Montgomery County is one of the best places to work in Ohio, according to Ohio Magazine’s 2019’s Best Workplaces campaign. We are very grateful for this honor and work very hard every day to provide essential, top-quality service to the citizens of Montgomery County. Our community would not be well served if not for committed employees and leadership teams striving for innovation and excellence in all that we do.
Veterans Awareness Organization Rides Through Dayton

The National Veterans Awareness Organization (NVAO) rode their motorcycles through Dayton for their annual awareness event on May 16. The group was escorted by police and fire department teams through the city to the American Veterans post on Market Street. The Brookville High School band and chorus performed for the riders and the AMVETS post hosted a dinner. Our veterans services agency participated and attended the event.

The riders started their journey in Sacramento, California. They stopped at many hospitals, organizations and schools along the way to Dayton.

The trip ended in Washington, D.C., with a ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. NVAO is a non-profit organization that honors veterans from all service branches across the United States.

A Good Start for Newcomers

Human Resources’ new full-day onboarding takes place at least once monthly at the Madison Lakes Training Facility. It serves as a one-day crash course in general information all county employees should know. Topics covered include safety, diversity and inclusion, communications, IT, wellness, ethics, records, HR, and green initiatives.

The HR Onboardings won’t replace the first day in-processing, when new employees get ID badges, parking information, I-9 forms, payroll forms, and policy sign offs. Each department should also customize newcomer orientation for their work area.

New hires attended HR’s first onboarding program at Madison Lakes Training Facility on May 14.
IT Creates Project Management Office

The Information Technology department created a Project Management Office to oversee all Board of County Commissioners IT projects and determine priorities.

Currently, the PMO can receive IT requests via email at bcchelp@mcohio.org. Soon, the office will launch a portal that will serve as a virtual one-stop shop for IT support. The portal will have a standardized menu for customers to request services.

To aid in customer satisfaction, the PMO has developed internal follow-up procedures to ensure no request is left unanswered and that services meet customer expectations.

For those who need help determining an IT solution based on a requirement, you’re in luck. Each group will soon receive an IT liaison who will regularly communicate with departments to discuss current and planned IT projects and help facilitate workflow processes. It’s a lot of work for two people, but PMO superstars Norm Carpenter and Daron Raynor have a combined 40 years of IT experience and are ready to take IT support to the next level.

CAANE Collaborates to Assist Vulnerable Senior Citizens

The Collaboration Against Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation (CAANE) is a multi-disciplinary team made up of professionals from local agencies that meets monthly to focus on elder abuse issues. CAANE develops partnerships to prevent and eliminate abuse, neglect, and the exploitation of older and vulnerable adults through education, advocacy, intervention and services.

Most recently, CAANE’s case review sub-committee took on the case of an elderly victim that was being moved around by perpetrators. Adult Protective Services, Senior Resource Connection, a local attorney, and the Prosecutor’s Office worked together to locate the vulnerable adult, and successfully removed him from the situation where he was being abused and exploited.

Judge Walter H. Rice received the Brother Raymond L. Fitz Award

Judge Walter H. Rice received the Brother Raymond L. Fitz Award in recognition of his years of leadership and service to the community on behalf of fatherhood, returning citizens and families. Co-chair of the community’s Reentry Initiative, Judge Rice continues to mobilize county stakeholders to support the cause of reentry while improving public safety and reducing recidivism.

From left: Commissioner Carolyn Rice, Commissioner Judy Dodge, Judge Rice, Commissioner Debbie Lieberman, and Brother Raymond Fitz, S.M. PhD.
ADAMHS Earns Four National Achievement Awards

Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) is being recognized with four Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo). The awards honor innovative, effective county programs that strengthen services for residents.

The Montgomery County RX Medication Safety Campaign: Through this campaign, 65,000 free medication disposal bags were distributed to the community since 2017, resulting in the proper disposal of nearly three million pills.

The Montgomery County Prevention Coalition: This community collaboration works to prevent youth substance abuse and promote positive mental health through evidence-based prevention strategies.

The Montgomery County Training Institute: Training topics include suicide prevention, mental health first aid, nicotine addiction and smoking cessation.

The Montgomery County Emergency Room Overdose Notification System: This system sends an emergency room alert for a suspected drug overdose within 24 hours to provide immediate patient engagement, outreach, follow-up and treatment services.

