

Cuyahoga County Diversion Center Open House

An Open House was held for community behavioral health providers and Cuyahoga County law enforcement agencies at the Cuyahoga County Diversion Center on Friday, April 23. **Oriana House** staff provided tours of the new spaces and walked officers through the simple intake process. More than 200 law enforcement officers attended. A variety of community behavioral health partners also toured the site to learn more about the processes for and services available at the Diversion Center. Officers commented on the efficiency of the drop-off procedures and were encouraged to see this new option available to them to help individuals they come in contact with who would benefit from treatment rather than jail. The ADAMHS Board would like to thank the **County, Oriana House, and FrontLine Service** as well as local behavioral health providers and law enforcement for supporting this Open House.



Officers at the April 23 open house.

On May 4, the Cuyahoga County Executive's Office will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony with project partners for this first-of-its-kind project in Ohio. The Diversion Center is expected to open Monday, May 3, for law enforcement to refer individuals who are involved in low-level offenses and struggling with mental illness and/or substance use disorders. For more information about the Cuyahoga County Diversion Center, visit adamhsc.org/diversioncenter.

Board Member Bishara Addison Appointed to National Workforce Panel to Advise Biden Administration on Economic Recovery Policies



Bishara Addison,
ADAMHS Board Member

ADAMHS Board Member, **Bishara Addison** has been appointed by the **National Skills Coalition (NSC)** and **Business Leaders United for Workforce Partnerships (BLU)** to serve on a national Manufacturing Panel that will advise the **Biden administration** on its "Made in All of America" initiative and other related policies. **Bishara Addison** and other leaders on the panel will meet in the coming months with Biden administration officials to help shape federal recovery policies for the manufacturing industry to ensure an inclusive and successful economic recovery.

Board of Directors Annual Training Retreat Held on April 24

Each year the **ADAMHS Board of Directors** is required to participate in an annual training retreat. This year's training, held on April 24, included two presentations from **Cheri L. Walter, MA, LICDC**, CEO of the **Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA)**, about delineating roles and responsibilities as well as the state fiscal year 2022 – 2023 budget. The Board of Directors also heard from **Gwendolyn Jarvis, Ph.D.**, Registered Parliamentarian, about parliamentary procedures.

Letter to Editor: Blaming Mental Illness is Stigmatizing

Scott S. Osiecki, CEO, wrote a letter to the editor of the **Plain Dealer** in response to a story about mass shootings. He wrote, "Oftentimes when there is a mass shooting, mental illness is blamed. However, individuals with mental illness are more likely to be victims of crimes than the perpetrators. Using mental illness to justify the actions of a mass shooter is stigmatizing to individuals living with mental illness." He noted data that a majority of shooters had a recent crisis or childhood trauma, and invited the public to take advantage of prevention trainings and resources to help recognize when a person is in crisis. Read the full letter here: bit.ly/LTEstigma.



Join the 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting

You are cordially invited to attend the 2021 ADAMHS Board Annual Meeting on Monday, May 10, from 11:00 a.m. to noon. This virtual celebration will include addresses by **Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstein, Sr.**, Board Chair, and **Scott S. Osiecki**, CEO, as well as a presentation of this year's Helping Hands Awards and acceptance of the 2020 Annual Report. Please RSVP at bit.ly/ADAMHS2021 to attend the celebration.

Scott S. Osiecki, CEO, was Panelist for Case Western Reserve's Series on Intersecting Pandemics

On April 20, **Scott S. Osiecki**, CEO, spoke on a panel about public health, prevention and community interventions as part of **Case Western Reserve University's** live webinar series on the intersection of COVID-19 and the opioid epidemic. He spoke specifically about the new Cuyahoga County Diversion Center. Panelists discussing other projects included **Manreet Kaur Bhullar, MPH**, Forensic Epidemiologist at the **Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office**, and **David Pan, ACSW, LCSW**, Community Initiatives Liaison at **The Center for Health Care Services, San Antonio, Texas**.

The Next Eliminating Structural Racism in Behavioral Health Work Group Meeting is May 3

The next Eliminating Structural Racism in Behavioral Health Work Group meeting will be held on **May 3 from 1:00-2:30 p.m.** At this meeting, **Habeebah Rasheed Grimes, LPSY**, Chief Executive Officer, **Positive Education Program (PEP)** will be presenting about work being done with the OhioRISE Advisory Council for children involved in the behavioral health care system.

Join the meeting at bit.ly/esrbhcgw. This is a recurring meeting and the Zoom link is the same for each.

Meeting ID: 863 0230 3039
Passcode: 915826

PPE Distribution Efforts

In March, ADAMHS Board staff distributed tens of thousands of pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) to over 40 behavioral health providers. Masks, gloves and other equipment were procured by the **Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA)** and donated by the **Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS)**. A big thanks to AmeriCorps VISTA member **Erika Losse** for her hard work on this!



Well-Being Week in Law

The **Ohio State Bar Association (OSBA)** is celebrating National Well-Being Week in Law May 3-7 with free programs for legal professionals to raise awareness about mental health and encourage action and innovation across the profession to improve well-being. This is an important topic because individuals in the legal profession are at a higher risk for developing mental health and substance use issues than in many other fields of work. Thank you to ADAMHS Board member and OSBA alumni **Harvey A. Snider, Esq.** for sharing this information. Learn more at: ohiobar.org.

