

## Honoring CIT Officers

Each year the Board along with the Portage County Police Chiefs Association award CIT Officers of the Year. These are exemplary officers who practice 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. The 2018 officers were honored in January; the 2019 officers received their award in November.



2018 Officers of the Year: Ofc Chris Hartlaub, NEOMED Police (2<sup>nd</sup> row, 2<sup>nd</sup> from left); Ofc Ryan Wolf, Streetsboro Police (1<sup>st</sup> row, 2<sup>nd</sup> from left); Ofc Bill Atha, Kent State University Police (2<sup>nd</sup> row, 4<sup>th</sup> from left) pictured with their Chiefs, Sheriff Doak, and Board Chair Bill Nome.



2019 Officers of the Year: Ofc Diane Dudziak, Kent State University Police Department; Ptlm Scott Krieger, Ravenna Police ; and Ofc Dominic Poe, Kent Police.

## Suicide Prevention Coalition

The Suicide Prevention Coalition hosted a speaker from the Stark County Board who shared the CDC report and lessons learned after their experience with the suicide cluster that occurred in their county.

A Zero Suicide committee was formed to work with Coleman Professional Services to explore new suicide prevention strategies.

The Coalition created a gun safety brochure to promote suicide awareness and gun locks.

### **You can help protect your family & friends.**

**If someone is in crisis, remove the gun for now**  
Without a gun, less than 5% of suicide attempts result in death. But with a gun, 85% of attempts are fatal. In a moment of crisis, access to a gun is the difference between life and death.



# Mental Health & Recovery Board OF PORTAGE COUNTY

## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

### DIRECTOR'S DESK

In a continued effort to build on our recovery-oriented system of care, 2019 was a significant year as we expanded services to improve the health & wellness of our community.

Through the State Opioid Response Grant, the Board was able to fund a fully staffed Medication Assisted-Treatment Clinic at Townhall II. The Opioid Recovery Clinic operates 5 days a week with a medical staff and peer support.

Additional funding also allowed us to add peer recovery supporters into our system. Peer supporters are working in a variety of settings with our agencies in Portage County including the Opioid Recovery Clinic, the Portage County jail, HOPE Court (drug court), recovery housing and resident treatment facilities, and with police and fire departments.

Helping children succeed has always been a priority for our Board. We were happy to introduce PAX (Peace, Productivity, Health, and Happiness) Good Behavior Game into the Crestwood School District. PAX is an evidence-based tool that is effective in preventing disruptive activity and promoting necessary skills for students to self-regulate their emotions, control their behavior, and improve their relationships with teachers and other students. The Board also funded new community outreach services to provide mental health and substance use programming and support groups to at-risk and underserved youth and for homeless children.

Mental health and addiction issues affect everyone in our community. The 2019 Portage County Community Health Assessment was released at the end of the year and emphasized the prominent need for mental health and addiction services. The 2020-2022 Community Health Improvement Plan process will give us the opportunity to further address these needs systematically in partnership with many county organizations and community partners.

Recovery from mental illness and addiction is a life-long process of change through which individuals learn to improve their health and wellness, live self-directed lives, and strive to reach their full potential. We should never give up on anyone who struggles with a mental illness or addiction.

A handwritten signature in blue ink.

John Garrity, PhD, Executive Director



The new Opioid Recovery Clinic added to Townhall II's comprehensive treatment options for patients fighting opioid addiction. The clinic offers medication-assisted treatment, counseling, and peer support all at their Kent location. The non-profit agency promotes health, wellness, and recovery of individuals and communities through prevention, education, advocacy, intervention, and treatment.

## HELPING PORTAGE CHILDREN & ADULTS

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

**2302** adults received treatment for trauma, emotional problems, mental illness and substance use disorders.

**26,100** contacts with people through the 24-HR crisis calls, information and referral calls, incidents of walk-in counseling, crisis outreach and screening for hospitalization.

**272** admissions through the Coleman Crisis Stabilization Unit.

**5410** youth and adults participated in prevention education programs.

**705** 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.

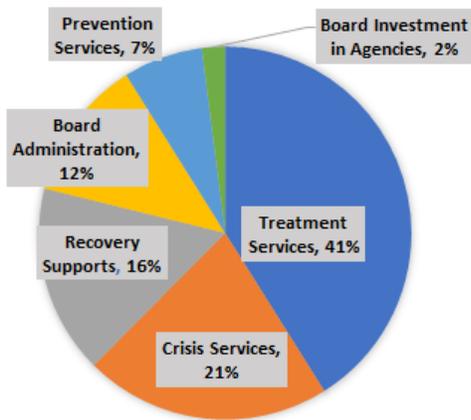
### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Chairman**  
William Nome

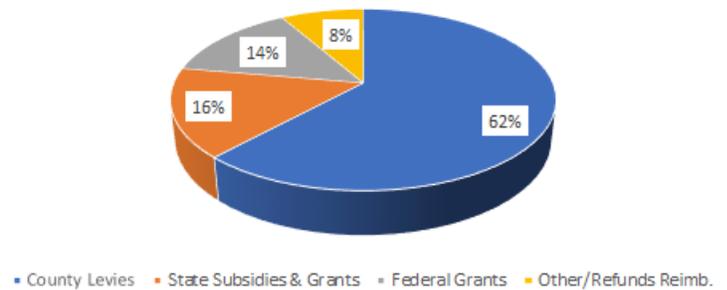
**Vice Chairman**  
Iris J. Melzer

Albert Barber  
Denise DePerro  
Harold Farrier  
JoAnn Frick  
Janice Hambleton  
Maureen Keating  
Audrey Cielinski Kessler  
Jeff Langstaff  
Laura Mann  
Charles D. Moore  
Jacquie Peoples Dukes  
Emily Schmidlin  
Jennifer Schumm  
Jamie Sitko  
Scott Swan

### TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR FY 2019 = \$7,563,185



### REVENUE SOURCES FOR FY2019 TOTAL REVENUE = \$8,130,806



### NETWORK OF AGENCIES:

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

[www.mental-health-recovery.org](http://www.mental-health-recovery.org) • 330.673.1756 • 155 E. Main St. PO Box 743, Kent, OH 44240

## PORTAGE COUNTY RECOVERY OUTREACH



Peer recovery supporters began partnering with Portage County first responders in 2019 to offer help to people who are struggling with addiction. The Board hosted an event for the city, village, and township leaders to learn more about the Recovery Outreach program. Dan Meloy, founder of QRT National, shared his experience engaging communities in saving lives after overdoses.



The Portage Substance Abuse Community Coalition's annual conference featured topics such as addiction in adolescenc, emedication-assisted treatment, suicide assessment tools, wellness, and living in recovery. Attendees at the spring family conference learned about behavioral health, medication-assisted treatment, peer support, and harm reduction. The Family Conference was nominated for a Celebrate Portage Award.