

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF OHIO**

|                |   |  |
|----------------|---|--|
| STATE OF OHIO, | : |  |
|                | : | Case No. 2024-0951                     |
| Appellant,     | : |  |
|                | : | On Appeal from the                     |
| v.             | : | Hamilton County Court of Appeals       |
|                | : | First Appellate District               |
| J.B.,          | : |  |
|                | : | Court of Appeals Case Nos. C-230500;   |
| Appellee.      | : | C-230502; C-230503, C-230504; C-230505 |
|                | : |  |

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**BRIEF OF AMICUS CURIAE ADDICTION RESPONSE COALITION OF HAMILTON  
COUNTY  
IN SUPPORT OF APPELLEE J.B.**

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## INTRODUCTION

The conscious use and promotion of expungement as a tool for addiction recovery advances the interests of Ohioans by reducing recidivism. Respectfully, expungement is not an “extraordinary remedy” as the State labels it (Appellant Merit Brief at 1) nor is it an “act of grace” as some Ohio courts have labeled it. (Citation omitted.) *State v. J.B.*, 2024-Ohio-1879, ¶ 14 (1st Dist.). It is simply a tool that, when used appropriately, benefits those in recovery in a way that reduces recidivism and the likelihood of relapse.

Contrary to the State’s claim, the extent of an applicant’s criminal record does *not* speak directly to the extent of a person’s rehabilitation. Because the number of prior convictions is not a good proxy for rehabilitative success, denying expungements on that basis allows an unnecessary barrier to stand in the way of a recovering person’s capacity for success and, in doing so, misses an opportunity to further reduce the risk the person reoffends or relapses. A decision permitting Ohio judges to bar expungement relief for eligible offenses based primarily on the number of prior misdemeanor convictions does not promote public safety but rather decreases it by removing an important tool for addressing drug addiction.

## STATEMENT OF INTEREST OF AMICUS CURIAE, ADDICTION RESPONSE COALITION OF HAMILTON COUNTY

The Addiction Response Coalition (ARC) was organized and chartered by the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners. ARC is a collective of community members, leaders, advocates, and experts working to end the opioid epidemic by connecting prevention, treatment, public health, and law enforcement resources to provide care when and where it’s needed most, holistically treating the illness, saving lives, and strengthening families for the health and wellness of Hamilton County. ARC’s vision is to create a community where the addiction crisis no longer claims lives or devastates families. ARC strives to be a trusted and reliable resource that provides

access to care, prevention options, treatment specialists, public health officials, and law enforcement. ARC has a proven record of success. As an example, the total overdose deaths in Hamilton County dropped from 515 in 2021 to 393 in 2023. ARC, *State of the Addiction Crisis Annual Report* (2023), attached as Exhibit A for ease.<sup>1</sup> That number dropped even farther in 2024 to 270. ARC, *Total Overdose Deaths* (2024), attached as Exhibit B.

ARC has a recovery committee dedicated to recognizing and amplifying the essential role of lived experience in shaping the coalition's initiatives and programs. Part of this committee's role is to advocate for policies and initiatives that support the rights and dignity of individuals in recovery, promoting empowerment and self-advocacy within the recovery community. Recovery is not just about addressing substance use; it is about addressing the barriers that keep people from building new lives. To that end, ARC is interested in the outcome of this case. Allowing Ohio courts to deny expungement based on the number of prior convictions would result in unnecessary barriers remaining in place hampering the recovery efforts of those recovering from addiction.

## **STATEMENT OF CASE AND FACTS**

ARC adopts the Statement of Case and Facts as articulated in the brief of J.B.

## **ARGUMENT**

**Accepted Proposition of Law No. 1:** The extent of an applicant for criminal record sealing or expungement's criminal history can provide the sole basis for denying their application(s), as it speaks directly to the use of "rehabilitation" within the meaning of R.C. 2953.32(D)(1)(c), and its use as such does not constitute an abuse of discretion.

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<sup>1</sup> The report can be accessed online.  
[https://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/government/open\\_hamilton\\_county/projects/office\\_of\\_addiction\\_](https://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/government/open_hamilton_county/projects/office_of_addiction_)

ARC urges this court to affirm the First District Court of Appeals decision for three reasons. First, the number of prior convictions does not speak directly to the extent of a person's rehabilitation. Second, allowing courts to deny expungements based solely or even primarily on the number of prior convictions removes the use of a tool proven to improve lives and reduce recidivism. Third, the Ohio legislature is in a much better position than the trial court to determine whether the number of prior convictions can legally be the sole basis for denying expungement.

The number of prior convictions is not indicative of rehabilitative success or risk of reoffending. Neither the trial court nor the State point to any data that supports the conclusion that the number of prior convictions is a fair proxy for whether a person is likely to reoffend and thus, presents a greater danger to potential employers. In contrast, studies show the time a person has been clean from drug use since the last offense and employment are strong indicators of rehabilitative success. For those who have experienced drug addiction, the time clean since the last offense "strongly affects the relationship between past and future offending behavior." Alfred Blumstein and Kiminori Nakamura, *Redemption in the Presence of Widespread Criminal Background Checks*, 47 *Criminology* 327, 331 (2009). "Two studies that tracked released U.S. prisoners show that of all those who were rearrested in the first 3 years, approximately two thirds were arrested in the first year, which indicates the declining recidivism rate over time. (Citation omitted.) *Id.* at 331. Additionally, "Unemployment is a moderately strong predictor of recidivism." (Citation omitted.) J.J. Prescott and Sonja B. Starr, *Expungement of Criminal Convictions: An Empirical Study*, 133 *Harvard Law Review* 2460, 2520 (2020). Additionally, higher wages reduce the risk of recidivism. *Id.* Consequently, leaving a barrier to employment and higher wages in place is a missed opportunity to reduce recidivism.

Expungement is a vital tool that should be used, not as a reward, but as a bridge to improved socioeconomic circumstances. Criminal records are barriers to quality housing, stable employment, and a livable wage. Expungement is a crucial tool in addiction recovery because it expands opportunities for long-term financial stability and self-sufficiency. When used strategically, expungement opens doors to employment, housing, and stability—essential pillars of sustained recovery.

