Montgomery County has been devastated by the opioid crisis and the overwhelming impact it has had on our community. From 2011 to 2017, we had the highest unintentional drug overdose death rate in the state of Ohio. Overdose deaths steadily climbed from 130 in 2011 to 566 overdose deaths in 2017.

In September 2016, the Board of County Commissioners convened a community-wide forum to request that stakeholders work together to address the crisis. Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County and Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) took the lead in coordinating these efforts.

This resulted in the formation of the Community Overdose Action Team (COAT). The COAT’s primary goal is to reduce the number of fatal drug overdoses in Montgomery County. The team seeks to enhance current services, looks for gaps in existing services, and explores more effective ways to combat drug overdoses. The COAT operates under a Collective Impact Model – an innovative and structured approach to making collaboration work across various sectors to achieve significant and lasting social change.

Since the inception of the COAT, members have increased collaboration and coordination, have re-allocated local funding and resources, and have secured millions of dollars in both federal and state funding. The tireless efforts of the COAT members and the increase in funding have allowed for the continued development, enhancement or expansion of over 50 programs in the community.

In 2018, amazing progress was made in attaining our goals through the collaborative work of our partners. We have seen a 49% decrease in overdose deaths from 2017. Although the decline shows great progress, there is still much work to be done. We must continue to align our efforts in addressing the underlying problem of addiction. We must continue to instill hope for those who continue to fight the disease, celebrate those who maintain recovery and prevent future generations from misusing or abusing alcohol or other drugs.

It is only through collaborative efforts that we can continue to reduce the number of overdose deaths and improve the lives of our citizens. Together, we achieve our vision of Montgomery County as a healthy, safe and thriving community. - The Community Overdose Action Team
The COAT is managed using the Incident Command System (ICS) structure. ICS provides a comprehensive management system designed to enable community partners to work together to respond to local, state and federal emergencies. Over 200 individuals from participating agencies, along with people in recovery and family members, participate in one of eight Operations branches, each focusing on a different aspect of the problem.

### Community Overdose Action Team

**Steering Committee**
- Guide vision and strategies
- Support aligned activities
- Advance policy
- Mobilize resources
- Identify gaps in services

**Joint Information Center**
- Coordinate common messaging
- Respond to media requests
- Assist branches with communications

**Operations & Planning Section**
- Develop & implement action plan
- Provide situational status report

**Backbone Support**
- Coordinate data collection and distribution

**Data Unit**
- Coordinate data collection and distribution

**Drug Supply Control Branch**
- Decrease the supply of illicit and legal substances available for misuse and abuse

**Prevention Branch**
- Develop and implement strategies to prevent substance misuse and abuse

**Harm Reduction Branch**
- Increase capacity of harm reduction programming (syringe services, naloxone distribution, etc.) to provide overdose prevention and engage clients in support services

**Response Branch**
- Coordinate Quick Response Team efforts and ensure there is an emergency plan for a significant cluster of overdoses

**Education & Information Branch**
- Raise public awareness and knowledge of the dangers of substance misuse and abuse

**Prescription Branch**
- Promote use of best practices among health care providers for prescribing

**Treatment & Recovery Branch**
- Expand access to treatment and community support programs

**Criminal Justice Branch**
- Expand access to and use of treatment and community support programs for those involved in the criminal justice system

### 2018 COAT Backbone Support Members

- **Barb Marsh** - Public Health
- **Jodi Long** - ADAMHS
- **Brian Johns** - Dayton Police Department
- **Marty Larson** - GDAHA
- **Mary Kay Stirling** - Mont. Co. Common Pleas Court
- **Tom Marquis** - Mont. Co. Common Pleas Court
- **Rob Streck** - Mont. Co. Sheriff’s Office
- **Joe Spitler** - Mont. Co. Criminal Justice Council
- **Janine Howard** - Public Health
- **Chris Williams** - Mont. Co. Coroner’s Office
- **Steve Stein** - Greater Miami Valley EMS Council
Between 2017 and 2018, the number of overdoses decreased according to the following four indicators:

- Law Enforcement Overdose Calls ↓53% (3,637 to 1,698)
- Overdose Emergency Department Visits ↓53% (3,920 to 1,845)
- Naloxone Doses Administered by EMS ↓50% (3,203 to 1,586)
- Drug Overdose Deaths ↓49% (566 to 289)

### UNINTENTIONAL DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS OCCURRING IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY 2017-2018

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The Montgomery County Jail, the Common Pleas Court STOP Program, and MonDay Correctional Facility have increased access to Medication Assisted Treatment options in their facilities through partnerships with treatment providers.

