**INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS MAKING AN IMPACT AT THE LOCAL LEVEL**

On October 5, leaders of the Stark County, Ohio,部分 federal agencies（SAMHSA, CDC, NIH and FDA）delivered testimony before the Committee on Education, Labor and Publics discussing the federal response to the opioid crisis.

### STARK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

**Created an Overdose Fatality Review Team to respond to unintentional overdose deaths that occurred in Stark County.** This team, comprised of members from public health, coroners, courthouse, law enforcement, 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 CARRS, prescribing guidelines, screening practices and Narcan. This information will serve as a tool to find areas of strength and information that 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](http://www.starkcountyohio.gov/public-health/nursing-services/overdose-prevention)

**STARK COUNTY TASC**

**At Stark County TASC, we are providing training to the opioid treatment programs in several directions.** TASC has been providing peer support within the addiction community for many years. While our programs have evolved, and we have started a new program working within the hospital emergency departments. We are working with those suffering from opiate addiction in those first vulnerable moments when they have come close to death by offering hope and guidance. We start the work of getting them into treatment and other vital changes before we can leave the facility. TASC works hard to make sure that no one that comes to the emergency department from an opioid overdose lives without knowledge there are options and people willing to help them take the first difficult steps into recovery.

**We are committed to walking the path with them; wherever they are today is where they 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 connecting to mental health or physical health providers or any other barriers they may be encountering 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 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 everyone 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.

### STARK COUNTY MENTAL & ADDICTION HEALTH

Collaborated on the 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 need for improved awareness of indications and co-occurring conditions among health care practitioners. These four agencies from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) are turning their attentions to the fight against the opioid epidemic as well as how these approaches align with the aims of HHS’s five-point Opioid Strategy.**

### ARE YOU IN CRISIS? Your options are available.

- **Call 9-1-1, 420-600.**
- **Call 330-454-600, the Stark County Crisis Hotline any time.**
- **Text 4489 to 74171, the Crisis Text Line any time.**
- **Military & Veterans Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255, press 1 any time.**
- **Military & Veterans Crisis Text Line 83825 to help now.**
- **Opiate Hotline 330-454-4HELP (4357), Community Information, education, support and connection to services any time, day or night.**

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**SUMMIT PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES**

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As you explore action steps in this update as for first responders is compassion fatigue. If you want 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. It is a thoughtful, comprehensive website with opiate resources and solutions. We would like to thank you for feeling 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 what innovation is driven by compassion, that is when we see to bring about real change and transformation.

From all of us at StarkMHAR, thank you for doing your part!
Knowing your status continues to be the foundation for treatment and counseling on-site during clinic hours. 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

PHILO. • Provided treatment to hundreds of Stark County residents with an opiate use disorder. • Provided individualized supported care, treatment services and providing placement assistance, resources and supportive services to many Stark County residents with an opiate use disorder. • Provided education, screening and intervention services to thousands of Stark County residents. • Provided education to community groups at the installation of the opioid epidemic and overdose awareness portion. We have programs to help community groups educate first responders, community members and students served by DVPI's programs to the dangers of opioids and other prescription drugs as well that this 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.org. • Support The Well is a support group for families who have lost someone to addiction. It meets first and third Wednesdays of month, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at 2656 Argline Rd. (Shamps Bionics Building). For info, call Sue at 330-472-7828. • Living With Grace is a support group for families who care for children with disabilities, meets second and fourth Wednesdays of month, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at 2656 Argline 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. Families who have been affected by the opioid 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-months of 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 living as well as the additional treatment 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 in a safe environment for the whole person with mind, body and spiritual activities and classes. To learn more, please visit hopeunited.org.

FATHERS • Creation and maintenance of the Starkheroinepidemic.org website which contains all available Stark County Treatment, recovery, family and social support resources. Corresponding help cards are made available to Stark County residents to call other interested service agencies countrywide. • Installation and maintenance of nine (9) community signs to promote epidemic awareness and access to help. • In partnership with CommQuest Services, working to develop a sustainable wide series of support, education and prevention day programs for the children affected by the epidemic.

HOPE UNITED Education Support Recovery Center 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 also taught thousands of people about the dangers of opiates and other prescription drugs as well that this 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.org. • Support The Well is a support group for families who have lost someone to addiction. It meets first and third Wednesdays of month, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at 2656 Argline Rd. (Shamps Bionics Building). For info, call Sue at 330-472-7828. • Living With Grace is a support group for families who care for children with disabilities, meets second and fourth Wednesdays of month, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at 2656 Argline 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. Families who have been affected by the opioid 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-months of 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 living as well as the additional treatment 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 in a safe environment for the whole person with mind, body and spiritual activities and classes. To learn more, please visit hopeunited.org.

NORTH CENTRAL ACADEMY OF CHIROPRACTIC • Created resources on oahochiro.org that provide information 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. Oahochiro.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 and addiction. • Working 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 regarding distributing naloxone and reaching out to employers to increase awareness of injured workers being at greater risk of drug overdose. • Meetings second and fourth Wednesdays of month, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at 2656 Argline Rd. (Shamps Bionics Building). For info, call Shelly at 330-414-5960.

PHOENIX RISING • Prior to dispensing a prescription for a controlled substance, our medical staff consistently utilize the OAARS system to verify the recipient is not on the list of the proposed treatment regimen. • Phoenix Rising medical staff will assess all patients presenting for non-drug treatment by 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 and provider communication. • Medical staff will utilize drug testing for purposes of establishing a use baseline as well as fostering a system of accountability that replaces the punitive intervention relationship. Consequently, medical staff can effectively use a non-drug treatment approach based on use as well as their current stage of change.

2017 Milestones

March 2017 Stark County linked with Canton South Stark County coalitions to implement Recovery Court to help break cycle of addiction and incarceration.

April 2017 Award given from City of Canton to provide prevention materials to Canton City school students and school staff. StarkMHAR Care Network provides money to purchase materials and distribute prevention messaging at summer events to Canton City residents.

June 2017 Stark County Police Dept. launched Stark Outreach Support (SOS) team with Stark County Sheriff’s Office and StarkMHAR Care Network. The SOS Team provides on-the-spot outreach and education to prevent and provide education and linkage to treatment and recovery support.

July 2017 Collaborated with community partners to support the Stark County Sheriff’s Office in distributing Narcan kits to former inmates.

Summer 2017 Collaborated with County partners with the 20th Century Cures Act, Stark County secured $151,503 for StarkMHAR Care Network provided printing, medication assisted treatment access and peer navigation support teams in Stark County. StarkMHAR supplemented request for federal dollars with $25,000.

Sept. 2017 StarkMHAR launched “Strangely” a Take Back Days campaign in Stark County with 29,716.5 lbs. of medications collected.

Oct. 2017 Project DAWN education and Naloxone overdose kit distribution to 2017. StarkMHAR Care Network partnered with Stark County TASC and Crisis Intervention & Recovery Center to outreach opiate overdose survivors and provide education and linkage to treatment and recovery supports.

Nov. 2017 StarkMHAR Care Network 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 All Stark MHARs in pilot, SAFE HOMEs, a prescription drug disposal initiative, with StarkMHAR Care Network Office in distributing Narcan to 6th grade students to 26 school districts for use upon staff being trained.