring 18 virtual training sessions focused on Ohio Certified Peer Specialists (CPRS, CYPS, and CFPS) and their Supervisors. Each workshop will provide 1.5 hours of continuing education for peer supporters. Click [HERE](#) to view a full list of training dates and topics, and register. Questions? Email kristi@couragetocaregivers.org.

CWRU Opioid Response Network (ORN) Trainings

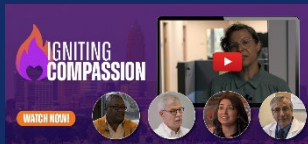
[Opioid Response Network \(ORN\) Trainings](#) | [Center for Evidence-Based Practices](#) | [Case Western Reserve University](#)



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](#)
- [NEO Opioid Consortium Education Series: Effective Communication with Individuals with SUD](#)
- [NEO Opioid Consortium Education Series: Appreciative Approach: From Medical Dominancy to Relational Recovery](#)

[Previous Issues of The Consortium Chronicle Newsletter](#)

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



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