Other NACo Awards for Montgomery County

Family Treatment Court: Montgomery County Juvenile Court and Children Services won for their collaboration to help opioid-affected parents regain control of their lives and custody of their children.

Business Solutions Center: Business Services one-stop center for business programs, won in the category of Community and Economic Development.

Reentry Career Alliance Academy: For its efforts to ease the transition of citizens returning from incarceration. The Academy won in the Criminal Justice and Public Safety category.

Preschool Promise: Efforts to improve early learning won this program honors in the category of Children and Youth.

Quick, Easy Mental Wellness Check Available (ADAMHS)

Have you checked your mental wellness recently? It’s now easy to do so by using one of two free kiosks provided by Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health (ADAMHS) Board and located at The Job Center or The Main Dayton Metro Library downtown. The kiosks offer nine anonymous screenings for conditions like anxiety and depression, and they can be completed in minutes. The interactive screen provides users with educational information and a way to connect with local resources. Try it today!
Montgomery County officials were presenters at the National Council for Behavioral Health Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, March 25, covering the 360° Addiction Database Project. Presenters had the opportunity to discuss data collection and sharing of data on unintentional drug overdoses; the GetHelp Now app; and the alert system used by our outreach teams to follow up with those who have entered a hospital due to a drug overdose.

The 360° Addiction Database Project includes a grant totaling $1 million over three years from the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance – Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-based Program. Partners include: Public Health, ADAMHS, Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association, Montgomery County Coroner’s Office and Miami Valley Crime Lab, Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office, the Montgomery County Office of Criminal Justice, and Ascend Innovations.

Ascend Innovations will develop and implement a cross-systems integrated dataset to create a comprehensive view of the addicted population in Montgomery County.

This data will provide the Community Overdose Action Team with useful tools to assist in identifying efforts and strategies for early intervention and prevention of overdose deaths.

Pureed Diets Assist Residents With Chewing, Swallowing

One of the most important experiences we provide for the residents of Stillwater Center is their dining experience. When serving pureed diets (a diet prescribed for individuals with difficulty chewing or swallowing), one almost instantly pictures food that is unrecognizable. Because food should be a delight to the palate and to the eyes, we are now using a special product (Rubicon) where we can create pureed meals that are difficult to distinguish from their non-pureed counterparts.

ADAMHS was the recipient of the Jonathan Dayton Public Partner Award at the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting. The award was for ADAMHS’ collaborative and expanded initiatives for businesses in the region.

From Left: ADAMHS Program Coordinator Bruce Barcelo, Director of Administrative Services Andrea Doolittle, Program Coordinator Ashley Mack, Executive Director Helen Jones-Kelley, Assistant Director Jodi Long, Director of External Affairs Paula Cosby, and Program Coordinator Jeri Ward.
County Recorder Makes Historical Move To Serve Disabled and Immobile Veterans

For the first time in history, the Montgomery County Recorder’s Office has started recording veteran discharge documents (DD-214’s) and registering veterans for the Veteran ID Card Program outside the walls of their 5th Floor County Administration Building location. Only three other counties in the state offer this service, and ours is the largest to do so.

On May 22 at the “Vets Moving Forward” event at Wright State University, more than 200 pre-registered veterans had the opportunity to record their DD-214’s and register to receive their free Veteran Identification Card. RTA and Greene CATS provided free rides to veterans, with proof of Military Service shown upon boarding.

“The convenience of veterans recording their DD-214’s offsite and registering to obtain a Veteran ID Card will allow our office to reach out to more local veterans who may be disabled or immobile and connect them to earned benefits,” said Brandon McClain, Montgomery County Recorder.

For information, contact Denise Gerhard at (937) 496-3017 or visit the Montgomery County Recorder’s Office website at www.mcrecorder.org and click on the Offsite Recording Information and Events tab.

Environmental Services Awarded Recycling Grant from City of Centerville

Montgomery County has been awarded the Recycling Anti-Contamination Grant in the amount of $3,000 by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Recycling Partnership for the City of Centerville!

“We are very excited to help implement this outreach program in Centerville to educate our citizens about how to recycle right,” Montgomery County Commissioner Judy Dodge said. “Putting the right stuff in your recycling bin helps make recycling more profitable and sustainable for the whole community.”

