

Appalachian Behavioral Healthcare Employees Draw Upon Crisis Intervention Training in Dramatic, Frozen River Rescue

Actor Tom Hanks once said, "A hero is somebody who voluntarily walks into the unknown." Those words ring true for several quick-thinking Appalachian Behavioral Healthcare (ABH) employees and a patient who took extraordinary measures to save the life of an individual who had leaped into the frigid waters of the Hocking River.

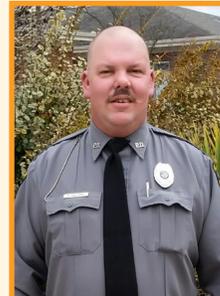
The incident unfolded on Feb. 24 when an ABH patient received a phone call from a former patient who was in crisis and threatening suicide by jumping into the semi-frozen river. Temperatures hovered below freezing with a wind chill of 22 degrees at the time of the call. The patient, concerned for the caller's safety, reported the matter to ABH RN Bruce Boudinot. RN Boudinot immediately contacted nursing supervisor Brian Warren. Warren called the person in crisis and kept her on the phone while simultaneously alerting ABH Chief of Police Joe Sprague. Warren was able to persuade the caller to reveal her approximate location. Chief Sprague alerted Athens Police and responded along with Officer Brian Willard, Officer Dennis Hartley and therapeutic program worker (TPW) Kiah Smith, to the riverbank to search for the woman. The three ABH officers would call upon their Crisis Intervention Training to help guide them through the tense moments that followed. Sprague is also trained in river rescue operations. Upon locating the woman on the riverbank and observing her step out onto the ice, Sprague requested assistance from the Athens Fire Department and River/Ice Rescue. TPW Smith began a dialogue with the woman as officers positioned themselves in preparation for a possible rescue. Athens O'Bleness Hospital Security Chief Steve Knoff was informed of the situation and also responded.

Smith and Knoff attempted to calm the woman and convince her to come back to shore, but this was complicated by distressing phone calls she was receiving on her cell phone. As Athens Police, Fire and River/Ice Rescue arrived and began setup operations, the woman suddenly jumped into the river.

Smith and Knoff immediately went into the river behind the woman. With the assistance of Officer Hartley, the three were



Chief Sprague



Officer Willard



Officer Hartley



Warren



Boudinot



Smith

pulled back up onto the ice. Chief Sprague deployed a rescue rope and all climbed up the levels of the riverbank to safety. Once on shore, Knoff and Sprague carried the woman to the nearby O'Bleness Emergency Room for treatment and evaluation. Chief Sprague said that all persons involved acted appropriately, compassionately and professionally. The incident was successfully concluded without injury to anyone.

"The involved staff demonstrated quick thinking, caring and courage during the rescue attempt," said ABH CEO Jane Krason.

"Their actions resulted in a positive outcome. They are outstanding examples of the dedicated staff at ABH."

April is...



Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month

The Ohio Children's Trust Fund (OCTF) is sponsoring a statewide campaign for Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month in April to raise awareness and urge all Ohioans to take an active role in making their communities a better place for families and children. Click [HERE](#) for a campaign toolkit.

Alcohol Awareness Month

Each April since 1987, the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. (NCADD) has sponsored Alcohol Awareness Month to increase public understanding, reduce stigma and encourage communities to focus on alcoholism and alcohol-related issues. Click [HERE](#) for more information about Alcohol Awareness Month and Alcohol-Free Weekend.



On the Road with Director Plouck



Director Plouck has been busy bringing stakeholders up to speed on OhioMHAS initiatives and FY 2016-17 budget priorities:

- 3.4.15 Provided testimony before the House Health and Human Services Subcommittee.
- 3.5.15 Along with Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction Director Gary Mohr, provided testimony before the House Transportation Subcommittee on the DRC/OhioMHAS recovery services proposal.
- 3.12.15 Presented an overview of OhioMHAS initiatives and SFY 16-17 budget to Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Service Providers children’s committee.
- 3.20.15 Provided an overview of budget priorities to the Ohio Community Recovery Support Planning Council.