The Montgomery County Jail, the Common Pleas Court STOP Program, and MonDay Correctional Facility now provide inmates with access to naloxone training. Upon release, individuals are equipped with naloxone kits.

The Montgomery County Jail utilizes two Certified Peer Recovery Supporters and a team of discharge planners to work with inmates interested in treatment and assist with linking inmates to community resources.

Two peer recovery videos are now shown on the in-house TV within the county jail designed to encourage inmates to consider treatment.

Branch members, along with other criminal justice stakeholders, completed an in depth evaluation of Sequential Intercept Mapping, focusing on how court ordered assessments for treatment and level of care recommendations are completed at the county jail. The committee continues to work to improve the efficiency of the process from the judge ordering an assessment to recommendations being returned to the courts for consideration.

The Family Treatment Court (FTC) hosted three graduations with 12 participants successfully completing all program requirements. Nineteen children were reunified or remained in the custody of their parents. Children Services has been able to prevent the removal of 17 children while working towards family preservation.

CareSource received funding from the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services to implement a statewide prison in-reach model through the Community Transition Program (CTP) for the reentry population. They have implemented the CTP Housing Network in 51 Ohio counties and have housed over 600 CTP members in supported housing.
Drugs seized by law enforcement provide a snapshot of drugs that are present in the community. Montgomery County has three task forces working to remove dangerous drugs from our streets:

- The Miami Valley Bulk Smuggling Task Force includes nine agencies who operate a tip line and intercept smuggled drugs.
- The Regional Agencies Narcotics and Gun Enforcement (R.A.N.G.E) Task Force includes 12 law enforcement agencies in Montgomery County and works to combat drug abuse and trafficking.
- The Narcotics Bureau of the Dayton Police Department handles drug enforcement, narcotics support, major cases and street crimes.

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<th>Drug</th>
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<td>Opioid Pain Pills (grams)</td>
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The Montgomery County Drug-Free Coalition conducts Getting Recovery Options Working (GROW) blitzes that target specific neighborhoods throughout the county based on citizen complaints of drug use and overdoses by going door to door to provide information on available resources. GROW conducted nine law enforcement blitzes. Through the nine blitzes, GROW visited 1,212 houses, had 542 conversations, left information on 673 doors, and referred 24 individuals to peer support.

The R.A.N.G.E. Task Force now receives crime tips through Miami Valley Crime Stoppers at 937-222-STOP.
Education & Information

Raise public awareness and knowledge of the dangers of substance misuse and abuse.

- ADAMHS launched GetHelpNow, a free app to find services for addiction and mental health, and to link individuals to service providers.
- Getting Recovery Options Working (GROW), through the Montgomery County Drug-Free Coalition, expanded from seven to nine police departments providing outreach to individuals who overdosed. GROW also expanded outreach to the emergency departments at Kettering Health Network hospitals.
- City of Dayton GROW added a full-time position from Dayton Fire/EMS to the overdose outreach team.
- Public Health’s Addiction Services expanded outreach to individuals involved with the Montgomery County Municipal Court – Area One.
- Dayton Recovers developed a recovery language presentation to assist communities to reduce stigma.
- “Revived and Renewed: Addiction from a Child’s Perspective”, was launched in partnership with Beckett Springs to highlight the impact of addiction on children.
- Six “Conversation for Change” events were held by East End Community Services and the Dayton Police Department. These events provide an opportunity for the public to learn about treatment and community resources, and to receive naloxone training.
- A calendar of COAT-related events was developed that the public can access, and is housed on the ADAMHS website.
- Dayton Recovers partnered with the #VoicesProject to release videos of people in recovery and employed in Dayton as part of a campaign to reduce the stigma of addiction and show that recovery works.
- R.E.A.C.H. (Restoring, Educating, Advocating, Collaborating, Hope) for Tomorrow, a community mental health organization, began offering trainings on the Science of Addiction, and Body, Mind, Spirit, as well as training on trauma and its effects on children and its role in the addiction crisis.
- The faith-based community is developing opportunities for churches to become Community Recovery Centers.
- Miami Valley Hospital and the University of Dayton hosted the 9th Annual Healthcare Symposium titled “#Re-Think Addiction.” The conference explored innovative practices and various models to understanding and addressing addiction within the community.
- DEA 360 Strategy sponsored the creation of four DEA 360 exhibit panels that will be used for community presentations.
- DEA 360 Youth Dance Program, in partnership with Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, has implemented a dance program at Ruskin and Westwood Elementary Schools in Dayton, designed to encourage kids to make positive choices.
- DEA held Red Ribbon Week activities in three Montgomery County school districts, resulting in many students taking the pledge to be a part of creating a drug-free America.
- COAT partnered with the Ohio Attorney General and local faith organizations to host the #LoveEpidemic, one day event for faith-based organizations to respond to the opioid crisis within their congregations.
Public Health, Families of Addicts, Harm Reduction Ohio and East End Community Services partnered to conduct a pilot project with fentanyl test strips, used to reduce the risk of overdose. The strips were distributed at Conversation for Change meetings, FOA meetings and other community events.

