

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Department of  
Mental Health &  
Addiction Services

**BE WELL, GET WELL, STAY WELL.**



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## Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

Lori Criss, Director



Dear Ohioans,

It's a new day. The light on mental health and substance use disorders has never been brighter. Under the leadership of Governor Mike DeWine and with the support of the General Assembly, we at the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) continue the priority work to make services more visible, accessible and effective for Ohioans faced with mental health or substance use challenges.

July 2023, brought the nationwide launch of the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. Uplifting this life saving service is an ongoing process, as we work to raise awareness of this resource to better help Ohioans experiencing mental health or addiction crises. Across the next two years the state budget will invest \$86.5 million to grow and support Ohio's crisis services and infrastructure to provide Ohioans with an appropriate response and a safe place to have their needs met.

We know that providing Ohioans with the best mental health supports will mean building a robust behavioral healthcare workforce. We seek to encourage and incentivize students to pursue careers in behavioral health and to support those who may have left the field to return, and to retain our talented employees. We are boosting the number of qualified professionals in our behavioral healthcare workforce, in our peer support communities, and throughout the field and giving them the supports they need to grow and thrive in their chosen careers.

The work we have before us is not without its challenges. We have seen increases in deaths by suicide and unintentional overdoses. To combat these trends, we are investing heavily in crisis support systems and in prevention, treatment and recovery services in the community, our hospitals and state prisons.

This report highlights the past year's work from OhioMHAS, while also looking forward to the work we have in front of us. Our goals from year-to-year may remain similar, but our approaches are constantly changing in the face of new challenges, while being supported by advancing technology, resources, and research. Behavioral health is health. Every day we seek to help Ohioans be well, get well, and stay well.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lori Criss". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lori Criss, OhioMHAS Director





**PREVENTION**



## Building Resilient Communities and People

The OhioMHAS Office of Prevention Services focuses on providing quality, effective services to support evidence-based prevention at the community level that can grow and be sustained for generations to come, so that all Ohioans will have increased access to high quality, culturally appropriate behavioral health prevention and early intervention services. Prevention Services plays an essential role in carrying out our vision of ending suffering from mental illness, substance use disorders, and problem gambling for Ohioans of all ages, their families, and communities.

### Centers of Excellence (COEs)

Our state universities are great resources to align prevention theory and practice, affect population level change, and build healthy, safe, and resilient communities. OhioMHAS funds three Centers of Excellence (COEs) to promote evidence-informed prevention and to support community capacity-building efforts. The COEs prioritize mental health and wellness and act as hubs for a host of current and ongoing school-based mental health initiatives, state-wide projects, and multi-year projects. These programs provide ongoing learning opportunities that support the understanding of prevention science and implementation of evidence-based frameworks, policies, programs, and practices.

- **SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE AT CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY:** To combat overdose deaths and help those struggling with substance use disorders the State of Ohio awarded a three-year, \$6 million grant for a new statewide initiative housed at Case Western Reserve University. The grant, from federal American Rescue Plan Act dollars awarded to Ohio through the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), will create a Substance Use Disorders Center of Excellence (SUD COE), in partnership with the university's Center for Evidence-Based Practices (CEBP), part of the Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education. The initiative will support the adoption, implementation and evaluation of evidence-based and best practices and policies related to substance-use disorders.



**MIKE DEWINE**  
GOVERNOR OF OHIO

**“For much of what we do, we will not see the results in the life of this administration, nor in some people’s cases, in our lifetimes. Yet we do these things, nonetheless, grounded in the faith and grounded in the hope that we can change the future.”**

Second Term Inaugural Address, January 14, 2019

- **CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PREVENTION AND PROMOTION AT OHIO UNIVERSITY:** The [Ohio Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health Prevention and Promotion](#) is an accessible and interactive resource which serves to support and connect the broader prevention community across the state of Ohio, and is coordinated through a partnership between OhioMHAS, Ohio University’s Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service, and the Pacific Institute of Research and Evaluation (PIRE). The centers priorities are to support systemic change efforts to help communities identify local prevention needs and solutions, enhance multi-sector efforts to support Ohioans, advance the use of prevention science for mental, emotional, and behavioral health prevention and promotion, and grow and support Ohio’s prevention workforce. The COE partners closely with ADAMH boards, prevention providers, community coalitions, and faith-based organizations to expand quality prevention resources, trainings, and supports to local communities across Ohio.





- **SCHOOL-BASED CENTER OF EXCELLENCE AT MIAMI UNIVERSITY:** Through a partnership between OhioMHAS and the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), Miami University was awarded \$5 million to address the ongoing mental health crisis in Ohio's K-12 schools. The grant will allow Miami to transform the [Center for School-Based Mental Health Programs](#) into a new School-Based Center of Excellence (SBCOE). The SBCOE will prioritize statewide prevention and early intervention for students and staff in schools throughout Ohio including the Ohio School Wellness Initiative (OSWI).

## Ohio School Wellness Initiative (OSWI)

Ohio students are facing challenges in many forms; from the stressors of social media and to the everyday stress of growing up.

### ACCORDING TO THE OHIO HEALTHY YOUTH ENVIRONMENTS SURVEY

- 1 in 3 Ohio students reported challenges with anxiety, higher than the national average.
- 1 in 3 students report feelings of sadness or hopelessness.
- Almost 115,000 high-school aged youth in Ohio experience depression.

Find more county, regional, and statewide level data from the survey at [youthsurveys.ohio.gov](https://youthsurveys.ohio.gov)



The School-Based Center of Excellence (SBCOE) at Miami University has partnered with schools around the state to develop a Student Assistance Program (SAP). The SBCOE provides training, resources,

and technical assistance to a broad range of urban, suburban, rural, digital, public and parochial k-12 schools to implement SAP. The [OSWI](#) seeks to create a welcoming and supportive school and classroom in a manner that is designed to be systematic, collaborative, equitable, and sustainable.

The Ohio's Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) under Ohio's share of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) funds provided \$6M to OSWI. The OhioMHAS Office of Prevention Services and the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) Office of Whole Child Supports have been working closely with stakeholders to understand how they now can best address student and educator well-being and mental health needs. OSWI was piloted in 69 schools across the state, with 13 having a fulltime behavioral health and wellness coordinator.

*Kinder has become the school where everyone wants to be – an impressive turnaround from two years ago.*

*Not only is OSWI having a state-level impact, but more importantly, my students lives are better for the work we have been doing.*

*– Rebecca Huber, Principal, Kinder Elementary*

## Suicide Prevention

In May of 2023, the Ohio Department of Health released the Suicide Demographic and Trends 2021 report indicating that on average five Ohioans die by suicide every day, and one youth dies every 34 hours. Suicide is the second-leading cause of death among Ohioans 10-34 years of age and the 12th-leading cause of death in Ohio, overall. Fortunately, we can all help prevent suicide.



In 2020 RecoveryOhio, OhioMHAS, and the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation partnered to create The Suicide Prevention Plan for Ohio. To help Ohioans recognize the warning signs and risk factors of suicide appropriately resources such as Mental Health First Aid and Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) trainings are available, with over 95,000 Ohioans now trained in Mental Health First Aid.

Prevention efforts are also focused on groups found to be at high-risk for suicide, including youth (10-24), adult males, Ohioans who are racial and ethnic minorities, veterans/military members, and Ohioans living in rural or agricultural regions. Key campaigns include: Be Present Ohio, Life is Better with You Here, Got Your Back, and Life Side Ohio.



In 2019, firearms were the leading mechanism of suicide in Ohio, accounting for **32% of female suicides** and nearly **60% of male suicides**.

Ohio Department of Health

**1 in 10** firearm suicides involved a gun that was purchased or rented within a week of the suicide

NH Firearm Safety Coalition

Having conversations about safety in a community-based setting resulted in more people securing their firearms.

Forefront Suicide Prevention

**Text:** support@ohiohelp.org  
**Phone:** 614-429-1528  
**Address:** 175 South 3rd Street, Suite 700 Columbus, OH 43201



## Problem Gambling Services

OhioMHAS, the Ohio Casino Control Commission (OCCC), and the Ohio Lottery Commission (OLC) earned recognition at the 2023 National Conference on Gambling Addiction & Responsible Gambling. Their exceptional efforts on the “Pause Before You Play” and “Make the Call” campaigns received the 2023 Corporate People’s Choice Award and the Corporate Public Awareness Campaign awards. These campaigns are pivotal in promoting responsible sports gambling and encouraging Ohioans to call the Ohio Problem Gambling Helpline.

