Community Overdose Action Team

Working Together To Combat Overdoses and Drug Abuse
The work of the Community Overdose Action Team (COAT) seeks to reduce the number of people dying from overdoses and drug abuse. The COAT was established in the fall of 2016 to address the drug overdose crisis 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 and drug abuse.

The COAT structured its response using two nationally recognized frameworks:

- **Collective Impact** – an innovative and structured approach to making collaboration work across various sectors to achieve significant and lasting social change.

- **Incident Command System (ICS) Structure** – ICS provides a comprehensive management system that enables community partners to work together to respond to local, state, and federal emergencies.

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 has allowed for the continued development, enhancement or expansion of many programs in the community. We have more robust data sharing that allows for a more comprehensive picture of the issue and helps ensure we’re targeting our efforts appropriately.

The collaborative work of our community partners and citizens has yielded great success. From 2017 to 2018, we saw a 49% decrease in overdose deaths. However, from 2018 to 2019, the number of deaths remained relatively unchanged. Thus, our collaborative, unified response must continue.

While addressing overdoses is still vitally important, we must remember that addiction is still a prevalent problem in our community that we must continue striving to address, and thus, in early 2019, the mission statement of the COAT was updated. We removed the word “opioid” as a classifier for overdose, as we know overdoses can happen when consuming other drugs due to the contaminated drug supply. We also added “…and drug abuse” to help us begin looking further upstream as to what is causing overdoses in the first place.

Our community must continually strive to reduce stigma, provide comprehensive services for those continuing to fight the disease, empower and celebrate those in recovery, and prevent drug abuse.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Cooper  
Montgomery County  
Health Commissioner

Helen Jones-Kelley  
Executive Director  
Montgomery County  
ADAMHS

Judy Dodge  
Montgomery County  
Commissioner
COAT Structure

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 seven branches, each focusing on a different aspect of the problem. Additionally, the COAT has partnered with local prevention coalitions and will support their prevention activities and align efforts as appropriate.

### Response Branch
- Coordinate Quick Response Team efforts
- Ensure there is an emergency plan for a significant cluster of overdoses

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

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

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

### Data Unit
- Compile and analyze data to support informed decision making

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

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

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

### Operations & Planning Section
- Develop & implements action plan
- Provide situational status report

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

### Backbone Support
- Guide vision and strategies
- Support aligned activities
- Advance policy
- Mobilize resources
- Identify gaps in services

### Steering Committee

### Community Overdose Action Team

*Working Together to Combat Overdoses and Drug Abuse*

### Local Prevention Coalitions

### 2019 COAT Backbone Support Members

- **Barb Marsh** - Public Health
- **Jodi Long** - ADAMHS
- **Brian Johns** - Dayton Police Department
- **Marty Larson** - GDAHA & Ascend Innovations
- **Mary Kay Stirling** - Mont. Co. Common Pleas Court
- **Tom Marquis** - Mont. Co. Common Pleas Court
- **Daryl Wilson** - Mont. Co. Sheriff’s Office
- **Joe Spitler** - Mont. Co. Criminal Justice Council
- **Janine Howard** - Public Health
- **Brooke Ehlers** - Mont. Co. Coroner’s Office
- **Steve Stein** - Greater Miami Valley EMS Council
- **Cindy Heitman** - Goodwill Easterseals
Public Health and the Community Overdose Action Team hosted Governor Mike DeWine at the beginning of 2019 as part of his RecoveryOhio listening tour. Governor DeWine traveled throughout Ohio to hear from those working on the front lines battling the opioid crisis with the intention of proposing new statewide funding and initiatives to support local efforts.

Our continued progress will be dependent on collaboration with our regional and state partners because we have shared ownership of this public health and public safety crisis. Based on the roundtable discussion, the COAT proposed the following recommendations which can benefit communities throughout Ohio:

- require mental health and substance use screening in K-12 schools
- expand public awareness campaigns to reduce stigma
- enact laws and rules for Overdose Fatality Review similar to Child Fatality Review
- allow the use of Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System data to inform epidemiologic and overdose death investigations
The Community Overdose Action Team (COAT) launched a new website mccoa.org to keep the community up-to-date on actions being taken to reduce overdose deaths and addiction in Montgomery County.

