

## Facing our opiate epidemic

NEWS FROM COUNTY SECTORS

### | PHOENIX RISING (cont'd.)

- Clients prescribed controlled substances are asked to sign a "Controlled Substance Agreement."
- Phoenix Rising will make referral to community detox service providers when clients present in need of detox treatment due to opiate use.
- Through a contractual relationship with the United States Federal Courts, Phoenix Rising offers assessment, drug testing and treatment to individuals on Federal probation. Many of these clients were actively involved in the use and/or sale of opiates. This program helps clients remain in the community by assisting them in meeting the requirements of their Federal probation through random drug testing while, at the same time, addressing their dependency issues through individual treatment.

### | RECOVERY COURT Canton Municipal Court & CommQuest Services

- The Canton Municipal Court's Recovery Court, supervised by Judge Curt Werren, is a voluntary program intended to promote appropriate and effective treatment of chemical dependency/addiction and substance abuse, including the use of medication assisted treatment (MAT) as an alternative to incarceration for a person whose history of treatment non-compliance, and/or refusal to accept treatment, results in a recurring pattern of criminal offenses. The program requires court and treatment provider involvement in treatment planning and compliance as well as more effective utilization of other court, community and system resources.
- Participants are referred to the specialized docket through their judge, attorney, probation officer or their treatment provider. Assessments are conducted by the probation office and a substance use counselor to determine appropriateness for engagement in the court program. Many participants have the possibility of having their case dismissed and record sealed upon successful completion of the program with a demonstrated year of sobriety.
- The Recovery Court has been accepting cases since March 2017 and has actively worked with nearly 50 individuals who have attained substance use related criminal charges and connected them with appropriate treatment and recovery support services. Participants with opiate and/or alcohol related diagnoses can have access to Addiction Treatment Program (ATP) funds to aid in increasing their access to treatment services and recovery supports.

### | STARK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- Created an Overdose Fatality Review Team to review the unintentional overdose deaths that occurred in Stark County. This team, comprised of members from public health, Coroner's Office, mental health, hospitals, physicians and law enforcement, convened four times during 2017 to review all 75 deaths in 2015, 118 deaths in 2016 and 43 deaths from the first half of 2017. The team will make recommendations based off the data to identify opportunities for reducing overdose deaths and continue to increase community awareness about the problem.
- Completed a survey of Stark County prescribers about their opinions and utilization of OARRS, prescribing guidelines, screening practices and Narcan. This information will serve as a tool to find the gaps in training and information that county prescribers would like to have available.

- Expanded law enforcement carrying Narcan to 19 of the county's 22 agencies. From law enforcement, there have been 49 reports of use in the field for 2017.

- Survey results and data reports are available from the Stark County Health Department at <http://www.starkcountyohio.gov/public-health/nursing-services/overdose-prevention>

### | STARK COUNTY TASC\*

- At Stark County TASC, we are providing some relief to the opiate epidemic from several directions. TASC has been providing peer support within the addiction community for many years. While our programs change and evolve, we have been presented with new and exciting ways to reach those suffering in our community. We have started a new program working within the hospital emergency departments. We are meeting those suffering from opiate addiction in those first vulnerable moments when they have come so close to death by offering hope and guidance. We start the work of getting them into treatment and other vital changes before they leave the facility. The team works hard to make sure that no one that comes to the emergency department from an opiate overdose leaves without knowing that there are options and people willing to help them take those first difficult steps into recovery.
- We are committed to walking the path with them; wherever they are today is where we start. That journey could be getting into treatment, seeking outpatient treatment (as well as a safe and sober living environment, a job, health insurance, food, clothing or 12-step meetings) and/or reconnecting to mental health or physical health providers or any other barriers they need help getting around to ensure the road to recovery is more clear. Our team is very informed and up to date with over a hundred resources that are available to help them and their loved

\*Asterisk indicates StarkMHAR Care Network provider.

ones. We have already at this point made a difference in many peoples' journeys in a positive way, and, while we take the road ahead to be a long one, we feel if everyone is doing a small or big part we can start piecing together valuable members of the community and watch Stark County flourish. Contact Stark County TASC at 330-479-1912.