With this grant, Centerville implemented a pilot education and outreach program to reduce recycling contamination at residential curbside pickups. It offers an opportunity to educate residents about what can and cannot be placed in their recycling bins. The project began in May and is expected to run for four to six months.

Kudos to Environmental Services!

The Montgomery County Commissioners recognized Montgomery County Environmental Services in June during a public meeting for their best in class safety standards! Congratulations to all of our Environmental Services employees who demonstrated safety excellence for Montgomery County!
Kids Get Creative During Recycled Sculpture Competition

Kids in grades K-12 from 16 local schools participated in Montgomery County Environmental Services Recycled Sculpture Contest. Over 400 kids participated, and winners were invited to have a fun awards ceremony. Congratulations to all who participated in this contest!

Countly Announces $500,000 Grant Award at 2019 Reentry Day Event

On May 13, Montgomery County held the 2019 Reentry Day and Stakeholder Showcase, where graduates of the Reentry Career Alliance Academy spoke about how the academy changed their lives.

Since 2009, over 500 graduates of the program have maintained a recidivism rate of under 5% (or a success rate of over 95%). The event also featured speakers from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, as well as Reentry Council presentations to highlight different aspects of the County’s comprehensive reentry strategy.

The Office of Reentry also announced that it has been awarded a $500,000 grant from The Jack W. and Sally D. Eichelberger Foundation of the Dayton Foundation, which will be used to expand outreach services inside all 28 Ohio prisons and correctional facilities.

“We are thrilled with the progress we have made in Montgomery County to help restore our citizens to their communities, especially through our Reentry Academy, which boasts a remarkable 95% success rate,” said Debbie Lieberman, President, Board of County Commissioners.

LGBTQ Community Health Alliance Kicked off PRIDE Month in Downtown Dayton

Public Health’s LGBTQ Health Initiatives program and the LGBTQ Community Health Alliance kicked off PRIDE Month in downtown Dayton on Saturday, June 1 with a parade and free health screenings. Because of historically being a marginalized population, the LGBTQ community in general has a higher prevalence of tobacco use, addictions, and mental health issues among other conditions. In support of our Diversity & Inclusion efforts, Public Health is focusing on providing the best healthcare services possible, delivered in a culturally competent way, to meet individual’s needs.
Deputy Court Administrator Becomes Fellow of ICM

Edward McNachtan, Deputy Court Administrator with the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas, became a Fellow of the Institute for Court Management (ICM), having successfully completed the rigorous requirements of the ICM’s Fellows Program. McNachtan and 12 other court professionals from around the country took part in graduation ceremonies conducted at the Supreme Court of the United States in Washington, D.C.

This professional certificate involves an intensive four-phase educational program that better prepares court professionals for management and leadership positions.

Congratulations, Edward!

Safe Sleep Ambassadors: Cribs for Kids

Montgomery County has seen a rise in sleep-related deaths during the first quarter of 2019, so Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County and the EveryOne Reach One Infant Mortality Task Force is reminding parents, family members and friends about safe sleep procedures.

Infants should always sleep **Alone, on their Back and in a Crib**. There should be nothing loose placed in the crib, such as blankets or toys, that may suffocate the baby. Parents should not sleep with their child, either in bed or on a couch.

To help reduce sleep-related deaths, the EveryOne Reach One Infant Mortality Task Force is launching a Safe Sleep Ambassador Program designed to educate the public regarding safe sleep practices. The program will be managed by Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County.

The Safe Sleep Ambassador Program will incentivize this training and provide refresher training opportunities as needed amongst the participating organizations. EveryOne Reach One will also institute a safe sleep community marketing campaign through its existing partnerships.

Montgomery County residents can also take advantage of Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County’s Cribs for Kids Program that provides free cribs for eligible parents. Call 937-224-3696 for details.
Community Overdose Action Team Receives National Award

Montgomery County’s Community Overdose Action Team, has been selected as a Model Practice by the National Association of County and City Health Officials’ Model Practice Program. The selection of this initiative as a Model Practice means that it demonstrates exemplary and replicable qualities in response to a local public health need. The program reflects strong collaboration, innovation, and has demonstrated its value through data collection and evaluation.