The website includes information on the following:

- History of COAT
- Structure and leadership of the COAT
- Information on the different priority areas being addressed
- Resources for individuals in the community
- Data reports
- Action plans outlining the work being done in the COAT
- Relevant news
- Events calendar
- Features stories from the Voices Project

COAT Launches New Website
Providing current information to reduce overdose deaths and addiction

Emergency Department Visits by Montgomery County Residents

<table>
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<th>Month</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
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During January to June 2019, there were 914 overdose ED visits made by Montgomery County residents. This is an average of 5.1 visits per day. There were 102 overdoses (11% of visits) where the number of visits exceeded the threshold. Visioned in the figure above, triggering an anomaly by the system. There were two additional anomalies issued when looking at visits by facility location (not shown in chart).

The number of visits steadily increased throughout the first quarter and continued to decrease in the second quarter with a high of 192 visits in June (21% of visits in January to June 2019). In 2018, the month with the highest number of overdose visits was August with 200 visits.

SAFE MEDICATION DISPOSAL

Prevention
The Community Overdose Action Team (COAT) provides information on the prevention of both targeted and non-targeted opioid overdose deaths. COAT offers free medication disposal bins in many locations across the county, as well as guidance on how to safely handle and dispose of prescription drugs.

Treatment & Recovery
The Treatment and Recovery Section aims to expand access to treatment and community support programs. Montgomery County has a number of treatment and recovery support options available.

- Expanding recovery housing capacity
- Expanding residential bed capacity and ambulatory identification services
- Development of the Recovery Alliance of Montgomery County (RAMCO), an alliance of recovery organizations created to share resources to positively impact citizens and communities.
Montgomery County continues to expand treatment and support services available for those involved with the criminal justice system who also have a substance use disorder.

**Highlights of initiatives in 2019 included:**

- Montgomery County Jail offered the Vivitrol Release Program (one form of medication assisted treatment), naloxone training, Peer Support services, and expanded discharge planning services. They also provided a pet therapy program that promotes emotional wellness among inmates.

- MonDay Community Correctional Institution offered Vivitrol (one form of medication assisted treatment), Peer Support services, naloxone training, and group sessions.

- Common Pleas Court continued working towards a single, court ordered assessment model and streamlining the referral process for treatment.

- Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) continued to offer relevant training, including:
  - Training for behavioral health providers on the Risk-Need-Responsivity principle, in collaboration with CareSource
  - Training for criminal justice professionals on meth-induced psychosis

- Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County provided education to businesses on drug overdoses and the importance of naloxone, and recommended cleaning procedures.

- Family Treatment Court continued to reunite families affected by addiction. It is a partnership of the Montgomery County Juvenile Court, Job & Family Services Children’s Services Division and various treatment providers.
Drugs seized by law enforcement provide a snapshot of drugs present in the community. Montgomery County has three task forces working to remove unwanted drugs from our streets:

- **Miami Valley Bulk Smuggling Task Force** - includes six agencies that conduct criminal investigations utilizing their investigative authority to protect the citizens of the Miami Valley by disrupting and dismantling international drug trafficking organizations.

- **Regional Agencies Narcotics and Gun Enforcement (R.A.N.G.E) Task Force** - includes 12 law enforcement agencies in Montgomery County that work to combat drug abuse and trafficking.

- **Dayton Police Department Narcotics Bureau** - In 2019, they re-emphasized their commitment to parcel interdiction, which resulted in major seizures of both methamphetamine and illegal proceeds.

In 2019, across the three task forces, the following quantities of drugs were seized:

- **378,902** *(Marijuana (grams))*
- **42,099** *(Cocaine/Crack (grams))*
- **6,078** *(Opioid Pain Pills (pills))*
- **99,949** *(Heroin/Fentanyl (grams))*
- **140,927** *(Methamphetamine (grams))*
Our community continues to work towards reducing stigma around overdose and addiction and raising awareness about the resources available.