Empirical evidence supports the conclusion that increased opportunities for better employment, housing, and overall stability not only improve the life of the person in recovery but also, by reducing recidivism, serve the interests of all Ohioans. A study conducted of Michigan's expungement laws and statistics, published in the Harvard Law Review in 2020, found,

Within one year [from obtaining expungements], on average, an individual's odds of being employed (earning any wages at all) increase by a factor of 1.13; their odds of earning at least \$100/week (a slightly more demanding employment measure increase by a factor of 1.23; and their reported quarterly wages increase by a factor of 1.23 (and are sustained in subsequent years).

J.J. Prescott and Sonja B. Starr, 133 Harvard Law Review at 2467. "These results suggest that those with expunged records gain access to more and better-paying jobs." *Id.*

Interestingly, the study also showed the risk to employers is higher from the general population than it is from those who have obtained expungements. The authors wrote that recidivism rates of those who had been granted expungement in Michigan were lower than the general Michigan population taken as a whole. J.J. Prescott and Sonja B. Starr, 133 Harvard Law Review at 2466. Moreover, "[t]his finding is consistent with the broader empirical literature on patterns of desistance from crime." *Id.*

The study addressed the concerns expressed by the trial court. The authors noted,

Public-safety concerns underlie the most common objections to expungement laws, the idea being that the public – especially people with particular interest at stake, such as employers and landlords – have a right to know when people have criminal records because of their heightened risk of committing future crimes.

*Id.* at 2510. Contrary to the concern for public safety, the results of the study indicated “recidivism among expungement recipients is low.” *Id.* At 2513. “Indeed, our statistics suggest that expungement recipients pose a lower crime risk than the general population of Michigan as a whole.” *Id.* at 2514. Moreover, it is “quite likely that receiving an expungement reduces a recipient’s recidivism risk below their previous baseline.” *Id.* at 2520. “In contrast, *no* similarly plausible empirical support exists” that “sealing records *increases* recidivism risk.” *Id.* at 2522.

Anecdotal evidence observed by ARC and the people it serves aligns with the empirical evidence discussed above. The story of E.W. is illustrative of rehabilitative success for a person who had a high number of prior convictions.

My name is [E.W.], and I’m 28 years old from Price Hill, Ohio. I’m proud to say that I’ve been over two years clean from drugs and alcohol and more than a year since I had my criminal record expunged. This is my story of struggle, resilience, and the incredible journey to where I am today.

I’m the oldest of six children. My mom had me when she was just 16, and I didn’t meet my father until I was a teenager due to his drug use and time spent in prison. My mom struggled as a young parent, which led to us being taken away by child protective services. At 11, I was placed in my grandfather’s care, where I lived until I was 16.

During those years, I began to rebel and get into legal trouble, often finding myself in and out of juvenile detention. While drugs weren’t part of my life yet, I had no guidance or control over my actions. At 18, my world changed when my childhood best friend was tragically shot and killed in a drug deal gone wrong. Struggling to cope with the pain, I was introduced to Percocet and Xanax to numb my emotions. That’s where my downward spiral began.

I started selling drugs to support my habit, which quickly turned into daily use. Eventually, the money ran out, and I turned to stealing—

robbing from stores and even loved ones—to fund my addiction. At 21, I was introduced to fentanyl, a cheaper and more potent alternative, which became my drug of choice. Within months, I was homeless, living in abandoned houses, and completely hopeless.

In the summer of 2017, I was arrested and faced 12 misdemeanor charges stemming from my addiction. While in jail, I was placed in a treatment program and experienced my first taste of sobriety. However, the emotional pain didn't stop. During my incarceration, I learned that my father had overdosed and died in a tragic car accident.

After being released, I relapsed. This cycle of jail, sobriety, and relapse continued until 2019, when I thought I'd found hope. I was sober, working, and expecting a child with my partner. However, I fell back into old habits, leading to a felony trafficking charge, more jail time, and probation.

By the end of 2021, I hit rock bottom. I hadn't seen my son in over a year, overdosed multiple times, and felt completely lost. In the winter of 2022, I made the decision to leave Price Hill, end my probation, and seek help. I enrolled in Sunrise Treatment Center, started medication-assisted treatment, and began rebuilding my life.

Over the next year, I worked hard at any job that would hire me despite my record. I went through the expungement process and had one felony and 30 misdemeanors removed from my record. I also completed a fatherhood program to show my commitment to being part of my son's life.

Today, I'm proud of how far I've come. I have my own home, a stable job, and get to spend time with my son multiple times a week. I've successfully completed my treatment program, am free from medication-assisted treatment, and am completely free of mind-altering substances.

Life has never been better, and I'm grateful for the second chance I've been given to live with purpose and integrity.

E.W. had 30 misdemeanors expunged. Had he been denied expungement on that basis, he may not have been able to own a home, have gainful employment, and reached a point where he can be a good father. Denying his expungement would have left unnecessary barriers in place that would have limited his level of success and would not have achieved anything useful in doing so.

The Ohio legislature’s decision to stop using the number of convictions as the sole basis for denying expungement is supported by empirical and anecdotal evidence. The Ohio legislature is perhaps best suited to determining the government’s interests. As the First District pointed out, “the General Assembly expanded eligibility for record sealing: the number of misdemeanor convictions on an applicant’s record no longer renders them ineligible for relief. *See* R.C. 2953.32(A)(1).” *J.B.*, 2024-Ohio-1879, at ¶ 14 (1st Dist.). In alignment with ARC’s views, the court of appeals noted,

The Ohio legislature has permitted qualified applicants to seek record sealing relief for an unlimited number of eligible misdemeanor offenses, acknowledging that individuals may quickly accumulate misdemeanors. Thus, the focus of rehabilitation is the applicant’s progress *following* the last offense, not simply the number of previous offenses.

*Id.* at ¶ 22.

## CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth herein, ARC urges this Court to affirm the First District Court of Appeals decision. Because the number of prior convictions is not a useful metric for analyzing a person’s rehabilitative success or likelihood of reoffending, using the number of prior convictions as the sole or primary basis for denying expungement acts against the interests of Ohioans because it removes the use of a tool proven to reduce recidivism and improve the lives of those in recovery.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Stephanie Kessler

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HAMILTON COUNTY**

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

A true copy of this amicus brief was filed electronically and served via email to John D. Hill, Jr. at john.hill@hcpros.org on this 22nd day of January 2025.

