

the Resource



MENTAL HEALTH & RECOVERY BOARD OF PORTAGE COUNTY

A publication to increase awareness of mental health and substance use disorder issues in our community.

Thank you Portage County voters for the passage of our levy!

Welcome to our November edition of the Resource e-newsletter. Please feel free to share with your friends and colleagues.

Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) Available at UH Portage

University Hospitals Portage Medical Center and the Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County received a \$250,000 grant from the State of Ohio for treatment of patients with substance use disorder. Medically assisted treatment of drug and alcohol addiction is an inpatient, medically supervised alcohol and opioid withdrawal and treatment service. The grant helps cover the cost for residents of 12 counties.

Program Manager Renee Klaric notes that addiction MAT at UH Portage is the only treatment of its kind in Portage County. "We treat addiction medically as a chronic disease," she explains. "Following withdrawal and medical stabilization, people have the option of abstinence or continuing their treatment with medications such as suboxone and naltrexone." MAT also is available at UH Geauga Medical Center in Geauga County, 13207 Ravenna Rd., Chardon.

UH Addiction Medically Assisted Treatment is integral to the Mental Health & Recovery Board's strategy for managing the opioid crisis, says the Board's Outgoing Executive Director Joel Mowrey, PhD.

"We understand the devastation caused by substance use disorders to many families here in Portage County. The partnership created by this grant between the Board, University Hospitals Portage Medical Center and the state will help us meet the growing demand for substance use disorder services and help individuals overcome the financial barrier to receiving the treatment they need," Mowrey said.

Results for the UH program, Klaric notes, are better than national outcomes, reported as the percentage of patients who engage in treatment after discharge.

Residents of Portage, Ashland, Carroll, Columbiana, Holmes, Mahoning, Medina, Richland, Stark, Trumbull, Tuscarawas and Wayne counties are eligible to receive financial assistance under the grant for up to five days of inpatient treatment for a maximum of \$2,800 per patient. Funds from the grant are available through June 30, 2019.

For more information about addiction treatment services in Portage County call the Addiction Helpline 24/7 at 330-678-3006. To learn more about MAT at UH Portage Medical Center call 844-541-2087 or for MAT at UH Geauga Medical Center call 440-214-3106.

Substance Abuse Conference Materials Online

Over 200 people attended the Portage Substance Abuse Conference in October.

Darryl Brake, the executive director of the Summit County Community Partnership, spoke on Ohio's Medical Marijuana Program and risks associated with youth marijuana use. Jim Ryan, the executive director of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Association of Ohio presented on the prevention interventions. Portage County Common Pleas Court Judge Becky Doherty explained the purpose of the drug court in Portage County and how it helps individuals in their recovery.



A panel of local leaders also provided an update on the progress that is being made in the county and answer audience questions. Several individuals shared their recovery stories demonstrating that treatment does work, and people do live in recovery from addiction.

[Click here for presentation handouts and videos](#) or visit our website at www.mental-health-recovery.org.

Drug-deactivation Pouches Available for Portage

Portage County will be receiving more drug-deactivation pouches for residents to use to safely dispose of unused medications. The Rx Abuse Leadership Initiative, an organization working to address the nation's opioid crisis, donated 14,000 drug-disposal pouches to the Northeast Ohio-based SafeRx Regional Collaborative, that distributes drug-deactivation pouches in communities in seven counties.

The SafeRx Regional Collaborative is based out of the Summit County Community Partnership. The Portage Substance Abuse Community Coalition is a partner in the SafeRx Regional Collaborative.

In Portage County, the drug deactivation pouches have been distributed at senior citizen centers and at community events.

"It is not recommended to flush unwanted medicine down the toilet or thrown in the trash," explained John Garrity, PhD, executive director of the Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County.

There are drug drop off boxes located at police stations throughout the county where residents may discard medicine at any time. "However, it is not always convenient for folks to get to the boxes. The pouches offer an easy way to safely dispose of pills, liquids, or patches," said Garrity.

"We are pleased to be able to provide this tool to the SafeRx Regional Collaborative," said Jenny Camper, representative for Rx Abuse Leadership Initiative Ohio in a news release. "Working collaboratively with partners throughout Ohio will help our communities in their efforts to address addiction and opioid abuse.

Encouraging citizens to clean out their medicine cabinet is a good way everyone can help to make a difference and we are happy to provide the resources for this effort."

For information on where to receive a pouch, contact the Mental Health & Recovery Board at 330.673.1756.

Welcomes John Garrity, PhD

Thank you to everyone who attended the welcome reception for our new executive director, John Garrity, PhD. John enjoyed meeting the agency and community partners and is impressed with the collaboration in Portage County. [Click here for reception photos.](#)

During his first week as executive director, Dr. Garrity was interviewed by WKSU 89.7FM. [Click here for the interview.](#)



Crisis Intervention Team, Class of 2018

Eighteen law enforcement personnel completed the Crisis Intervention Team training held in November. Congratulations to the class.

Bottom row, left to right: Ofc Brian Michaels, Heartland Behavioral Healthcare; Ofc Tony Tritto, Aurora Police; Ptl Thomas Moran, Ravenna Police; Sergeant David Firtik, Ravenna; Ofc Nathan Hoxworth, KSU; Haley Otto, Streetsboro Dispatcher; Ofc Terrance Duncan, KSU; Ofc Justin May, KSU; Ofc Joe Braskie, Mogadore. Top row, left to right: Ofc Trevor White, KSU; Ptl Robert Putnam, Brimfield; Ptl Jerry Dumont, Brimfield; Ofc Luke Nelson, Streetsboro; Ptl Neal Hilbruner, Kent; Ptl Mike Carnahan, Kent; Micah Cheshire, Akron Children's; Ptl Cris Coy, Ravenna; Ronald Dixon, Kent State; Sheriff David Doak; John Garrity, PhD.



Addiction Resource Magazine Distributed in October



"Save a Life - Maybe Yours" a local addiction resource guide was published by Record Courier and was distributed at our schools and area businesses. It includes articles on prevention and treatment options. The Mental Health & Recovery Board was one of the sponsors of this section.

[Click here](#) for an online version of the guide.



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Joel Mowrey, PhD

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Questions? Contact Karyn at 330.673.1756 or karynk@mental-health-recovery.org