

Date Approved: 6-27-2023
Presiding Officer: Ann Woolum

Hancock County ADAMHS Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: May 23, 2023

Meeting Time: 3:35 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Meeting Location: Blanchard Valley Center – 1700 East Sandusky Street

Recorder: Amy Beach

Board Member Attendance:

x	Ann Woolum, Board Chair	x	Brandon Daniels	x	Rosalie King
x	Jim Darrach, Vice Chair	x	Mary Beth Dillon		Cheryl Lentz
x	Melanie Aldobaiki	x	John Drymon	x	Greg Meyers
	Dave Beach		Rick Eakin	x	Susan Pancake
x	Susan Bunn	x	Josh Eberle		Mark Rimelspach
	Seth Butler	x	Rachael Helms	x	Jim Stahl

Guests Attending:

x	Precia Stuby	x	Jennifer Loera	x	Derek Puchta
x	Rob Verhoff	x	Victoria Graham	x	Georgianna Smolenski
x	Amy Beach	x	Michelle McGraw		
x	Deb Twining	x	John Bindas		

Board Chair, Ann Woolum, called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. Amy Beach introduced guests in attendance.

PROGRAM

Georgianna Smolenski, Program manager at The Steady Path (TSP), presented a program to help Board members understand what The Steady Path is, the population they serve and what they do to help those who are staying there.

The Steady Path opened its 11-bed facility in January 2022. It is a voluntary program that is used as a step down or diversion from higher levels of psychiatric care and incarceration. An example of this would be for those who are admitted to BVH for psychiatric care – when they are out of days and need discharged but would benefit from more time to focus on their mental health, a referral to The Steady Path can be made.

The Steady Path focuses on both mental health and physical health. Here they run groups, have access to medication management, peer support, occupational therapy, nursing and can make connections to other groups as well, such as FOCUS, Welcome to a New Life, ADAMHS housing etc. They can help clients make family doctor, dentist, and specialist appointments. If someone has a change in their medication, it is a safe place to allow someone time to adjust. Clients must be open to being a FRC client during their stay. Upon discharge they can return to another treatment agency if they prefer.

Georgianna and Precia then discussed the funding aspect of TSP. The money from ADAMHS goes toward room/board for clients and partial staff salaries. The Steady Path does not charge for room and board as the State of Ohio does not have a reimbursable code for this. They are only allowed reimbursement for the services

provided. The Board is part of a regional group that includes 22 counties. This regional group has set aside money for TSP, so they are now able to accept clients from the other counties in our region, not just Hancock. John Drymon asked if they have someone there to help with billing, especially with Medicare/Medicaid as we have heard of agencies having difficulties receiving payments. Georgianna assured Board members that they are a part of Family Resource Center which is a big company that has plenty of knowledgeable billers and they have not had any issues that she knows of. Rachael Helms asked if they prioritize Hancock County residents or is it strictly first come, first serve? Georgianna stated that they have not run into that issue yet. There are always people leaving on different days and hospitals usually reach out a few days before discharge, which helps them with planning. Ann Woolum asked if anyone can drop off someone there. Georgianna explained they cannot support a drop-off center due to staffing. They must have a referral. Josh Eberle asked if there are any other similar facilities in our region. Precia stated Wood County recently opened a 6-bed unit, but it is for their residents only. Lucas County has a stabilization center and Allen County has crisis stabilization center run by with Coleman. Precia reiterated the funding aspect. TSP previously received the BJA grant for \$250,000/year for 3 years. The continuation grant maxed out at \$550,000 so that is a \$200,000 reduction in funding. She then explained that our region gets \$1.25 million/year for crisis stabilization/withdrawal management services and our region has designated \$110,000 to The Steady Path. Jim Darrach asked if it is possible to increase that amount? Precia states she cannot answer that right now.

Rachael Helms wanted to share that she knows of someone who has an adult son that needed somewhere to go. Precia led him to The Steady Path. They were able to get him stabilized, into a group home and he is doing great now! Precia thanked Georgianna and the other present FRC staff for the work they are doing, and the program concluded.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Ann referenced the Coalition on Addiction data chart; Precia noted that as of right now we are on track to have a reduction in the number of babies prenatally exposed. There were no other updates.

Family Resource Center Open House on May 8th, 2023 – Ann shared that she attended the open house of the updated facility, and it looks great. Precia mentioned they have been wanting a new facility since 2007. John Bindas, Chief Executive Officer of Family Resource Center was in attendance and invited any of the Board members who couldn't attend the open house and would still like a tour, to contact him and he would be happy to schedule a tour.

NAMI Chair Meeting Report of May 15, 2023 – Ann reported that the Agency is requesting additional funding due to the hiring of full-time staff. They also just held their annual NAMI Color Me Happy Walk and Run. The event was a success, and they were able to make about \$18,000 in profit. Part of this success was due to Whirlpool, who paid for their employees and their families to attend. The Agency has also been successful in recruiting new Board members. They have about 5 or 6 individuals interested. They will have three vacancies at the end of FY'24, including the treasurer. They may have to investigate contracting out some fiscal services due to the continued increase in funds/staff.

Appointment of Selection Committee – Ann announced the Board members chosen for the Selection Committee. They will be Mary Beth Dillon, Josh Eberle and Susan Pancake. Ann thanked them for their willingness to serve on this committee.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Follow-up items from the April Board meeting: Follow up on LEAD Access Discussion- Precia made a call to Sue Sorg. Sue has been in touch with Board members John Drymon and Josh Eberle to schedule an appointment.

3rd Quarter Scorecard- Precia reviewed the 3rd Quarter Scorecard. She highlighted that effective June 19th; Blanchard Valley Hospital will be able to do MAT (medication assisted treatment) inductions from the emergency room. FRC had an overall increase in all emergency services. There was also an increase in youth out of home, withdrawal management, and the use of indigent inpatient bed days. There was a decrease in the number of people referred to services through Hancock Helps. The MOMS program will be broadening its focus to include post-partum women as well. Ann asked if the program would be expanding by this allocation. Precia stated no.

FY' 24 Allocations Update: There will be an Allocations Committee Meeting on June 7th, 2023, at 3:30 p.m. at the board office. The Allocations Committee is made up of Program and Finance Committee members, but all Board members are welcome.

National Council Conference April 30th – May 3rd – Precia wanted to share a few of her takeaways from her recent trip to Los Angeles for the National Council Conference.

She was able to get more information on CCBHCs. She states we have been hearing this terminology a lot lately and believes it is the “model for the future.” Her plan is to have staff member Rob Verhoff research more about this model to be able to help educate the rest of the staff and board members.

