

ADAPTING DURING THE PANDEMIC

Portage County behavioral health agencies stayed open during the pandemic. Telehealth was introduced as a way for clients to continue to get the care they need while adhering to COVID-19 guidelines.

Fortunately, technology has become very user friendly and mobile allowing people to easily access care from their own homes. Many clients reported to be pleased with the new service method as it removes barriers such as transportation and childcare.



Therapists working with children found creative methods to keep them engaged while working on skill development, therapy, and psychiatric needs.



The Board and provider agencies have grown concerned about the effects that isolation and economic stressors have made on the lives of people in recovery.

The opioid overdose reversal drug naloxone has been available at no charge for Portage residents at Townhall II in Kent and at the Portage Health District in Ravenna.

Information packets with local crisis helpline numbers, stress relief tips, and mental health resources have been distributed to area food cupboards and at COVID-19 testing sites. Residents were also urged to properly dispose of their expired and unused medication as they clean out medicine cabinets. Drug disposal pouches were distributed at holiday meal pickups. Medication drop boxes are located at each police station in the county.



Mental Health & Recovery Board OF PORTAGE COUNTY

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

DIRECTOR'S DESK

Since last March, we have all been navigating uncharted waters as we respond to the global pandemic. We at the Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County have worked to stabilize and enhance our community mental health and addiction system of care.

As the COVID-19 pandemic swept through the country, the Board's network of provider agencies, Children's Advantage, Coleman Professional Services, Family & Community Services, and Townhall II quickly modified their delivery of services. Telehealth was introduced as a way to provide care remotely with phone calls or through interactive video conferencing.

Even as the schools closed their buildings, Board-funded prevention education continued to reach the students of Portage County. Townhall II's Prevention Specialists created virtual lessons through slide shows and interactive games for the students to learn at home. In this stressful and challenging time, it was important for the students to stay informed and educated in the areas of social and emotional learning.

As we quickly adjusted to the new issues brought on by the pandemic, we continued to coordinate new services and supports for individuals and families of Portage County. The Board was pleased to partner with Recovery Works Portage, a new withdrawal management facility located within University Hospitals Portage Medical Center as our local withdrawal management service.

The Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services established new funding to help meet the needs of individuals and families to prevent or stabilize a substance use or a mental health crisis. With this funding, we worked with Coleman Professional Services to develop additional follow-up services for clients in crisis to ensure they are linked with community services to help remain stable and grow in recovery.

The Board introduced a new Minority Outreach Committee with the goals of ensuring health equity and cultural competence in prevention, treatment, and recovery support programs, to meet the needs of diverse populations, and to reduce stigma, address trauma, and eliminate barriers to care.

Finally, I'd like to thank all the counselors, social workers, healthcare workers, first responders, and everyone who is providing essential behavioral health services to the residents of Portage County. We anticipate the need for mental health and addiction services will increase as the impact of the pandemic is realized for years to come.

John Garrity, PhD, Executive Director



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FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020

HELPING PORTAGE CHILDREN & ADULTS

572 children and teens received treatment for trauma, emotional problems, mental illness and substance use disorders.

2194 adults received treatment for trauma, emotional problems, mental illness and substance use disorders.

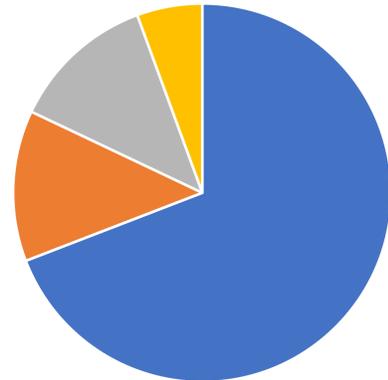
28,185 contacts with people through the 24-HR crisis calls, information and referral calls, incidents of walk-in counseling, crisis outreach and screening for hospitalization.

193 admissions through the Coleman Crisis Stabilization Unit.

4471 youth and adults participated in prevention education programs.

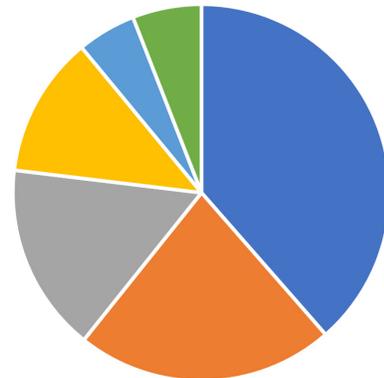
644 students identified at risk and screened in all Portage County School Districts through a program funded by the Board. **33%** were identified as having mental health issues requiring therapy and/or psychiatry services.

REVENUE SOURCES FOR FY2020 TOTAL REVENUE = \$8,483,166



- County Levies: 69%
- State Subsidies & Grants: 13%
- Federal Grants: 12%
- Other: 6%

TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR FY 2020 = \$7,990,557



- Treatment Services: 39%
- Crisis Services: 22%
- Recovery Supports: 16%
- Board Administration: 12%
- Board Investment in Agencies: 6%
- Prevention Services: 5%

NETWORK OF AGENCIES:

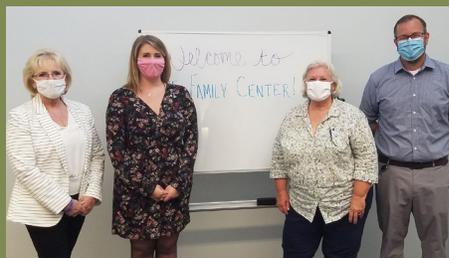
Children's Advantage • Coleman Professional Services
Family & Community Services • Townhall II



www.mental-health-recovery.org • 330.673.1756 • 155 E. Main St. PO Box 743, Kent, OH 44240



The 2020 Crisis Intervention Team Officers of the Year awarded by the Portage County Police Chief's Association: Officer Josh Bartholomew, Streetsboro PD; Officer Matthew Butcher, Kent City PD; Officer Scott Krieger, Ravenna PD. The officers were recognized for practicing the communication and de-escalation techniques they learned during their CIT training in dealing with individuals who are experiencing a mental health crisis or are struggling with addiction.



Children's Advantage opened their new Family Center in Ravenna. This 7,000 square foot facility will be a place to provide healing and comprehensive care for the entire family. The building and renovation was funded with a grant from the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services and by the Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County.