Samaritan Behavioral Health’s Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided With Naloxone) Program expanded naloxone distribution services at the Life Enrichment Center.

Samaritan Behavioral Health’s Project DAWN Program expanded naloxone training at the Gateway Shelter, City of Dayton Recreation Department, Dayton Metro Libraries, YWCA, and Wayne High School.

Dayton Police Department manages the naloxone repository for Montgomery County. Twenty-five out of 29 law enforcement departments and six Fire/EMS agencies obtain naloxone through the repository.

Samaritan Behavioral Health distributed information to the emergency department waiting rooms in the local hospitals regarding Project DAWN trainings.

CarePoint exchanged 206,983 syringes in 2018; this is a 65% increase from the number of syringes exchanged in 2017.

Survival Tip Cards to address an abscess were developed and distributed at CarePoint and Project DAWN.

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**Harm Reduction**

*Increase capacity of harm reduction programming (syringe exchange, naloxone distribution, etc.) to provide overdose prevention and engage clients in support services.*

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**Survival Tips: Abscess**

**What is an Abscess?**

An abscess is an infection in the form of a pus pocket.

**What Causes an Abscess?**

An abscess can start anywhere in the body where bacteria infects the tissue, such as injection sites. People are more likely to damage tissue and develop an abscess when they “skin pop,” “muscle it,” or miss a vein. The cut from the needle and the drug itself can cause infection and damage tissue.

**What to Do if You Have an Abscess?**

Go to a DOCTOR if you have any of the following:
- A hard, reddish, tender lump.
- The lump is hot/puffy.
- It has not improved after 4 days.
- The lump gets bigger or more painful.

Go to the EMERGENCY ROOM if you have any of the following:
- You have chest pains.
- You have chills or a high fever.
- Red streaks are spreading out from the lump.
COAT hosted “Navigating the Opioid Crisis,” a two-day conference to educate prescribers about the dangers of prescription opioids and alternatives to managing pain. The conference was sponsored by Kettering Health Network, Premier Health, Samaritan Behavioral Health, ADAMHS and Public Health.

Kettering Health Network worked with the Ohio Hospital Association to expand Pause, a pathway for physicians and pharmacists to manage chronic or benign pain, through education to outpatient physician services.

Kettering Health Network expanded DEA-X training throughout the network. The training and waiver qualifies physicians to prescribe buprenorphine and methadone.

COAT members have assisted in disseminating information on Daniel’s Law. The law requires opioid treatment providers to offer patients all FDA approved medication assisted treatments and grants authority to all Ohio licensed pharmacists to dispense or administer naltrexone without a prescription as a safety net.

Premier Health has developed a resource page, www.opioidassist.com, and has developed an opioid infographic that was made available throughout Premier Health and partner schools.

Premier Health launched the #MyOpioidPledge.

The Health Services Advisory Group, a quality improvement organization for Medicare, presented their project to the Administrator of Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The project examines how dosing guidelines are impacting primary care offices and how innovative projects can support prescribers to navigate issues.