/s/ Stephanie Kessler

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HAMILTON COUNTY**

Hamilton County Addiction  
Response Coalition



# State of the Addiction Crisis



2023

Annual Report



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COMMISSIONER DENISE  
DRIEHAUS

# EXECUTIVE CHAIR STATEMENT



Over the past few years, our community has faced significant challenges, particularly concerning individuals grappling with substance use disorder and in need of substantial treatment and support. Despite these obstacles, we are proud to report a notable achievement: a two-year reduction in overdose deaths right here in Hamilton County. This success stands as a testament to the dedication and collaborative efforts of the members of the Hamilton County Addiction Response Coalition (HC ARC). Their tireless innovation and collective work continue to restore lives within our community. As we press forward, we remain resolute in our commitment to sustaining this level of engagement in our ongoing endeavors.

HC ARC serves as a cornerstone in providing expertise and support across various fronts. Operating as an action team, we facilitate vital connections to resources and treatments while addressing addiction through holistic and comprehensive solutions. Our approach is anchored in four fundamental pillars: prevention, treatment, interdiction, and harm reduction. Each of these pillars is fortified by the expertise of individuals serving on the subcommittees of the HC ARC. Furthermore, we have cultivated strong partnerships with local governments, schools, businesses, hospitals, the faith community, and the recovery community, bolstering our efforts and amplifying our impact.

The document you are about to review has been crafted, drawing insights from coalition members. It offers the Hamilton County community a deeper understanding of the magnitude of the addiction problem, sheds light on the work of the HC ARC and its partners, provides an overview of strategies that have yielded positive outcomes, and delineates our goals for the upcoming year. We extend special thanks to the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners for their unwavering support and commitment to addressing the addiction crisis in our community.

# STEERING COMMITTEE

## Executive Chair

Commissioner Denise DrieHaus

## Director

Meagan Guthrie

## Social Program Administrator

Abigail Fritsch

### Prevention Committee

Nicole Schiesler,  
PreventionFIRST!

Shawn Butler,  
UMADAOP

Dr. Kareem Mofteett,  
Cincinnati Public School Board

### Treatment Committee

John Young,  
co-chair of the African American  
Engagement Workgroup

Josh Arnold,  
Talbert House

LaNora Godfrey,  
Mental Health and Recovery Services Board

### Interdiction Committee

Chief Tom Synan,  
Village of Newtown

District Chief Carstell Winston,  
Cincinnati Fire Department

Trina Jackson,  
Hamilton County Office of Reentry

### Harm Reduction Committee

Greg Kesterman,  
Hamilton County Public Health

Tiffany Mattingly,  
The Health Collaborative

### Faith Community Committee

Cameron Foster,  
Addiction Services Council & Mt. Zion  
Missionary Baptist Church

Bishop Mark Flagg,  
Rose Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

### Business Community Committee

J.B. Buse,  
LOTH Holdings, LLC

Dan Meyer,  
Nehemiah Manufacturing

### Recovery Committee

Cassidy Lekan,  
First Step Home

Lee Harrill,  
On the Front Lines Community Alliance



## TOTAL OVERDOSE DEATHS

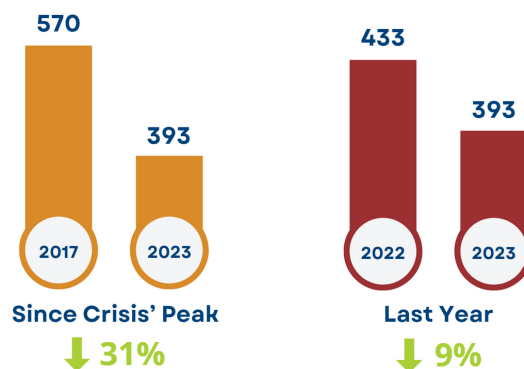
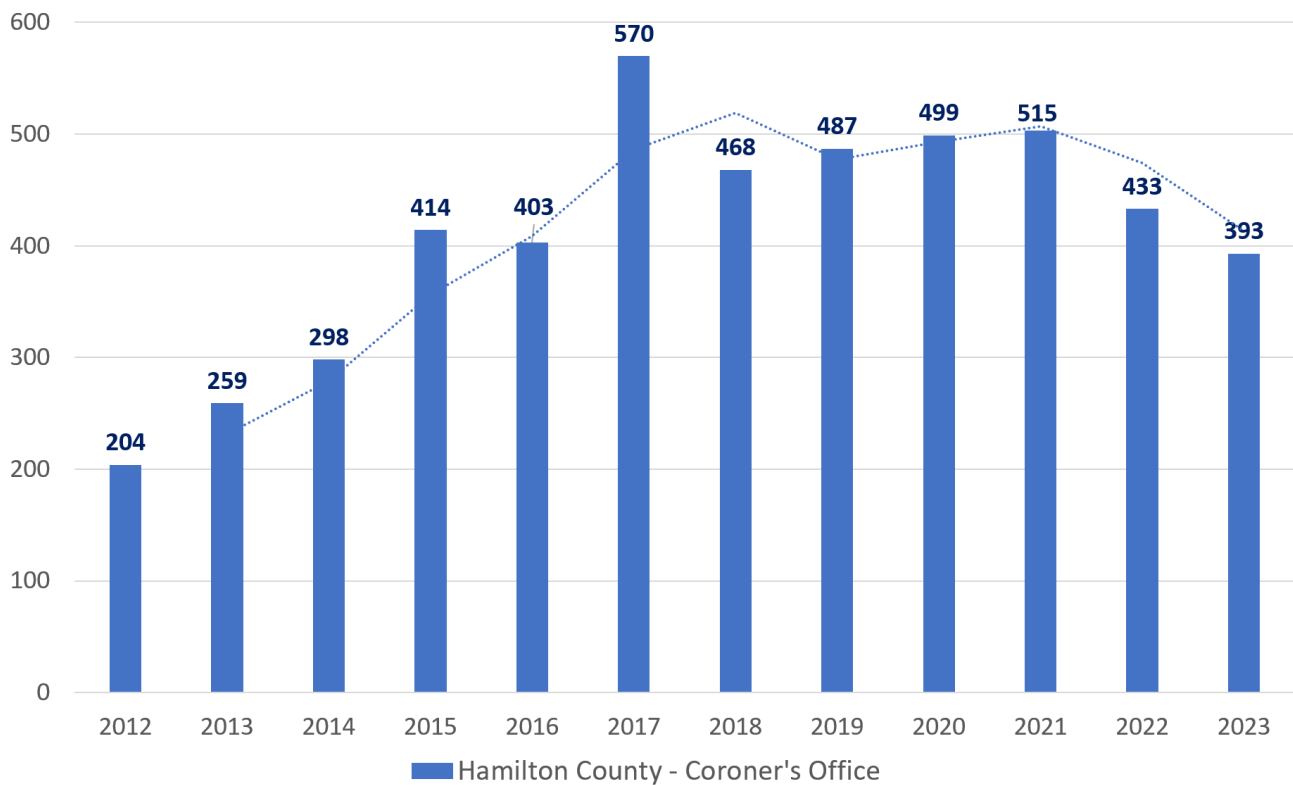


