



Mental Health & Addiction Action Team

November 12, 2024 Minutes

Krista Wasowski – Health Dept
Phillip Titterington – MHRB
Sarah Cripps – Oaks Family Care Ctr
Pam Wheeler - MCBDD

Gail Houk – Alternative Paths
Rebecca Parkhurst – Health Dept.
Tiffany Shelton - MHRB
Melissa Romain- Ohio Guidestone

Co-chairs welcomed the group and introductions were made around the table.

The workplan established by the full LWMC group was reviewed. Krista will place the timeline for workplan action within the agenda for the next meeting and will send it out with the minutes from this meeting.

Goal 1: Strategy 1: Promote Resources to Reduce Suicide Ideation, Attempts and Deaths

- Ohio Guidestone revised the handout on therapist/BHS based on feedback from our last meeting. The final version was shared with the committee and will be included in the minutes for broader distribution. It is fine for schools and others to use broadly. It is branded OG, but the content applies to all agencies with various level providers. Pam can share with SSA Dept at MCBDD who work with 1300 clients. Family First Council can distribute, OAKS will share with those at supervised visits, and members can get this to Share Coalition. Melissa is willing to track referrals per month.
- Kiwanis Club of Medina has sponsored a Hope Squad at Buckeye Middle School and sponsored Mental Health Awareness Week at Medina High School. Krista spoke with superintendents about connecting to other service groups in the county to sponsor new or expanded Hope Squads.
- Suicide awareness walk occurred. Anya is now working with gambling addiction and suicide. Devon is conducting QPR and at the JDC. We continue to see middle age to older men with medical conditions in our highest risk group for suicide. Health Dept. social worker is performing screenings for all patients. The suicide coalition is working on a cleaning cloth with messaging for gun shops.

Goal 1: Strategy 2: Assure Health Aging

- Health Dept, United Way, Medina County Parks, and Cuyahoga Valley National Park Conservancy met to explore ways Medina County could either link to or replicate the Nature Rx program that is in place at CVNP. They are willing to place a Medina specific link on the CNVP website and also to have a QR code on the prescription that will allow LWMC to track links to their website from our residents. We will need to speak again with Nate because there was a sense that he preferred to keep the program entirely within Medina County. This committee wants to see all parks including townships and villages included.
- Ohio Guidestone would be willing to use these prescriptions because it can fit with treatment plans.
- The group discussed the LWMC website and whether that can be reactivated for this purpose. Krista will reach out to Steve Crisman at the Career Center. A local school had been approached but could not assist.

Goal 1: Strategy 3: Advocate for Policy Change

- The budget bill is being drafted now. Early 2025 will be the opportunity to suggest amendments or to begin working with a sponsor for a standalone bill for Medicaid reimbursement.
- Krista is able to do training on the legislative process anytime.

Goal 2: Strategy 1: Promote Social Norms that Protect Against Violence & Adversity (ACES)

No update

Goal 2: Strategy 2: Implement Handle with Care Program (ACES)

A school has been identified to lead Handle With Care and a second district is also willing to pilot. There are some policy and training requirements needed before this can be launched.

Goal 2: Strategy 3: Address Housing Instability

Medina County Homeless Shelter is on track for 2025 opening. Operation HOMES is fundraising for transitional housing.

Goal 3: Strategy 1: Monitor Substance Use Disorder

Overdose Fatality Review Team scheduled to meet November 5, 2024.

Goal 3: Strategy 2: *Promote Prevention and Cessation Resources*

The statewide tobacco cessation campaign is expanding. You will see Quit materials and ads along with youth cessation targeting programming. The Health Department will continue to coordinate compliance checks on underage purchasing of tobacco products.

Goal 3: Strategy 3: *Youth Survey*

No update

The committee discussed the idea of having the Trauma Informed Care Collaborative members and the LWMC Action Team for Mental Health & Addiction work together. All agreed that it would streamline communications and efforts. Krista reported that the TIC membership would be willing to move to the established meeting times of LWMC.

The committee decided that the January meeting would be in-person but dial-in would be available.

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 14, 2025. 9:00 AM Medina County Health Department C&D Conference Room

Online through Teams Meeting ID: 256 889 539 743 Passcode: FBeDSj