

CARE Community Award of Appreciation for 2023

The Mental Health & Recovery Board received the CARE Community Award of Appreciation for 2023 from the Chemical Abuse Reduced by Education (CARE) Committee of the Six District Educational Compact. This award is presented annually to an organization, person or community agency/service for the support with the prevention/intervention efforts in the field of substance abuse, tobacco abuse, and adolescent mental health.

The Board was selected for funding prevention programs for Kent City Schools, including a supportive network of services for students having difficulty with alcohol and other drugs, initiatives to help young people to prevent addiction, and assistance to the Kent City School District with suicide prevention education for staff and students. Accepting the award was Board CFO George DeBord along with Townhall II prevention staff Sarah McCully and Sarah Gehring.



Officer Bartholomew Honored as CIT Coordinator of the Year for the State of Ohio

Officer Josh Bartholomew of the Streetsboro Police Department was named the Michael S. Woody CIT Coordinator of the Year for the State of Ohio.

Ofc Bartholomew received this award for the significant impact he has made in Portage County and his strong commitment to enriching our CIT program.

“Ofc Bartholomew is well deserving of this state-wide award,” said John Garrity, PhD, executive director of the Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County. “He is committed to improving outcomes for people in crisis and values collaboration and community.”

Ofc Bartholomew became the CIT Coordinator for Portage County in 2020. In this role, he helps to develop and enrich the CIT programs in each of our county’s twelve police departments. He leads the CIT training classes for officers and first responders on communication de-escalation skills.



Ofc. Bartholomew pictured with (from left) Gina Greenhalgh, Ofc. Jeff Futo, and John Garrity, PhD.

As the Portage County CIT Coordinator, he collaborates directly with law enforcement, mental health, and advocacy partners. He has strengthened partner relationships in Portage County and brought together a variety of community partners and leadership to collaborate and find solutions to challenging issues about how their criminal justice and mental health systems can work together.

Congratulations Ofc Bartholomew!

CIT Class Spring Graduates

Congratulations to the Spring 2023 Portage Crisis Intervention Team! Officers, dispatchers, and community partners from Aurora, Brimfield, Kent State, NEOMED, Ravenna, Streetsboro, and University Hospitals Police Departments, the Sheriff's Office, Coleman, and the Prosecutor's Office completed a 40-hour training in how to effectively communicate with a person in mental distress and how to navigate the local mental health system.



Top (left to right): Dep. Angel Zeigler Portage County Sheriff's Office, Dep. Joshua Mangus Portage County Sheriff's Office, Dep. Kristopher Stockley Portage County Sheriff's Office, Of. Zachary Domka Kent State Police, Of. Jeff Wisniewski Ravenna Police, Of. Ian Watson NEOMED Police, Of. Garrett Fleming Brimfield, Of. Paul Maroni University Hospitals Police, Of. Matthew Martinez Streetsboro Police, Dep. Katelyn Lybarger Portage County Sheriff's Office, Sgt. Derrick Cook University Hospitals Police.

Bottom: Sophia Buckson-Murphy Coleman, Disp. Angela Hager Ravenna Police, Disp. Cathy Feigert Ravenna Police, Disp. Hollie Moore Ravenna Police, Disp. Kaitlin Laskey Aurora Police, Alexandria Libertucci Aurora Police, Larry Richard Prosecutor's Office.

SAVE THE DATE:

Portage Substance Abuse & Mental Health Conference, October 25, 2023 at the NEW Center in Rootstown

MENTAL HEALTH & RECOVERY BOARD OF PORTAGE COUNTY

155 E. Main Street, Kent, OH 44240

www.mental-health-recovery.org

Overdose Warning - Portage County

METH, COCAINE, PILLS, & OPIOIDS are causing Overdoses

Anyone using drugs, even in small amounts, can overdose.

Fentanyl and other dangerous substances are being mixed with cocaine & meth or disguised as other drugs. Knock-off pills being sold online and on the street may contain deadly substances.



Signs of an Opioid Overdose

- Dizziness and confusion
- Drowsiness or difficulty staying awake
- Can't be woken up
- Slow, weak or no breathing
- Blue lips or nails
- Choking, gurgling or snoring sounds



Many locations in Portage County distribute free naloxone to residents. Contact the Portage County Health District to make an appointment or for other locations at **330-296-9919 ext 107 or 129.**



www.mental-health-recovery.org

How to Avoid an Overdose

- Do not use alone
- Don't mix pills and powders from the streets and from online
- Know the signs of an overdose
- Carry naloxone
- Call 911 right away if someone is overdosing

Ready for Recovery?

Recovery is possible for people who are dependent on alcohol, stimulants, opiates, and other drugs. Treatment works. People recover.

If you or a loved one need help or are looking for information and local resources, contact:

**Portage Addiction Helpline:
330-678-3006**