Chief Fiscal Officer Retires After 30 Years

OhioMHAS Chief Fiscal Officer Dalon Myricks (pictured above receiving a certificate from Dir. Tracy Plouck) retired at the end of February after three decades of dedicated state service. OhioMHAS Asst. Director of Administration [Jim Lapczynski](#) will serve as interim CFO.

Marion-Crawford Director Honored

Congratulations to Jody Demo-Hodgins, executive director of the Crawford-Marion Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services, on recently receiving the 2015 **ATHENA Award** from the Marion Women’s Business Council, Inc. The leadership award recognizes individuals for community service and for actively assisting women in their attainment of professional excellence and leadership skills. See coverage of the award in [The Marion Star](#).



Demo-Hodgins



Sandusky Coalition First to Earn ‘Excellence’ Distinction

The Prevention Partnership Coalition of Sandusky County is the first organization to earn designation as an **Ohio Coalition of Excellence** (OCoE). The designation recognizes outstanding coalitions for using local data and evidence-based prevention strategies to create meaningful change in the community. Any coalition addressing behavioral health issues, such as substance abuse, violence and suicide prevention, may **apply** for the designation. Applications are accepted throughout the year, and reviewed periodically by coalition leaders and prevention experts from across Ohio.

Pictured: Stacey Gibson accepts the award on behalf of the coalition on March 13. Gibson was with Drug-Free Action Alliance Executive Director Marcie Seidel (left) and Ohio National Guard Counterdrug Task Force Capt. Matthew Toomey (right).



Video Project Highlights Strong Families, Safe Communities Programming Efforts

In 2013, the Ohio departments of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) sought community proposals to establish treatment models of care that focus on crisis stabilization for children and youth with intensive needs. Many children who are at risk are not engaged in treatment programs and may not be known to the community until a crisis unfolds. Care coordination and crisis intervention services can quickly stabilize a child's health, reduce risk of harm and help the family remain together. As a result, \$3 million out of a \$5 million state grant went to seven community partnerships to implement *Strong Families, Safe Communities* projects, which would coordinate services for youth at risk of harming themselves or others due to a mental illness or developmental disability. This past July, the departments teamed up to announce a second round of funding, bringing the total number of counties served by the initiative to 46. Services offered through the initiative include: intensive care coordination, rapid response team efforts, family mentoring and support, screening for high-risk children and therapeutic services. To hear from program participants benefitting from the projects — both professionals and family members — view a [10-minute video highlighting local programming efforts](#). Learn more about the Strong Families, Safe Communities initiative and [see maps and abstracts of 2014 and 2015 projects](#) on our website.



PINWHEEL SELFIE: To help raise awareness around Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month, the [Ohio Children's Trust Fund](#) is asking Ohioans to join the #PinWheelSelfie Campaign, which kicks off April 6. Throughout April, supporters and friends are asked to take a selfie with a pinwheel and post the image to their Twitter and Facebook accounts, tagging OCTF (@OCTF) with the hashtag #PinwheelSelfie. Pictured above, staff from the OhioMHAS Office of Prevention and Wellness show their support for the campaign.

Call to Connect ... Peer Support Staff TA Calls

Ohio's Peer Support workforce is growing and becoming integrated into a variety of disciplines. To promote networking and support, OhioMHAS and Case Western Reserve University are facilitating technical assistance calls. These calls provide an accessible venue for Peer Support staff to both give and receive support from each other. The calls also serve to promote networking among paid and volunteer Peer Support staff, and provide assistance with issue resolution within the work environment. The next peer support technical assistance call is scheduled for **April 9, from noon - 1 p.m.** To join the conversation, participants are asked to call **614.644.1098**. For more information, please email Sharon.Fitzpatrick@mha.ohio.gov.





Annual Ohio Problem Gambling Conference Draws Nearly 200

Nearly 200 professionals from throughout the state braved a winter storm to attend Ohio's annual Problem Gambling Conference held March 5-6 in Columbus. The theme of the one-and-a-half-day event was "Growing Awareness, Building Capacity," and included keynotes from experts in gambling research. The conference, held during **Problem Gambling Awareness Month**, was sponsored by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and **Ohio for Responsible Gambling** (ORG). In addition to OhioMHAS, ORG partners also include the Ohio Casino Control, Lottery and Racing commissions.