Every five years since 2012, OhioMHAS, in collaboration with Ohio for Responsible Gambling (ORG), has conducted a comprehensive statewide survey of Ohioans’ gambling behaviors. The 2022 Ohio Gambling Survey offers a decade-long perspective on the state’s gambling landscape. Conducted before the launch of sports betting, it provides a valuable baseline for future comparisons and insights into evolving gambling trends.

Tackling the challenge of accessible, affordable, and secure behavioral health care, OhioMHAS, in partnership with ORG, initiated a request for proposals to identify organizations capable of delivering telehealth care tailored to address problem gambling. The Project Gambling Network of Ohio was chosen as the administering agency with the Zepf Center as the initial clinical agency. Together, they lead the Ohio Gambling Telehealth Network (OGTN), addressing access gaps, particularly in areas with geographical limitations or stigma-related concerns. The program had a soft launch in April 2023, with full operational capacity anticipated in the third quarter of SFY24.

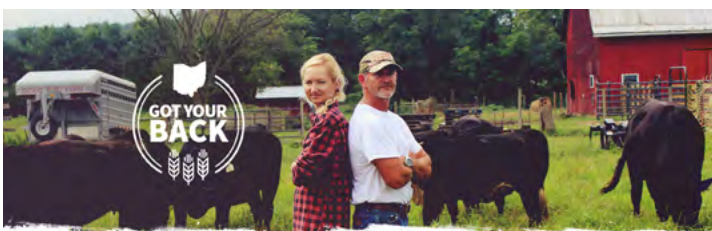
**66,956** screened



**1,136** treated



**9,448** calls to the Ohio Problem Gambling Helpline







**CRISIS**

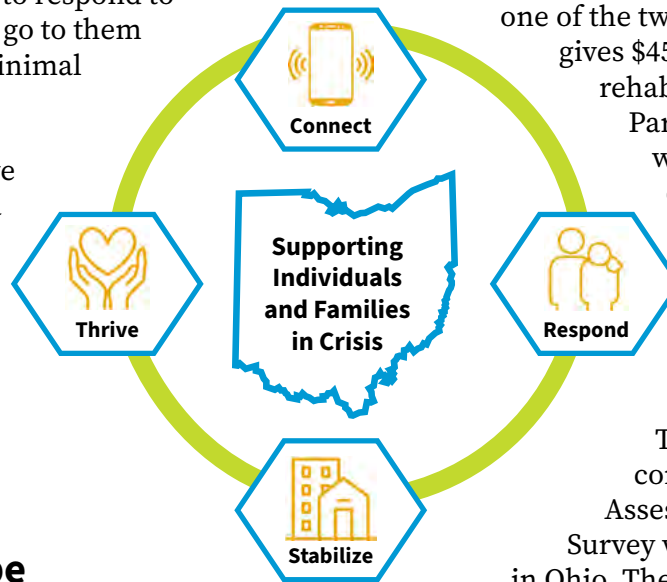




## Ohio's Crisis Service System

Across Ohio, people of all ages and their families are seeking care in record numbers for substance use disorders and mental health concerns. There are four principles guiding us as we build Ohio's Crisis Service System: **CONNECT, RESPOND, STABILIZE, and THRIVE.**

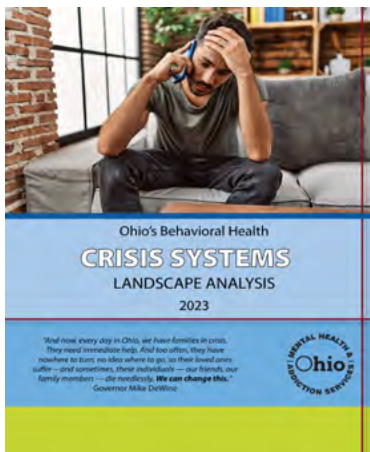
- **CONNECT** refers to the ability to connect people to services when they are in a crisis.
- **RESPOND** refers to the ability to respond to individuals with services that go to them or that they can get to with minimal burden.
- **STABILIZE** refers to the ability for individuals in crisis to have places to go to stabilize over a more extended period.
- **THRIVE** refers to providing the necessary long-term treatment and supportive services necessary that will reduce the chance of a future crisis.



## Crisis System Landscape Analysis

Reflecting the input of hundreds of people involved in the state's behavioral health system, the [Crisis Systems Landscape Analysis for 2023](#) lays out the current state of the behavioral health crisis system, creates a vision for the future state, and lays out considerations to make progress from the current state toward that envisioned future. The Ohio Crisis Task Force will be leading the development of a statewide strategic implementation roadmap. OhioMHAS has hired additional staff to support these endeavors.

Check out the report! →

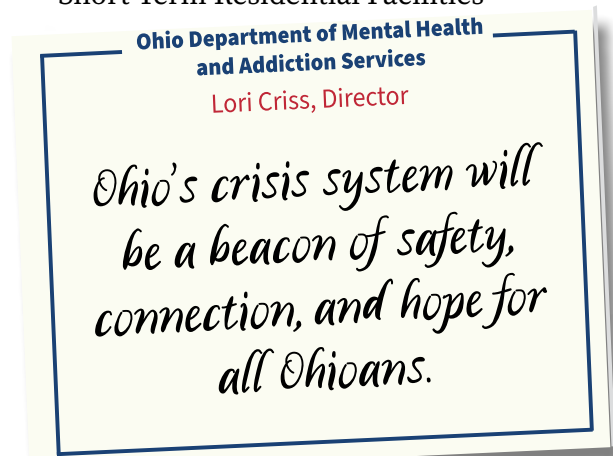


## Crisis \$90M Infrastructure Investment

On January 6, 2023, Governor Mike DeWine signed into law House Bill 45, which appropriated \$90 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for OhioMHAS to support Ohio's Crisis Infrastructure. These funds will be used to help strengthen Ohio's statewide mental health and addiction services system, specifically pertaining to crisis services. Part one of the two funding opportunities gives \$45M for mental health rehabilitation facilities. Part two of this funding will pertain to the development of Crisis Services to address gaps in local/regional crisis continuums and will be released later in SFY 2024.

This fiscal year OhioMHAS conducted the Community Assessment and Plan (CAP) Survey with all ADAMH Boards in Ohio. The results of this survey identified opportunities for strengthening all components of Ohio's crisis services continuum. However, four main opportunities for improvement were most prevalent in the survey findings. These include:

- **SOMEONE TO RESPOND**
  - Mobile Crisis Services
- **SOMEWHERE TO GO**
  - Crisis Stabilization Units
  - Behavioral Health Urgent Care
- **RESOURCES TO THRIVE**
  - Short-Term Residential Facilities





## 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

The [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#) launched in Ohio, and nationwide, on July 16, 2022, making help just three digits away for those struggling with thoughts of suicide, mental health, or addiction-related crisis. Ohioans

experiencing a crisis, and their loved ones, can call, text, or chat the [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#) to reach a trained specialist who can offer help and support. Numerous studies have shown that most 988 callers are significantly more likely to feel less depressed, less suicidal, less overwhelmed, and more hopeful after speaking to a 988 Lifeline crisis specialist. There is a high need for this kind of effective care. Supporting the 988 Lifeline and local, community-based services is a priority for OhioMHAS and our partners. We continue to build partner relationships, resources, and workforce to ensure consistent quality service and optimal access for all Ohioans.



In SFY 2024, OhioMHAS will be working to raise awareness of 988 in Ohio. Raising awareness of this life saving resource began with the release of the Ohio-specific logo for 988 and will continue with a campaign letting all Ohioans know that help is just three digits away.