Chart 1 illustrates the total overdose deaths in Hamilton County from 2012 to 2023. Meanwhile, Chart 2 highlights **a significant 31% decrease in overdose deaths** since the peak of the crisis in 2017, dropping from 570 deaths to 393 in 2023. Furthermore, there's been a consistent **year-to-year decrease of 9%**, with the number of deaths decreasing from 433 in 2022 to at least 393 in 2023. This data is provided courtesy of the Hamilton County Coroner's Office.





### DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS



Conduct comprehensive data collection and analysis to better understand the current landscape of youth opioid and prescription medication issues in the community.

Identify trends, risk factors, and gaps in prevention efforts to inform strategic decision-making and resource allocation.

### ACCESS AND AVAILABILITY REDUCTION:



Develop and implement initiatives to decrease easy access and availability of prescription drugs and opioids for youth.

Provide prescriber education on responsible prescribing practices and increase awareness and availability of safe storage and prescription drug disposal options.

### POLICY IMPROVEMENT AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION:



Advocate for policy improvements related to effective prevention education for youth in schools and the African American community.

Initiate community education campaigns to challenge the norm of youth prescription opioid consumption and promote healthier alternatives through awareness-raising activities and outreach efforts.

# PREVENTION

**The Prevention Committee is dedicated to implementing strategies aimed at preventing substance abuse within our community.**

**By focusing on education, awareness, policy modification, and data analysis, the committee endeavors to reduce youth access to prescription drugs and opioids while promoting healthier lifestyle choices.**

**Through collaboration with various stakeholders, including schools, healthcare providers, and community organizations, the Prevention Committee aims to create a safer environment for our youth and empower them to make informed decisions regarding substance use.**

Nicole Schiesler,  
PreventionFIRST!



Dr. Kareem Moffett,  
Cincinnati Public School Board



Shawn Bulter,  
UMADAOP



## PREVENTION

In 2023, the Prevention Committee, co-chaired by UMADAOP and PreventionFIRST!, made significant strides in addressing medication disposal and education. Through strategic partnerships with organizations like the Cincinnati Health Department, the committee deployed medication disposal drop boxes across five clinic pharmacies. These drop boxes facilitated the safe disposal of expired or unneeded medication, resulting in the collection of 135.35 pounds of disposed medication to date. Leveraging collaborative efforts with Hamilton County Public Health, the committee introduced a convenient method for Ohio residents to request medication disposal pouches via text message, thereby enhancing medication safety on a statewide scale.

Furthermore, the committee distributed 950 Detera Bags to organizations within Hamilton County and disseminated 100 Lockboxes to Hamilton County Public Health for use in their harm reduction mobile health unit. Additionally, they provided Detera bags to individuals upon request through OhioRxDisposal.com and distributed educational materials at various health fairs and community events across the county. Beyond medication disposal initiatives, the committee demonstrated a steadfast commitment to capacity-building and community empowerment.

They conducted comprehensive Prevention Education Series and provided 30 hours of technical assistance to various community groups, equipping individuals with the knowledge and resources necessary to address substance use disorders effectively. Moreover, through impactful youth summits and collaborative efforts with stakeholders like Talbert House, the committee fostered youth empowerment and sustainability, positively impacting the community through evidence-based services and collaborative interventions.

The prevention committee exceeded their goals by educating 3,621 children and youth, expanding advocacy efforts, and increasing prevention outreach through community events. UMADAOP also launched the Think Act and Live, One Pill Can Kill campaign to raise awareness about prescription drug abuse. Additionally, their collaboration with HC ARC and Prevention First resulted in serving 127 youth and establishing internship opportunities for high school seniors.

UMADAOP and PreventionFIRST! continued to co-chair the Prevention Committee, aligning their efforts with the committee's overarching strategies focused on education, outreach, and intervention. Through collective endeavors, including impactful youth empowerment initiatives and medication safety campaigns, the community witnessed significant progress in addressing substance use disorders and promoting safer medication practices.



# HAMILTON COUNTY'S OPIOID AFFECTED YOUTH INITIATIVE

In September 2022, HC ARC's Prevention Committee secured a \$733,000 grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's FY22 Opioid Affected Youth Initiative program, greatly enhancing our substance misuse combat efforts. This funding allowed PreventionFIRST! to offer the Student Survey at **no cost** to Hamilton County Schools, closing a critical funding gap. The grant enabled the hiring of an additional Program Coordinator, essential for Student Survey recruitment and the expansion of Prescription Drug Misuse prevention efforts. This staff member played a pivotal role in distributing resources such as medication lock boxes and developing educational materials.

This grant facilitated the administration of the biennial PF! Student Survey, engaging **6,209 students** to provide insights into youth drug use patterns. The analyzed results, expected in March 2024, will inform targeted prevention efforts

The grant expanded UMADAOP's Kinship Wraparound programming, exceeding expectations by serving **127 youth**. Participation in the Ohio Coaching and Mentoring Network also offered internship opportunities for high school seniors.

**01**

Expand and enhance UMADAOP's Kinship Wraparound prevention and intervention programming by engaging and recruiting **355** referrals over the course of the three-year project period

**02**

Increase regional capacity and completion rates of the PreventionFIRST! Student Survey by **52%** over the course of the three-year project period.

**03**

Establish an advisory committee to monitor progress, ensure grant compliance, deliver increased access to comprehensive, culturally competent, evidence-based prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery services.



# TREATMENT

## ACCESS AND ENGAGEMENT:

Conduct ongoing outreach efforts to identify individuals and families in need of treatment and connect them with appropriate resources.