She also learned more about measurement-based care. An example she gave is with diabetics and blood sugar. Patients who have a continuous blood sugar monitor that is attached and visible are often able to make different choices such as not eating a dessert at that time or increasing their activity level. These choices help alter their glucose levels without medication. They would like to apply this principle with those in recovery by using recovery capital measures. Precia discussed this with Dr. Flaherty during his most recent visit. A decision was made to have him do some training on recovery capital measures for our community.

Precia also shared that a national suicide prevention plan will be completed in January 2024. The last time this was completed was in 2012. Part of the plan will focus on the co-responder model. Some communities have already incorporated the co-responder model in different ways. Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) will be sending us to see another community they feel we may be like, for us to observe and learn what would be the best model for our area and how that would look.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Micah Zinna was approved by the state department to become a Board member.
2. The Community Plan was approved.
3. Initial allocations were received from OhioMHAS for FY '24
4. FOCUS received an approval of a SAMSHA grant for \$330,000/year for 3 years. This grant was unexpected as it was originally applied for years ago when Ellen Schmiesing was the director. Precia shared that SAMSHA has been thrilled with FOCUS recently. There are only 9 facilities in the state that

meet criteria for a recovery center and FOCUS is one of them. Also, BJA will be sending them to Montana to see another facility there.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- To approve the April 25, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes
- To approve the Program Committee Meeting Report of May 10, 2023
- To approve the Capital Ad Hoc Committee Report of May 15, 2023
- To approve the Governance Committee Meeting Report of May 17, 2023
- To approve the Finance Committee Meeting Report of May 17, 2023, and the Agency Financial Picture

Rosalie King moved to accept all items on the consent agenda. Greg Meyers seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS BROUGHT FROM COMMITTEE

- To Approve the Electronic Signatures Policy. **Ann Woolum called for a vote. No questions; no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion passed.**
- To approve entering a FY'24 Contract with HHWP Community Action Commission for Property Maintenance in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 at flat rate of \$55.00 per hour. **Ann Woolum called for a vote. No questions; no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion passed.**
- To approve the FY'24 Board Housing Budget. **Ann Woolum called for a vote. No questions; no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion passed.**
- To approve the FY'24 Board Administration Budget. **Ann Woolum called for a vote. No questions; no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion passed.**
- To approve the April Board Financial Statement. **Ann Woolum called for a vote. No questions; no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion passed.**

ACTION ITEMS BROUGHT TO THE FULL BOARD

- To Approve Entering into a Year Two Contract with CHESS Health in an amount not to exceed \$70,000. **Ann Woolum called for a vote. No questions; no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion passed.**

INFORMATION REPORTS

- ROSC Leadership Committee Meeting May 9, 2023
- Community Partnership Meeting Report of May 16, 2023
- Suicide Prevention Foundation: Traumatic Brain Injury and Suicide Risk
- OACBHA - Developing a Better Understanding: Practicing Self-Care

AGENCY/PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

POSITIVE ACTION

Precia shared we recently participated in "Days of Caring" with our local United Way. During the week of May 8th, 2023, we had volunteers from the United Way come and help with various projects at 6 of our properties. Projects included weeding, trimming, mulching, painting, planting flowers, power washing etc. Each year Days of Caring helps with the appearance of board-owned housing while also saving us money that it would normally cost to have these tasks completed.

FOLLOW-UP NEEDED:

Information on new study using diabetic medication to treat addiction.

The next Board meeting will be June 27, 2023.

Ann Woolum made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Susan Pancake seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

FY'24 Allocations Meeting

Meeting Date: Wednesday, June 7, 2023

Meeting Time: 3:30 p.m.- 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Location: Board Office

Recorder: Precia Stuby

Committee Members (The Program Committee and the Finance Committee make up the Allocations Committee, however, all Board members receive the notice and are welcome to participate):

Invited Board Members Attending:

	Brandon Daniels, Program Chair		Dave Beach		Cheryl Lentz
	Greg Meyers, Finance Chair		Mary Beth Dillon		Jim Stahl
	Jim Darrach		John Drymon	x	Susan Bunn
	Rick Eakin		Josh Eberle	x	Susan Pancake
x	Rosalie King		Ann Woolum	x	Rachael Helms
	Seth Butler	x	Mark Rimelspach		Melanie Aldobaiki

Invited Staff Attending:

x	Precia Stuby	x	Jennifer Swartzlander	x	Rob Verhoff
	Zach Thomas		Deb Twining		

Board members received a review of each of the Agency proposal prior to the meeting and received hard copies at the meeting.

Items Discussed:

1. Review of Agency Proposal Reviews – Prior to today's meeting, Board staff met with each Agency to review concerns and obtain clarification. At the Committee meeting, each agency proposal review was discussed, and issues were identified to be addressed during the agency presentations over the next two weeks. Precia will send out a letter to each Agency director providing them with a copy of the Agency proposal review and the issues identified below.
 - a. NAMI – The Committee is interested in knowing how often each program is provided and the anticipated number of individuals attending. They are also interested in knowing how the Agency is collaborating with other providers in the community. How are other agencies promoting their services and vice versa.

- b. OhioGuidestone – The Committee is interested in a better understanding of the ACT team (success, challenges, target population, etc.); the vision for the organization for Hancock County; and an overview of the proposed services under Expressive Art Therapy and Maternal Depression – how was this selected; who would be providing, etc.
 - c. FOCUS – The Committee is interested in a review of the revised budget; what will be provided as a result of the recently awarded SAMHSA grant.; and the Agency's plan related to Board development and strategic planning, including capital.
 - d. Family Resource Center – The Committee is interested in understanding the proposed revision to the grant process; the patient process; an overview of services provided; plans for any salary increases and the impact of the workforce shortage; and plans for addressing openings on the Board. Precia also shared plans for working with the technical assistance center related to financing of the CCBHC model.
2. Orchard Hall Contract – The current contract with Orchard Hall for indigent care is \$50,000. There is billing beyond this amount that cannot be paid without a contract amendment. Precia noted that once the Board pays for the care, a request for reimbursement can be sent to the state.

Action Items:

- 1. A motion was made by Mark Rimelspach and seconded by Rosalie King to increase FY'23 Blanchard Valley Health Center contract for indigent care by \$50,000. Motion carried.

To Do List:

- 1. Precia will send out agency presentation letters to all the agencies outlining what should be discussed during their time with the Board.