Pictured: At left (l-r), *Laura Clemens, director of government relations and problem gambling program coordinator at the Ohio Casino Control Commission; Tammy Collins, deputy director of the OhioMHAS Office of Prevention and Wellness; and Stacey Frohnapfel-Hasson, OhioMHAS problem gambling bureau chief, share a lighthearted moment at the first day of the conference; Lori Rugle, Ph.D., NCGC-II, program director of the Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, provides the keynote on the second day of the conference. View [more photos](#) from the conference on our Flickr page.*

Employment Briefs ...

Employment Services Rule Update

In December, the new OhioMHAS Employment Rule went into effect. The next technical assistance call is scheduled for **April 1 at 10 a.m.** To join the discussion, please call **614.644.1098**. Several updates to the **OhioMHAS Employment webpage** have also been made. Changes include: the addition of a rule overview, a Frequently Asked Questions tab, a rule explanation tab, PowerPoint presentation and a current list of qualified Individual Placement and Support (IPS) providers.

Supported Employment Grant Update

Last year, OhioMHAS was awarded a five-year, \$4 million grant for supported employment from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The grant will modernize, enhance, and increase availability and quality of IPS services to meet the needs of individuals with a severe and persistent mental illness or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorder by enhancing statewide infrastructure and establishing robust individualized placement and supported employment programs. The project will secure sustainable funding, establish a permanent training program and collect/analyze data to make necessary changes to improve service provision.

In the first five months, OhioMHAS and the Supported Employment Coordinating Committee have completed a strategic plan, sustainability plan and implementation strategy. The two sub-awardees, **Firelands Counseling and Recovery** in Sandusky and **Daybreak, Inc.** in Dayton, have hired peer support staff, employment specialists, IPS supervisors and grant coordinators. Both sites have received extensive training on IPS, benefits, job development and motivational interviewing.

So far, 25 individuals have enrolled through Firelands. Daybreak, Inc., meanwhile, has begun the process of enrolling transitional age youth.

SFY 2015 DIP Closeout

OhioMHAS has allocated \$195,679 for SFY 2015 Driver Intervention Program (DIP) reimbursement. As of March 11, the funding has a remaining balance of \$13,840.84 available for further



distribution. OhioMHAS is forced to terminate the reimbursement process due to exhaustion of

funds. No further reimbursement requests will be accepted after **April 1**. The DIP reimbursement program will continue in SFY 2016 for programs that occur after July 1, 2015. Questions? Please contact Michele Sherman at 614.644.6124 or michele.sherman@mha.ohio.gov.

Ohioan Earns 'Women Who Excel Entrepreneur Award'

OhioMHAS salutes Anita Bradley, executive director of the Northern Ohio Recovery Association, on being named one of



Bradley

Smart Business Magazine's 2015 Women Who Excel Entrepreneur Award winners. The award recognizes individual women for their professional achievements as well as organizations that support women-based initiatives and foster workplaces where women can thrive. Bradley will be featured in the April issue of *Smart Business*.



Ohio Department of Aging Director Bonnie K. Burman discusses a new awareness campaign, Smart Rx, that will offer doctors training on monitoring painkiller prescriptions they write and identifying which patients are at greatest risk for abuse issues. Director Burman chairs the Prescriber Education Workgroup for the Governor's Cabinet Opiate Action Team.

New Campaign Urges Physicians to Play Larger Role in the Fight Against Prescription Painkiller Addiction

The Ohio State Medical Association, along with several major health systems across the state and the Ohio Hospital Association, recently teamed up to launch Smart Rx — Smart Medicine and Responsible Treatment, a new public health campaign aimed at addressing Ohio's prescription opioid epidemic. By participating in Smart Rx, Ohio's health care



community is providing thoughtful and responsible solutions to the problem by increasing patient education directives, applying greater

focus on writing prescriptions and weighing alternatives to prescribing pills to treat pain.