Develop and implement strategies to reduce barriers to treatment, including addressing financial, geographic, and cultural obstacles.

## FUNDING OPTIMIZATION:

Maximize federal, state, and local funding opportunities for community-based treatment programs by advocating for increased allocation and efficient utilization of resources.

Collaborate with funding agencies and grantmakers to develop innovative funding models and secure sustainable funding streams for addiction treatment services.

## DATA ANALYSIS AND REPORTING:

Analyze data related to the efficacy of treatment services, including outcomes, retention rates, and patient satisfaction.

Routinely report the results of data analysis to the Coalition to inform decision-making, identify areas for improvement, and demonstrate the impact of treatment interventions on individuals and the community.

The Treatment Committee is dedicated to addressing the needs of individuals and families affected by addiction within our community. Through strategic outreach, advocacy, and data analysis, the committee strives to ensure equitable access to effective treatment services.

By collaborating with stakeholders at all levels, including federal, state, and local agencies, as well as community-based organizations, the Treatment Committee aims to maximize funding opportunities and implement initiatives to reduce barriers to treatment.

Additionally, the committee focuses on promoting engagement among minority communities, particularly through the African American Engagement Workgroup, to ensure culturally competent and inclusive services.

Josh Arnold,  
Talbert House



LaNora Godfrey,  
Hamilton County Mental Health and  
Recovery Services Board



John Young,  
co-chair AAEW



## TREATMENT

Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board (HCMHRSB) maintained its commitment to funding a comprehensive continuum of care for individuals requiring substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and intervention.

With a CY 2023 annual budget of \$22.9 million, crucial programming across the county received support, bolstering the existing robust care system offered by SUD providers. This funding sustains essential services such as residential treatment, counseling, medication-assisted treatment, intensive outpatient treatment, peer support and recovery housing, case management, outreach, prevention, and engagement.

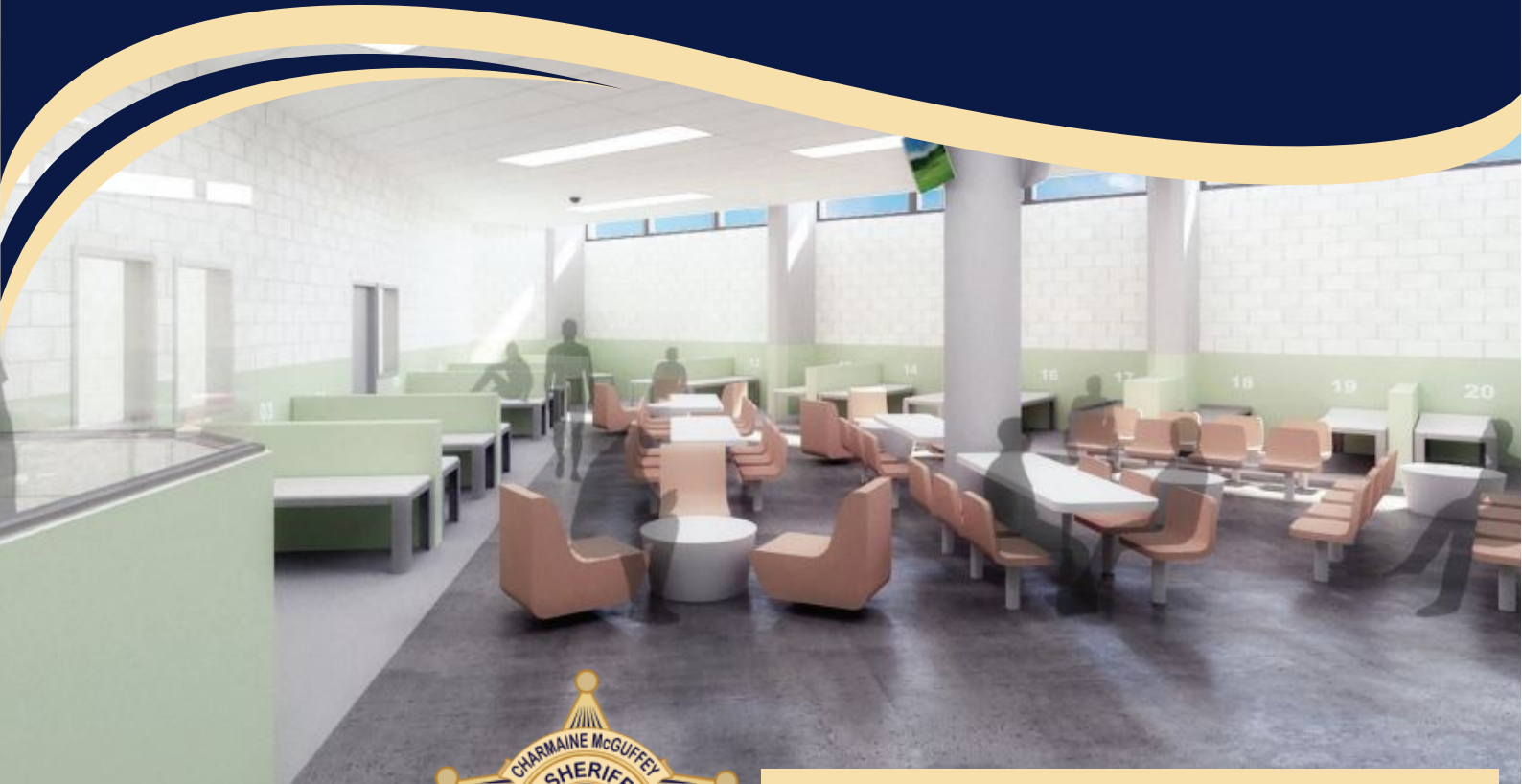
Noteworthy among the year's achievements was the establishment of a Recovery Docket in the Hamilton County Municipal Court, led by Judge Ginnochio. HCMHRSB allocated \$535,000 to Talbert House, the lead agency, to assist individuals with active SUD cases, providing supportive services and linking them to treatment to reduce recidivism and improve quality of life.

Additionally, continuation funding of \$3,185,980 from the State Opioid and Stimulant Response (SOS) 3.2 grant sustained support for individuals with opioid and stimulant misuse, funding nine agencies and 23 projects for operational assistance.