FY'24 Allocations Meeting Report

Meeting Date: Wednesday, June 14, 2023

Meeting Time: 4:00 p.m.- 5:36 p.m.

Meeting Location: Board Office

Recorder: Jennifer Swartzlander

Committee Members Attending (The Program Committee and the Finance Committee make up the Allocations Committee, however, all Board members receive the notice and are welcome to participate):

X	Brandon Daniels, Program Chair		Dave Beach		Cheryl Lentz
X	Greg Meyers, Finance Chair		Mary Beth Dillon		Jim Stahl
	Jim Darrach		John Drymon	X	Susan Bunn
	Rick Eakin	X	Josh Eberle	X	Susan Pancake
X	Rosalie King	X	Ann Woolum	X	Rachael Helms
	Seth Butler	X	Mark Rimelspach	X	Melanie Aldobaiki

Invited Staff Attending:

X	Precia Stuby	X	Jennifer Swartzlander	X	Rob Verhoff
	Zach Thomas	X	Deb Twining		

FRC Staff Attending:

X	John Bindas	X	Ginny Williams	X	Charles Buck
X	Aeryn Williams	X	Laura Brickner	X	Larry James

Items Discussed:

1. Family Resource Center Presentation: FRC staff were introduced. Laura reviewed the client process chart. Every client who can't be seen during an Open Access time is given an appointment. The average capacity is 9 slots per day for diagnostic assessments (first appointment to start clinical services). Laura reviewed the billing function process chart, closing clients and client support specialists process chart, and miscellaneous process and services chart.

Aeryn outlined the agency services that include prevention, early intervention, and treatment services at FRC. She highlighted a substance use disorder outpatient group for youth, increased groups for adults (MH/SUD), created an external tracking system including that the client went to the appointment referred to, Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) induction will start on July 19th, growth of The Steady Path use, crisis services continue to be a strong service. Josh asked a question about Quick

Response Team (QRT) status, Aeryn indicated that a lot of the work is providing families with Narcan and doing some outreach with the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) outreach team.

John outlined the rationale behind the increased funding request is due to the increased costs and inflation without any increases in Medicaid rates. FRC asked for redirecting previously unfilled positions and redirecting funds to other needs such as the Site Directors, Call Center, etc., and the additional funds needed to fully fund The Steady Path.

Ann asked about how we will review the allocation/performance grants. Precia outlined that the plan would be to develop measures that are reviewed with FRC quarterly. FRC asked to eliminate the 13th payment structure. The committee discussed their opinions on accountability. Josh and Brandon indicated they believe FRC are good stewards and didn't want to limit their flexibility or increase reporting requirements. Jennifer clarified that the committee was comfortable with the existing reporting done by FRC.

John addressed the plan for salary increases and updates on the workforce. John shared that FRC's turnover rate is 85%. They had 88 left and 84 hired. They increased pay rates, the shortage is exasperated by inflation, and the cost of recruitment is \$2300 for a case manager and \$9300 for a counselor. The Steady Path (TSP) lost 11 and replaced 8. The staff at TSP was given a 17.1% increase on 8/21 and did that again this year. The Steady Path is the only staff that received pay increases. Greg asked if they were asked if those leaving were leaving the profession or going to other agencies. Ginny replied that it is a mix of both. Some say the work is too hard, might go to a competitor for a raise of a dollar or two, some are relocating, and some stay home vs pay for childcare. Precia asked if the turnover rate is reducing or staying the same. **John will provide that data as a follow-up item.**

Ginny provided the agency highlights – increased turnover has affected staff morale so senior leadership visit each location and spends 4 hours/month, invested in leadership development called launching leaders, addressing the mental health needs of own staff by developing a staff self-care committee, Aeryn runs a clinical supervisor cohort to teach reflective supervisor skills, FRC is an approved HRSA site for loan forgiveness (not Hancock but other sites).

John addressed the Board member status by indicating they have struggled for some time to get Board members. They currently have 5 board

members until the end of June, in July they will be down to 4 and they should have 11. John indicated he is speaking with The Community Foundation, United Way, Marathon, Ball, etc. to recruit board members. He welcomed other suggestions.

Committee members were in favor of allocating one lump sum for services provided under grants. Jennifer and Aeryn will meet to discuss any additional reporting necessary to assure accountability.

2. Recommendation Related to Spectrum Proposal- Spectrum submitted a proposal to access the Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD) grant from the Board. Spectrum's request was about \$100,000 and was reviewed by the Program Committee. The committee thought it was too much and not consistent with the grant guidelines. The committee wanted to fund a portion of it due to the risk within the population. The AUD grant must be for current AUD but not prevention. The committee wanted Spectrum to screen for AUD, advance the use of the CHESS app, and provide a specialty support group. Precia submitted the update as proposal which was provided to the Committee. Precia asked for \$40,000 to Spectrum.
3. Hancock Cares- Precia reminded the committee that this program funds up to 8 counseling sessions for staff of the agencies. Levy funds cover this expense. Committee members agreed to maintain the service. Precia indicated that the continuation of this program will be added to the mega motion at the Board meeting.
4. Workforce Incentives- This is part of the agency contracts for NAMI, Ohio Guidestone, and Focus. It is not part of FRC's because they haven't been able to meet it, so they requested the money in services.

Action Items:

1. A motion was made by Susan Pancake and seconded by Josh Eberle to approval of the Spectrum proposal as written for \$40,000. Motion carried.

To Do List:

1. Board staff will get to this Committee an update from John on how FRC's turnover rate is trending.
2. Jennifer will meet with Aeryn to review the quarterly quality improvement report and make any needed revisions to assure accountability.

Postscript: John Bindas provided the requested information on turnover rates. The data does not show an improvement over time.

Governance Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Date: June 21, 2023

Meeting Time: 8:00 a.m. – 8:57 a.m.