Ten thousand medication disposal deactivation pouches were donated by United Healthcare. The bags were deployed to citizens through the Montgomery County Drug-Free Coalition, Public Health, Premier Health, Kettering Health Network, Goodwill Easterseals Miami Valley, Families of Addicts (FOA), and other COAT members.

One hundred fifteen Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) trainings were held in 2018. SBIRT is an evidence-based practice used to identify, reduce and prevent substance misuse and abuse.

CareSource implemented a provider letter/fax campaign that enabled practitioners to compare themselves to their colleagues’ opioid prescribing numbers, as well as national opioid prescribing standards.

CareSource expanded their Pharmacy Lock-in and Journey2Health programs that serve members with substance use disorders as well as several pharmacy edits designed to limit the dose and duration of opioid prescriptions.
The Prevention Branch developed and distributed 40,000 “How to Safely Store and Dispose of Medications” postcards to pharmacies, public agencies, libraries, and health fairs.

Members of the Prevention Branch promoted the Physicians Toolkit which includes Pause, Generation Rx, and medication disposal deactivation pouches to 500 individuals at local hospitals and urgent cares.

COAT members participated in DEA National Drug Take Back Day and passed out information on safe medication practices and distributed 107 medication disposal pouches. Montgomery County residents brought in 2,548 pounds of medication for disposal, double the amount from last year’s event.

The Prevention Branch trained 100 high school athletic trainers about preventing opioid misuse among student athletes and alternatives to pain medications.

Members of the Prevention Branch distributed 1,000 stickers for opioid prescription bottles cautioning patients of their addictive properties.

Goodwill Easterseals Miami Valley, through ADAMHS funding, distributed over 1500 drug disposal deactivation pouches through Kroger Pharmacy for opioid prescriptions.

Goodwill Easterseals Miami Valley, through ADAMHS funding, has trained 643 individuals in Generation Rx (medication safety training), and 104 individuals have become trainers.

Goodwill Easterseals Miami Valley, through ADAMHS funding, facilitated Generation Rx training for Montgomery County employees as a component of the county’s wellness program.

Goodwill Easterseals Miami Valley, through ADAMHS funding, distributed 145 medication lock boxes and 6,416 medication disposal deactivation pouches.
ADAMHS expanded recovery housing capacity from seven to eight recovery houses.

ADAMHS partnered with the Family Prevention Program to develop prevention programs that will be utilized in local recovery centers.

Recovery Alliance of Montgomery County (RAMCO) members have engaged in evidence-based prevention training. RAMCO members include Alco Aides, Dayton Recovers, Dayton Fellowship Club, Families of Addicts, West Side Club, and Recovery Cafe.

Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce’s Leadership Dayton Class 2018 hosted “Pong for a Purpose”, a fundraiser to benefit RAMCO. The benefit raised $18,000 to provide recovery support services for the community.

Haven Behavioral Health has expanded residential beds for rapid stabilization. Bed capacity is now 59.

Samaritan Behavioral Health Inc. implemented an evidence-based treatment model that provides community-based integrated co-occurring treatment for youth with substance use disorders and their families.

Five Rivers MetroParks and RAMCO hosted a recovery celebration, “No Family Left Behind.” The family event provided resources for over 300 individuals in attendance.

CareSource educated providers on quality standards for Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) and launched a Provider Utilization Monitoring program to ensure that standards are met.

CareSource has increased the number of providers who can offer treatment to CareSource members and has increased online tools and resources available for substance use disorders on the website.

Goodwill Easterseals Miami Valley trained 222 Peer Recovery Supporters in Montgomery County in 2018.

Brigid’s Path was featured in a new documentary called “Not in Vein.” The documentary depicts the impact of the opioid crisis on communities.
Overdose Cluster Response Plans were revised to include a multi-jurisdictional response to mass overdoses.

“Protection and Risks from Fentanyl Exposures” information sheet was developed and disseminated to first responders and hospitals.

ADAMHS, in partnership with Ascend Innovations and Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association, launched the Montgomery County - Emergency Room Overdose Notification (MCERON) system. The notification system provides real time alerts on individuals entering into the emergency rooms due to an overdose. Notifications are sent to treatment providers and overdose outreach teams to provide patient engagement.
The Joint Information Center (JIC) coordinates unified messaging for the COAT. The JIC is made up of representatives from Public Health, ADAMHS, Job and Family Services and Montgomery County Administration.