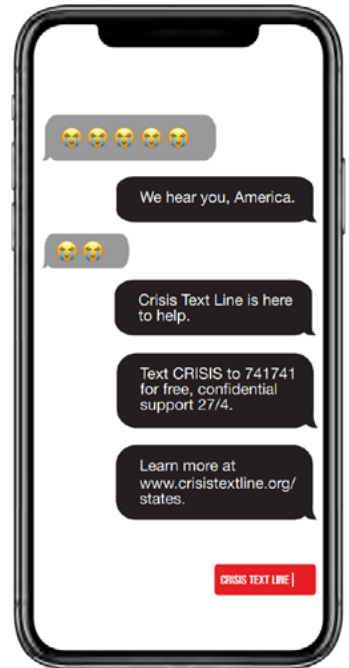
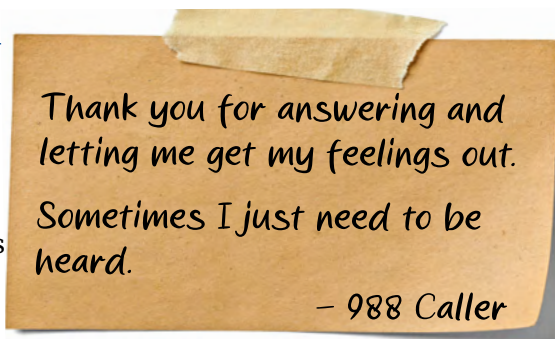


## Crisis Text Line

The [Crisis Text Line](#) and the new 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline all serve as vital connection points for any Ohioan struggling with mental health and addiction concerns. The top issues reported by those utilizing the Crisis Text Line were anxiety/stress, relationships, depression/sadness, school, and suicide. The

Crisis Text Line has also seen an increase in texts about finances in the last year.

A new marketing campaign through March of 2023 reached millions through web and radio ads. Hundreds attended community events led by Crisis Text Line Youth Ambassadors across the state featuring spoken-word poetry, art, mindfulness activities, and discussions about why your mental health matters.



## East Palestine

The events surrounding the train derailment in East Palestine gave us a clear example of how disasters can impact the well-being of individuals, families, and communities. To help state officials meet the behavioral health needs of citizens affected by traumatic events and disasters OhioMHAS will use the funding awarded in [April 2023](#) through the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act to help establish necessary statewide and local partnerships and procedures that create the systemic changes necessary to immediately deploy essential behavioral health supports and resources in every community across the state in the aftermath of tragedies. OhioMHAS has already proactively developed a Behavioral Health Emergency and Disaster Planning Preparedness and Resource Manual for Fiscal Years 2023-24.





**TREATMENT**



## Advancements in Mental Health Treatment and Care

In an era defined by unprecedented challenges, the importance of mental health and well-being has never been more evident. Our approach to mental illness and substance use disorder treatment involves tailoring treatments to the unique patterns of patients, encompassing substance abuse, and co-occurring medical, psychiatric, and social issues, thereby fostering sustained recovery. The bottom line is that treatment works, and it empowers individuals to lead fulfilling lives, overcoming the challenges of addiction and mental illness. OhioMHAS wholeheartedly supports access to these proven treatment options while also striving to strike a balance between prevention and recovery support, ensuring that individuals in recovery continue to lead healthy and productive lives.



**MIKE DEWINE**  
GOVERNOR OF OHIO

**“We must help those struggling with mental illness or substance use disorders by giving them a system that provides quality treatment on demand.”**

## Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Planning Grant

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) awarded the state of Ohio with a \$1 million, one-year Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) Planning Grant. This one-year planning grant served as a critical steppingstone for Ohio, aiding in the development and execution of the essential regulatory framework required for CCBHC certification. Additionally, it facilitated the conceptualization of an application for participation in a four-year CCBHC Demonstration program.

## Access to Wellness

Introduced by Governor DeWine in his FY22-23 budget and supported by the General Assembly, Access to Wellness aims to address the needs of adults with severe and persistent mental illness who are involved in various systems, including aging, criminal justice, developmental disabilities, homelessness, and veterans affairs.

### AFTER RECEIVING ACCESS TO WELLNESS SERVICES

- 81% did not experience in-patient psychiatric treatment.
- 90% did not experience incarceration.
- 96% did not experience a crisis stabilization unit stay.



The program's core objective is to enhance access to essential recovery resources within communities and foster stability and recovery outside of institutional settings. Currently, there are 45 participating county ADAMH boards covering 78 counties.

*This program allowed me to have access to resources I would not otherwise have. I feel seen, blessed, and not forgotten. Thanks.*

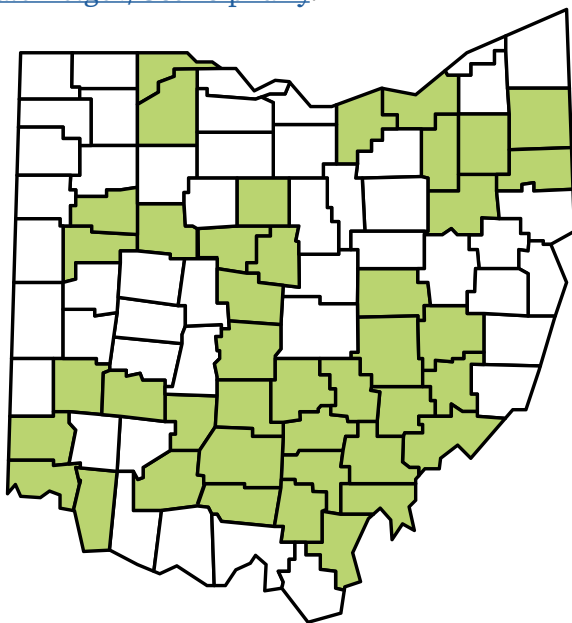
*- Program Participant*

## First Episode Psychosis

With appropriate treatment and support, individuals affected by psychosis can and do recover – and the likelihood of doing so are significantly enhanced if they receive Coordinated Specialty Care for First Episode Psychosis (CSC for FEP) as soon as their symptoms emerge.

**The first program began in 2009 at Child Guidance & Family Solutions in Akron, Ohio. Since then, 19 programs covering 39 counties have opened, helping 598 people receive prompt care to date.**

In SFY 2023, the CSC for FEP program expanded to include a virtual team – the first in the nation – which will serve Crawford, Marion, Seneca, Sandusky, Wyandot, and Ottawa counties. To learn more about CSC for FEP and to find a program near you, visit [mha.ohio.gov/GetHelpEarly](http://mha.ohio.gov/GetHelpEarly).



## Mobile Response & Stabilization Services

Mobile Response & Stabilization Services (MRSS) is designed to support individuals under the age of 21 who are facing escalating emotional symptoms, behavioral challenges, or traumatic situations that have disrupted their ability to function effectively within their family, living environment, school, or community.

MRSS is accessible in 36 counties across the state. Although suicidal ideation is frequently the reason for reaching out, our services can be requested in

response to any crisis as defined by the family. Services are accessible within 60 minutes of contacting a call center, or non-immediate response can be arranged for a later time.

Youth and family can receive up to 42 days of in-home services which can include a safety assessment, peer support, counseling, coping skill development, and more. These services are tailored to the specific needs of the family or youth, with the aim of stabilizing the current situation and preventing future issues from arising.

## Increased Naloxone Efforts

OhioMHAS, in collaboration with RecoveryOhio and the Ohio Department of Health, has taken action to combat the opioid crisis through the implementation of harm reduction strategies and the widespread distribution of naloxone, a lifesaving medication designed to reverse opioid overdoses without the risk of potential abuse.

The [naloxone.ohio.gov](http://naloxone.ohio.gov) website serves as a crucial hub, offering indispensable resources to Ohio residents seeking naloxone access, with a special focus on Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided with Naloxone). This initiative is dedicated to the memory of Leslie Dawn Cooper, who courageously battled substance use disorder for many years before her tragic loss due to a witnessed opioid overdose on October 3, 2009. Project DAWN's inception in Leslie's hometown of Portsmouth, Ohio, in 2012 marked the beginning of an impressive expansion, now comprising over 420 naloxone distribution sites across approximately 82 of Ohio's 88 counties, with a total of 182 registered Project DAWN programs.



OhioMHAS is also expanding naloxone distribution efforts through the introduction of free naloxone vending machines to be strategically placed in county jails. Participating jails will have the opportunity to receive one complimentary vending machine, which will dispense naloxone to individuals upon their release from incarceration.



## Strong Families Safe Communities

Through clinical services, community integration, respite, and engagement in pro-social supports, Strong Families Safe Communities (SFSC) empowers children and families to reach their full potential by delivering responsive services, programs, and policies that are specific to a family's needs.