Furthermore, HCMHRSB secured a \$300,000 grant from OhioMHAS to continue local projects addressing Alcohol Use Disorder and received \$50,000 from the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners, sourced from OneOhio Opioid settlement funds, to address Xylazine-related cases. These funds facilitated the distribution of Wound Care Kits and provided training for healthcare professionals, outreach workers, and first responders.

Additionally, HCMHRSB received an additional \$162,000 from the OneOhio fund to ensure continued access to treatment services for individuals who lost Medicaid eligibility.





HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF  
Charmaine McGuffey



## CARE PODS

Designed to address the pressing need for enhanced substance use disorder (SUD) treatment services, the CARE Pods will offer evidence-based SUD treatment and recovery support services.

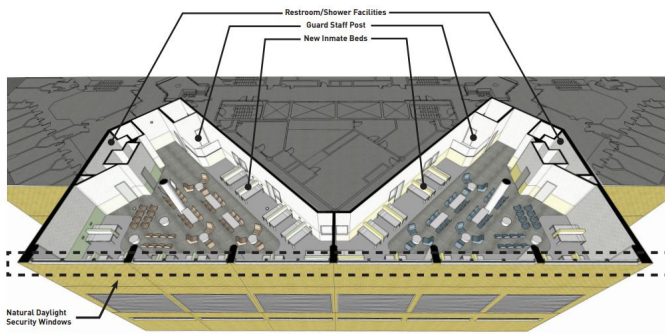
These services will be complemented by **wrap-around linkages to care upon release**, ensuring a holistic approach to rehabilitation.

In 2018, the County Commissioners successfully secured a **\$2.5 million Ohio state capital grant** aimed at supporting the expansion project of the Justice Center.

**The Addiction Services Council** is poised to play a pivotal role by providing residential SUD treatment across the **90+ beds housed within four dormitory-style pods**.

Two of the four pods are designated to cater to inmates struggling with **SUD**, while the other two will focus on inmates grappling with **mental health issues**.

The SUD pods are designed to serve **medium to maximum security offenders**, further emphasizing the commitment to addressing substance use disorders within the justice system.



**OPENING APRIL 2024**



# EDUCATION, MEDICATION, AND SUPPORT PROGRAM

In September 2022, the Hamilton County Office of Addiction Response was awarded a **\$900,000** Bureau of Justice Assistance Improving Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Outcomes for Adults in Reentry Grant.

The Education Medication and Support program has conducted a **total of 1,172 initial referral and phone screenings** to assess eligibility.

Among those, **378 individuals** received services either through the MOUD program or peer support.

Notably, **186 individuals were successfully inducted on MOUD** medications during the year.

**01**

Decrease the recidivism rate for program participants by 20%

**02**

Increase the capacity for screenings by 50% to screen 600 inmates annually and 1,800 total inmates

**03**

Increase inductions for Medications for Opioid Use Disorder by 15% to admit 138 inmates annually, and 414 total inmates

**04**

Provide evidence-based pre- and post-release substance use and cognitive behavioral interventions for inmates, and training for staff, to address criminal behaviors

**05**

Establish an advisory committee to monitor progress, ensure grant compliance, and deliver increased access to treatment, ensuring that all inmates have equal access to quality services





# ENGAGEMENT CENTER

Since its inception in 2018, the Engagement Center has served as a crucial haven for individuals grappling with opioid addiction, offering a pathway to sustainable recovery. In 2020, the center provided indispensable aid to 709 clients, predominantly male and averaging 36 years old, many of whom faced homelessness and co-occurring mental health disorders. With an average of 5 lifetime overdoses reported among this clientele, the severity of their struggles was starkly evident.

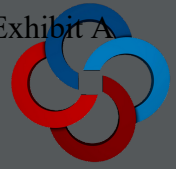
By 2021, the center's impact had expanded significantly, processing 1345 referrals and serving 692 individuals. Notably, there was a notable increase in African American males seeking treatment, showcasing a broadening reach and efficacy in addressing diverse community needs.

Central to the center's success are its discharge protocols, with 72% of clients seamlessly connected to primary substance use treatment under medical advisement. Its commitment to holistic care is evident in the 100% positive discharges to community-based treatment, bolstered by comprehensive social supports such as housing and recovery assistance.

In 2022, the center continued its vital response to community needs, processing 1440 referrals and serving 689 individuals. Alarming, 92% of admitted clients had a history of using three or more mood-altering chemicals, including Fentanyl, with 37% experiencing at least one overdose within thirty days of admission.

By 2023, the landscape had shifted dramatically, with Fentanyl pervading nearly every drug of choice, resulting in a clinically more severe population. Clients required extended stays due to heightened acuity, with the average length of stay increasing from 3-5 days to 10-15 days. Peer Recovery Coaches, embedded within the center, played a pivotal role in supporting clients' transition to the next level of care, ensuring a seamless hand-off.

This data underscores the pivotal role of the Engagement Center in combating opioid addiction, offering a beacon of hope and concrete pathways to recovery for individuals navigating addiction in the community.



# **The Hamilton County Crisis Center**

The Hamilton County Crisis Center, slated to launch in early 2025, marks the dawn of a transformative era in crisis services for individuals facing mental health or substance use emergencies within the county. This innovative initiative is poised to address critical needs by providing accessible and integrated interventions through a continuum of crisis services centralized in one location.

Central to the Crisis Center's mission is the commitment to offering 24/7 access to essential resources. This encompasses the provision of residential treatment beds designed to cater to individuals grappling with dual diagnoses of substance use and mental health disorders. Additionally, the center will provide triage and withdrawal management services specifically tailored to those battling opioid and other drug addictions.

Recognizing the pressing nature of mental health crises, the Crisis Center will also feature 12 observation beds, along with a specialized 15-bed stabilization program and a 16-bed short-term residential treatment program dedicated to clients experiencing acute psychological distress. Furthermore, to ensure comprehensive care, the facility will offer vital ancillary services such as pharmacy services and a primary care facility to address healthcare needs comprehensively.

A key objective of the Crisis Center is to enhance coordination of care among diverse stakeholders in the healthcare system. Through fostering collaboration with system partners and implementing centralized data collection mechanisms, the center aims to optimize resource allocation and improve communication channels, particularly for individuals with complex needs or those who frequently access crisis services.





# INTERDICTION



## RESOURCE EXPANSION AND COORDINATION:

Expand the services provided by the one-stop resource center to ensure comprehensive support for individuals in need, including access to treatment, housing, and social services.