- Provide coordination between member agencies.
- Provide timely release of information and coordinating media requests.
- Communicate the activities of the COAT branches to the public and the media.
- In 2018, the JIC hosted several media briefings and coordinated media interviews for topics including:
  - Family Treatment Court and the LIFE Program through South Community, Inc.
  - 360° Addictions Database Project.
  - Fentanyl test strip pilot project.
- The JIC also worked regularly with both local and national media to respond to requests.
The Data Unit compiles information into one report and identifies opportunities for data sharing across systems. The Data Unit offers support to the COAT Branches to assist them in making data driven decisions for interventions.

- Provided weekly updates on overdose death numbers that are published on the Public Health and Montgomery County Coroner’s office websites.
- Provided EpiCenter alerts when drug overdose numbers exceeded a threshold in the emergency rooms.
- Provided a six-month progress report and an annual report that is available at www.phdmc.org.
The COAT was recognized with an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo). The award honors innovative, effective county government programs that strengthen services for residents.

The COAT was selected as the winner of the “Organization Award” for the 2018 Champions of Public Health Awards presented by The Ohio State University College of Public Health. The award was given for the COAT’s innovative collaborative structure that allows partners to work together in a unified and coordinated way to respond to the opioid crisis. The award was presented in December at The Ohio State University’s Longaberger Alumni House.
Moving into 2019, COAT branches will strive to achieve the following goals:

- Continue our coordinated COAT strategy to achieve collective impact.
- Continue to use data to establish COAT strategic directions.
- Continue to seek local, state and federal funding that aligns with COAT initiatives.
- Increase businesses that adopt Drug-Free Workplace policies.
- Partner with businesses to increase employment opportunities for those in recovery.
- Increase community-wide and youth-led prevention programs.
- Strengthen partnerships with faith communities.
- Increase awareness of treatment options.
- Increase media presence to reduce stigma of mental illness and addiction through campaigns, speaking engagements and town hall meetings.
- Increase number of certified Peer Recovery Supporters.
- Support naloxone distribution and outreach.
- Expand and enhance syringe services.
- Support coordination of recovery club organizations.
- Increase data sharing through cross-systems collaboration.
- Continue to strengthen partnership between criminal justice and behavioral health sectors.
- Collaborate with first responders, Quick Response Teams and Peer Recovery Supporters to enhance outreach and response efforts.
- Continue to increase education on effective clinical prescribing guidelines.
- Expand recovery housing options.
Your continued support, dedication and commitment to our efforts allow us to continue to build upon the great work being done here in Montgomery County.

On behalf of the Backbone Support, thank you to each member of the COAT for coming together to address the opioid crisis. It is your continued support, dedication and commitment that allows us to build upon the great work being done here in Montgomery County. All of your efforts have been far reaching and we applaud your commitment. We look forward to the work that will be accomplished in the coming years.

Members of the COAT would like to give a very special thanks to former Montgomery County Commissioner Dan Foley for his tireless work in helping organize the County’s response and galvanizing community support for our efforts, and we look forward to Commissioner Judy Dodge continuing that support in 2019.
What does recovery mean to you?

- “We believe that our city will recover, is recovering, and that we will all tell a great story some day of the way that our city fought for each other to restore our glory days.” - Casey S.

- “A new life beyond the overwhelming obsession and compulsion to use.” - Scotty M.

- “It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life,” so RECOVERY to me is the daily embracing of that promise; living in respect of my addiction but never in fear of it, using my freedom to serve others whenever and wherever I can.” - Pastor Greg D.

- “A change in thought, idea and behavior.” - Alan W.

- “Recovery is living a life with the purpose of helping another human being.” - Randy C.

- “Recovery makes one’s own story useful to others.” - Nick E.

- “Recovery is an active change from old ideas, attitudes and behaviors resulting in freedom.” - Madonna M.

- “As a person in long term recovery I have found a new way of living that has allowed me to go from a high school dropout to a master’s degree along with becoming an integral part of my family and community.” - Gary G.
“Recovery is possible. Believe in yourself, be hopeful and never give up.”
Community Overdose Action Team

Working Together To Combat Opioid Overdoses

For More Information
937-225-5700 or www.phdmc.org/coat

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