Our Environmental Services Department’s parade float recently won the City of Englewood’s “Chairman’s Choice Award” at the Englewood Festival Parade. Congratulations to our staff members Lorelei Hagans-Floyd and William Wright for a job well done. We’re happy to participate in parades across the County and spread the message about how citizens and businesses can “Recycle Right!” Learn more about our Solid Waste District and recycling programs at www.mcswd.org

Vivitrol Release Program Reaches One Year Anniversary

Montgomery County Sheriff Rob Streck announced the one year anniversary of the Montgomery County Jail Vivitrol Release Program.

On April 3, 2018, with the support of Vivitrol manufacturer, Alkermes, a local addiction program, Recovery Works, and the county jail contracted medical vendor, Naphcare, the Montgomery County Jail officially piloted a Vivitrol Release Program.

“We were confident Vivitrol would be a tool that could help us combat overdose deaths among those being released from the jail. It was also important to us that inmates received appropriate education—not only on the medication itself, but the aftercare regimen that is necessary for successful recovery,” said Teresa Russell, Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office Treatment Coordinator.

To date, the Montgomery County Jail reports that none of the 114 individuals that participated in the Vivitrol Release Program have been identified as victims of a fatal overdose in Montgomery County or any of the 10 adjoining jurisdictions. This success can also be attributed to collaborations with the local courts, county boards and other partners involved in the Montgomery County Drug-Free Coalition. Peer supporters, corrections officers and medical staff onsite have been instrumental in promoting treatment and recovery to our inmates.

“It is our hope that nationally, more county jails adopt the program design we have successfully implemented and promote options for recovery in ways that challenge traditional means of service,” said Sheriff Rob Streck.
Montgomery County Collaborative Newsletter

Animal Care and Control Officers Recognized

On April 19, the County Commissioners recognized the Animal Care and Control Officers of the Montgomery County Animal Resource Center for providing leadership, guidance and expertise to many public shelters in Ohio and beyond. The officers continue the commitment to improving the welfare of animals and pets that are rescued from injury, disease, abuse and starvation.

Previously, the Commissioners recognized Animal Care and Control Officer Jessica France (front row, holding dog leash) for her outstanding performance while responding to a call from the Dayton Police Department’s SWAT Team. Dayton City Police Chief Biehl commended Officer France on her extraordinary efforts to safely extract nine large American Staffordshire Terriers. She made the SWAT Team’s job safer, and they could not have accomplished their task as easily without her assistance.

Economic Development Launches Virtual Reality Video

Montgomery County Community & Economic Development has released its latest marketing piece: an interactive, virtual reality (VR) video highlighting some of the county’s attractions. Using a camera that shoots 360-degree video, contract company Golden Shovel traveled around the county gathering immersive images.

On June 25, Community and Economic Development Specialist Dan Bish presented the finished product to the County Commissioners, complete with Montgomery County-branded virtual reality goggles. The goggles allow anyone to start the video, place their phone in the goggles, and spin around to experience Montgomery County from anywhere. It’s a tool that the county will use to attract new businesses and new people to our area.

View the video at www.selectmcohio.com/vr

Community & Economic Development Specialist Dan Bish presented the county’s new virtual reality video and goggles to the County Commissioners on June 25.
Culture Works Fundraiser Reaches New Heights

Our 2019 Culture Works fundraiser recently wrapped up and the numbers are in. This year, our employees raised $29,484.05, which is a $2,690.58 increase over the previous year! Culture Works helps to promote and fund arts and culture in our region, which contributes to our local community and economy.

Our Culture Works Steering Committee is made up of representatives from more than 15 different County departments, who come together to make our annual giving campaign fun and engaging. We are so grateful for our employees who take on this extra responsibility to make a positive impact in our community.

We’d like to extend a special thank you to two of our most active campaign organizers – Dorine Ragsdale and Michael London – for your leadership and commitment to this important initiative.

Great job to everyone who volunteered their time and participated to make this possible. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Job Fair for Laid-off Payless ShoeSource Employees

In February, Payless ShoeSource announced its plan to close all 2,300 U.S. locations, which included not only Montgomery County locations, but also the distribution center in Brookville that employed over 500 people.

Montgomery County’s Workforce Development team worked with Payless to provide one-on-one help to each employee, guiding them through applications for services like food assistance, medical services, unemployment insurance and child care. The team even worked to gather businesses looking to hire, and they held a job fair specifically for the affected Payless employees on May 10. Great Work, team!