

# Hancock County Opiate/Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force 2013 Annual Report



John Stanovich

Dear Community,

The Hancock County Community Partnership, under the umbrella of the Hancock County Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services, established the Hancock County Opiate/Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force in 2010 in response to the growing epidemic of opiate/prescription drug abuse in our community. The mission of the Task Force is to promote awareness of how this epidemic affects Hancock County and teach the Community how to reduce and prevent opiate/prescription drug abuse, unintentional drug overdose, and unintentional drug overdose deaths.

In Ohio, five people die each day due to unintentional drug overdose. In 2011, ten people died from unintentional drug overdose in Hancock County. However, due in part to the efforts of the Task Force, Hancock County saw a thirty percent (30%) reduction in the number of unintentional overdose deaths in 2012. Additionally, since the establishment of the Task Force, Hancock County has seen nearly a fifty percent (50%) reduction in the number of emergency department visits due to unintentional drug overdose. Most importantly, despite the fact that the Ohio is showing an increase in the number of unintentional drug overdose deaths and emergency department visits, **Hancock County is experiencing a decrease.**

I would like to add that because of the efforts of our Task Force and other community coalitions similar to ours across the nation, progress is being made to reduce drug use and unintentional drug overdose. The recently published National Survey on Drug Use (2013) shows that *drug use among teens is decreasing*. Please visit the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration ([www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov)) website for more information regarding this report.

Why are we having success?

- The Task Force includes representatives from healthcare, law enforcement, wastewater treatment, drug addiction and mental health services, environmental services, city council, education, and the community at-large.
- The Task Force believes this epidemic must be addressed by all segments of the community to effectively create meaningful and lasting change. Through the cooperation and collaboration of the entities that serve on the Task Force, an aggressive plan has been implemented to address, control, reduce and prevent opiate/prescription drug abuse, unintentional drug overdose, and unintentional drug overdose deaths.

This Annual Report is provided to educate the Community on the various initiatives the Task Force has accomplished in 2013.

If you would like to become part of the Task Force, please contact the Hancock County Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services at 419-424-1985 or email [zthomas@yourpathtohealth.org](mailto:zthomas@yourpathtohealth.org).

As Chairman of the Task Force, I wish to tell you that it is an honor to work with dedicated leaders and citizens of this Community who tirelessly address this epidemic. This Community is fortunate to have a strong network of individuals and organizations who are invested in working collaboratively to address this community issue.

John Stanovich, Hancock County Opiate/Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force Chair  
Assistant Dean of Pharmacy, The University of Findlay

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

The Task Force believes it is critical that the Community be invested in its efforts to reduce opiate and prescription drug abuse. Whether as an individual or an organization, all who are involved collaborate with each other to fulfill the mission of the Task Force. The Task Force publicly acknowledges two organizations that have shown tireless commitment to promoting our mission and goals.

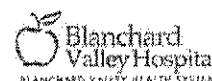
### The University of Findlay

- John Stanovich, Assistant Dean of Pharmacy, serves as the Task Force Chair.
- John Richey, Director of Health Informatics, developed the Task Force Database. John was named the 2012 Prevention Innovator of the Year at the Ohio Prevention and Education Conference held by the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services.
- College of Pharmacy administration and students assist with semi-annual medication collection drives.



### Blanchard Valley Hospital

- Adoption and use of Emergency Department Prescription Protocol.
- Continuing education of doctors and other medical staff on opiate/prescription drug abuse.
- Collaboration with Well-At-Work to reach those who have failed a drug test.
- Collaboration with the Pain Management Clinic to educate patients about opiate prescriptions.



## Medical Committee

Chairs: Dr. William Kose, Blanchard Valley Hospital  
Barbara Wilhelm, Findlay City Health Department



Dr. William Kose



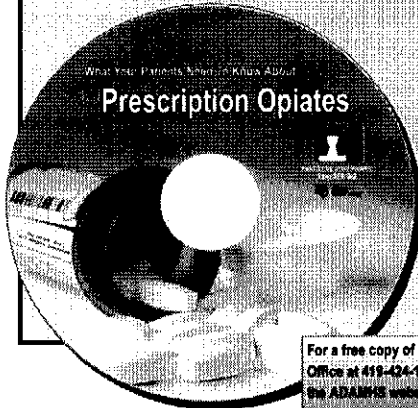
Barbara Wilhelm

### PURPOSE:

- Encourage professional development and education regarding opiate/prescription drug abuse
- Increase awareness of the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS) and increase the number of registered providers.
- Increase awareness of treatment options available in Hancock County.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2013:

- Pain Management Clinic Educational DVD – A locally produced video explaining the proper use and necessary precautions needed when a patient is prescribed an opiate pain medication. It is a requirement of all patients at the Pain Management Clinic to view this educational DVD when prescribed a pain medication.
- Resource Listing – A one-page resource list of addiction treatment services available in the northwest Ohio area was created and provided to the local medical and school communities. This resource listing will also be available on the ADAMHS website at [www.yourpathtohealth.org](http://www.yourpathtohealth.org).



