

Hancock County Opiate Task Force 2014 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 Task Force in 2010 in response to the growing epidemic of opiate abuse in our community. The mission of the Opiate Task Force is to promote awareness of how this epidemic affects Hancock County; educate the Community how to reduce and prevent opiate/prescription drug abuse, unintentional drug overdose, and unintentional drug overdose deaths; implement specific prevention and intervention strategies; and improve treatment options.

This year the Committee Chairs of the Opiate Task Force have identified several areas which will become the focal points of the Opiate Task Force Committees. By defining specific issues for each Opiate Task Force Committee to concentrate its efforts, we hope to positively impact the issues our Community is facing surrounding the opiate epidemic. The following is a list of a few of the areas the Opiate Task Force will be concentrating its efforts this coming year:

- Increasing awareness and utilization of Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) as a way to identify individuals who may be at potential risk of addiction
- Investigating overdose deaths to determine if there are common contributing factors that can be addressed to prevent future overdose deaths
- Engaging family members and friends of individuals who are struggling with addiction as a way to gain valuable insight, learn "what helps, what hurts" families in these situations, and create a network of support
- Educating and increasing the Community's awareness of Naloxone, a life-saving medication that can be used to reverse opiate overdose
- Promoting increased communication among youth and adults through prevention campaigns such as "Start Talking" and "I Am Enough."

The Opiate Task Force believes this epidemic must be addressed by all segments of the community to effectively create meaningful change. The Opiate 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. Without this diverse representation of our Community, the Task Force would not be able to successfully address the opiate epidemic. It takes a large community coalition of the willing to achieve lasting community change.

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.

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 the following organizations that have shown tireless commitment to promoting our mission and goals.

Rader Environmental Services, Inc.

Rader Environment Services has volunteered its services to help transport and destroy all medications collected at the community medication collection events and permanent drop-boxes. Their expertise in proper handling of potentially harmful substances has aided the Opiate Task Force in offering a safe, secure, and accessible way to remove medications from the community.

Hancock County Sheriff's Department & Findlay City Police

The Hancock County Sheriff's Department and Findlay City Police have served as sites for the permanent medication drop-boxes. Both the Hancock County Sheriff's Department and Findlay City Police have been active participants in all Opiate Task Force efforts and provide real-time information related to how the opiate epidemic is affecting the local law enforcement system.



Medical Committee

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



Dr. William Kose



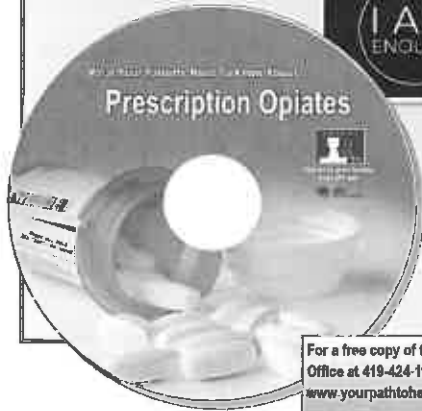
Barbara Wilhelm

PURPOSE:

- To gain insight into the challenges experienced within the local medical system related to the opiate epidemic
- To address issues concerning the local medical system related to the opiate epidemic
- To inform, educate, and advance the work of the Opiate Task Force among the local medical system
- To provide professional development opportunities for the local medical system specific to the opiate epidemic

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2014:

- "What Your Patients Need to Know About Prescription Opiates" educational DVD distributed to all physicians in Hancock County
- The committee has started to complete formal reviews of overdose deaths that occurred in Hancock County in 2013. The purpose of this review is to help determine if there are any patterns or common elements that can be addressed to prevent future overdose deaths



DID YOU KNOW...

Unintentional drug overdose continues to be the leading cause of injury-related death in Ohio, ahead of motor vehicle traffic crashes, suicide, and falls?

BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS...

Blanchard Valley Hospital is working to mitigate this problem by following a low-dose opiate prescribing protocol for patients who are discharged with an opiate medication from the emergency room.

WHAT YOU CAN DO...

Ask your physician or dentist to lower the quantity of prescribed pain medications, or ask for an alternative, non-opiate medication to reduce the risk of potential addiction and overdose.

For a free copy of this DVD, please contact the ADAMHS Office at 419-424-1985. This video can also be viewed at www.yourpathtohealth.org

Education Committee

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



Tim Kruse



Craig Kupferberg

PURPOSE:

- To gain insight into the challenges experienced by the local education system related to the opiate epidemic
- To address issues concerning the local education system related to the opiate epidemic
- To inform, educate, and advance the work of the Opiate Task Force among the local education system
- To provide professional development opportunities for the local education system specific to the opiate epidemic

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2014:

- "Prescription Drug and Over-the-Counter Drug Abuse" brochure mailed to every household with a child in grades 6-12 in Hancock County and Findlay City Schools
- "Prescription Drugs are Still Drugs" public service announcement video, conceived, developed, and produced by students in the Millstream Interactive Multimedia Class earned Third Place and a \$500.00 scholarship in the "Don't Get Me Started" PSA Contest sponsored by the Ohio Association of Community Behavioral Health Authorities

Prescription Drug and Over-the-Counter Drug Abuse

Parents and Caregivers are the first line of defense.



DID YOU KNOW...

Nearly one in four teens report taking a prescription drug not prescribed to them by a doctor at least once in their lives?

BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS...