*SFSC funds have helped us to build a strong foundation for collaboration across the system of care and to fill gaps that we didn't have funding to fill before.*  
- Mental Health and Recovery Board Union County

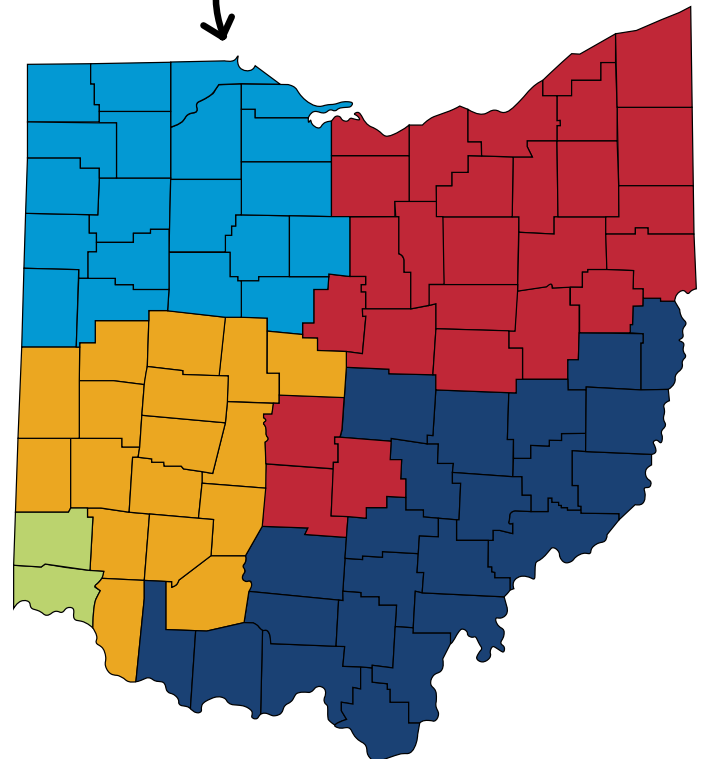
This program harnesses the combined resources of OhioMHAS and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, offering local funding for services and statewide initiatives that bolster children and their families. Grants are awarded to local organizations to augment their system of care to better serve multi-system youth and their families. SFSC grants are not one-size-fits-all. This allows grantees to be innovative in their response to community needs and provides flexibility to fill system gaps that are unique to each community based on local resource availability.

## Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) Consultation & Treatment

Early relationships and life experiences play a pivotal role in shaping a child's emotional development. The Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) Consultation and Treatment program offers evidence-based training to empower parents and caregivers in nurturing the mental well-being of young children. Effective support and connection from parents and educators can help improve or prevent future social or emotional problems.

ECMH consultants team with early childhood providers to help them understand and problem-solve challenging child behaviors, both in and out of the classroom. Services include on-site child/family-focused technical assistance to parents, teachers and staff, resources for parents, including art therapy, play therapy or physical health referrals and training and professional development. Consultants offer interventions for children and respond to the providers' programming needs, which include providing family enrichment activities and modeling helpful interactions with children.

*There's ECMH coverage in all 88 of Ohio's counties!*





# **PUBLIC AWARENESS & EDUCATION**



## Beat the Stigma Launches Mental Health Focused Campaign

In recognition of May as Mental Health Awareness Month, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Nationwide Foundation President Chad Jester, in partnership with the Ohio Opioid Education Alliance and OhioMHAS, officially unveiled the second round of



Beat the Stigma public service announcements on May 25, 2023. The new PSAs focus on reducing stigma associated with mental health treatment.



The Beat the Stigma campaign, launched in 2022, initially focused on the disease of addiction. Early measures indicate that this program which appeared on broadcast television, streaming services, radio, outdoor advertising, and digital and social media, was seen by 91% of all Ohioans.



During the 2022 Ohio State Fair, 4,000 people visited the Beat the Stigma booth and over 1,500 played the Beat the Stigma game.

Challenge what you know about mental health and addiction and see if you can Beat The Stigma at

[BeatTheStigma.org](http://BeatTheStigma.org).

## Toll-Free Bridge Line

The Toll-Free Bridge Line (1-877-275-6364) was designed to allow mental health consumers, their families, and friends to contact OhioMHAS central office with their questions, complaints, and concerns at no expense.

**The Toll-Free Bridge Line handled 23,028 calls in calendar year 2022.**

The first six months of 2023 saw 17,327 calls, for comparison in calendar year 2020 the line handled approximately 8,000 calls. The Toll-Free Bridge Line promotes advocacy, independence, and recovery for Ohioans with addiction and mental health issues. All

staff working the line, which is open 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, are peers giving callers the opportunity to speak with someone who has walked in their shoes and is trained and willing to listen, to provide support, to share experiences, and offer resiliency and hope.

## Alcohol Misuse and Self-Screening

The goal of the Alcohol Misuse Campaign is to address alcohol misuses by legal-aged adults through a self-screening tool and encouraging seeking help from a professional if needed. Binge drinking has been defined as consuming five or more drinks in a sitting for men and four or more drinks in a setting for women.

### ACCORDING TO THE OHIOMHAS 2023 ANNUAL DATA BRIEF

- Both women and men have seen sustained increases in binge drinking behavior since 2010.
- All age groups 25 and older had an increase in the estimated prevalence of binge drinking from 2019-2021.
- The 19 to 24 age group saw a decrease in binge drinking prevalence.
- Binge drinking increased for all racial/ethnic groups from 2019-2021.

**Curious about your drinking habits? Visit [alcoholscreening.org](http://alcoholscreening.org) and answer a few questions to receive personalized feedback and support.**



## Mental Health Day at the Fair



After a two-year hiatus, the Ohio State Fair returned in the summer of 2022 to the joy of families across the state. Mental health and wellness took center stage at the state fair during the inaugural Mental Health Day sponsored by Governor DeWine's RecoveryOhio, OhioMHAS, and the Ohio Department of Insurance. OhioMHAS Director Lori Criss, RecoveryOhio Director Aimee Shadwick, and ODI Director Judi French enjoyed the day's festivities by interacting with fair goers, visiting state agency booths, reading to children, getting active at ODNR's Natural Resources Park, and serving as honorary marshals in the Daily Fair Parade.

Our partners at Ohio Opioid Education Alliance's Beat the Stigma also hosted a live version

of their TV gameshow PSA at their booth throughout the fair. Visitors could test their knowledge of mental health, substance use disorders, and stigma in a replica of the trapezoid gameshow stand.



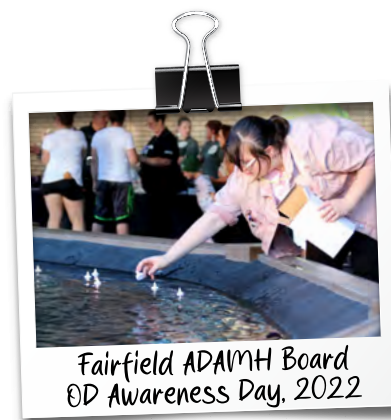
## Overdose Awareness Day - August 31, 2022



Fairfield ADAMH Board  
OD Awareness Day, 2022

Ohio observed the state's second annual Overdose Awareness Day on Wednesday, August 31, 2022, also beginning the recognition of Recovery Month in September. Established in 2021 by Senate Bill 30, Ohio Overdose Awareness Day aims to raise public awareness and remember the lives lost to the ongoing national opioid epidemic.

[Naloxone.Ohio.gov](https://www.naloxone.ohio.gov), a new resource providing a simplified process for obtaining free naloxone, a lifesaving medication used to reverse an opioid overdose, was also announced. [Naloxone.Ohio.gov](https://www.naloxone.ohio.gov) makes it easy for any Ohioan to request naloxone for their home, business, place of worship, or for carrying with them while out. The website also provides access to prevention and treatment information as well as step-by-step guides for administering naloxone.



Fairfield ADAMH Board  
OD Awareness Day, 2022

## Thrive Outside

OhioMHAS and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources joined forces to relaunch the Thrive Outside campaign aimed at helping Ohioans recharge, refresh, and #ThriveOutside. As little as 15 minutes outside can help improve mood, reduce stress, boost self-esteem, and improve cognitive function. Launched in May, the campaign reminds Ohioans that they are just a short drive away from one of Ohio's 75 state parks. Whether seeking to get your heartrate going hiking the hundreds of miles of trails or enjoying the tranquility of Ohio's 15 scenic rivers, Ohio's natural beauty provides a refuge from the pace of modern life.