Doctors will receive training on monitoring how much they prescribe, identifying which patients are most at risk for abuse issues and when alternative treatments might be necessary. They also will receive training on educating patients on the dangers of improperly taking prescription medications. Smart Rx is supported by Ohio physicians, nurses, health systems, elected leaders and patient advocacy groups. Gov. John R. Kasich has endorsed the program. "As health care professionals, physicians are well are of the prescription drug abuse epidemic that we've been battling in Ohio for the past several years," the Governor said. "Our physicians, they are on the front line of this battle. And we know that working together is absolutely critical to our success."



MOVE IN DAY - March 10 was orientation day for residents of the just-opened New Journey Recovery House in Akron — a project of the Freedom House for Women, Inc. Founder & CEO Eva Moore (center) and Annie Hofer, house manager (second from right) pose for a photo with inaugural residents. OhioMHAS provided \$65,422 in funding support. The project will empower women by helping them maintain sobriety while gaining employment, education and self-sufficiency skills.



NORA Opens New Recovery House for Homeless Women and Their Children

On March 2, the Northern Ohio Recovery Association (NORA) opened Next Step Recovery House — a new residential recovery home for homeless women and their children. Residents will receive counseling, case management, recovery coaching, peer-to-peer support and GED classes in conjunction with Cuyahoga Community College. Child care services are provided for children ages six weeks to five-years. The building was purchased with funding from OhioMHAS (\$128,000) and the Alcohol Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County.

News & Research Roundup

New Behavioral Health Publications from SAMHSA

The federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has released several new behavioral health resources, including:

[SAMHSA Enrollment and Outreach Resources](#) Lists resources outreach programs can use to ensure people with mental and/or substance use disorders benefit from health care reform. Resources address diverse populations, including the homeless, those within the criminal justice system and more.

SAMHSA Suicide Safe App Available for Download

SAMHSA's latest mobile app, Suicide Safe, is now available for free on [iOS](#)® and [Android](#)™ mobile devices. The app, based on the nationally recognized [Suicide Assessment Five-Step Evaluation and Triage \(SAFE-T\) card](#), is designed to help primary care and behavioral health providers integrate suicide prevention strategies into their practices and address suicide risk among their patients. The app offers tips on how to communicate effectively with patients and their families, determine appropriate next steps and make referrals to treatment and community resources.



Federal Law Focused on Improving Mental Health Care for Veterans

The Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act, or [SAV Act](#), was signed into law on Feb. 17. The act was named for a decorated Marine veteran from Texas who died by suicide after a two year struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder. The SAV Act will build on the Veterans Affairs mental health care by requiring annual third party evaluations of the VA's mental health care and suicide prevention programs, and creating a centralized website with resources and information about the range of mental health services available from the VA. It also creates a three-year pilot program using peer support to assist veterans transitioning from active duty, and fosters collaborative suicide prevention efforts between the VA and non-profit mental health organizations.

National Campaign Promotes Mental Health Recovery

A coalition of mental health experts and advocacy groups has launched the [Recovery Now! Campaign](#) — a national awareness initiative that promotes the belief that people can and do recover from even the most serious mental health conditions when they are provided a full array of both treatment and recovery supports. Recovery Now! will identify and promote proven approaches to end cycles of preventable relapses, hospitalizations, incarceration and homelessness; advance concrete strategies to prevent and address mental health crisis, and will advocate for greater availability of comprehensive community-based services that promote wellness and recovery through the integration of mental health, addiction and medical care.



Recovery Now!

Study: Higher Doses of Painkillers Linked with Increased Depression

Patients who increased doses of opioid medicines to manage chronic pain were more likely to experience an increase in depression, according to a new study from researchers at Saint Louis University. The study included 355 patients who reported low back pain at an initial doctor's visit, and at one-year and two-year follow-up visits. Lead researcher Jeffrey Scherrer said in a [media release](#) that the team discovered most of the risk of depression is due to the duration of narcotic painkiller use, not the dose. The findings are published in the journal [Pain](#).

Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Resources Available Online

The National Criminal Justice Reference Service ([NCJRS](#)) has posted [Special Feature: Teen Dating Violence](#), a compilation of teen dating violence prevention publications and resources. [Teen dating violence](#) — also called intimate relationship violence, intimate partner violence among adolescents or adolescent relationship abuse — includes physical, psychological or sexual abuse; and/or harassment or stalking of any person ages 12 to 18 in the context of a past or present relationship.

Partnership for Drug-Free Kids Announces Departure of President & CEO, Steve Pasierb

The Board of Directors of the Partnership for Drug-Free Kids, a national nonprofit dedicated to reducing substance abuse among adolescents by supporting families and engaging with teens, [has announced](#) that President and CEO, Steve Pasierb, M.Ed., will be leaving the organization after nearly 14 years in the role. Marcia Lee Taylor, senior vice president of government affairs, will serve as interim CEO.



News & Research Roundup, cont.

Baby Boomers Abusing Prescription Medicines at Increasingly Higher Rates

More older adults are abusing drugs and dying from overdoses, according to [The Wall Street Journal](#). "Baby Boomers," born between 1946 and 1964, are turning to drugs as they face the challenges of aging, health officials say. As young people, the Baby Boomer generation used drugs at the highest rates of any generation, the article noted. They are growing older in an era of widespread abuse of opioid painkillers. A survey by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration found marijuana is the most popular drug of abuse among Baby Boomers, followed by pain pills. In this age group, painkillers are the drugs most often involved in overdoses, followed by anti-anxiety drugs. An analysis of data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) finds the rate of death from accidental drug overdoses among people ages 45 to 64 rose 11-fold between 1990 and 2010. In 2013, more than 12,000 Baby Boomers died of accidental drug overdoses — more than the number who died in car accidents or from influenza and pneumonia, the CDC said.



Drug Guide for Parents, Available in a New App

The Partnership for Drug-Free Kids has unveiled a new [Drug Guide mobile app](#) for parents. The free download, available for both Android and iPhone, offers comprehensive, up-to-date information on the drugs most commonly abused by teens. It provides color visuals, "street" name/slang term references, a detailed explanation of the known ingredients, short- and long-term effects, brief descriptions of what each drug looks like and how it is used, and its federal classification.

DEA Issues Alert on Fentanyl-Laced Heroin as Overdose Deaths Surge Nationwide

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has issued a [nationwide alert](#) in response to a surge in overdose deaths from heroin laced with the narcotic drug fentanyl, the most potent opioid available for medical use. "Drug incidents and overdoses related to fentanyl are occurring at an alarming rate throughout the United States and represent a significant threat to public health and safety," DEA Administrator Michele M. Leonhart said. "Often laced in heroin, fentanyl and fentanyl analogues produced in illicit, clandestine labs are up to 100 times more powerful than morphine and 30-50 times more powerful than heroin." Seizures of illegal drugs containing fentanyl more than tripled between 2013 and 2014, according to a [recent article in USA Today](#).



Providing Homeless People With Housing May Keep Them Off The Streets For Good

A [study](#) published March 3 in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* suggests that "providing homeless people with housing first and foremost is vital in getting them off the streets for good." The two-year study involved "nearly 1,200 homeless individuals" with a mental illness who lived in the Canadian cities of Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver and Winnipeg. Researchers followed "two groups of homeless people with mental illness — one (the 'intervention' group) was given rent supplements to access stable housing, as well as provided with case management services, while the other (or 'usual care' group) only had access to existing housing and support services in their communities." People in the intervention group ended up staying in stable housing some 73.2 percent of the time, whereas those receiving usual care stayed in stable housing only 23.6 percent of the time, the study found.

Study Points to Individualized Therapy for Opioid Addiction

A recent National Institute on Drug Abuse-supported clinical trial affirmed one common supposition about medically assisted treatment for opioid addiction and challenged another. As anticipated, trial participants who were addicted to opioid painkillers and did not inject drugs stayed in treatment longer and achieved better outcomes than those who were addicted to heroin or injected drugs. However, the expectation that users of painkillers would benefit more from buprenorphine/naloxone (Bp/Nx) than from methadone therapy was not affirmed. Read the [Feb. 18 issue of NIDANotes](#) for more information about the study.

