

# Rural Response Network Initiative

## Highlights from Progress Report for 3/1/23-8/31/23



### COMMUNITY EDUCATION/TRAINING

**Approximately 200 individuals received education on various topics related to substance use disorders and reducing stigma during the report period!**

24 Oberlin Police Officers and Dispatchers and 9 Fire/EMS trained on *Brain & the Disease of Addiction*, stigma and procedures for Police-Assisted Program

*Introduction and Intersection of Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders* provided to 60 student resident advisors at Oberlin College in August. Also presented on addiction, harm reduction and stigma to an elective class of 4 students

*Introduction and Intersection of Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders* provided to staff and faculty at Oberlin College (25 total across two sessions)

*Removing the Shame and Stigma of SUD* presented at Wellington LCCC Center to 12 community members, 3 professionals (medical and behavioral health providers, EMS), and 9 paraprofessionals (peer supporters, law enforcement)

*Medication Assisted Treatment*: 15 paraprofessionals, 3 professionals

*Guide to Harm Reduction* presented at Wellington LCCC Center to 7 professionals (SW, EMS), 11 paraprofessionals (peer supporters, law enforcement) and 11 community members

Education on medication misuse and proper storage and disposal of Rx medications to 9 seniors at LCCC Wellington Center

### NALOXONE TRAINING AND DISTRIBUTION

Project Dawn (Naloxone) Training provided to 77 community members; 8 professionals, with 60 kits distributed

Had pop-ups or distribution at Oberlin Public Library, Lorain Co Fair (Wellington), several events in Oberlin as part of Experience Oberlin! with businesses, several with Oberlin College, at OCS food distribution events, at National Night Out (First Responders) in Wellington and others for total of 227 kits distributed

Added LINC in Wellington and initiated training and paperwork for New Care Behavioral Health (Wellington) and Black River Café (Oberlin) to become general distribution sites

### Rx SAFE STORAGE AND DISPOSAL

Current distribution sites include Oberlin Community Services, Oberlin Business Partnership, Salvation Army Oberlin Service Unit, Salvation Army Wellington Service Unit, Wellington Police Department/LINC, LCCC

Wellington Center, and Oberlin Public Library. We also distribute through tabling/resource events. 98 locking Rx medication bags and 94 disposal systems distributed

Partnered with CVS in Oberlin, Drug Marts in Oberlin and Wellington, and Rite Aid in Wellington to distribute the medication misuse/safe storage and disposal postcards with all narcotic prescriptions. Each pharmacy supplied with 150 postcards in June, and resupplied with 150 in July, so presumably between 600-1200 have been disseminated. A YouTube video was also developed, talking about the project, showing the safes and pouches, and talking about Rx medication safety

Partnered with both PDs in service area for National Rx Take Back Day in April. Promoted safe storage and disposal of Rx medications, sites for free locking bags/deactivation pouches, and had resource table with info on med misuse and distributed locking Rx bags, deactivation pouches at event

### **FENTANYL TEST STRIP DISTRIBUTION**

Created a print and digital campaign based on DEA's One Pill Can Kill to promote testing your drugs and carrying Naloxone in August. Ads/Billboards and digital messages running Sep-Nov

Harm Reduction rack card with info on fentanyl and locations for FTS created and disseminated (77 picked up at resource/tabling events) and also included in packaging with test strips. See dissemination numbers in Work Plan. Poster created with locations and will be putting posters in bathrooms of businesses, bars and gas stations

Wellington LCCC Center, Black River Café, Wellington Music added as distribution sites. We also distribute through tabling/resource events. 258 packs of 3 (774) test strips distributed

### **RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES**

The All-Recovery meeting was started by Let's Get Real in Oberlin. 36 individuals attended the group at some point during the report period. The family support group at OC was stopped, however another is being planned for Oberlin at First Church, along with one in Wellington

36 individuals from 44074/44090 linked to treatment services by LGR through WHO/PAP/Jail/Calls (NOTE: these are programs that existed, although we added Oberlin PD as a police-assisted site under the grant, that we are trying to enhance and/or increase access to and utilization of under the project)

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Rural Response Network has partnered with Oberlin College on several initiatives, including involvement on the CIT Steering Committee, mapping out college and community SUD/MH services to identify gaps and opportunities, training, and prevention/harm reduction.

We are also working with the Health Equity Task Force (Lorain Co Public Health and the Lorain Co Urban League), particularly on strategies related to our Behavioral Health Disparities Impact Statement (DIS) and CLAS standards, and with the Mental Health, Addiction & Recovery Services (MHARS) Board and Communities That Care on the Collective Impact Plan. These two initiatives, and workgroup activities, will be the focus of the consortium meeting on October 26<sup>th</sup>.