

# the Resource

A publication to increase awareness of mental health and substance use disorder issues in our community.

Mental Health & Recovery Board  
OF PORTAGE COUNTY

July 2016



Portage County leaders attended the Ohio Stepping Up Summit to learn about innovative efforts to reduce the number of persons with mental health problems in Ohio jails. From left: Joel Mowrey, PhD, executive director of the Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County; Judge Barbara Oswick; Karen Cox, National Alliance on Mental Illness Portage County; Sheriff David Doak; and County Commissioner Vicki Kline.

## Stepping Up to the Challenge of Reducing the Number of Persons with Mental Problems in Jail

Each year, an estimated two million people with serious mental health problems are admitted to jails across the nation – a rate that's three to six times higher than that of the general public. Nearly three-quarters of these adults also have drug and alcohol use problems. Once incarcerated, individuals with mental health problems tend to stay longer in jail and upon release are at a higher risk of returning to incarceration than those without these issues.

Portage County has joined a growing national effort to reduce the number of persons with mental health problems who cycle through county jails. Joel Mowrey, PhD the executive director of the Mental Health & Recovery Board, Judge Barbara Oswick, Karen Cox of NAMI Portage County, Sheriff David Doak,

and Commissioner Vicki Kline attended the Ohio Stepping Up Summit on June 16 where they learned how the national Stepping Up Initiative is bringing local criminal justice and behavioral health systems together to improve public safety, access to services, and treatment outcomes.

The Stepping Up Initiative, a national effort being chaired in Portage County by Mowrey, looks to reduce the number of people with mental health problems in jail through a collaboration of local community partners from criminal justice, mental health, law enforcement, and county administration.

“We continue to look for various solutions including prevention in the schools, training with police departments, and mental health & drug courts,” stated Mowrey.

“Ohio has been a leader in establishing mental health and veterans courts, developing Crisis Intervention Teams in law enforcement, and other efforts to reform the criminal justice system for persons with mental illness,” said retired Ohio Supreme Court Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton, who is serving as project director of the Ohio Stepping Up Initiative.



### NETWORK OF CARE FOR ALL GENERATIONS



CHILDREN'S ADVANTAGE  
Family Behavioral Health Services  
330-296-5552  
childrensadvantage.org



330-673-1347  
coleman-professional.org



330-297-7027  
fcsOhio.com



330-678-3006  
townhall2.com

Mental Health & Recovery Board  
of Portage County  
155 E. Main Street, Kent, OH 44240  
330.673-1756



## Colgrove Thanked for Board Service

The Mental Health & Recovery Board thanked Jennifer Colgrove of Ravenna for her years of service on the Board, as she completed two four year terms.



Board Chairman William Nome, Vice Chair Alberta Caetta, and Executive Director Joel Mowrey, PhD, presented Jennifer with a certificate of appreciation at the June Board meeting.

## Community Groups Fight Heroin and Raise Awareness



Hundreds of people turned out for the Walk Against Heroin in Ravenna in June. Several events were held across the county for people to show their support for those in addiction treatment and recovery, including Ohio-CAN's Steps of Change and Thunder in Boro Ride Against Heroin.

Joel Mowrey, PhD, spoke to the crowd at the Walk Against Heroin from the courthouse steps in Ravenna.

"Addiction is a public health problem," Mowrey stated. "It affects over 40 million people in the U.S. That is more than the number of people with heart disease, diabetes, or cancer."

"This is chronic disease issue, not a moral issue."

## Worth Noting

Joel Mowrey, PhD, executive director of the Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County was selected to Chair of the Portage County Sales Tax Advisory Committee with Sheriff David Doak as vice chairman.

### Upcoming Events:

**Crisis Intervention Team Education Collaboration**  
July 18-22 • Waterloo High School

**Mental Health & Recovery Board Meeting**  
August 8, 6:30pm • Mental Health & Recovery Board

## Mental Health & Recovery Board Visits Agencies

To allow each agency in the Board's network of care to showcase their current programs and facilities, the Board rotated the location of their monthly meetings this spring.

Coleman Professional Service hosted the June board meeting at their Bean and the Baker café. A Coleman client shared their recovery story with the Board. This individual is currently a resident in the Phoenix Building apartments and is participating in the medication assisted treatment program. Board members were impressed with this person's strength & courage.

For more information on Coleman, [www.coleman-professional.com](http://www.coleman-professional.com)



Children's Advantage hosted the May board meeting in their Ravenna office. Children's Advantage Executive Director Chuck Tuttle and therapist Nicole Bartlett discussed services provided in home with families and the assessment and treatment of trauma throughout all their services.

Learn more about Children's Advantage, [www.childremsadvantage.org](http://www.childremsadvantage.org)