Some key initiatives in 2019 included:

- Developed a website for the Community Overdose Action Team (COAT).
- Continued to educate the business community on recovery language to help reduce stigma.
- Continued to strengthen relationships with faith communities and educate them on addiction.
- ADAMHS enhanced the GetHelpNow Montgomery County app by adding new, streamlined categories. GetHelpNow is a free app to locate addiction, mental health services, and more.
- The “Don’t Live in Denial, Ohio” public awareness campaign created by the Ohio Opioid Education Alliance was launched across the state, including in Montgomery County.
In 2019, naloxone distribution and outreach in the community continued through funding from ADAMHS in partnership with Samaritan Behavioral Health’s Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided with Naloxone) program:

- Distributed 2,335 naloxone kits and trained 2,348 individuals.
- Expanded training with the criminal justice system including the Montgomery County Jail, STOP, MonDaDay Community Correctional Institution, Probation, and Office of Ex-Offenders and Re-Entry Program.

The syringe services program, CarePoint, continued enhancement and expansion of services:

- Engaged 299 new clients.
- Exchanged 296,182 syringes – a 43% increase from 2018.
- Added a Mobile Unit.

Additional harm reduction initiatives included:

- Fentanyl test strips were distributed by Families of Addicts at community events.
- Developed fentanyl warning cards.
Montgomery County and its many community partners continue to increase education on effective clinical prescribing guidelines and expand access to comprehensive, wrap-around services in various healthcare settings.

Some key initiatives in 2019 included:

◆ Held the “Substance Use Disorder & Recovery: The Emerging Landscape” conference. The conference, sponsored by Kettering Health Network, Premier Health Partners, ADAMHS, and Public Health, provided education to professionals about addiction and the current drug landscape in our community.

◆ Continued monitoring new opioids on the market and the potential impact the drugs could have on addiction rates.

◆ Continued to collaborate with local healthcare professional schools to ensure addiction education is included in their curriculum.

◆ Kettering Health Network continued to support best practices as it relates to prescribing, including promotion of the PAUSE program, a pathway for physicians and pharmacists to manage chronic or benign pain, community education, and hiring of a Case Manager at Grandview to help link patients to treatment.

◆ Premier Health Partners continued to promote best practices within the community. Employees volunteered their time to assemble 500 medication disposal kits, inclusive of substance abuse educational materials and information on local support resources. Kits were distributed at various community events, as well as in targeted areas covered by home health nurses. Additionally, they collected over 1,000 pounds of unused prescription medications.

◆ Promoted and helped disseminate the opioid warning stickers for prescription bottles, designed by the Montgomery County Prevention Coalition (MCPC).
Montgomery County continues to work towards increased access to and awareness of treatment and recovery support services.

Some highlights of 2019 work included:

- Increased inpatient bed availability for treatment services.

- OneFifteen was established as a new treatment provider, with a goal of creating a recovery ecosystem. OneFifteen’s ecosystem founders include: Kettering Health Network, Premier Health Partners, Verily, and Alexandria.

- Expanded recovery housing options. Expansions included: a housing unit for pregnant women with substance use disorders, a Level-3 recovery housing program. Additionally, ADAMHS added 30 additional beds to their housing through both new providers and existing housing providers.


- Local recovery club organizations continued to coordinate efforts as part of the Recovery Alliance of Montgomery County Ohio (RAMCO):
  
  o Hosted 2 Healthy Recovery Celebrations, including the No Family Left Inside event at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark and the Community Picnic at Island MetroPark.
  
  o Throughout the year, RAMCO partners hosted other community-oriented events.

RAMCO organizations include:
Alco Aides, Dayton Fellowship Club,
Dayton Recovers,
FOA Families of Addicts,
and WestSide Club.
Collaboration among first responders, Quick Response Teams, and peer recovery supporters continues to grow. The collaboration has allowed for enhanced outreach and response efforts in our community.

Some key initiatives in 2019 included:

◆ Three Quick Response Teams continued offering outreach services to those who have overdosed. Teams include: Dayton GROW, Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office GROW and Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County Addiction Services Outreach.

