

Information & Coordination

✧ Coordinate State and Local Activities

- » Develop a workgroup of statewide associations to coordinate among statewide and local activities
- » Coordinate efforts with local opiate task forces/coalitions
- » Develop a liaison system for working with state agencies and organizations

✧ Develop and Implement a Stigma Reduction Campaign Addressing:

- » Utilization of naloxone/Narcan
- » Education on addiction as a chronic disease
- » The fact that Treatment Works...People Recover
- » Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) -- what it is/isn't
- » Celebrating individuals in recovery

✧ Work with the Community

- » Ensure that 24/7 hotlines and/or text lines are equipped to support opiate addiction in communities
- » Distribute wait list information
- » Help Boards ensure cross-system coordination among all stakeholders
- » Engage new partners representing diverse sectors of the community, including individuals and family members



Continuum of Care

✧ Treatment

- » Increase access to detox, MAT, and withdrawal management programs
- » Work with hospital EDs and jails for warm handoffs to treatment
- » Increase access to inpatient/outpatient treatment
- » Increase access to residential treatment
- » Implement Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) within medical systems
- » Increase access to trauma-informed and culturally competent services and supports

✧ Recovery Supports

- » Increase overdose/relapse prevention services, including but not limited to, the availability and distribution of naloxone
- » Ensure adequate housing, transportation, and other recovery services
- » Increase access to peer support and mentoring services

✧ Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement

- » Work to increase funding of MAT in jails
- » Work to expand specialty dockets, e.g., drug courts
- » Work with jails and prisons on the reintegration of offenders with an addiction to opiates

✧ Children & Adolescents

- » Work across systems to decrease the incidence of babies born with neonatal abstinence syndrome
- » Partner with children's services to help kids in custody/foster care
- » Ensure access to appropriate treatment for adolescents

✧ Families

- » Provide comprehensive family supports, mentoring, and services for families impacted by opiate addiction



Prevention

✧ Prevention

- » Increase awareness of the effects of opiate misuse and abuse on individuals, families, and communities
- » Promote safe storage and disposal of medications
- » Utilize community task forces and coalitions to design, implement, and evaluate prevention strategies that are evidence-based
- » Develop and distribute an inventory of Board-funded prevention efforts across the state
- » Develop and distribute a prevention resource guide



Funding & Workforce

✧ Funding

- » Support the implementation of 21st Century Cures Act funded programs and services
- » Work with the Administration and the Legislature on the biennial budget and support funding for community-based addiction services
- » Continue working on OACBHA budget request with the Ohio House and Senate
- » Support the Stepping Up request for funding of MAT in Jails

✧ Economic and Social Impact

- » Collect outcome data to evaluate cost, quality, and effectiveness of policies, programs, and services

✧ Workforce

- » Address first responder and addiction professional burnout
- » Increase the utilization of innovative technology, including telemedicine
- » Empower the peer/recovery community
- » Grow the overall addiction professional workforce in Ohio
- » Increase access to a drug-free workforce





A Plan for Addressing Ohio's Opiate Epidemic

As Ohio continues to face an opiate epidemic that is taking its toll on individuals, families, and communities, a coordinated, consistent, and aggressive response is needed. This epidemic has impacted our state like none before. Overdose death rates in Ohio now outpaces the rest of the country, and while rates of opiate prescriptions have decreased, heroin, fentanyl, and carfentanyl continue to be more and more accessible.

In recognition of the need to take systematic, strategic, and rapid steps to decrease the incidence of overdoses and increase the frequency of recovery, the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities, under the direction of its member Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health (ADAMH) Boards, is developing and implementing this plan to address the opiate epidemic in Ohio.

In this document, you'll find the outline of an all-encompassing approach to addressing the opiate epidemic in Ohio. We know that on our own OACBHA and ADAMH Boards cannot succeed in ending the opiate epidemic in Ohio; it will take all of us. All Ohioans - every sector of every community - must come together to marshal all available resources and leverage all relationships to effectively end this epidemic in Ohio.

As we move forward, we're requesting involvement, support, and participation from all Ohioans to support individuals, families, and communities throughout the state. We know that treatment works, people recover, and recovery is beautiful. Everyone working together, offers us collectively our best chance to end this epidemic in our state and help our citizens, families, and communities recover.

This plan involves four prongs: Information & Coordination; Prevention; Continuum of Care; and Funding & Workforce.

Addressing Ohio's Opiate Epidemic: A Plan for Action

Ohio's 51 Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and/or Mental Health (ADAMH) Boards are continuing their efforts to implement Recovery-Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) in their communities. A ROSC places its primary focus on the individuals and families in need of treatment and recovery services, building on their strengths and incorporating a coordinated, collaborative approach across the community. The foundation of Ohio's ROSC is locally managed continuums of care designed to provide person-centered prevention, treatment, and support services to help individuals and families impacted by mental illness and addiction achieve and sustain long-term recovery.

**Treatment Works.
People Recover.
Recovery Is Beautiful.**

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