So many parks to visit!  
#ThriveOutside





# HOSPITAL SERVICES

## Providing Psychiatric Care Across Ohio

OhioMHAS stands as a cornerstone in the state’s healthcare infrastructure, operating six regional psychiatric hospitals. These specialized facilities cater to diverse patient needs, offering short-term, intensive treatments within both inpatient and community-supported settings. Our hospitals serve individuals committed by criminal courts, prioritizing their well-being and rehabilitation. Upholding stringent national healthcare standards, our facilities undergo regular inspections and maintain compliance with The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (TJC) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

## New Hospital Opening

Construction is underway on a state-of-the-art facility, being built on the campus of the existing Twin Valley Behavioral Healthcare in Columbus. Construction of the 280,000-square foot, 208-bed facility hospital began in September 2020. The new facility will include improved program space, more robust outdoor courtyard areas, uses state of the art architecture and design, and 70% of the bed space being single rooms. The building will feature an additional 30 beds. The former Twin Valley location, which was built in 1977, will be phased out.



### Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

Lori Criss, Director

*It is time to bring the promises of building Ohio communities’ capacity for care to fruition. Already a world-renowned destination for physical healthcare, Ohio can elevate our behavioral healthcare system to the same level.*

## Hospital Access Program

Through the [Hospital Access Program](#), OhioMHAS authorizes funding for local ADAMH boards reimbursement for indigent, civil patients to be served at private hospitals with inpatient psychiatric beds.

**Between May 2020 and June 2023, the Hospital Access Program has successfully helped over 3,500 vulnerable Ohioans receive timely access to inpatient care by leveraging available private hospitals beds.**

From April 2021, the program has also grown from 31 local ADAMH boards participating to 48 out of 50 ADAMH boards participating in the program, with 40 private hospitals supporting patients with the funding. Through these partnerships, a tailored network of care is created so that Ohioans have access to resources and supports they need to work, live, and thrive in the communities of their choosing, while navigating the multiple systems in which they are involved. Funding for this program will continue in SFY 2024 through the State Budget.

Regional Psychiatric Hospitals	Civil				Forensic				Total Served	Total Days
	Served	%	Days	%	Served	%	Days	%		
Appalachian Behavioral Healthcare	80	26.1%	6,201	19.6%	227	73.9%	25,369	80.4%	307	31,570
Heartland Behavioral Healthcare	237	39.9%	5,305	12.2%	357	60.1%	38,282	87.8%	594	43,587
Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare	510	47.8%	11,582	13.1%	557	52.2%	77,140	86.9%	1,067	88,722
Northwest Ohio Psychiatric Hospital	31	9.2%	1,598	4.5%	307	90.8%	34,172	95.5%	338	35,770
Summit Behavioral Healthcare	55	8.9%	10,752	10.3%	561	91.1%	93,823	89.7%	616	104,575
Twin Valley Behavioral Healthcare	461	50.7%	11,370	16.5%	449	49.3%	57,599	83.5%	910	68,969
<b>Total Served</b>	<b>1,374</b>	<b>35.9%</b>	<b>46,808</b>	<b>12.5%</b>	<b>2,458</b>	<b>64.1%</b>	<b>326,385</b>	<b>87.5%</b>	<b>3,832</b>	<b>373,193</b>



## DAISY Award

OhioMHAS partners with [The DAISY \(Diseases Attacking the Immune System\) Foundation](#) to recognize the vast contribution nurses in our six regional hospitals consistently bring to Ohioans under their care. The DAISY Foundation was established in 1999 by members of the family of Patrick Barnes in memory of Patrick and to recognize the extraordinary care he received from nursing staff while ill. The DAISY Award® for Extraordinary Nurses celebrates nursing professionals that consistently go over and beyond in their service to others to relieve suffering for Ohioans who struggle with embracing life's challenges and who carry out our mission and commitment to clinical excellence.



*I was scared, and they came to me at my worst and talked to me and calmed me down. They reassured me that I would be ok.*

*- Comment from a Nominator*

**For the May award ceremony, over 160 nominations were received for 98 extraordinary nurses working in our six regional hospitals.**

Two honorees were blind selected by committee from each hospital and honored in semiannual ceremonies. These nurses exemplified OhioMHAS' core values of collaboration, quality, accountability, and compassion. In SFY 2024 a recognition program is planned to also recognize Therapeutic Program Workers (TPW) who provide direct care and assist patients to function independently and learn daily living skills.

## Joint Commissions Report

Each of the six hospitals operated by OhioMHAS is required to be inspected by and maintain compliance with the national healthcare standards for hospitals of The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (TJC) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). There are more than 250 standards which every hospital is evaluated on, and each standard addresses a wide array of topics. The standards include patient rights, infection control, medication errors, and many more. Hospitals are evaluated, in-person, every three years to determine ongoing compliance.

All six Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services regional psychiatric hospitals have achieved The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval™. The total number of findings (an observation that deviates from compliance) have reduced 46% from the previous survey cycle with zero condition level findings cited at all facilities surveyed in 2022. The improvements to patient care and safety are evident and are the result of the team's deliberate execution of initiatives that drive quality care into best practice.



## Electronic Health Record

In SFY 2023 the hospital services bureau worked to contract with Epic to implement an Electronic Health Record (EHR) system throughout the OhioMHAS hospital network. Many Ohioans may be familiar with Epic's product, MyChart, as it is used by other hospital systems throughout the state. An electronic record system will improve patient care and outcomes by providing interoperability with other healthcare networks and standardizing workflow using best practices. EHR increases communication with stakeholders to expand access and improve the continuity of care for patients.



# **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & FORENSIC SERVICES**



## Collaborative Approaches to Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health

OhioMHAS works very closely with the criminal justice system to ensure that people get the treatment that is most appropriate for them, partnering with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) to treat offenders who are in need of substance abuse or mental health recovery programming. Law enforcement, courts, jails and prisons have joined with consumers and family members in addressing the increased involvement of people with mental illness or addiction disorders in the criminal justice system. OhioMHAS collaborates with these constituencies to identify issues and seek solutions.

### Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

Lori Criss, Director

*This budget continues important funding for Ohio's specialty dockets which have helped over 7,400 Ohioans. It also includes funding to improve the ability of jails to offer medications and promote behavioral health and criminal justice collaborations.*

## Community Transition Supports

The Community Transition Program (CTP) program, funded by OhioMHAS, provides treatment, transitional recovery supports, and housing to individuals leaving Ohio's prison system who have participated in recovery services while incarcerated. Eligible offenders are identified by OhioMHAS linkage staff approximately 30 days before their release and referred to local providers for continued treatment and supports. The CTP enhances communication and collaboration during a challenging time for individuals returning to their communities to smooth the transition. OhioMHAS contracts with the Corporation for Supportive Housing to serve approximately 300 individuals per year through the program.

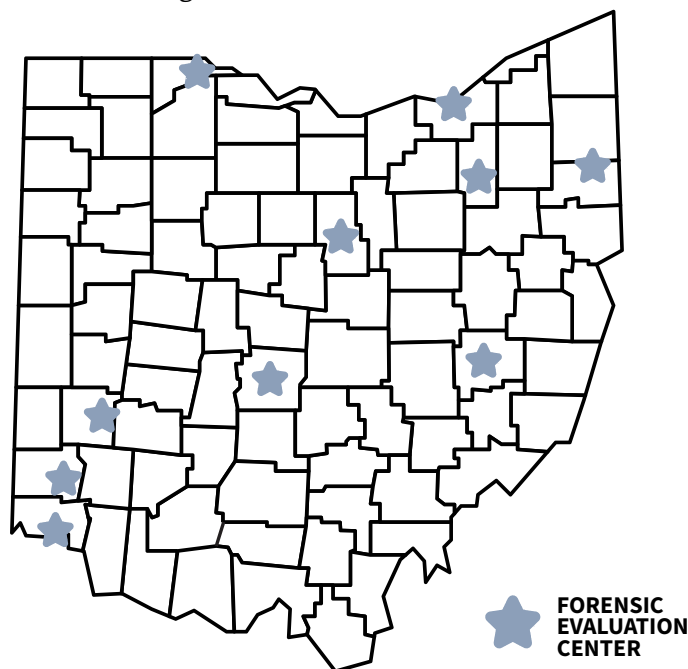
## Investment in Forensic Center Operations (ARPA)

The Bureau of Forensic Services supports 10 Forensic Evaluation Centers providing comprehensive forensic evaluation services for Ohio's criminal court system. Each provides services to designated counties in its region. Forensic center staff also provide consultation and training services for local criminal justice systems, county boards and community mental health agencies, as well as expert testimony for their local courts. The centers provide timely, comprehensive, and professional evaluations locally, eliminating the stigma of inpatient hospitalization and increased costs.

