



The RESOURCE • October 2021

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

Portage Substance Abuse & Mental Health Conference Set for October 26

The Portage Substance Abuse and Mental Health Conference will be held on October 26 from 8am-4pm at the NEW Center Ballroom at the Northeast Ohio Medical University in Rootstown.

State Representative Gail Pavliga will begin the conference with an update on state and local issues. Dr Nicole Labor will present Addiction 101: Harm Reduction and Beth Zietlow-DeJesus will share harm reduction strategies being implemented in Cuyahoga County. Stacy Simera from Kent Psychological Associates will discuss positive psychology. Dr. Deric Kenne from Kent State University will speak on using data to target prevention efforts and Dr. Amanda Burke from Townhall II will discuss the new trends in problem gambling.

The Crisis Intervention Team Officer of the Year award will be presented during the luncheon.

Continuing education credits are available for social workers and counselors, and clock hours for treatment and prevention professionals. Townhall II is providing the continuing education units.

The event is being sponsored by the Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County, Coleman Health Services, Family & Community Services, Hope Town Recovery Housing, Hope Village, Townhall II, Children's Advantage, State Farm Agent Lauren Talion, Portage County Health Department, and Windsor Laurelwood.

The event is free and open to the public and registration is required. Register online at mental-health-recovery.org/substance-abuse-conference or call 330.673.1756 ext 201.

Mental Health Training Grant Award

The Mental Health and Recovery Board of Portage County and Kent State University College of Public Health received a federal grant to improve and support mental health in Portage County schools and community. The 5-year grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), will fund mental health trainings to teachers, administrators, and staff in Portage County schools, create resource guides and referral mechanisms, and implement mental health stigma reduction campaigns.

The project will also provide free trainings to community agencies and members annually.



Appreciation for Portage County Police

The Board of Portage County celebrated Ohio's Week of Appreciation by showing support and appreciation for those who work directly with individuals struggling with substance use disorder. The board recognized Portage County law enforcement officers for their continued efforts in response to the opioid epidemic.

"These dedicated individuals answer the call when a crisis arises, often putting their lives on the line; they deserve our support," stated John Garrity, PhD, executive director of the Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County.

Portage County, along with the entire state of Ohio, is facing an addiction and overdose epidemic, which has been exacerbated by the COVID 19 pandemic. First responders may be experiencing burnout or secondary trauma from their experiences.

In recognition of all their hard work, the Board presented each police department with a certificate for their efforts in response to the opioid epidemic as well as notebooks and stress balls for the officers. The Mental Health and Recovery Board of Portage County thanks police departments for their continued effort in helping individuals overcome substance use disorder and keeping our community safe.



Mental Health Court Receives Grant Funds

The Portage County Specialized Docket for mental health received over \$70,000 in grant funding from Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services through the Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County.

The funds cover behavioral health treatment and recovery support services to clients that are involved in certified Mental Health Dockets with the Supreme Court of Ohio. Time-limited recovery supports may be utilized to help eliminate barriers to treatment and are specific to the participant's needs.

In Portage County, the STAR (Successful Treatment and Recovery) Court operates in the Municipal Court with Honorable Kevin Poland presiding. STAR Court is a collaborative effort among local agencies, treatment providers, court personnel, and the adult probation department.

Last year 29 clients were served through STAR Court.

"It's been a rewarding to witness people develop the tools they need to become healthy, law-abiding members of the community," said Judge Kevin Poland.

Mental illness must be a contributing factor to the individual being charged in order for them to be considered for the specialized docket and have no history of serious or repetitive violence. Participants are expected to

obtain employment, have stable housing, pay court costs, and complete their mental health treatment goals prior to release. At the end of the program, the successful “graduate” should have learned the skills necessary to remain a healthy, law-abiding member of the community.

“The addition of the mental health court in Portage County has been beneficial for the clients and public alike, as it enables people to get the help they need while keeping them out of expensive jail beds and reducing recidivism,” commented John Garrity, PhD, executive director of the Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County.

The funds will help support recovery needs for the individual’s recovery, such as housing, transportation, identification, employment, peer support activities, support groups, emergency basic need items, and treatment services.

Upcoming Events

enCompass Training Wednesday, November 3

9am-5pm, Virtual

Comprehensive training on navigating addiction, open to public: <https://bit.ly/3kAxRyS>

Suicide Loss Day Saturday, November 20, 1-3pm

held at Coleman Access, 3922 Lovers Lane, Ravenna

Gathering for those who have lost a loved one to suicide.

Call 330-673-756 ext 201 to register.

NETWORK OF CARE



MENTAL HEALTH & RECOVERY BOARD OF PORTAGE COUNTY

155 E. Main Street, Kent, OH 44240

www.mental-health-recovery.org

PORTAGE COUNTY SUBSTANCE ABUSE & MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE



Learn more about:

- Addiction 101: Harm Reduction
- State & County Updates
- Positive Psychology
- Problem Gambling
- Big Data Targeting Prevention Efforts

Plus:

**Luncheon Award Presentation of the
Crisis Intervention Team Police
Officer of the Year**

*Free & open to the public
CEUs available, lunch included!*

Thank you sponsors:



Children's Advantage • State Farm Lauren Talion Agent • Portage County Health District • Windsor Laurelwood

Register at: www.mental-health-recovery.org or call 330.673.1756

**Tuesday
October 26, 2021
8:00am-4:00pm**

**NEW Center Ballroom
4209 OH-44, Rootstown**

Featured Speakers

Nicole Labor, DO

OneEighty

Stacy Simera, MSSA, LISW-S

Kent Psychological Associates

Rep. Gail Pavliga

Ohio Representative District 75

Beth Zietlow-DeJesus

ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County

Deric Kenne, PhD

Kent State University

Amanda Burke, PhD

Townhall II