



January 30, 2017

Hancock County ADAMHS Begins Collecting Data for *Working Partners*® Drug-Free Workforce Community Initiative through Local Business and Community Leader Surveys

Findlay, Ohio – In an effort to address the safety and economic threat of substance use in the workplace, Hancock County ADAMHS recently partnered with the Findlay•Hancock County Chamber of Commerce and *Working Partners*® to launch the *Working Partners*® Drug-Free Workforce Community Initiative. A critical element of this Initiative is the collection of data to assess business perceptions, attitudes, knowledge and practices as they relate to preventing and addressing substance use in the workplace/workforce. Initiative leadership will launch the process of collecting this data through the Business Survey on February 2, 2017, followed by a Community Leader Survey later in March.

The surveys will gather information about the perceived prevalence and impact of substance use on the workplace/workforce; the perceived quality and quantity of the community's workforce; the extent that components of a drug-free workplace program are being administered (e.g., policy, toxicology screenings, education/training, assistance); prevalence of job seekers and employees testing positive on toxicology screenings; attitudes and practices around offering second chances to job seekers and employees who screen positive for substance use; knowledge of community-helping resources; and attitudes about substance use prevention and treatment.

"We are thrilled to have communities across the state collecting data that will help fuel the Initiative's overall goal which is to increase an employable, drug-free workforce in Ohio," said Dee Mason, founder and CEO of *Working Partners*®. "The data we plan to collect through these surveys has not been gathered before on a state-wide level, nor does it exist in the country. It will give us an accurate picture of each county and the data needed to provide necessary resources where they will be most impactful."

The Business Survey will be distributed to a representative sample of a variety of local business organizations and associations and completed by business leaders with strong infrastructure knowledge about their companies. The Community Leader Survey will be distributed to community leaders who have insight into the issues and needs of the county's business community. Data collection will take place through February and March. Survey data will be supplemented with secondary data and used to compile a community report that will guide the effort to develop a strong, drug-free workforce in Hancock County.

"We realize that these surveys will provide critical data for our community report and we are working hard to get input from as many meaningful respondents as we can," said Precia Stuby, ADAMHS Executive Director. "This data will help bring to light the issues we face in our community and help us tackle this issue in a focused way and have a true impact."

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OhioMHAS and Working Partners® have developed a public-private partnership to move the Working Partners® Drug-Free Workforce Community Initiative forward throughout the state. The initiative will support local employment strategies related to drug-free workplaces. OhioMHAS has provided funding for 17 local communities to work with Working Partners® to convene and coordinate stakeholders to assess specific community needs and develop local action plans to develop strong local drug-free workforces by employing a variety of best practices that meet these needs.

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