### | SUMMIT PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES\*

Our Canton office is centrally located and offers a wide range of services to meet the needs of the community, including:

- Medication assisted treatment with Vivitrol, including walk-in times available Monday through Friday, 1 to 3:00 p.m.
- Individual and group counseling for mental health, addiction, anger management and more (including forensic services for court involved clients).

### | UNITED WAY of Greater Stark County

- Collaborated on new funding initiatives that include an ID voucher program to help people obtain the documents needed to enter addiction treatment centers and distribution of Naloxone (Narcan) kits for the recently incarcerated who are at risk of overdose.
- Co-sponsored a publication that addressed the opioid epidemic and provided valuable information to the community, including statistics, success stories and resources for preventing substance abuse and addiction.

### ARE YOU IN CRISIS? Help is available...

- Call **9-1-1** if emergency services are needed. If requesting law enforcement, you can ask for a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) trained officer.
- Call **330-452-6000**, the Stark County Crisis Hotline anytime
- Text **4hope** to **741 741**, the Crisis Text Line anytime
- Military & Veterans Crisis Line **1-800-273-8255, press 1** anytime
- **Military & Veterans Crisis Text Line 838255** to get help now
- **Opiate Hotline 330-454-HELP (4357)** for community information, education, support and connection to services anytime, day or night



# STARK COUNTY'S Opiate Epidemic COMMUNITY UPDATE | 2017



## | INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS MAKING AN IMPACT AT THE LOCAL LEVEL



John R. Aller, PCC, LICDC,  
Executive Director

On October 5, leaders from four federal health agencies (SAMHSA, CDC, NIH and FDA) delivered testimony before the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions discussing the federal response to the opioid crisis.

These four agencies from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services took turns detailing their approaches in the fight against the opioid epidemic as well as how these approaches align with the aims of the HHS's five-point Opioid Strategy:

1. **Improve access to prevention, treatment and recovery support services** to prevent the health, social and economic consequences associated with opioid addiction and to enable individuals to achieve long-term recovery;
2. **Target the availability and distribution of overdose-reversing drugs** to ensure the broad provision of these drugs to people likely to experience or respond to an overdose, with a particular focus on targeting high-risk populations;
3. **Strengthen public health data reporting and collection** to improve the timeliness and specificity of data and to inform a real-time public health response as the epidemic evolves;
4. **Support cutting-edge research that advances our understanding of pain and addiction**, leads to the development of new treatments and identifies effective public health interventions to reduce

opiod-related health harms;

5. **Advance the practice of pain management** to enable access to high-quality, evidence-based pain care that reduces the burden of pain for people, families and society while also reducing the inappropriate use of opioids and opiod-related harms.

As the nation collaborates, so does our community through an array of innovative solutions. Stark County is in alignment and is making an impact at the local level.

This October, StarkMHAR and CommQuest Services improved access to treatment and recovery support services with the opening of the new 16-bed drug and alcohol detox center at Alliance Community Hospital. In addition, through federal 21st Century Cures Act funding, Stark County advanced medication assisted therapy and placed peer navigators in Alliance, Canton and Massillon hospitals.

In July, the Stark County Sheriff's Office and Stark County Health Department furthered the reach of overdose-reversing drugs by announcing a pilot program that would distribute 75 Naloxone overdose kits to people leaving the jail who may be at risk of overdose. Program partners include Correctional Health Care Group and CommQuest Services. Program supporters include Davie's Pharmacy, United Way of Greater Stark County and StarkMHAR. Naloxone overdose kits are available free to the community through StarkMHAR at CommQuest and the Crisis Center and also from the Alliance Health Department.

Through PartnerSolutions, a department of StarkMHAR, we are continuing to track and research findings in service delivery and treatment. For instance, the number of adult opiate clients across the county who have sought public opiate treatment services from

StarkMHAR funded providers has increased 603% from 2004 to 2016.