Partner with Northern Kentucky officials and 513 Relief Bus Services to coordinate events and initiatives that increase the availability of resources in the region, particularly in underserved areas.



## DEFLECTION PROGRAMMING ENHANCEMENT:

Expand and enhance county-wide deflection programming to provide alternative pathways for individuals with substance use disorders, emphasizing diversion from the criminal justice system to treatment and support services.

Collaborate with community partners to develop and implement innovative deflection strategies tailored to the unique needs of our population, including diversion at the point of contact with law enforcement and in healthcare settings.



## ADVOCACY AND PARTNERSHIP

Continue to advocate for policy changes and legislative initiatives that support the reduction of fentanyl and other illicit drugs entering the United States, working in partnership with federal agencies, legislators, and Congress.

Strengthen partnerships with federal law enforcement agencies, legislators, and community stakeholders to leverage resources, share best practices, and support initiatives aimed at addressing the supply side of the opioid crisis.

The Interdiction Committee is committed to law enforcement efforts aimed at reducing the supply of illicit drugs and implementing deflection strategies to divert individuals away from the criminal justice system and into treatment and support services.

Through advocacy, partnership-building, and resource coordination, the committee works to influence policy changes at the local, state, and federal levels.

Additionally, the committee focuses on expanding access to resources and enhancing deflection programming to address the complex needs of individuals struggling with addiction.

Chief Tom Synan,  
Village of Newtown



District Chief Carstell  
Winston,  
Cincinnati Fire Department



Trina Jackson,  
Hamilton County Office of  
Reentry

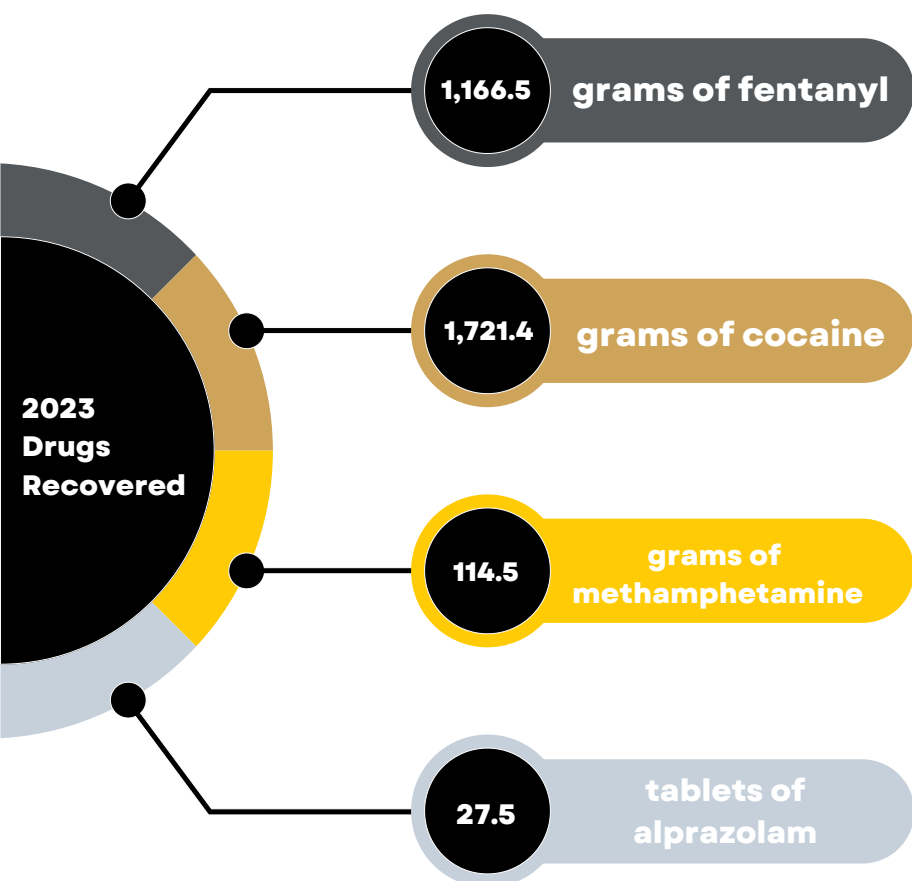
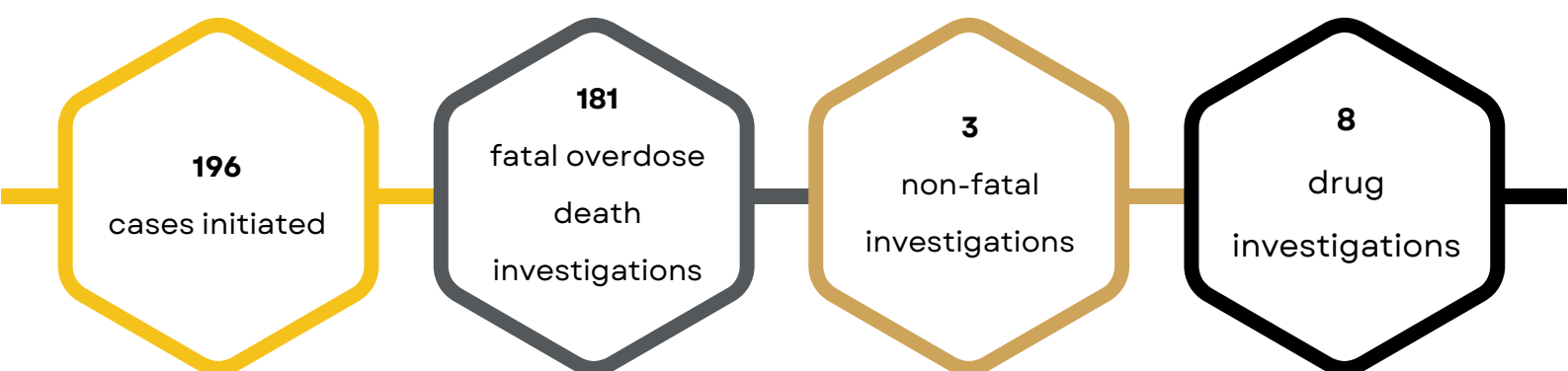






# HAMILTON COUNTY HEROIN TASK FORCE

## 2023 INVESTIGATIVE CASELOAD



### Investigative Commander

Captain Thomas Fallon - Amberley Village Police Department (AVPD)