◆ Continued promoting ODMAP across the county, which is a system that provides near-real-time overdose surveillance data adopted by all agencies. The system allows data to be tracked across jurisdictions and sends an alert when there is a spike in overdoses (both fatal and non-fatal).

◆ Established the Certified Peer Recovery Supporter Collaborative of the Miami Valley (CPRSC), which is an opportunity for certified peer supporters to grow, share and learn with other certified peers.

◆ Continued to work on and revise the response plan for a spike in overdoses in our community.
In 2019, leadership of the COAT made the decision to align the “Prevention Branch” from the COAT structure with the Montgomery County Prevention Coalition and the Montgomery County Drug-Free Coalition efforts already underway in the community. The COAT will support the prevention activities of the local coalitions and agencies and align efforts as appropriate.

**Highlights of community prevention efforts included:**

- **Montgomery County Prevention Coalition (MCPC)** continued implementing activities to reduce substance use among youth. Key initiatives included:
  - Promoted safe medication storage and disposal through medication drop boxes, disposal pouches, medication lock boxes, and DEA Prescription Drug Take Back Day events.
  - Provided opioid warning stickers for opioid prescription bottles to pharmacies throughout Montgomery County.
  - Equipped individuals who can impact youth with the necessary skills to help prevent youth substance use.
  - Supported policy, system and environmental-level changes that will reduce the potential for youth substance initiation.

- **The Montgomery County Drug-Free Coalition** continued to work with members of the community to eliminate barriers to a successful recovery. They worked to promote awareness, prevention, best practices, and access to treatment services. Key initiatives included:
  - Developed a Community Resource Guide that provides information on substance abuse services and resources available in Montgomery County.
  - Hosted an annual poster and poetry contest for Montgomery County students in grades six through 12. The goal of the contest was to create something that increased public awareness around the harmful effects of substance abuse.
  - Conducted Getting Recovery Options Working (GROW) blitzes to educate neighborhoods on treatment and recovery support services available. In 2019, GROW conducted five blitzes.
  - Met with state representatives and RecoveryOhio members and advocated for legislative changes that would help eliminate barriers to a successful recovery.
  - Sponsored several initiatives for Mental Health Awareness Month.
Data Unit
Identifying opportunities for data sharing across systems

The Data Unit compiles information into one report and identifies opportunities for data sharing across systems. They offer support to the COAT branches to assist them in making data-driven decisions for interventions.

2019 Data Unit work included:

- Montgomery County Coroner’s Office continued to provide weekly updates on overdose death totals. Updated totals were published every Friday on the COAT website.
- Provided EpiCenter alert summaries when drug overdose numbers exceeded a threshold in hospital emergency rooms.
- Developed comprehensive six-month data progress reports and annual data reports.
- Responded to data requests as needed.
- Ascend Innovations continued development of a 360° Database to create a comprehensive view of the population struggling with addiction.
- Public Health began an Overdose Fatality Review process to understand the circumstances surrounding fatal drug overdose. It also included family interviews.

Joint Information Center
Working to coordinate unified messaging for the COAT

Joint Information Center or JIC serves as a single point of coordination for all public information operations of the COAT. The JIC is responsible for developing, coordinating, and disseminating accurate and consistent information to the public and the media.

Key activities in 2019 included:

- Communicated the activities of the COAT branches through media briefings and press releases.
- Provided timely release of information and responded to both local and national media requests.
- Created unified messaging for both the public and stakeholders.
Detective Jorge R. Del Rio was a 30-year veteran of the Dayton Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Taskforce. On November 4, 2019, he was tragically shot while serving a search warrant. Detective Del Rio worked in Narcotics enforcement for over 25 years, and was nationally recognized as an expert in his field. He spent countless hours removing dangerous drugs off our streets and he saved many lives by confiscating powerful narcotics that would have resulted in untold numbers of fatal overdoses.

The Community Overdose Action Team honors Detective Del Rio for the sacrifice he made, and the commitment he had to the betterment of the community.
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For more information
937-225-5700 or www.mccoat.org

August 2020