While a great deal of work remains, I am proud of the efforts StarkMHAR and our community partners are making right here at home.

**However, innovation alone is not enough. We need empathy and compassion.**

With opiates dominating the news, a common burden for local residents as well as for first responders is compassion fatigue.

As you explore action steps in this update that our community partners are taking, I would like you to find your compassion renewed, and to feel encouraged all of us are working together to solve our public health crisis.

To feel encouraged, take a look at the website for families by families F.A.T.H.E.R.S. built and maintains at [starkheroinepidemic.org](http://starkheroinepidemic.org). It is a thoughtful, comprehensive website with opiate resources and solutions.

I would like you to feel encouraged that law officers throughout our county, as Stark County Sheriff's Maj. Dale Soltis perfectly put it, are honoring their oath to save lives by utilizing Naloxone overdose kits.

I would like you to feel encouraged because if any service or innovation is going to bring about positive change, it must spring from compassion – trauma-informed and culturally sensitive compassion. For when innovation is driven by compassion, that is when we see start to see true change and transformation.

From all of us at StarkMHAR, thank you for doing your part!

**Need tips on talking  
with family and friends  
about drug abuse?**

[StarkMHAR.org/TalkwithFamily](http://StarkMHAR.org/TalkwithFamily)

# Facing our opiate epidemic

NEWS FROM COUNTY SECTORS



## AULTMAN HEALTH FOUNDATION

### Collaboration & Partnership with Community Agencies

- Implementation of ED Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided with Naloxone).
- Drug Take Back Day site for Stark County.
- Neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) partner.
- Peer support 24/7 for opiate overdose.

### Education

- Supported and distributed to all employees the Epidemic Stark County 2017 and Heroin Awareness Toolkit.
- Signs posted in all ED treatment rooms regarding pain medication prescribing.
- Displayed Healing Tree at Aultman with information.
- Supported educational series for community and Aultman staff, including external speakers.
- Distributed the 2017 Medical Professionals Opiate Toolkit for resident education.

### Inpatient Treatment

- Alcohol and opiate withdrawal protocols implemented.
- NICU NAS withdrawal treatment implemented.

## CANTON CITY PUBLIC HEALTH

- Provides confidential HIV testing, education and counseling on-site during clinic hours. Knowing your status continues to be the best way to protect yourself from getting or

spreading the virus. Learn more at <http://www.cantonhealth.org/nursing/?pg=263>

- Provides Couples HIV Counseling and Testing Services. This service facilitates communication and disclosure of HIV status among partners. The goal is to provide couples HIV testing and counseling so that they can understand and accept the results of their HIV test and access appropriate follow-up care, treatment and prevention services. It also supports linkage to HIV medical care, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and/or other appropriate services. Learn more at <http://www.cantonhealth.org/nursing/?pg=263>
- Implemented a syringe access program, Stark Wide Approach to Prevention (SWAP), to address the significant increase in blood borne infections among people who inject drugs. SWAP is based on principles of harm reduction that "meet our clients where they are." The program provides sterile syringes, proper disposal of used syringes, referrals to treatment for substance use and mental health care, confidential HIV and Hepatitis C testing, wound care education, Narcan training and distribution, safer sex supplies and an environment where people who inject drugs can feel safe. Open every Friday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

- Visit website at [www.cantonhealth.org](http://www.cantonhealth.org) or Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/cantonhealth/>

## COLEMAN PROFESSIONAL SERVICES\*

- Provided education, screening and prevention to thousands of Stark County residents and clients active in services through our same-day diagnostic assessment clinic.

- Provided treatment to hundreds of Stark County residents with an opiate use disorder.

- Provided individualized supported employment services and housing placement assistance, resources and supportive services to many Stark County residents with an opiate use disorder.