Meeting Location: Board Office, 438 Carnahan Avenue

Recorder: Jennifer Swartzlander

Committee Members Attending:

x	John Drymon, Committee Chair	x	Jim Stahl
	Mary Beth Dillon, Committee Vice Chair		Seth Butler
x	Melanie Aldobaiki		

Board Members Attending:

x	Ann Woolum, Board Chair	x	Jim Darrach, Board Vice Chair
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Invited Staff Attending:

x	Precia Stuby (virtual)	x	Jennifer Swartzlander
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Items Discussed:

1. **Capital Ad Hoc Committee Update** – Next meeting is July 10th where the committee will meet with Jennifer Williams to begin looking at the earmark process as a possible funding source for this project. The Committee asked for the Board staff to get quotes on a new roof and new commercial windows as both are contributing to the moisture issues. Also, we have been working with Colleen Robinson to see what commercial properties are available for lease or purchase. The Committee discussed the roofing companies and John Drymon recommended not going with J Alexander Roofing due to safety concerns/lack of safety protocol per John.
2. **Board Meeting Evaluation Results for May 2023** – Committee reviewed the results. John asked for the results to be emailed in advance of the meeting. The group discussed the recommendation to hold the meeting at the different organization locations. The recommendation is to hold the September meeting at the new FRC location.
3. **Annual Review of Board Salary Ranges-** Precia shared that the Trade Association conducts an annual review of salaries, but the results will not be available until early July. She recommended tabling this until those results are available and indicated this would not impact staff annual salary increases. The Committee agreed to table until the annual review results are available.
4. **July Board and Committee Meetings** – The Committee discussed canceling the July Board and Committee meetings.
5. **FY'24 Board Appointments-** Precia updated the Committee that there is one vacant position with the goal of filling with someone with a financial background. She has reached out to Nicole and will continue to follow up with her. She welcomes other suggestions for that vacancy.

6. **Capital Planning/Project (ARPA Funding and State Capital Funds)** – Precia shared that there are two rounds of ARPA funds available. The first round of 45 million was available to Board regions and NW Region applied for funding for Coleman’s Crisis Stabilization Unit, technology improvements to Fostoria Junction, and Dani’s Place for step-down from the state hospital. All of those services are available to Hancock County residents. The second round of 45 million dollars will be available directly to Boards. She has submitted the application which includes funding for physical improvements to The Steady Path, further the work off CCBHC for the Northwest Ohio Collaborative, funding for a guardianship board for Hancock, Ottawa, and Wood Counties, workforce retention consultant, workforce incentives for those who don’t qualify for loan repayment and other incentives due to their longevity in the field, and a vehicle for MRSS.

Precia shared that FRC is looking to sell their South Campus and Annex (house next to South Campus). City Mission is interested in the purchase of the South Campus for family housing and Focus is interested in the house to use for The Loft. The properties have a shared driveway. Precia reminded the Committee that the Board’s capital project priorities with the state were 1) the Board office and 2) Fostoria Junction. Since we are unable to use state capital dollars for the Board office currently, she is recommending we make Focus (The Loft) our second priority. She has inquired if the state still has the 75/25 match for youth-serving organizations but has not heard back. The Annex has been appraised approximately \$200,000. The Board office can be listed as a priority for FY24.

7. **Update on State Biennial Budget** – Precia shared that there were a lot of additional requests for mental health funding. Most have been cut out or cut back, overall, the funding will not be worse but there will not be additional funding as it stands. She shared that the language on the board size has remained in the budget which allows for the board size of 9, 12, 14, or 18. Once it is through the conference committee then the only thing left is a line-item veto.

Action Items:

1. A motion was made by Jim Stahl and seconded by Melanie Aldobaiki to give the Capital Ad Hoc Committee the authority to make the decision on the roofing and window quotes. Motion carried.
2. A motion was made by Jim Stahl and seconded by Melanie Aldobaiki to cancel the July Board and Committee meetings. Motion carried.
3. A motion was made by Jim Stahl and seconded by Melanie Aldobaiki to change the Board’s second capital priority to Focus. Motion carried.
4. A motion was made by Melanie Aldobaiki and seconded by Jim Stahl to send a letter to request the line-item veto on the Board size language in the current budget. Motion carried.

To do List:

1. Board Evaluation results will be sent out in advance of the Governance Committee meeting.
2. Board staff will reach out to FRC for the September Board meeting location.
3. A request for a line-item veto will be written and submitted on behalf of the full Board.

FY'24 Allocations Meeting Report

Meeting Date: Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Meeting Time: 3:32 p.m.- 5:35 p.m.

Meeting Location: Putnam Room

Recorder: Rob Verhoff

Committee Members (The Program Committee and the Finance Committee make up the Allocations Committee, however, all Board members receive the notice and are welcome to participate):

Board Members Attending:

	Brandon Daniels, Chair		Dave Beach		Cheryl Lentz
X	Greg Meyers, Chair		Mary Beth Dillon		Jim Stahl
X	Jim Darrach		John Drymon	X	Susan Bunn
	Rick Eakin	X	Josh Eberle	X	Susan Pancake
X	Rosalie King	X	Ann Woolum	X	Rachael Helms
	Seth Butler	X	Mark Rimelspach		Melanie Aldobaiki

Invited Staff Attending:

X	Precia Stuby	X	Jennifer Swartzlander	X	Rob Verhoff
X	Zach Thomas	X	Deb Twining		

Guests Attending:

From OhioGuideStone: Joanna Gioia; Victoria Graham

From FOCUS: Brooke Nissen; Dan Harmon; Heidi Barilla

From NAMI of Hancock County: Lianna Gott; Clayton Richardson; Larissa Herbert; Deborah Zimmerman

Items Discussed:

1. Allocation Presentations:

- a. **OhioGuidestone 3:30 p.m.** – The Agency highlighted Hancock residents served and outcomes in FY23. They presented an overview of the ACT program stated a goal of the program is to provide staffing for a 24-hour crisis response team. New proposed programs are Expressive Arts Therapy and Maternal Depression for pregnant and post-partum women in the amount of \$25,945. The committee asked the agency to provide the cost of Expressive Arts only. The agency's long-term goals are to continue the DBT and MOMS programs and to expand services into community and home-based service areas. The Committee recommended approval of the proposal allocation of \$144,647 which includes an increase to their Fee-for-Service allocation; the addition of the FASD Double Arc program (\$8,000); the PROTECT program (\$10,000); and consultation rate of \$118 per hour for the MOMS, PROTECT, DBT and FASD programs. The Board will reconsider the

request for the Expressive Arts Therapy when the community plan for pregnant and post-partum women is complete.

b. **FOCUS 4:00 p.m.-** The agency highlighted its FY23 services:

Adult Services

- Extended hours and added one program
- Increase in visits/utilizations
- Decrease in crisis usage and increase in resource usage
- 4 staff currently being trained in CRAFT

Youth Services (LOFT)

- No change in hours for the summer
- The current lease for the LOFT building is ending and it was discussed that the FRC annex building is a new lease possibility
- Increase in youth visits

Housing

- Currently no vacancies

The agency also noted that they are adding a part-time employee for rural areas to the BJA grant. A new strategic plan will be completed in the fall and includes a capital plan to secure a new building and a plan to increase board recruitment. The agency reviewed their new budget with the inclusion of the new SAMHSA grant received.