Many states experienced an increased need for forensic evaluation services leading to waitlists. To limit waitlists, \$3 million in ARPA funding was devoted to help support and retain staff in these centers in November 2022.

Through the use of this funding forensic centers, such as Netcare Forensic Center in Columbus, were able to decrease their number of cases waiting.

In October 2022 Netcare Forensic Center reported 100 cases waiting, by the end of April they were down to 10 cases waiting.



## Specialty Docket Growth

According to the Supreme Court of Ohio there are over 250 specialized dockets certified through the Supreme Court of Ohio. OhioMHAS is currently funding 221 specialized dockets with options focused on mental health or substance use with the goal of having fewer people involved in criminal justice system and more in recovery or treatment services. Part of the specialized dockets is an addiction treatment program which pays for treatment and recovery support for individuals participating in these drug courts or family treatment courts. Many of these participants are served by Medicaid. Supports can include assistance with travel costs related to treatment, childcare, and vocational supports to help them as they work toward recovery. Information on specialized dockets by county can be found through the [Supreme Court of Ohio](#).

**These courts helped over 7,400 Ohioans, resulting in a 2% recidivism rate in Ohio's prisons and less than 2% rate at juvenile facilities.**

## Increased Behavioral Health Supports in County Jails

The Psychotropic Drug Reimbursement program is a vital initiative aimed at easing the financial burden on county jails while ensuring that inmates receive essential psychotropic medications. With an annual allocation of up to \$3 million, this program offers a lifeline to around 70 participating county jails across the region. These funds cover the costs associated with the dispensation of specific psychotropic drugs to inmates, contributing to the overall well-being of those incarcerated. This program not only helps inmates manage their mental health but also promotes a safer and more stable environment within correctional facilities.

In tandem with the Psychotropic Drug Reimbursement program, the Behavior Health and Criminal Justice Linkage programs play a crucial role in addressing the complex intersection of behavioral health and the criminal justice system. Operating through the collaboration of 34 distinct ADAMH Boards across 57 counties, this initiative conducts mental health and substance use disorder intake screenings as individuals enter jails. By identifying

those in need of treatment, it paves the way for them to receive appropriate care, both during their incarceration and upon reintegration into the community.

## Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) and Peer Support Expansion in Prisons

Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) and peer support are used to aid those seeking treatment for substance use disorders while involved in the criminal justice system. MAT hopes to provide a stabilizing effect through use of medications such as naltrexone, buprenorphine, and methadone to help individuals so they can focus on and engage in treatment.

OhioMHAS, the recovery services provider for Ohio's prisons began working with Community Medical Services (CMS) on a program that expands the MAT program currently offered. The expansion provides a continuum of care for individuals with opiate use disorders across the criminal justice system, serving around 450 individuals. Under this new program, incarcerated adults can start MAT treatment in the form of methadone and buprenorphine as soon as they arrive at a state prison, expanding upon the currently provided continuation of community treatment and reentry-based MAT services. Additional treatment services such as cognitive-behavioral programming will continue to be provided by OhioMHAS clinicians.

In partnership with OhioMHAS Recovery Supports, 297 incarcerated individuals have been trained as peer supporters to aid in recovery inside and outside of prison since April 2021. Many of these peer supporters are able to relate to clients in ways other clinicians may not be able to because of shared experiences and backgrounds. Those receiving peer support training can become fully certified upon their release.







# DATA, INNOVATION, & COMMUNITY PLANNING



## Driving Innovation in Behavioral Healthcare

The Data, Innovation, and Community Planning teams are an important part of helping all bureaus within OhioMHAS implement effective strategies to reduce the prevalence of behavioral health conditions and decrease adverse outcomes.



Using data we determine what treatments work best, where our service gaps exist, customer satisfaction, what outcomes are being achieved and much more. Visible and actionable data will help us build the behavioral healthcare system of the future.

## Ohio Behavioral Health Information System

The Ohio Behavioral Health Information System (OBHIS) platform launched on October 1, 2020 as an upgrade from a previous system. Behavioral health providers certified or licensed by OhioMHAS are required to report client information on treatment for mental health or substance use disorders when those services are covered in whole or in part by public funding. That funding could be through Medicaid, ADAMH Boards, or OhioMHAS. Data is collected at admission, discharge and in follow-ups after 6 months. With Medicaid expansion treatment funding options for substance use disorders expanded, including to providers who were not previously part of the mandate to report data. Providing training, support, and resources for providers to participate in OBHIS is a key goal to improve outcomes and help providers.

## Inaugural Data Brief

OhioMHAS published the first edition of what will be an annual publication of behavioral health data trends and indicators. The [2023 Data Brief](#) collects important data sets from various state and federal agencies to help people better understand Ohio's current state of behavioral health and how Ohio compares regionally and nationally. This report gives elected officials, stakeholders, and the public insight in to three key areas: prevalence, utilization, and outcomes.



*Check out the report!*

## SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE OHIOMHAS 2023 ANNUAL DATA BRIEF

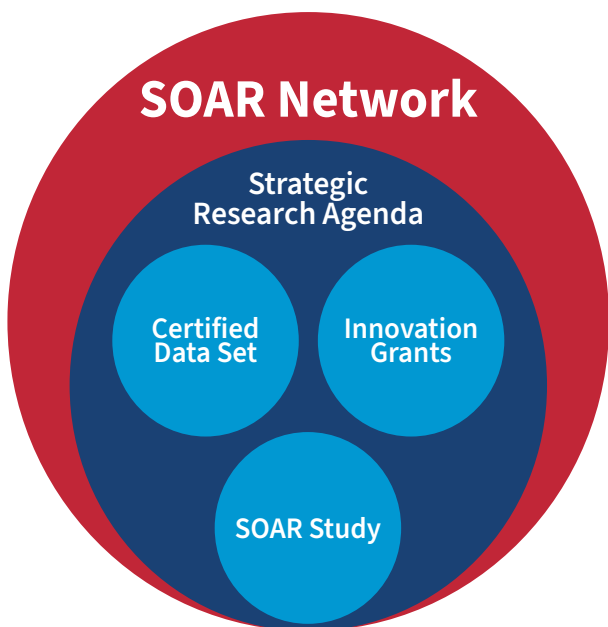
- In 2021, there were 19,760 known overdose reversals recorded by Project DAWN alone.
- Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring (OSAM) Network Consumer Survey found that 78.7% of consumers reported awareness of naloxone, with 64.6% reporting they knew where to find naloxone, and 27.2% reporting having seen a naloxone emergency kit in a public place.
- Approximately 73% (8,541,000) of Ohio's population live in a county with a crisis stabilization center.





## SOAR Network

On April 21, 2023, ten academic and medical center partners came from around the state to attend the kick-off meeting for the SOAR (State of Ohio Action for Resiliency) Study at Ohio State University. The SOAR study, inspired by the Framingham Heart Study, will be a longitudinal study involving 15,000 Ohioans to discover what are the measurable and modifiable risk and resilience factors for suicidality, substance use disorders, and mental illness in the state of Ohio. As the study progresses, the goal becomes finding testable interventions and allowing all Ohioans to live up to their potential. The State Fiscal Year 24-25 budget allocated \$20M for the study.



## Building our Data & Innovation Team

Governor DeWine has prioritized a move toward innovation and research that will help Ohio get to the root causes of mental illness and addiction with a focus on the most pressing challenges in behavioral health today better outcomes for Ohioans. In furthering those goals OhioMHAS created two new positions.