## CRISIS INTERVENTION & RECOVERY CENTER\*

- Sub-Acute Detoxification Unit: 11-bed unit, plus one emergency bed. The use of certain substances daily may require detoxification initially, to prevent any medical complications. The detox stay is three to seven days depending on a number of factors. Call the Crisis or Opiate Hotlines, 330-452-6000 or 330-454-HELP (4357) respectively.
- 23-Hour Observation Beds: Six-bed program unit for 23-hour observation. If there is a need for observation without need for medical intervention, clients can be admitted, observed and linked for follow-up care.
- Opiate Hotline: Our Opiate Hotline is available 24/7 for information, support and referral. Call 330-454-HELP (4357).

- Addiction Recovery Nurse Navigator: Community care coordination for individual and family education, advocacy and support, service referral, navigation and linkage, prevention, early intervention, Project DAWN education and Naloxone overdose kit distribution and community-based education. Call 330-452-6000, ext. 2159.

- Project DAWN: Crisis Center is a Project DAWN site, providing Naloxone (Narcan) education, training and kit provision to individuals in the community and education

and training to community groups. Dial 330-452-6000 or walk in at the 2421 13th St. location for a 25-minute training and kit provision, or call to set up group education and training.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROJECT\*

- An active participant in the Drug Free Stark County coalition, DVPI disseminated materials regarding opiate abuse created by the coalition from a DVPI table at community events, as well as to students served by DVPI's Community Education department.
- DVPI's Community Education department addressed the issue of opiate abuse through risk and protective factors throughout the dissemination of LifeSkills curriculum, addressing student questions in the process.
- DVPI held a staff training to educate on how to administer Narcan (Naloxone) and distributed Narcan overdose kits to staff to administer as needed.

## F.A.T.H.E.R.S.

### Families Against The Heroin Epidemic Rally in Stark

- Creation and maintenance of the [starkheroinepidemic.org](http://starkheroinepidemic.org) website which contains all available Stark County treatment, recovery, family and social support resources. Corresponding help cards are made available to first response personnel and any other interested service agencies countywide.
- Installation and maintenance of nine (to date) permanent signs countywide to promote epidemic awareness and access to help.
- In partnership with CommQuest Services, working to develop a sustainable countywide series of support, education and prevention day camp programs for the children affected by the epidemic.

## HOPE UNITED

### Education Support Recovery

#### Education/Awareness

Breaking Barriers is our education and awareness portion. We have programs to educate schools, churches, first responders, community events and small groups. We have educated thousands of people on the dangers of opiates and other prescription drugs as well as that addiction is a disease that requires love and compassion as we

share our personal story and put a face on addiction. For more information, please email [info@hopeunited.life](mailto:info@hopeunited.life).

#### Support

- The Well is a support group for families who have lost someone to addiction. Meets first and third Wednesdays of month, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 2656 Arlington Rd. (Shamps Bionics Building). For info, call Sue at 330-472-7282.
- Loving With Grace is a support group for families who are caught in the grips of addiction. Meets second and fourth Wednesdays of month, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 2656 Arlington Rd. (Shamps Bionics Building). For info, call Shelly at 330-414-5960.

- Love Bears All provides bears for children who lose a parent to addiction as well as support for children who have been affected by the opiate epidemic. For info, call Laura at 330-697-7885.

#### Recovery

Hope United has just partnered with Restore Addiction to build a Sober Living Community, which will consist of 12-month Treatment, Sober Living Homes and a Recovery Community Center. We have been given 26 acres on the border of Summit/Stark/Portage counties. Restore will provide treatment, as well as sober living homes. Hope United will provide sober living as well as the aftercare that begins where treatment leaves off. We will offer support groups, peer-to-peer recovery, counseling, coffee shop, library, gym, weight and cardio room, as well as church on Sundays. We plan to address the whole person with mind, body and spiritual activities and classes. To learn more, please visit [hopeunited.life](http://hopeunited.life)

## NORTH CENTRAL ACADEMY OF CHIROPRACTIC

• Created resources on [ohiochiro.org](http://ohiochiro.org) that provide education on the opioid epidemic and how starting with non-drug pain treatments like chiropractic are recommended by state and national guidelines as part of the solution. [Ohiochiro.org](http://Ohiochiro.org) also includes a link to find a local chiropractic physician for non-drug treatment.