Patients Addicted to Opioid Painkillers Achieve Good Results With Outpatient Detoxification

A recent NIDA-funded clinical trial indicates that a significant portion of individuals who are addicted to opioid painkillers may initiate and maintain abstinence with a brief, but intensive, outpatient detoxification treatment followed by opioid antagonist therapy using naltrexone. Patients in the trial achieved higher abstinence rates than are typically obtained with detoxification regimens. The duration of a taper with buprenorphine/naloxone (Bp/Nx) was a determinative factor in patients' success, with longer tapers yielding greater abstinence. Read the [Feb. 18 issue of NIDANotes](#) for more information about the study.



Training Opportunities

OhioMHAS Disparities and Cultural Competency Advisory Committee Learning Series

The OhioMHAS Disparities and Cultural Competency Advisory Committee has released a schedule of upcoming trainings. Get a complete list of topics and locations [HERE](#).

Ashtabula County MHRS Board to Host LOSS Training — April 3

The Ashtabula County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board is hosting a special LOSS training: [Sudden and Traumatic Death — What Every Community Needs to Know](#) on April 3. Frank Campbell, Ph.D., LCSW, C.T., consultant, past-president of The American Association of Suicidology and former executive director of the Baton Rouge Crisis Intervention Center and Crisis Center Foundation in Louisiana, will lead the training. Cost is \$10 and includes lunch.

CWRU Center for Evidence-Based Practices Trainings

The Case Western Reserve University Center for Evidence-Based Practices has released its schedule of upcoming trainings. Click the links below for more information:

- April 7 — [Foundations of Motivational Interviewing, Part 2 \(Northeast\)](#)
- April 15 — [Motivational Interviewing: Clinical Supervision Tools \(Toledo\)](#)
- April 29 — [Promoting Housing Stability by Fostering a Culture of Employment \(Fairfield\)](#)
- May 6 — [Promoting Housing Stability by Fostering a Culture of Employment \(Cleveland\)](#)
- May 6-7 — [IDDT Implementation Strategies for Program Leaders](#)
- May 13 — [Promoting Health-Behavior Change Among People with SPMI \(Toledo\)](#)
- May 14 — [Promoting Housing Stability by Fostering a Culture of Employment \(Columbus\)](#)
- May 19 — [Promoting Housing Stability by Fostering a Culture of Employment \(Cleveland\)](#)
- May 26 — [Promoting Housing Stability by Fostering a Culture of Employment \(Cleveland\)](#)
- June 10 — [Promoting Housing Stability by Fostering a Culture of Employment \(Toledo\)](#)
- June 30 — [Promoting Health-Behavior Change Among People with SPMI \(Athens\)](#)

2015 Ohio Childhood Trauma Training Series Announced

The Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies (OACCA) has announced its 2015 trauma-informed care training series. The trainings, which run April through September, are targeted for behavioral health and child welfare professionals. All trainings are led by certified trainers from the National Institute of Trauma and Loss in Children (TLC) and are supported by published evidence-based research. Click [HERE](#) for dates, locations and to register.

Problem Gambling Treatment Regional Training Schedule

Problem gambling treatment training opportunities are available this spring. OhioMHAS-funded treatment sessions remaining for this year are offered by Recovery Resources for Stage II on April 16-17 in Cincinnati, Advanced Disordered Gambling Training on May 26-27 in Cleveland and May 28-29 in Columbus. The two-day advanced session focuses on the Pathways Model, which helps professionals identify the appropriate treatment strategies for individuals with a gambling disorder. The training will be led by Lia Nower, J.D., Ph.D., professor and director of the Center for Gambling Studies at Rutgers University. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about these CE-based sessions.