The Committee requested an updated Table of Organization and recommended approval of the proposal package as presented with a total allocation of \$337,897.

c. **NAMI of Hancock County 4:30 p.m.-** The staff reviewed the programs offered for youth and adults. The agency requested an increase of \$46,847 for two positions moving to full-time salaries and an increase in their building lease.

The Committee recommended approval of the proposal package with an increase of \$22,300 to cover the increase in staffing for a total allocation of \$169,888.

2. Identification of Any Unresolved Issues

Board staff will request Ohio Guidestone provide the cost of the Expressive Arts Therapy program exclusively.

3. Review of Proposed Allocations with Budget Forecast

The forecast showed a FY24 Budget deficit of \$835,140 which leaves the board with \$25,941 over its Board Reserve Policy.

Postscript: OhioGuidestone submitted the cost for the Expressive Arts Therapy. The total cost is \$5,980

Finance Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Date: June 21, 2023

Meeting Time: 5:35 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: Board Office, 438 Carnahan Avenue

Recorder: Rob Verhoff

Committee Members Attending:

X	Greg Meyers, Comm. Chair	X	Josh Eberle, Comm. Vice-Chair		Rick Eakin
X	Mark Rimelspach				

Invited Board Leadership Attending:

X	Ann Woolum, Board Chair		Jim Darrach, Board Vice Chair
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Invited Staff Attending:

X	Precia Stuby	X	Rob Verhoff	X	Deb Twining
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Items Discussed:

1. Review of Account Fund Balance and Board Financial Statements for May 2023. No issues identified.
2. Agency Financial Report – April 2023 reports were reviewed. No new issues were identified.
3. Family Resource Center, OhioGuidestone, FOCUS and NAMI Contingency Plan Updates – Family Resource Center, OhioGuidestone and FOCUS issues have been resolved. NAMI had a timing issue due to receiving grant funds in advance and spending them down. They noted their YTD income is \$42,000; their cash balance is over \$150,000 and they have around 200 expense days covered.
4. Review of Board Fund Balance Policy (*Tabled*)
5. Arrowhead Contract Amendment – It was recommended to increase Arrowhead's withdrawal management contract \$20,000 to cover approved FY'23 expenses.

Action Items:

1. A motion was made by Mark Rimelspach and seconded by Josh Eberle to approve the May 2023 Board Financial Statements as presented. Motion carried.
2. A motion was made by Josh Eberle and seconded by Mark Rimelspach to approve increasing Arrowhead's FY'23 contract \$20,000 to cover additional withdrawal management expenses. This will amend the current contract not to exceed \$30,000 for FY'23. Motion carried.

To Do List:

1. None.

**Hancock County
Community Coalition on Addiction**

Committee Chairs – Report

Meeting Date: June 12, 2023

Meeting Time: 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Meeting Location: ADAMHS

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Ratified 12/12/22

1. Support people with substance use disorder *and* their loved ones.
2. Support accessibility and reduce barriers to services.
3. Implement best prevention strategies that impact people with highest risk.
4. Reduce stigma.

Committee Members

>	Debra Parker <i>Chair</i> The University of Findlay	>	Mark Miller <i>Community Awareness</i> Ohio Third District Court of Appeals	>	Carla Benjamin <i>Community Awareness</i> Welcome to a New Life
	Stefan Adams <i>Community Awareness (Education)</i> Findlay City Schools	>	Rick Van Mooy <i>Community Awareness (Education)</i> Hancock County Schools	>	Michael Pepple <i>Legislative</i> Hancock County Commissioner
	Dr. William Kose <i>Medical</i> Blanchard Valley Health System		Gary Bright <i>Medical</i> Hancock Public Health		Abbie Accord <i>Peer Support Advisory Board</i>

Invited Guests/Staff/ADAMHS Board

>	Zach Thomas	>	Precia Stuby	>	Jennifer Swartzlander
	Ann Woolum <i>ADAMHS Chair</i>		Jim Darrach <i>ADAMHS Vice-Chair</i>	>	Mark Rimelspach <i>ADAMHS</i>
	Jodi Firsdon <i>Community Partnership Chair</i>				

Committee Priorities:

- Guide, monitor, and evaluate work of each Committee using Evaluation Scorecard (build effective metrics into scorecard)
- Ensure alignment of Coalition with ADAMHS, Findlay Strategic Plan, CHIP; provide report of progress with identified metrics
- Determine necessary governing structure and operating procedures
- Ensure coalition process best-practices are maintained

Discussion:

1. **Dr. Flaherty Visit (May 8-10, 2023).** Two areas of focus were addressed during Dr. Flaherty's visit:
 - a. **Overdose Fatality Rate (as reported by Ohio Department of Health).** In the most recent report, Hancock County is shown to have a higher rate of overdose fatalities (per 100K) as compared to contiguous counties, despite having transformed Hancock County's system to ROSC. Several intervening variables were considered for this higher rate (e.g. location on I-75), but no definitive explanation can be offered. However, it may be related to having greater wealth and a larger city/county seat than contiguous counties that may contribute to this increase. It has been recommended that the Coalition review the state counties and determine if there is a more comparable county (not necessarily contiguous) with similar wealth/population demographics to evaluate our overdose fatality rate.
 - b. **Recovery Capital.** The ROSC Leadership Team will begin to explore how to improve recovery outcomes by measuring recovery capital (markers/variables that support positive behaviors and reduce risk of addiction/relapse). The ROSC Leadership Team will take a three-step approach: 1. Understand measurement-based care, 2. Determine appropriate recovery-based measures for

Hancock County Community Coalition on Addiction

- Hancock County, and, 3. Design a strategy to implement recovery-based measurement processes. (Access to and utilization of the CHES eRecovery app is a measure of recovery capital.)
2. **Project VAPE.** ADAMHS has applied for a SAMHSA grant that would provide funding to support the expansion of prevention initiatives addressing vaping among targeted/vulnerable youth and young adults. Commissioner Pepple asked if the vaping products are taxed in a similar way as tobacco products that support prevention/intervention services and if not, can the Legislative Committee recommend legislation to do so.
 3. **A Community Position on Legal Substances (Recreational Marijuana Legalization).** Across the entire Coalition, membership is discussing the need to revisit/modify the position on legalization of recreational marijuana. As is currently stated in the paper (*A Community Position on Legal Substances*), there is risk of creating inconsistent messages whereas public alcohol consumption is permitted (DORA) and socially acceptable, but legal (potential) marijuana use is not. The following questions are also to be considered by the Committee and Coalition at large:
 - a. What do we want our message to be? *We respect the law, but marijuana will not be sold in Hancock County, or We work within the law.*
 - b. Do we want to prohibit or limit sale of marijuana in Hancock County?
 - c. What is happening in other counties regarding dispensary moratoriums?
 - d. What is the trend of marijuana use in other counties with and without dispensary moratoriums?
 - e. Do we want to fight the battle of legalization or focus on availability of marijuana in the community?
 4. **Committee Chair Updates – Progress, Challenges, Successes.**
 - a. **Legislative Committee.** Review of township moratoriums on marijuana dispensaries; OneOhio Regional 17 meeting will take place 7/19/23.
 - b. **Community Awareness Committee.** The committee will develop a standard presentation that may be used when the Coalition is requested to speak to community groups/organizations.
 - c. **Medical Committee.** Developing next steps with education on medical use of psychedelics.

ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

1. Review Ohio county demographics to evaluate current overdose fatality rate.
2. Research how vaping products are taxed and submit issue to Legislative Committee for review.
3. Convene a review committee of *A Community Position on Legal Substances*, including a study on best practices related to marijuana advertising.
4. 2023 Q2 Score Card review.

Next Meeting

Monday, August 14, 2023

9:00-10:30 a.m.

ADAMHS

The Community Partnership believes that if substance use prevention and mental health promotion strategies are implemented, then the overall health and quality of life in Hancock County will be improved.

Council Meeting Report

Date: June 20, 2023, 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Location: ADAMHS Office

Representatives (Attendees in **BOLD**)

SECTOR	REPRESENTATIVE
BUSINESS	Michelle Ladd (Chamber of Commerce)
CIVIC/VOLUNTEER GROUP	Kim Hiatt (50 North), Jon Hart (United Way)
GOVERNMENT AGENCY	Shawn Carpenter (Juvenile Court)
HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL	Gary Bright (HPH), Jenn Reese (BVHS)
LAW ENFORCEMENT	Brian White (FPD)
MEDIA	Mary Jane Yarris (Retired), Cheryl Miller (Hancock Public Health)
OTHER ORGANIZATION	Triena Miller (JFS), Erin Mitchell (Lutheran Social Services), Brooke Nissin (FOCUS)
PARENT	Sharona Bishop (Hancock Public Health)
RELIGIOUS/FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION	Debra Pees-Arce (St. Andrew's UMC)
RECOVERY PEER	Abbie Acord (Peer Support Advisory Board)
SCHOOL	Stefan Adams (FCS), Jodi Firsdon, Chair (UF), Angie Toland (ESC)
YOUNG ADULT 18-25	
YOUTH	Hope Salyers
YOUTH SERVING ORGANIZATION	Stacy Shaw, Vice-Chair (CMC), Chris Biltz (FRC), Abby Blanchard (FRC)
BOARD/COALITION	Ann Woolum (ADAMHS Vice-Chair), Jim Darrach (ADAMHS Vice-Chair), Debra Parker (UF), Mark Rimelspach (ADAMHS)
STAFF	Zach Thomas, Steve Dillon
GUESTS	Chad Masters

FY23 HCCP Focus – Connection.

FY23 HCCP Goal – Create healthy behaviors, individuals, and communities.

FY23 HCCP Prevention Priorities – Delay onset; protect the brain; protective and promotive factors; support the family; deliver services in the community.

Strategic Imperatives 2023-2028

- Creating Connections between Youth and Trusted Adults
- Promotion of Positive, Healthy, Alternative Activities
- Understanding of Adolescent Brain Development
- Data Collection

DISCUSSION:

- 1. Presentation: Findlay Young Professionals (FYP) – Michelle Ladd.** FYP is a networking group housed with the Findlay-Hancock County Chamber of Commerce (The Chamber), for people ages 21-45. Michelle, a board member of FYP, employee of The Chamber, and Business Sector Representative for the Community Partnership, shared information about the mission and purpose of FYP, indicating that there may be future opportunities for collaboration with the Community Partnership and other community service organizations. FYP is completing a survey of its members to help determine areas of community concern that will drive the organization's community service work. Slides from the presentation are attached.
- 2. Review FY23 Strategic Documents/ADAMHS Prevention Model.** Each year, the Partnership Council reviews the existing year's focus, goal, prevention priorities, and strategic imperatives to determine if any adjustments are

necessary for the upcoming fiscal year, and to ensure alignment with ADAMHS Board goals. Currently, there were no recommendations for modifications to the existing strategic documents as presented, however, final review will take place at the August 2023 meeting. The Partnership Council also reviewed the ADAMHS Prevention Model which guides all board prevention initiatives and investments. The last revision of the ADAMHS Prevention Model was in 2020, following the Social Development Model and the Youth Thrive Framework. A final review of this document will also take place at the August 2023 meeting.

3. **HIPS Discussion.** Chad Masters (Hancock Public Health [HPH]) was present to discuss the current status of the Hidden in Plain Sight (HIPS) program. HIPS has not been utilized as much as anticipated over the last two years, in part due to pandemic restrictions. Additionally, HPH is also limited to one staff member responsible for managing HIPS, as well as other HPH educational programming. Ashland County (OH) has requested to use HIPS for an upcoming event, with an inquiry into purchasing HIPS from HPH. The Partnership Council discussed the importance of keeping HIPS in Hancock County, and as an important resource to provide education for parents and caregivers about drug use and paraphernalia. The Partnership Council also suggested a concerted effort be made to promote HIPS in the community to rejuvenate interest. Family Resource Center (FRC) (Chris Biltz) has offered to provide staff support to increase program capacity.
4. **Project VAPE.** ADAMHS has submitted a grant to SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) to expand prevention services among targeted youth and young adults. Prevention services would primarily focus on addressing vaping as a mechanism/behavior of substance use. Grant award determinations are expected late August/mid-September.
5. **2023 Hancock County Fair.** The ADAMHS Fair Booth will focus on suicide prevention and home safety.
6. **Election of FY24 Chair/Vice Chair.** Stacy Shaw has been elected as Chair for FY24; Brian White has been elected as Vice-Chair for FY24.
7. **Coordinator's Report and Updates.**
 - a. FY24 Prevention & Wellness Grant Awards have been submitted to grantees. Additional reporting requirements were included (demographics and presentation to the Partnership Council) in the award notices. The Partnership Council will update the grant program for FY25 to accommodate requests based on size of financial requests.
 - b. The US Surgeon General recently released a report, *Social Media and Youth Mental Health*. The report explores the relationship between youth and use of social media, and the increasing mental health crisis. All Partnership Council members are encouraged to read the document in preparation for a discussion about actions plans in FY24.
 - c. The ADAMHS Board reviewed its policy regarding providing funds for non-profit event sponsorships. The policy states explicitly states that sponsorships may only be provided when the funds are not supporting actual fundraising, but can support the administrative expenses of the event.
 - d. Handle with Care has a new website – www.hancockhandlewithcare.net.
 - e. Zach Thomas discussed current proposed Ohio legislation that potentially will create harm against marginalized communities (transgender youth). Zach advocated that the Community Partnership take stronger action to be involved in watching and addressing future proposed legislation.