Carole Ballard to Speak on Cleveland Consent Decree Community Conversation Panel on May 12

Carole Ballard, MSSA, LISW, Director of Education and Training, is speaking on a panel for the May

12 Cleveland Consent Decree Community Conversation, co-hosted by **United Way of Greater Cleveland** and the **Cleveland Branch of NAACP**. This virtual session will address crisis intervention and officer wellness and be held virtually from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Also on the panel will be **Rosie Palfy**, Citizen Advocate and Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC) member, **Rev. Dr. Jawanza Colvin**, **Olivet Institutional Baptist Church**, **Dr. Randy Dupont**, **City of Cleveland Monitoring Team**, **Bridget Brennan**, **Department of Justice**, and **Captain James McPike** and **Deputy Chief JoEllen O'Neill**, **Cleveland Division of Police**. **Harry Boomer**, Reporter for **Channel 19 News**, will be moderating.

This event is a part of an 11-month long monthly series dedicated to addressing police reform related to the 2015 Cleveland Consent Decree between the **City of Cleveland** and the **Department of Justice**.

2021 Opiate and Other Drugs Conference Will Be Held Virtually May 11-13

The 2021 Opiate and Other Drugs Conference: Exploring Better Pathways for Care, is being held virtually May 11-13. The conference is being hosted by **OACBHA** in partnership with the **OhioMHAS** and the **Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction**.

Beth Zietlow-DeJesus, Director of External Affairs, and **Madison Greenspan**, External Affairs Officer, will be presenting on the ADAMHS Board's grassroots fentanyl test strip distribution. They will be joined by two community members who have helped with grassroots distribution since the program began, **Rebekah Wiland MSW, LISW-S** from **FrontLine Service** and **Waverly Willis** from **The Urban Barber Association (TUBA)**. They will share the impact that fentanyl test strip distribution has had on their work.

Happy Spring!

Spring is here, and this month's art display is filled with paintings to remind us of the beauty this season brings. Thank you to artist **Cindy S.** for sharing her talents with us. View her full art display here: bit.ly/aprilartdisplay.



Record Setting Overdoses in Cuyahoga County Call for Community Collaboration

Cuyahoga County had at least 61 confirmed overdose deaths in March with at least 30 pending further testing. If cocaine-related deaths are included, the number is at least 75, also pending testing. Preliminary toxicology results indicate fentanyl as the main contributor to overdose (over three-fourths of all overdoses) and mixtures of fentanyl with cocaine and methamphetamine are increasing. April showed no signs of slowing down, with 46 suspected cases in the first two and a half weeks. At this rate, Cuyahoga County estimates 758 fatalities by the end of 2021.

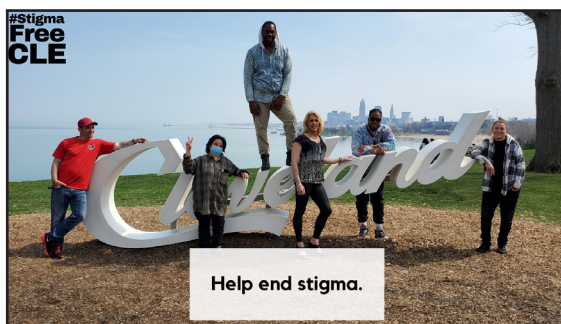
May has historically had the highest rate of overdoses. In preparation, **Thrive Peer Support** is holding outreach events to bring Narcan, mental health and addiction services, harm reduction education, homeless resources, connections to employment, healthcare, and food assistance to high-need communities across Cuyahoga County. With input from the community and data supplied by the **Cuyahoga County Board of Health**, the outreach team identified eight key locations in zip-codes with high overdose rates and access to populations at risk. Outreach events will be hosted in a drive-through or walk-up style at each of these locations on a regular day and time each month so that communities know where they can go to get resources and support. View the flyer with event locations, days and times as well as contact information for the event organizers here: bit.ly/ThriveOutreach.

Project White Butterfly is also continuing outreach efforts in high incidence overdose areas. Learn more here: facebook.com/ProjectWhiteButterfly. The ADAMHS Board is continuing grassroots fentanyl test strip distribution, is running a radio awareness campaign during May and is working with **OhioMHAS** on community naloxone distribution. If you want to join us in our efforts to help prevent overdoses, please contact **Beth Zietlow-DeJesus** at dejesus@adamhsc.org.

#StigmaFreeCLE Collaborative Community Awareness Campaign to Launch in May for Mental Health Month

The ADAMHS Board is proud to announce its participation in the #StigmaFreeCLE campaign, a public awareness partnership of over 30 local organizations committed to ending the stigma associated with mental illness and substance use disorders so everyone feels supported and able to access the services they need. We believe that by joining together and pooling resources we can have a greater impact.

The #StigmaFreeCLE campaign officially launches in May for Mental Health Month with shared resources throughout the rest of the year. We will share messaging about ways each of us can help support each other and end stigma in our community. Local organizations or individuals interested in participating can follow #StigmaFreeCLE on social media, share this important messaging, and help us create a #StigmaFreeCLE together!



Free Detera Bags Available Through the End of April

The **DEA's National Prescription Drug Take Back** was on April 24. If you have unused medications you need to dispose of and were unable to make it out to a drop off location for Take Back Day, visit deterasystem.com/SAFE to order a free Detera drug deactivation pouch. It will be mailed to your home as part of the Gone for Good campaign. Their goal is to distribute 20,000 Detera pouches to U.S. households, enough to destroy 1.8 million unwanted medications.

Spring Trainings

There are still spots available in several ADAMHS Board spring trainings. The cost is \$25 and participants can earn three CEUs/RCHs. Visit the training institute page on the ADAMHS Board website to learn more and to register: adamhsc.org/trainings

May 3: Healing Through Dreams and Creativity

May 5: Best Practices in Stimulant Disorders Treatment and Recovery

June 14: Managing Client Resistance

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“Some of the most comforting words in the universe are ‘me too.’ That moment when you find out that your struggle is also someone else’s struggle, that you’re not alone, and that others have been down the same road.” - unknown