2015 NAMI Ohio Conference — April 24-25

Register today to attend the [2015 NAMI Ohio Conference](#), "Dorothea Dix Presents: A Matter of Life, STRIFE or Death," April 24-25 at the Hyatt Regency, 350 N. High St., Columbus. The first day will focus on the historical and contemporary institutionalization of persons with mental illness in America's jails and prisons, paying special tribute to Dorothea Dix. Workshops will explore, in a live theater role-play format, the various points in the criminal justice system at which a person with mental illness can be "intercepted" and kept from becoming more deeply entangled in the system. Cook County (Chicago) Sheriff Thomas J. Dart will deliver the keynote address, "The Shameful Criminalization of Mental Illness in the Midwest and Beyond." The second day will feature affiliate support and development, legislative initiatives, building youth supports, recovery, resiliency and wellness workshops. Please direct questions about the conference to Jessica Poprocki at 419.953.7063 or namiconference@gmail.com.

Training Opportunities, cont.

Evidence-Based Practice Conference — May 4

OhioMHAS is partnering with Drug-Free Action Alliance, the University of Cincinnati Evaluation Services center, Bowling Green State University and PreventionFIRST! to host a free *Evidence-Based Practice Conference — Extending Your Reach: Effective Strategies for Including Traditionally “Hard-to-Reach” Populations in Your Services, Evaluation and Research* on May 4. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

Ohio Council Compliance Training for Behavioral Health Providers — May 8

The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers has scheduled a compliance training for behavioral health providers on May 8 to be held at the Ohio Department of Transportation in Columbus. The program will be presented by Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease, LLP. Agenda and online registration will be available in March at www.theohiocouncil.org. For more information, contact Brenda Cornett at cornett@theohiocouncil.org or call 614.228.0747.

Mental Health America Annual Conference — June 3-5

Mental Health America ([MHA](#)) will host its 2015 Annual Conference *Intervention and Innovation Before Stage 4* June 3-5 at the Hilton Mark Center in Alexandria, VA. The conference will include several high-level plenary sessions, keynote speeches, break-out sessions and the 2nd Annual Innovation Nation, which highlights pioneering programs on the local level. Each year, Mental Health America's conference brings together more than 500 advocates, educators, researchers, business and community leaders, members of Congress and health professionals from across the country. Click [HERE](#) for registration information.

Save the Date! Ohio Promoting Wellness and Recovery Conference (OPEC) — June 29-July 2, 2015

Mark your calendar! The 2015 Ohio Promoting Wellness and Recovery Conference ([OPEC](#)) will take place June 29-July 2 at the Ohio University campus in Athens. The goal of this year's conference is to promote collective impact through building the capacity of Ohio's prevention, early intervention and treatment workforce for children, families and communities. OPEC will offer six subject-matter tracks this year, including: early childhood mental health, adolescent treatment and recovery/peer support, prevention, collective impact, youth development and cultural competency. Registration is \$100. More information is forthcoming.

Out of the Darkness Community Walk — Oct. 11

Mark your calendar! The [American Foundation for Suicide Prevention](#) will host an *Out of the Darkness Community Walk* fundraising event at Alum Creek State Park Beach in Delaware County on Oct. 11. Family members, friends and colleagues walk three to five miles to raise awareness about suicide prevention and end the stigma that surrounds depression and other mental disorders.

Save the Date! Ohio Council 2015 Annual Conference & Exhibit Hall — Oct. 22-23

The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers will hold its Annual Conference & Exhibit Hall on Oct. 22-23 at the Hilton Columbus/Polaris. More information will be available later this year at www.theohiocouncil.org.

No-Cost Underage Drinking Distance Learning Courses

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Underage Drinking Enforcement Training Center (UDET) offers [distance learning courses](#) on strategies for enforcement of underage drinking laws and preventing youth access to alcohol. UDET currently has six courses available. The free online courses include: *Conducting Compliance Check Operations*, *Environmental Strategies*, *Party Prevention and Controlled Party Dispersal*, *Techniques for Managing Special Events*, *Source Investigations* and *Using Community Volunteers to Support Prevention and Enforcement of Underage Drinking*. Participants can receive a certificate upon completion of each course. A seventh course, *Developing Data-Driven Strategies to Reduce Underage Drinking* is under development.



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