ACTION ITEMS DURING MEETING:

1. Gary Bright – Motion to approve May Community Partnership Council meeting report. Jenn Reese – Second. Motion approved.
2. Brooke Nissin – Motion to accept nomination slate for Chair (Stacy Shaw) and Vice-Chair (Brian White) for FY24. Erin Mitchell – Second. Motion approved.
3. Gary Bright – Motion to approve Stacy Shaw as Chair for FY24. Kim Hiett – Second. Motion approved.
4. Gary Bright – Motion to approve Brian White as Vice-Chair for FY24. Chris Biltz – Second. Motion approved.

ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

1. Council members are asked to review the Community Partnership Strategic Documents/ADAMHS Prevention model for final discussion at the August 2023 meeting.
2. Survey local organizations that have previously utilized HIPS to generate renewed interest; promote HIPS; develop staffing plan with FRC.

3. Council members are asked to provide any information that can be included as a digital resource for the 2023 Hancock County Fair ADAMHS booth.
4. Council members are asked to read *Social Media and Youth Mental Health* in preparation for expanded discussion during FY24.
5. FY23 Quarter 4 Score card review.

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, August 15, 2023

9:00-10:30 a.m.

ADAMHS Office

OHIO SUICIDE PREVENTION FOUNDATION

How to Approach Increasing Youth Suicide Rates in Ohio

More and more young people are struggling with suicidal thoughts and don't want – or know how – to ask for help. Stigma and barriers to accessing mental health services keep youth from the care they most desperately need. It is critical that we empower them to ask for help and provide parents and teachers with the support and resources they need to address when a young person is in crisis.

By the Numbers

Suicide rates in young people ages 10-24 have increased both in Ohio and across the country. Recent data has shown that while there was a dip in suicide rates in 2020, the pandemic had a major impact on young people's well-being. Current trends show:

- Suicide is the second leading cause of death for young people, accounting for more than 7,000 deaths in the US in 2021. Additionally, suicide rates for this age group increased 52.2% between 2000-2021 in the US.¹
- From 2020 to 2021, the rate of youth suicide in Ohio increased 5% with 260 total deaths.²
- Nearly 20% of high school students report serious thoughts of suicide and 9% have made an attempt to take their lives.³
- 45% of LGBTQ+ youth seriously considered suicide in the past year, and 14% of LGBTQ+ youth attempted suicide in the past year.⁴
- From 2000 to 2020, Black youth ages 10-19 experienced the largest increase in suicide rates, a shocking 78%. And in a research study among the youngest children (ages 5-12), Black youth were approximately two times more likely to die by suicide than their white counterparts.⁵

Young people have a unique set of challenges that many adults do not when it comes to seeking support for mental health concerns or suicidal thoughts. Because youth need a parent or guardian's permission to access mental health services, unsupportive adults can seriously inhibit their ability to seek treatment. Accepting and affirming a young person's experiences and getting them immediate support is the most important first step toward addressing and reducing suicidal thoughts and actions.

Youth Suicide Risk Factors

- Existing mental health or substance use disorder
- Impulsive behaviors and tendencies
- Changes in family (divorce, parent loss, etc.)
- Changes in friendships or romantic relationships
- Peer or social conflict
- Problems in school
- Environmental factors (e.g. access to lethal means)
- Family history of suicide
- Exposure to suicidal behaviors of others
- Prior suicide attempt(s)

Resources

- National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: Call or Text 988
- Youth Crisis Hotline: Call 1-800-448-4663
- Parent Hotline: Call 1-800-840-6537
- STEVE Fund for young people of color: Text STEVE to 741-741
- The Trevor Project for LGBTQ+ youth: 1-866-488-7386

OSPF's Work

Now more than ever, it's imperative that suicide prevention programs are implemented in schools and communities across Ohio. From legislative requirements to post-pandemic mental health concerns, the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation is focusing on three core programmatic efforts for youth: Sources of Strength; Be Present Ohio; and Kognito.

Sources of Strength

Sources of Strength (Sources) is a wellness program for kindergarten through 12th grade that focuses on suicide prevention but impacts other issues such as substance use, bullying, and violence. Sources uses a combination of evidence-informed curricula and evidence-based youth-led programming to build protective factors and resiliency in school and community settings. Sources of Strength is available at no cost for Ohio schools through funding from the Ohio Departments of Education and Mental Health and Addiction Services. [Click here to learn more.](#)



Be Present Ohio

Be Present Ohio (BPO) connects teens and young adults to help and hope through mental health resources, information, and peer-to-peer support. In 2023, BPO is launching "Be Present Ohio: The Online Experience" (BPO:XP), a multimedia mental health and suicide prevention education and awareness program created by OSPF, Nationwide Children's Hospital, and BMC Media. BPO:XP engages teens through a gamified experience, teaching them about warning signs of suicide, ways to access help for themselves and others, and how to communicate with peers and family about mental health concerns or thoughts of suicide. BPO is funded by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. [Click here to learn more.](#)



Kognito

Kognito is an interactive learning software. The company has 20+ years of experience offering mental health and suicide prevention training. A portion of Kognito trainings are made accessible to educators and school faculty at no cost by the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHSA) Garrett Lee Smith (GLS) Youth Suicide Prevention Grant. This training initiative aligns with the Suicide Prevention Plan for Ohio and is a comprehensive school suicide prevention and mental health component. [Click here to learn more.](#)



References

- 1 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. About Multiple Cause of Death, 2018-2021, Single Race. wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10-expanded.html. Accessed May 17, 2023.
- 2 Ohio Department of Health. Suicide Demographics and Trends, Ohio, 2021. [2021+Suicide+Fact+Sheet_Final.pdf](#). Accessed May 17, 2023.
- 3 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Mental Health, Suicidality, and Connectedness Among High School Students During the COVID-19 Pandemic — Adolescent Behaviors and Experiences Survey, United States, January–June 2021. cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/su/su7103a3.htm?cid=su7103a3_w. Accessed May 17, 2023.
- 4 The Trevor Project. 2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health. thetrevorproject.org/survey-2022/. Accessed May 17, 2023.
- 5 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. About Underlying Cause of Death, 1999-2020. wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10.html. Accessed May 17, 2023.

