

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.

Dear Community Member,

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

Senator Portman Visits Portage for an Opioid Roundtable Discussion



U.S. Senator Rob Portman (R-OH) participated in an opioid roundtable discussion hosted by Hope Village Recovery Center with the Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County (MHRB) on August 30, 2018.

As a result of Portman's bipartisan Comprehensive Addiction & Recovery Act (CARA), which provides additional resources for prevention, treatment and recovery programs that have proven to work, the MHRB of Portage County was awarded a \$534,750 grant through the Ohio State Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. These funds will be used over a three-year period to expand medication-

assisted treatment access and retention through use of peer support specialists in outpatient and residential settings and to enhance the ability to provide integrated care.

"It was a great meeting with Hope Village Recovery Center leadership, MHRB members, and community leaders today discussing how the opioid epidemic is impacting the community," said Portman.

"The Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County is making terrific use of the funding they received through the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, a bill I authored that became law in 2016. Their comprehensive approach to addressing addiction and its grip on our communities is exactly what is needed to help turn the tide of the opioid epidemic in Ohio."

Following a panel discussion featuring about 15 different agencies at Hope Village Recovery Services in Rootstown, Portman said he will be able to share some hopeful stories with his colleagues in the Senate about the ways various agencies in Portage County are spending the grant money from the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act.

"I think they used it very effectively," said Portman of the county's use of the grant. "I am going to have some very positive things to say about their collaboration and ability to work together."

Represented on the panel were the Mental Health & Recovery Board, Coleman Professional Services, Townhall II, Children's Advantage, Family & Community Services, Hope Village Recovery Services,

University Hospitals, Kent State University, NEOMED, AxessPointe, Job and Family Services, the Portage County Sheriff's Office, and the Portage County Commissioners.

Portman said he is trying to get the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act 2.0 through Congress, which would provide additional money for fighting addiction and all the dangers that result from it.

According to an informational flyer from Portman's office, the proposed bill would: place a three-day limit on opioid prescriptions; allow physician assistants and nurse practitioners to prescribe buprenorphine under the direction of a physician; waive the limit on the number of patients a given physician can prescribe buprenorphine to; increase penalties for opioid manufacturers who fail to report suspicious orders of opioids; and establish a national standard for recovery residence to ensure quality housing for individuals in long-term recovery.

Board Welcomes Three New Members in September



The Mental Health & Recovery Board welcomed three new members at the September meeting: Albert Barber, Joanne Frick, and Jennifer Schumm. The Board is comprised of 18 members, with 10 being commissioner appointments and 8 appointed through the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services.

Kent resident Al Barber is a consulting pharmacist and has experience with the treatment of mental health and addiction patients. "Recently, I became active in the Portage County Substance Abuse Community Coalition and am working to educate providers and the public that Substance Use Disorder (SUD) is a chronic disease that requires sustained treatment including medical, psychological, and spiritual modalities," stated Barber.

"We need to move the spending focus from incarceration to treatment. We need to increase funding for sustained treatment of SUD including Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in the same way we treat diabetes and hypertension with medications and behavioral interventions," he continued. "If we really want to save lives and reduce crime and taxpayer burden, we need to provide MAT and other treatment modalities to all recovering addicts including those incarcerated in our county jail."

Ravenna resident Joanne Frick is a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor in a private practice. "My past experience in a corporate setting, and now as a counselor, gives me the necessary skills to objectively review funding requests and question expenditures," said Frick. "I believe everyone should have access to mental health services and as a Board member, I can help make that happen."

Jennifer Schumm resides in Kent and is currently employed with the Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities as a Service and Support Administrator. "Working and living in Portage county, I have seen how mental health and addiction issues can affect our everyday lives," said Schumm of her desire to serve on the Board. "I am looking forward to working to enhance the lives of community members and eliminate the stigma of mental illness and addiction."

"We welcome all three to our distinguished Board of Directors and look forward to their contributions in meeting the needs of Portage County residents with mental health and/or addiction issues" said Joel Mowrey, PhD, executive director of the Board.

Issue 15: Mental Health & Recovery Board Levy in November

The Mental Health & Recovery Board has a .5 mil replacement levy on the November 6, 2018 ballot. Yard signs for Issue 15 will be distributed in October. Learn more at www.mhrlevy.org

Open House to Welcome Garrity Set for October 10

The Mental Health & Recovery Board is hosting an open house to welcome our new executive director John Garrity, PhD to the Portage County community. All are invited to stop by and meet him on Wednesday, Oct 10 from 8:00am-9:30am at the Board's office located at 155 E. Main Street, Kent.

Mental Health Trainings for School Personnel



Several Portage school districts started the school year learning more about how to help their students with mental health issues through staff trainings during their professional development days. Presentations were given by staff from Children's Advantage, Coleman Professional Services, and the Board. Thanks to Crestwood, James A Garfield, and Maplewood for inviting us to present. If you would like to schedule a presentation for your organization, contact us at 330.673.1756.

Upcoming Events

- September 20: The Long Way Back screening, KSU Collegiate Recovery Community, Kent
- September 29: NAMI Portage Walk for Recovery, Kent
- October 8: Mental Health & Recovery Board Meeting, Kent
- October 10: Welcome Reception for John Garrity, PhD, Kent
- October 23: Portage Substance Abuse Coalition Conference, NEOMED, **Save the date!**
- October 24: Community Awareness Addiction & Recovery, Suffield United Church of Christ

NETWORK OF CARE



Mental
Health &
Recovery

15
issue

STRONG FAMILIES. SAFE COMMUNITIES.

SAVE THE DATE

Portage Substance Abuse Conference *Responding to the epidemic as a community*



Learn more about:

- Medical Marijuana
- 21st Century Prevention
- Portage County Drug Court & Updates
- Recovery Is Possible

Free & open to the public.

CEUs available for social workers,
counselors, psychologists, nurses.



Tuesday
October 23, 2018
9:00am-1:00pm

NEOMED NEW Center Ballroom
4209 OH-44, Rootstown

**Registration opens
September 24**

Online at
mental-health-recovery.org
or call 330.673.1756

Thanks to:

Coleman Profesional Services
Family & Community Services
Families Anonymous
Free Agents 4 Recovery
Groups Recover Together
Hope Village Recovery Center
Howard Hanna, Susan White Realtor
Kent Lions
The NEW Center
Relink.org
Sequoia Wellness
Townhall II