- Provided tools to local chiropractic physicians to educate the public, medical providers and employers on the latest recommendations for non-drug treatment for pain to help stop the opioid epidemic.

- Meeting with local hospitals to help them improve collaboration on non-drug

treatment options for pain in accordance with new hospital accreditation standards.

- Meeting with local veteran groups to educate them on the opioid epidemic, their increased risk of overdose and the availability of chiropractic and acupuncture treatment covered by the VA.

- Communicating with the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation and reaching out to employers to increase awareness of injured workers being at greater risk of drug overdose than the public; encouraging non-drug treatments first for injuries and encouraging drug-free workplaces.

- Helped establish an opioid task force with our state professional association to increase statewide education and activity on stopping the opioid epidemic.

- Secured proclamations from Canton and North Canton mayors recognizing September as Drug-Free Pain Management Month, acknowledging chiropractic and non-drug treatments for pain can help stop the opioid epidemic.

- Started providing presentations to addiction recovery centers, educating staff on how to refer clients for non-drug pain treatments.

- Started social media campaign to increase awareness of the opioid epidemic and non-drug alternatives to opioids.

- Communicating with the Canton Repository to increase awareness of non-drug treatment options as an alternative to opioids.

## PHOENIX RISING

• Prior to dispensing a prescription for a controlled substance, our medical staff consistently utilize the OARS system to verify appropriateness of the proposed treatment regimen.

- Phoenix Rising medical staff will assess client drug use at initial assessment utilizing a non-judgmental, collaborative approach that takes into account dependency issues. Medical staff will use a treatment approach that integrates the formation of a therapeutic relationship which facilitates veracity of client report combined with drug testing for purposes of establishing a use baseline as well as fostering a system of accountability fostered by the aforementioned relationship. Consequently, medical staff can effectively titrate their psychopharmacological treatment approach based on use as well as their current stage of change.

\*Asterisk indicates StarkMHAR Care Network provider.

## 2017 Milestones

### March 2017

StarkMHAR teamed with Canton Municipal Court to implement Recovery Court to help break cycle of addiction and incarceration.

### April 2017

Awarded grant from City of Canton to provide prevention materials to Canton City School students, training for teachers on SAFE HOME opiate prevention curriculum and to partner with Canton Police Dept. to distribute prevention messaging at summer events to Canton City residents.

### June 2017

Canton Police Dept. launched Stark Outreach Support (SOS) team with Stark County TASC and Crisis Intervention & Recovery Center to outreach opiate overdose survivors and provide education and linkage to treatment and recovery supports.

### July 2017

Collaborated with community partners to support the Stark County Sheriff's Office in distributing Naloxone kits to former inmates.

### Summer 2017

Through the 21st Century Cures Act, Stark County secured \$615,503 for StarkMHAR Care Network providers to increase medication assisted treatment access and peer navigation in hospital emergency departments. StarkMHAR supplemented request for federal dollars with \$125,000.

### Sept. 2017

As of Sept. 23, Drug Take Back Days collected a total of 29,716.5 lbs. of medication from 2010 to 2017. Learn more at [StarkMHAR.org](http://StarkMHAR.org).

### Oct. 2017

Provided funding to open new 16-bed drug and alcohol detox center Oct. 30 at Alliance Community Hospital operated by CommQuest Services.

### Nov. 2017

Stark County Sheriff's Office launched a Quick Response Team (QRT) with Stark County TASC and Crisis Intervention & Recovery Center to outreach opiate overdose survivors and provide education and linkage to treatment and recovery supports.

### Fall 2017

After two years in pilot, SAFE HOME, a prescription drug prevention curriculum for Stark County students in grades 5, 8 and 10, is released to all school districts for use upon staff being trained.

See the full timeline of community opiate solutions at [StarkMHAR.org/Opiates](http://StarkMHAR.org/Opiates)