ABOUT OHIO SUICIDE PREVENTION FOUNDATION

OSPF gives hope to those in crisis, strength to those in the struggle, and comfort to those in grief. OSPF is a non-profit organization that works tirelessly to help all of Ohio's communities reduce the risk of suicide. Our work includes supporting those impacted by suicide, raising awareness of mental health issues, and coordinating community resources and evidence-based prevention strategies across the state.



(614) 429-1528 / OhioSPF.org





Developing a Better Understanding

XYLAZINE

Xylazine also known as “tranq” or “tranq dope” on the streets, has become increasingly present in the illicit drug supply. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), xylazine is a powerful sedative that can cause drowsiness and amnesia and slow breathing, heart rate, and blood pressure to dangerously low levels. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved xylazine for veterinary use.

Xylazine is often added to illicit opioids and/or cocaine. The drug can be cooked down into a powder form and mixed with illicit opioids such as heroin, fentanyl, and cocaine, or pressed into counterfeit pills or sedatives.

According to the Ohio Department of Health, overdose deaths involving xylazine have increased each year in Ohio since 2019 with 15 overdose deaths in 2019, 45 in 2020, and 75 in 2021. While mortality data for last year hasn't been completed yet, the state Department of Health recorded 113 xylazine-involved overdose deaths as of March 14, 2022. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) reporting indicates that the prevalence of xylazine is increasing, spreading beyond the traditional white-powder heroin markets in the northeastern United States where it has been seen for several years. Nationally, the DEA Laboratory System reported that approximately 23% of fentanyl powders and 7% of fentanyl pills seized by the DEA in 2022 contained xylazine, and according to the Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center some crime labs in Ohio estimate that 25 to 30 percent of today's fentanyl cases also include xylazine.

It should also be noted that a xylazine overdose cannot be reversed with naloxone, so when it is mixed with heroin or fentanyl it can make the use of naloxone much less effective. Even with this, experts still recommend administering naloxone as more often than not xylazine is used or mixed with other opioids such as heroin and fentanyl. It should also be noted that if xylazine was involved, the person may still appear sedated after their breathing returns.

According to a joint intelligence report from the DEA and U.S. Department of Justice, information from users are the main sources of information on the adverse effects of xylazine in humans since standard drug trials have not been conducted. Effects associated with xylazine use include dry mouth, drowsiness, hypertension, and tachycardia followed by hypotension and bradycardia, hyperglycemia, reduced heart rate, hypothermia, coma, respiratory depression, and dysrhythmia. Users who inject xylazine or drug mixtures with xylazine often develop soft tissue injuries that can lead to necrotic tissue and may result in amputation at rates higher than those who inject other drugs without xylazine. Additionally, users may develop a physical dependence to xylazine itself, with some users reporting the withdrawal symptoms from xylazine as, or more, severe than from heroin or methadone; symptoms include sharp chest pains and seizures.

Unfortunately to-date, there is no widely available test for xylazine. Efforts to expand access to xylazine test strips, similar to fentanyl test strips, are underway. When a person has wounds that may look dark, smell and hurt, with no other explanation that can often be a sign that someone is abusing xylazine. It is known to have severe effects physical effects on the body, sometimes disfiguring users, who develop sores, that not only look painful, that often won't heal.

What are symptoms and health risks of xylazine?

According to an FDA Nov Alert, when used in people, xylazine can cause:

- sedation
- slowed heart rate
- severe withdrawal symptoms
- difficulty breathing
- wounds that can become infected
- death
- dangerously low blood pressure

On April 4, 2023, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) released a Xylazine Alert/Dear Colleague letter with the goal of providing information about the consequences of xylazine exposure, what practitioners can do to mitigate harm, and how SAMHSA is responding to this emerging public health challenge.

Particularly alarming is the finding that routine toxicology tests do not test for xylazine. It may therefore be under-detected and under-accounted for in overdose cases and other life-threatening events. As xylazine is not an opioid, naloxone does not reverse the effects of xylazine. Severe withdrawal symptoms may develop from xylazine, which are, by themselves, unlikely to be managed by medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) (i.e., methadone, buprenorphine, or naltrexone). Therefore, xylazine presents new potential public health challenges associated with possible withdrawal signs and symptoms.

According to the DEA, the emergence of xylazine across the United States appears to be following the same path as fentanyl, beginning with white powder heroin markets in the Northeast before spreading to the South, and then working its way into drug markets westward. This pattern indicates that use of xylazine as an adulterant will likely increase and be commonly encountered in the illicit fentanyl supply. Xylazine use throughout the United States may also follow the pattern seen in Puerto Rico and emerge as a drug of abuse on its own in the future.

As Ohio has seen this movement and increase in the abuse of xylazine, on March 29th Ohio Governor Mike DeWine signed an executive order directing the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy to immediately classify xylazine as a Schedule III controlled substance, making Ohio one of the first states in the nation to schedule xylazine as a controlled substance drug.

According to the Office of Governor DeWine, the emergency order was prompted by intelligence gathered as part of an early detection process developed by the Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center (ONIC) in partnership with RecoveryOhio, the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy, and local drug toxicologists and chemists. The early detection process, which includes the proactive collection of reports from Ohio's criminal justice system and forensic labs, allows ONIC to identify, analyze, and triage information on emerging drugs of abuse that are not controlled substances.

How can community-based organizations reduce harms of xylazine and opioids/fentanyl mixed with xylazine?

- **Educate the public** about the increasing presence of xylazine in the drug supply and how to respond to suspected xylazine-involved injuries and overdoses.
- **Raise awareness** of the changing illicit drug marketplace and the common use of illicitly manufactured fentanyl with other drugs like xylazine.
- **Provide messaging** to community groups (particularly those providing services to people at higher risk), community leaders, school officials, faith-based leaders, parents, students, and others about the changing illicit drug supply and risks for exposure to strong opioids like fentanyl or fentanyl mixed with xylazine.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Sources: Center for Disease Control and Prevention
National Institute on Drug Abuse
Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center

Drug Enforcement Agency
Office of Governor Mike DeWine

Food and Drug Administration
Ohio Department of Health

Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities

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