



PANORAMA

Geauga County Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services

24/7 Geauga County Crisis Hotline

Call COPELINE at 1-440-285-5665 or 1-888-285-5665

BOARD RECEIVES STATE GRANT FOR DRUG-FREE WORKFORCE COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

It comes as no surprise that the opiate epidemic is negatively affecting businesses by shrinking the available workforce and impacting their ability to find and retain qualified employees. But, did you know that:



- Workers testing positive for illicit drugs increased for the third consecutive year.
- Amphetamines are the most common drug that people are testing positive for.
- Since 2013, there has been an increase of 146% in positive testing for heroin.
- Employer losses include lower productivity, absenteeism, higher medical claims, theft, accidents, and workers comp claims.

In an effort to address the safety and economic issues of drug abuse in the workplace, the Geauga County Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services is partnering with local stakeholders to launch the Working Partners® Drug-Free Workforce Community Initiative in Geauga County.

"We are excited to begin the important work of bringing employers and community leaders together to address the drug-related issues facing our communities", said Beth Matthews, Associate Director of the Board. She also said the goals of this local initiative are to make our workplaces safer and our community stronger.

The stakeholders group includes representatives from the Board, Geauga County Job and Family Services, Chardon Chamber of Commerce, Geauga Growth Partnership, United Way of Geauga County, Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation, Geauga Safety Council, Geauga Times Courier, Ohio Means Jobs, and the Ohio Attorney General's Office.

After the first stakeholders meeting, Tracy Jemison, President of Geauga Growth Partnership, said "By collecting data and bringing to light the issues we face in our community, sharing best practices and working collaboratively, we have the opportunity to tackle this issue in a focused way and have a true impact."

Members of the stakeholders group are reaching out to Geauga County business owners by asking them to complete a brief online survey. Community leaders will also be asked to complete a separate online survey in the next few weeks. The surveys are designed to assess the perceptions, attitudes, knowledge, practices, and employer needs as they relate to preventing and addressing substance abuse in the workplace/workforce. Survey responses are confidential and the surveys do not collect individual respondent or business information. The responses will be used to implement strategies, including education, technical assistance and tools, to develop a job-ready workforce of drug free individuals to serve the needs of Geauga County employers now and in the future.

MARCH IS DESIGNATED AS PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS MONTH



Governor Kasich has declared March 2017 as Ohio Problem Gambling Awareness Month to coincide with the national observance. This awareness month was instituted 13 years ago to increase public awareness of problem gambling, to promote the availability of prevention, treatment and recovery services, and to encourage health care providers to screen clients for problem gambling issues.

Ohio is holding its annual Problem Gambling Conference on March 2-3, 2017 in Columbus. The two-day event will be presented by *Ohio For Responsible Gambling* and is hosted by the *Drug Free Action Alliance*. This year's theme is *Fully Integrating Problem Gambling Services Into Behavioral Health*. The conference brings together local and national experts to talk about problem gambling prevention, intervention, treatment, recovery, research, and responsible gambling.

Jim Adams, CEO of the Geauga County Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services, will be attending the conference. He said "Gambling is often a hidden addiction, that left untreated, can have a devastating effect on individuals and their families. We are learning more and more about the brain and how different types of addictions, like gambling and substance abuse, may have some similarities in brain structural and chemistry changes. The more we know, the better treatment models we can build to help people recover."

Informational and educational videos and articles regarding gambling, along with links relating to its effects on the brain, are available at the Ohio Lottery Commission's website located at www.yourchemistry.org. You can also send an email to help@yourchemistry.org or call the Ohio Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-589-9966 to speak with someone directly.

Following are behaviors of a problem gambler:

- Frequently borrows money to gamble
- Gambles to escape boredom, pain or loneliness
- Lies to loved ones about gambling
- Tries to win back money lost
- Has lost interest in other activities
- Is irritable about gambling behavior
- Has unexplained absences for long periods of time

Anyone who gambles can develop a problem. Groups at higher levels of risk include older adults, adolescents, college students, veterans, and racial and ethnic minorities. Individuals new to taking medications for Restless Leg Syndrome or Parkinson's may also develop a gambling problem.

If you or a loved one have a gambling addiction, local help is also available. Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers can provide prevention and education information, along with individual counseling and family group sessions. They are located at 209 Center Street, Unit E, Chardon, Ohio and can be reached by phone at 440-255-0678. You can also contact COPELINE at 440-285-5665 or 1-888-285-5665, which is available 24 hours, 7 days a week.

CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM TRAINING SCHEDULED FOR MARCH

The 14th Geauga County Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training is scheduled for March 13th through March 17th. The week long training teaches awareness of the most common and serious mental illnesses, how to identify when a person is in crisis, and techniques that can be used when helping a person in a mental health or substance abuse crisis. The CIT training is beneficial not only to the attendees, but also to the person who is in crisis by getting them the medical and/or psychiatric care they may need.



Following are some facts about the history of CIT training in Geauga County:

- *Deanna Brant and Lieutenant Scott Niehus attended CIT training in Summit County in December 2004*
- *A Geauga County Advisory Committee was formed in 2006*
- *The first Geauga County CIT training was held in 2007*
- *13 trainings have been conducted since then*
- *228 individuals have been trained, including law enforcement officers, correction officers, dispatchers, EMT/Fire Department, court personnel, school staff, adult and juvenile probation staff, Public Defenders, Prosecutor's staff, CASA, and mental health counselors*

Trainings are sponsored by the Geauga County Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services, NAMI Ohio, the Geauga County Sheriff's Office, and Ravenwood Health.

For more information about the upcoming training, you can contact Deanna Brant or Brian Ayer of Ravenwood Health at 440-285-3568.

GEAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES SFY2016 ANNUAL REPORT

By law, the Board is required to compile an annual report that includes any funding the Board receives, how the funds are spent, and the programs that are funded in Geauga County. [Click here](#) to read the full report.

Geauga County Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services
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