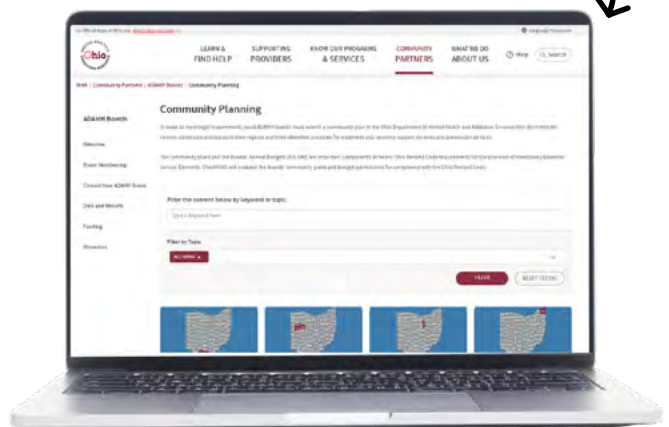
OhioMHAS appointed a new Deputy Director of Innovation, a new executive leadership position for the agency. Utilizing knowledge and experience in advocacy and government relations to help local and national health, education, human service, and workforce development clients understand political context and opportunities for meaningful change and build connections with likeminded individuals and organizations.

OhioMHAS also hired its first Chief Data Officer. Key goals of the data team include making business decisions based on the OhioMHAS mission, strategic plan, and lifecycle data management needs as well as supporting the monitoring and compliance of data policies, standards, and responsibilities throughout the data lifecycle. Throughout this year OhioMHAS has strengthened its data governance process and launched various new analytics projects with the InnovateOhio Platform (IOP).

## Community Planning with ADAMH Boards

Alcohol, Drug, Addiction & Mental Health (ADAMH) Boards across Ohio submit a community plan to OhioMHAS to describe current conditions, identify issues in their regions, and decide on priorities for treatment, recovery support, and prevention services. To align with the timing of the Ohio State Health Improvement Plan, the 2-year process has been changed to a 3-year process with course corrections as needed. County ADAMH Boards use online templates to submit their plan, supported by learning labs and technical assistance as needed for this new online tool. SFY 2023 was the first year the online version was utilized.

*See what your ADAMH Board has in store for you!*





# RECOVERY SUPPORTS







**MIKE DEWINE**  
GOVERNOR OF OHIO

**“Even in the deepest, darkest depth of addiction, there is hope.**

**There is hope for a brighter future.  
Recovery is possible.”**

[Recovery is Possible](#), June 27, 2022

## Empowering Recovery and Well-Being

Recovery supports seeks to promote health and resilience among people in recovery from mental illness and substance use disorders. With the correct supports and access to care we know recovery is possible for everyone. Supporting those in recovery to find safe and affordable housing, engaging and supportive social networks, and meaningful employment helps those in recovery thrive.

## Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR)

[Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review \(PASRR\)](#) is a federally mandated process that Medicaid agencies must oversee in conjunction with their state’s Developmental Disability authority and Mental Health authority. PASRR regulations require that all individuals seeking admission to a Medicaid-certified nursing facility, regardless of payer source, be assessed for indications of serious mental illness and/or a developmental disability.

The purpose of PASRR is to ensure that people seeking admission to a Medicaid-certified nursing facility and residents with serious mental illness or developmental disability are identified, appropriately placed in the least restrictive setting, and admitted or allowed to stay in a nursing facility only if they can be appropriately and adequately served in that setting.

**In SFY23, PASRR issued over 8,000 determinations that addressed appropriateness for nursing facility services and made connection recommendations with behavioral health services.**

It also implemented an extensive training program that reached PASRR stakeholders as well as guiding caregivers and hospital and nursing home staff in strategic teambuilding. The unique needs and

concerns of each stakeholder group were addressed in custom-tailored curricula and materials.

PASRR continued to publish the quarterly PASRR Connection newsletter, distributed electronically to approximately 1,600 PASRR stakeholders, and published a [series of video tutorials](#) on the PASRR process.

## Peer Support

A certified peer supporter is someone who has direct lived experience with behavioral health challenges, or someone who has navigated services on behalf of an individual with behavioral health challenges. Certified peer supporters are trained in using their lived experience to help others impacted by mental illness or substance use disorders. Ohio offers three types of [Peer Supporter certification](#): Adult, Family, and Youth.

The recovery supports team has spent considerable effort professionalizing the field. The team has partnered with stakeholders to expand knowledge about peer services. This included having the team participate in workgroups to expand outreach of peer support. Methods for enhancing peer supports in Ohio included collaborating with local and state level stakeholders, focusing training around specialized populations, providing correction-based trainings, onboarding new facilitators, and much more.

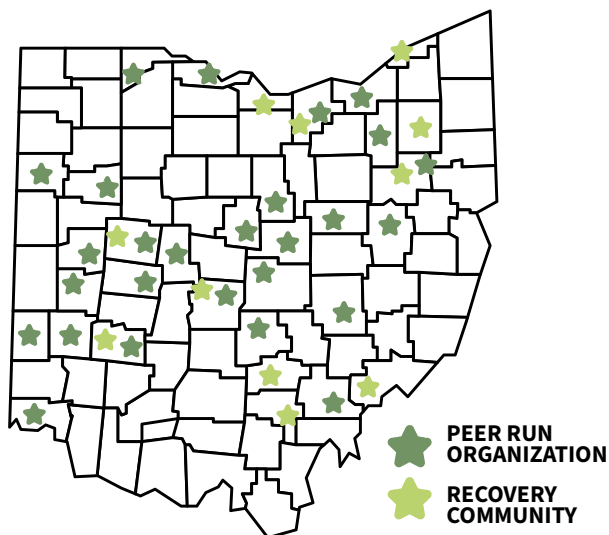
## PEER SUPPORT TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION SNAPSHOT

- Since 2016, almost 5,000 peer supporters have been certified.
- In SFY 2023, the peer support team held 1,132 trainings virtually and in-person.
- 1,373 peer supporters were newly certified in SFY 2023. Of those, 96 were family peer supporters and 27 were youth peer supporters.

**Want to become a Peer Supporter?  
Visit [mha.ohio.gov/peersupport](https://mha.ohio.gov/peersupport) for training and resources.**

## Growth of Recovery Community Organizations (RCO) and Peer Run Organizations (PRO)

Peer Run Organizations (PROs) and Recovery Community Organizations (RCOs) provide services and activities for those in recovery. PROs and RCOs include consumer operated services, peer drop-in centers, clubhouses and more. Activities are planned, developed, administered, delivered, and evaluated mainly by people with direct lived experience of a mental health and/or substance use disorder.



Through sharing personal experience and knowledge peer supporters play an active and vital role in these environments in laying the foundations for sustained recovery. These organizations are grounded in three core principles:

1. A RECOVERY VISION
2. AUTHENTICITY OF VOICE
3. ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE RECOVERY COMMUNITY

## Clubhouse Expansion

A Clubhouse is a place that fosters social connections among individuals with lived experience with mental illness and co-occurring disorders. This model of recovery support promotes a sense of unity and belonging. Clubhouse environments reflect a sense of shared achievement with members and staff working together in partnership to operate the Clubhouse. Studies have shown several inspiring outcomes associated with Clubhouse membership, including the reduced isolation, improved quality of life, reduced hospitalizations, reduced costs of care and employment for Clubhouse members.

Coordinated by grant funding through the peer services department, OhioMHAS expanded the presence of Ohio's Clubhouses through the award of \$3 million to seven unique clubhouse. Counties still operating under the Clubhouse model include Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Franklin, Geauga, Hamilton, Mahoning, Montgomery, and Portage. Funding was also provided to include Technical Assistance through Magnolia Clubhouse in Cleveland to assist with implementation and sustainability.



Members at Goodwill Easter Seals Miami Valley Miracle Clubhouse tend to the garden and use its harvest to provide lunch for the clubhouse.

## Employment Services

Research shows that employment can be an integral part of recovery for people with mental health and substance use diagnoses. Individuals who have meaningful employment experience a reduction in symptoms, improved relationships, and overall better health. It can reduce both hospitalization and forensic recidivism, provide a pathway out of poverty, and prevent entry into the disability system.