### DID YOU KNOW...

- In Ohio, the number of opiate prescriptions written as of June 30, 2013 equates to 17 doses for every man, woman, and child?

### BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS...

- The opiate prescription dosage rate in Hancock County is almost thirty percent (30%) less than the state rate.

For a free copy of this DVD, please contact the ADAMHS Office at 419-424-1985. This DVD will also be available on the ADAMHS website at [www.yourpathtohealth.org](http://www.yourpathtohealth.org).

## Education Committee

Chairs: Tim Kruse, Hancock County Educational Service Center  
Craig Kupferberg, Findlay City Schools



Tim Kruse



Craig Kupferberg

### PURPOSE:

- Develop resources for awareness and education of opiate/prescription drug abuse.
- Develop strategies for prevention efforts within all levels of education.
- Educate staff and faculty on signs and symptoms of abuse as well as treatment options available in the Community.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2013:

- Prescription Drug Abuse Brochure – An educational brochure about prescription drug abuse was developed and will be provided to parents of all middle school and high school students in Hancock County.
- Millstream Educational DVD Project – Utilizing the talents of students involved in media production and marketing at Millstream, an educational DVD about prescription drug abuse will be produced, featuring area Hancock County students as actors.

## Prescription Drug and Over-the-Counter Drug Abuse

*Parents and Caregivers are the first line of defense.*

### DID YOU KNOW...

- Nationally, seventy percent (70%) of adolescents report they obtained prescription drugs from a relative or a friend?

### BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS...

- The Task Force provides annual medication collections as well as permanent collection boxes for proper disposal of prescription medications. Additionally, the Drug Free Action Alliance offers special rates on medication lock boxes for you to use in your homes. Please visit [www.drugfreeactionalliance.org](http://www.drugfreeactionalliance.org) for additional information.



This brochure will be sent to all families in Hancock County with children in sixth through twelfth grade. Please look for this brochure in your mailbox in the near future. This brochure will also be available on the ADAMHS website at [www.yourpathtohealth.org](http://www.yourpathtohealth.org).

## Community Awareness Committee

Chairs: Kimberly Bash, The Community Foundation  
Mark Miller, Hancock County Prosecutor



Kimberly Bash



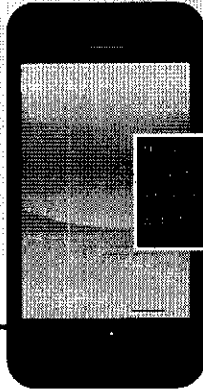
Mark Miller

### PURPOSE:

- Provide education regarding opiate/prescription drug abuse (including tracking and reporting of county and city statistics)
- Communicate ways to decrease opiate/prescription drug abuse in Hancock County (i.e. medication collection participation, safe storage of medications)
- Create awareness of treatment options in Hancock County

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2013:

- Well-at-Work/Local Employer Resource Brochure – A resource brochure was developed containing information directed toward individuals who have failed an employment drug screen. This brochure is available at Well-at-Work, local employment agencies and the ADAMHS website. [www.yourpathtohealth.org](http://www.yourpathtohealth.org).
- JobSolutions Mobile Phone App – A mobile phone app is currently under development that will provide employment resources and information about drug addiction treatment services. A series of questions will be included with the mobile phone app that address drug use and the potential consequences it may have on an individual's employment.



### DID YOU KNOW...

- If someone abuses opiates or prescription drugs they may be jeopardizing their future employment?
- Although someone may believe what they do on their own time does is no business of their employer, risky behaviors "off-the-clock" may have a negative impact on their employment?
- If someone has used a medication without a written prescription from a doctor, such as Vicodin for pain relief, they may be putting their employment at risk...and are also doing something that is illegal?

### BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS...

- The Task Force has many resources available for those who may need help. Please call the ADAMHS office at 419-424-1985 or visit the ADAMHS website at [www.yourpathtohealth.org](http://www.yourpathtohealth.org) for additional information.

## Medication Collection Committee

Chairs: Randy Greeno, City of Findlay  
Joe Rader & Bruce Deppen,  
Rader Environmental Services, Inc.