Children of parents who talk to their teens about drugs are 50% less likely to use.

WHAT YOU CAN DO...

Visit www.starttalking.ohio.gov and sign up for "Know! Parent Tips" to receive free regular emails with information about drug use and action steps to help youth resist peer pressure to use substances.

This "Prescription Drug and Over-the-Counter Drug Abuse" Brochure is available for download at www.yourpathtohealth.org.

The Millstream Interactive Multimedia Class Award Winning Video can be viewed at www.yourpathtohealth.org.

**Make the right choice
Prescription Drugs are still Drugs.**

Community Awareness Committee

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



Kimberly Bash



Mark Miller

PURPOSE:

- To gain insight into the opiate epidemic through community forum
- To address issues concerning the local community related to the opiate epidemic
- To inform, educate, and advance the work of the Opiate Task Force to the local community

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2014:

- The "Jobs Near Me" mobile phone app, developed by *JYakam*, is now live and available to download from the App Store (Apple). In addition to providing local employment opportunities, this app also provides important information regarding prescription drug misuse, abuse, and treatment resources.
- In August, a Community Forum was held to gain insight from family members and friends of individuals struggling with opiate addiction. The Committee intends to use the information to inform the Task Force on ways to improve interventions with people addicted to opiates.



"Jobs Near Me" mobile phone app is now live and available to download from the App Store.

DID YOU KNOW...

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?

BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS...

The Opiate Task Force can offer an educational presentation at your next neighborhood meeting. The more individuals are aware of the potential dangers of opiates and prescription medications, the greater chance communities have of reducing harmful or fatal outcomes from misuse of these substances.

WHAT YOU CAN DO...

Let family members, friends, and co-workers know that it is not appropriate to share pain medication.

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
- To promote the use of permanent medication collection boxes
- To organize and implement at least one (1) community-wide medication collection event

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2014:

- In April, 115 vehicles dropped off a total of 205 pounds of medication at the medication collection drive. Combined with the medications collected from the permanent collection boxes, over 400 pounds of potentially harmful medications were removed from the community and properly destroyed.



DID YOU KNOW...

In Ohio, the number of opiate prescriptions written as of June 30, 2014, equates to 16.50 doses for every man, woman, and child?

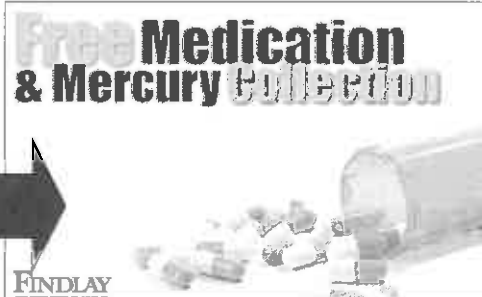
BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS...

The opiate prescription dosage rate in Hancock County is significantly lower than the state rate, resulting in fewer opiate prescriptions available for potential inappropriate use.

WHAT YOU CAN DO...

Secure medications in your home and dispose of unwanted, unneeded, or expired medications by using the permanent collection boxes or bringing them to a community medication collection drop-off event.

Saturday, October 25, 2014
9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
Findlay Municipal Building Parking Lot
West Crawford Street



FINDLAY
THE PRIDE OF OHIO

Legislative Committee

Chair Phillip Riegler, Hancock County Commissioner



Phillip Riegler

PURPOSE:

- To promote proposed legislation addressing the opiate epidemic
- To suggest legislation that addresses the opiate epidemic
- To work with local, state, and national legislators to advance identified needs related to the opiate epidemic that can be addressed through legislation

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2014:

- In March 2014, Ohio House Bill 170 was enacted into law which increases community access to Naloxone. Naloxone is an opiate overdose reversal medication which has been proven to save lives.



Ohio State Representative Robert Sprague has become a champion for the fight against opiate and prescription drug abuse. In 2014, Representative Sprague served as the Chairman of the House Study Committee on Prescription Drug Addiction and Healthcare Reform.

DID YOU KNOW...

Eighty percent (80%) of heroin addicts do not use alone, but 80% die alone?

BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS...

The Legislative Committee has been working with State Representative Sprague to pass a Good Samaritan law which would provide a certain level of immunity if medical attention is sought when someone is experiencing a heroin overdose.

WHAT YOU CAN DO...

Contact your local elected officials to engage them in your neighborhood discussions about opiates, substance abuse, and recovery supports.

74% of young adults in Hancock County think that misuse of prescription drugs is totally unacceptable.

The goal of the "I Am Enough" Project is to empower young people to show that they are enough without prescription drugs, opiates, or other risky behavior.

The Hancock County Community Partnership is excited to announce that the "I Am Enough" campaign will be expanding to include a Youth Advisory Board (High School) and a Young Adult Advisory Board (Age 18-25). The purpose of these boards will be to develop leaders that will promote the campaign's message among their peers while designing prevention activities and initiatives using the Strategic Prevention Framework. Through this project, we look forward to seeing our youth and young adults develop into strong leaders in our Community and supporting their peers in making positive life choices.



www.iamenoughproject.org

www.facebook.com/iamenoughproject

www.twitter.com/iamenough2014

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 your prescribed pain medications.

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

Please consider joining the Task Force.

Visit the ADAMHS website at www.yourpathtohealth.org, email zthomas@yourpathtohealth.org, or call 419-424-1985 for additional information