



Dear Community Leader,

In 2013, with a determination to address the opiate epidemic, a group of citizens, along with the Hancock County Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services, designed and adopted the *Preamble for Building Recovery in Hancock County*. The purpose of this document is to align healthcare with the principles of recovery.

However, following the establishment of the Preamble, Hancock County was greatly impacted by an explosion of opiate and heroin use, overdose, and death. In 2015, this epidemic killed a record 3,050 Ohioans. Hancock County lost 16 individuals to opiate and heroin overdose death.

To expand the purpose of the Preamble, this group of community members met again in 2016 to establish a unified message that empowers individuals, strengthens local efforts that address this epidemic, and increases community determination. This message is informed by the best science and practice available.

The following document, "*A Community Position on the Value of Life in Hancock County*" is the result of this collaborative work.

We ask any organization that chooses to address the opiate epidemic in our community to share messages that are consistent with those outlined in this document. We believe that the more consistent our message is about this issue, the greater the success we will have ending this public health crisis.

If you have any questions or concerns about this document, or would like supporting information regarding the statements included in this document, please contact us at 419-424-1985 or zthomas@yourpathtohealth.org.

If you know someone who needs help, please call 2-1-1 for information about local treatment and support services.

We sincerely thank you for your commitment to the safety and health of our community.

Sincerely,

Brad Bundy, D.O.
Co-Chair
Hancock County Opiate Task Force

Debra Parker, Pharm.D.
Co-Chair
Hancock County Opiate Task Force