*One of the workers saw my transcripts. She said I had a gift, my training and skills are in music, and I should focus on using my talents. She really helped me find a path that's suitable and is in line with my skills. It gave me a focus and a goal to pursue. I'm much happier now.*

*– Vincent, Program Participant*



Supported employment services help people with serious mental health conditions enter and succeed in the competitive labor market. Person-centered services are provided by teams of employment, mental health, and work incentives/benefits specialists. Through these services, individuals find and maintain employment of their choice, and advance toward career development goals. Recovery is strengthened as they move ahead in a career direction of their choice.

**The services offered by the OhioMHAS employment team include, training and technical assistance, collaboration and coordination of services, consulting, community engagement, and strategic development.**

Supported employment specialists use Individual Placement and Support (IPS), an evidence-based practice of supported employment services. It is often regarded as the employment service standard of care, designed to serve people with severe and persistent mental illness and those with co-occurring substance use disorders. People are intensively supported in obtaining, maintaining, and moving ahead in integrated competitive employment of their choice, with help managing their benefits in the process.

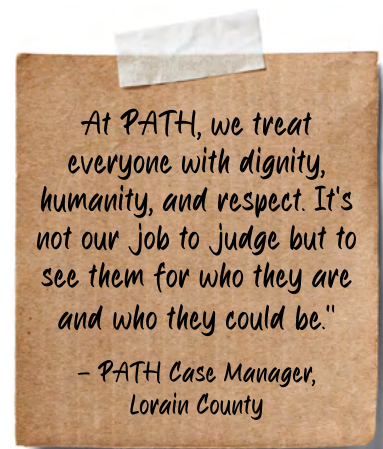
### **Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)**

Those experiencing homelessness and serious mental illness face multiple challenges as they navigate complex, confusing systems. These barriers can include lack of transportation to services, untreated mental health disorders, negative service system experiences, and trauma.

Funded by SAMHSA, PATH seeks to fill the gaps in their access to treatment by providing a nontraditional, outreach-based model that meets people where they are and provides flexible services to address their needs.

PATH services include screening and diagnostic treatment, habilitation and rehabilitation, mental health and substance use treatment, case management, referrals for primary healthcare, education, job training, and housing.

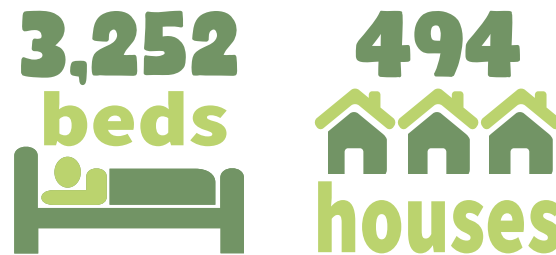
In late FY23, OhioMHAS expanded street outreach to individuals who are homeless and have a substance use disorder. These SUD outreach workers are paired with existing PATH outreach teams to serve individuals the PATH program is unable to enroll, such as those who are homeless and do not have a co-occurring mental illness. There are currently five SUD Outreach project areas.



### **Recovery Housing Initiative**

Recovery housing is a safe and healthy living environment that promotes abstinence from alcohol and other drugs through peer support and accountability, relapse prevention, case management, employment skills training, and other assistance to transition to living independently and productively in the community. Length of stay is not limited to specific duration.

Funding from this program must be used for operational costs including rent, utilities, staffing, and recovery housing services.



### **Enhancing Quality Program**

The approved SFY 22-23 State Budget introduced the Enhancing Quality Grant for up to \$6,000,000 each fiscal year to be used for operating expenses that result in improved quality of life for adults with severe mental illness living in Class 2/3 residential facilities. In SFY 23, the Enhancing Quality Grant provided \$3,000,000 to provide ancillary payments for operating expenses that align with the rules and regulations to improve the quality for adults with severe mental illness residing in those facilities. This funding focused on three areas that provide an enhanced quality of life for residents – physical environment, programmatic environment, and safety.



**WORKFORCE**






## Growing Ohio's Wellness Workforce

Ohioans from every background and at every age have reported an increased need for behavioral health supports. An estimated 2.4 million Ohioans live in communities without enough behavioral health professionals. The health and success of Ohio's families, communities, and economy depend on effective strategies to recruit and retain behavioral health professionals, or Ohio's "Wellness Workforce." Focusing on our behavioral health workforce is how we ensure those supports are available to help Ohioans be well, get well, and stay well. Whether it is attracting new workers or retaining those already in the field we are working with our partners, providers, community leaders, education centers, and many others to strategically plan pathways for Ohioans to pursue these careers.

**From 2013 to 2019, demand for behavioral health services increased by 353% while the workforce increased by 117%**

**21% of Ohioans have a mental health condition or substance use disorder**



## \$85M Investment of ARPA Funds into Building and Supporting Ohio's Wellness Workforce

In 2022, OhioMHAS received approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Ohio General Assembly to invest federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) into efforts to boost the number of qualified professionals who are trained and ready to enter the behavioral healthcare workforce in the next one to two years and who are committed to

serving in Community Behavioral Health Centers (CBHCs) regulated by OhioMHAS.

**Our plan will use \$85 million of the Workforce Development Strategic Fund to grow existing career-focused programming.**

The funding will also go towards incentivizing people to return to the behavioral healthcare workforce, and create a Technical Assistance Center to provide needed career supports to Ohio's Wellness Workforce.



**MIKE DEWINE**  
GOVERNOR OF OHIO

**"The future Ohio that I envision has the best, most robust behavioral health workforce in the country – a workforce that is hailed as heroic and valued as a vital part of our healthcare system."**

State of the State Address, March 23, 2022

### THE FOUR PILLARS OF OHIO'S WELLNESS WORKFORCE:

INCREASING CAREER AWARENESS



INCENTIVIZING RETENTION



SUPPORTING RECRUITMENT



SUPPORTING CONTEMPORARY PRACTICE



## Introducing Ohio's Great Minds Fellowship (\$78.5M)

Partnership between OhioMHAS, Department of Higher Education, and the Department of Medicaid with the goal of growing the number of Ohioans entering behavioral health professions in the next two years.

The fellowship is available to students who are within two years of graduating with degrees or certificates in Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, Mental Health Counseling, Psychiatric/ Mental Health Nursing, and Substance Abuse



Counseling. Funding will be available beginning in the 2023 Fall Semester. For more information visit the Great Minds Fellowship online or visit the online dashboard.

Great Minds Fellows will also be eligible for up to an additional \$5,000 post-graduation in recruitment and retention bonuses for obtaining employment in a CBHC in Ohio.

In order to provide the necessary supervision for students in this Fellowship, the expansion and strengthening of practice in these settings will require additional operational resources for the host providers, and this funding will support the necessary costs incurred by these community behavioral health centers.

Additional pieces of this \$85 million investment, including a Wellness Workforce Welcome Back Campaign and a Behavioral Health Workforce Technical Assistance Center, are being developed by the department. This work will incentivize supporting behavioral health professions already credentialed to return to the workforce and supporting Ohio's Wellness Workforce in accessing and navigating state and federal loan repayment and tuition assistance.

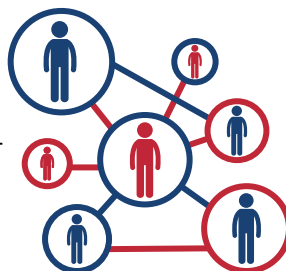
**PURPOSE:**

- 1. **GROW** high quality training and academic programs in Ohio's colleges and universities.



- 2. **BOOST** the number of qualified graduates who are trained and ready to enter the behavioral health workforce.

- 3. **FILL** unmet need for behavioral health services in home and in community-based settings.



**Staff Recruitment and Retention**

Hiring and retaining the best staff possible to provide care for our behavioral healthcare patients is a key priority for our hospital services bureau.

**Half of our hospital staff are nurses providing direct, bedside care to patients.**

Staff also include psychologists, social workers, therapeutic program workers (TPW), and many more behind the scenes to keep our facilities operating. OhioMHAS is working to improve scheduling options, provide cross-training, incorporating a professional pledge, transitioning to uniforms, and highlight the educational and financial benefits of working for a state healthcare system.



Stakeholders got together in August 2022 for the Director's Summit to chat about future industry challenges and how we can tackle them, including growing and supporting our workforce.





# Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services

**Mike DeWine, Governor • Lori Criss, Director**

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