Randy Greeno



Joe Rader



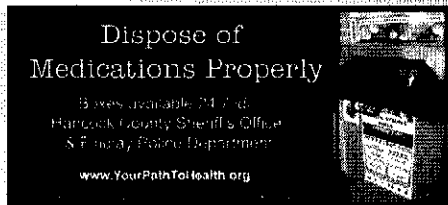
Bruce Deppen

### PURPOSE:

- Organize annual and semi-annual community medication collection drives
- Educate the community on the appropriate ways to dispose of unneeded, unwanted, and expired medications.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2013

- Community Medication Collection Drives – The Committee held semi-annual community medication collection drives in April and October.
- Permanent Collection Boxes – The Hancock County Sheriff's Office and Findlay Police Department report the permanent collection boxes are continually used by the Community.



### DID YOU KNOW...

- In October 2012 the Task Force collected 362 pounds of medication during medication collection drive and in April 2013 this number increased to 461 pounds?

### BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS...

- The increase in the number of pounds of medication collected as well and the steady use of the permanent collection boxes indicates that the Community has become aware of this issue and is responding proactively by properly disposing of unwanted, unneeded, or expired medications.

## Free Medication & Mercury Collection

Fall Collection  
Saturday, Oct. 26, 2013  
9 a.m. - noon

Findlay Municipal Building Parking Lot  
West Crawford Street

FINDLAY  
THE CITY OF COURTESY



# Legislative Committee

Chair: Philip Riegler, Hancock County Commissioner



Philip Riegler

## PURPOSE:

- Review and monitor local, state, and federal legislation related to opiates/prescription drugs.
- Offer suggestions to state elected officials regarding any need for legislation.
- Assist in the development and writing of needed legislation related to opiates/prescription drugs.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2013:

- Naloxone Bill – The Committee has provided feedback to local state legislative officials regarding the proposed legislation regarding the prescribing of Naloxone – a drug that is used to reverse opiate overdose.
- 911 Good Samaritan Bill – Working with State Representative Robert Sprague, legislative bill language is being developed that would lessen potential legal consequences against persons who contact emergency services when a companion is experiencing an overdose.



Ohio State Representative Robert Sprague has become a champion for the fight against opiate and prescription drug abuse. Representative Sprague currently serves as the Chairman of the House Study Committee on Prescription Drug Addiction and Healthcare Reform.

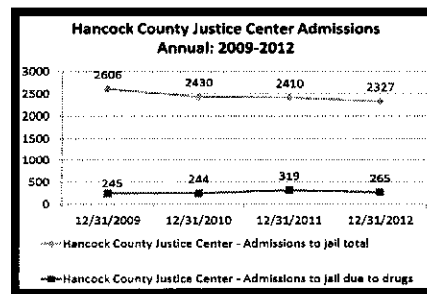
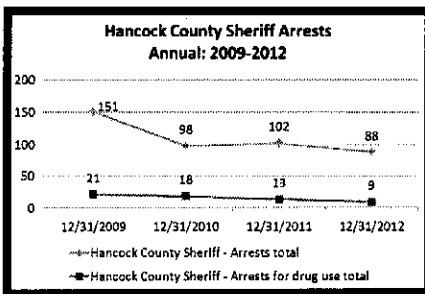
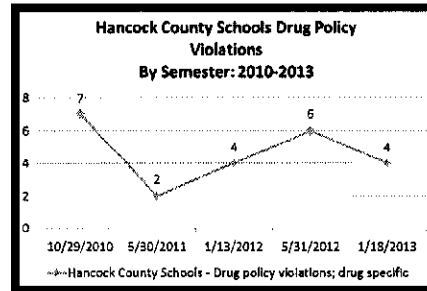
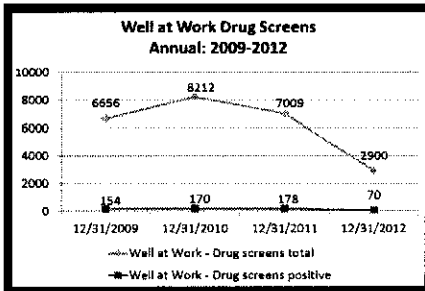
## DID YOU KNOW...

- The majority of people who use drugs don't use drugs alone, but the majority of people who overdose on drugs die alone?

## BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS...

- Legislation being developed by our state representatives may help to reduce the number of overdose deaths by encouraging people to call for emergency services when they are in the company of someone experiencing an overdose.

## What are some of the data points collected by the Task Force?



## How Can You Help the Task Force and its Mission?

There are simple ways each of us can help stop this epidemic from spreading:

**Secure medications in your home and properly dispose of unwanted, unneeded, or expired medications.**

**Ask physicians and dentists to lower the quantity of prescribed pain medications.**

**Contact the Task Force for an educational presentation at a meeting.**

Please consider joining the Task Force.

Visit the ADAMS website at [www.ourpathofhealth.org](http://www.ourpathofhealth.org), email [rtomas@ourpathofhealth.org](mailto:rtomas@ourpathofhealth.org), or call 419-424-1986 for additional information.