### Assistant Commanders

Michael Davenport, AVPD

Special Agent Josh Schlie - Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation

### Field Supervisor

Corporal Mark Bohan - Hamilton County Sheriff's Office (HCSO)

### Task Force Officers

Corporal Shawn Cox, HCSO

Detective Phil Herrmann, CPD

Detective Ryan Robertson, CPD

Detective James Drake (JD), AVPD

Special Agent Mitch Bedard, Drug Enforcement Administration

### Operations Coordinator

Richard Blyberg - Retired Ohio State Highway Patrol

### Criminal Analyst

Grant Armsbruster - Ohio National Guard

# HAMILTON COUNTY QUICK RESPONSE TEAM

## HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

Hamilton County's Quick Response Team (QRT) embodies a collaborative, co-responder approach designed to aid individuals facing substance use disorder, mental health disorder, co-occurring disorders, or homelessness. This initiative employs a dedicated team comprising law enforcement and peer navigators.

Together, they forge community-based pathways to crucial services such as treatment, recovery support, housing, case management, and other essential resources.

## HOW DOES HAMILTON COUNTY DEFINE DEFLECTION?

An intervention initiated by a co-responder team (law enforcement and navigator) to change an individual's trajectory or divert them **out** of the criminal justice system and assisting them **into** Hamilton County's continuum of care.



*Collaborating with other community agencies, the QRT team engages in diverse special projects, serving as a vital link to essential resources and services, while also playing a key role in community education and awareness.*

## HOW IT WORKS: RESOURCES



Linkage to Care



Harm Reduction  
Material Distribution



Hygiene Kits



Wellness Checks

## EVIDENCE-BASED IMPACT OF QRT

The QRT has evidenced a significant impact. While Ohio's overdose deaths increased from 2017 to 2023, Hamilton County experienced substantial reductions, in part due to its strategic deflection programming involving diverse outreach initiatives for community-based services related to substance use, mental health, homelessness, and other quality of life concerns.



7,900+ Inbound Referrals



14,700+ Interactions



15,500+ Harm Reduction Materials Distributed



850+ Community Events

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

- 513 Relief Bus Outreach
- Drug Treatment & Recovery Court
- Post-Overdose Response
- African American Outreach Team
- Holistic Outreach for Priority People
- Wellness Checks
- Community Outreach & Engagement Events
- Stigma-Free Access for Everyone (SAFE) Van Outreach
- Veterans Outreach

### CAPTAIN TOM FALLON

Commander, Hamilton County Heroin Task Force

[tfallon@gcfc.org](mailto:tfallon@gcfc.org)

### MEAGAN GUTHRIE

Director, Hamilton County Office of Addiction Response

[Meagan.Guthrie@Hamilton-co.org](mailto:Meagan.Guthrie@Hamilton-co.org)

# Prevention & Active Outreach

## Holistic Outreach for Priority People

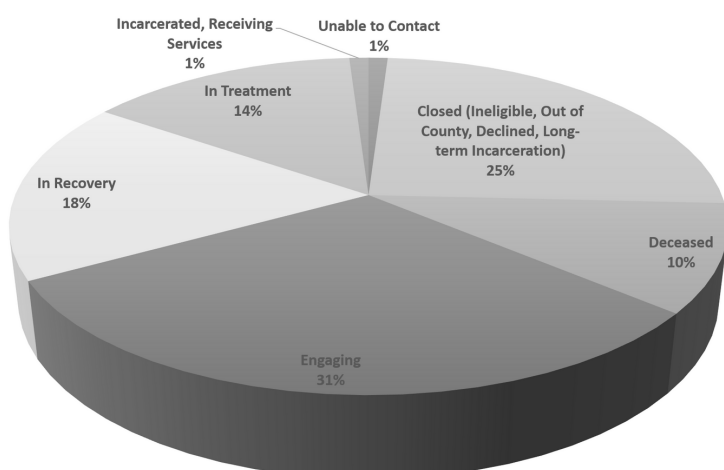
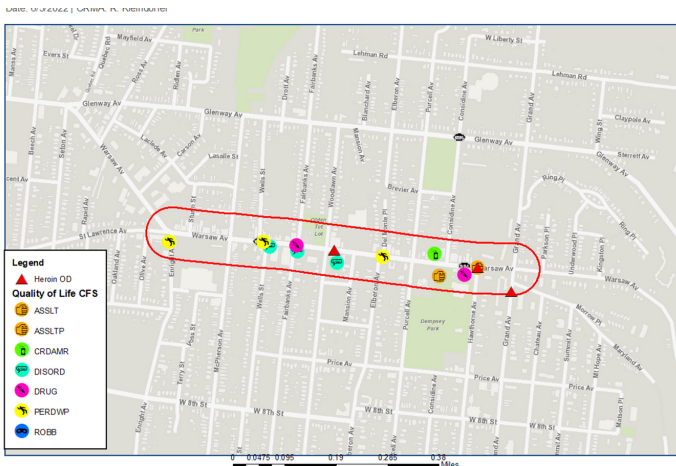
The collaboration began with the three neighborhoods of East, West, and Lower Price Hill, initially focusing on directing referrals to the HOPP team for incidents involving **three or more overdoses**.

This effort evolved to include law enforcement and community-based referrals for individuals requiring intensive case management.

To date, the navigator has diligently engaged with **97 participants**, managing an active caseload ranging from 30 to 40 individuals with diverse needs.

Notably, this dedicated effort has yielded significant results, including a remarkable **66% reduction** in the number of documented overdoses.

The initiative effectively addresses pressing issues such as known homeless encampments and condemned buildings with trespassers. It facilitates a warm hand off to the **Hamilton County Quick Response Team**, streamlining the referral process by providing individuals' names, dates of birth, and reasons for referral.





# Improving Life Expectancy and Life Expectancy Disparities in Cincinnati

Improving life expectancy is vital given the disparity between Cincinnati's average of 75.3 and the US city average of 79.1 in 2022, highlighting a 25-year gap in neighborhood life expectancy.

Addressing these disparities is crucial for overall improvement, yet previous efforts have often overlooked life expectancy, lacking measurable outcomes and a broad scope.

Recognizing that life expectancy represents an average and lacks incremental changes, there's a need for focused strategies to bridge these gaps and ensure equitable access to healthcare and resources for all communities.

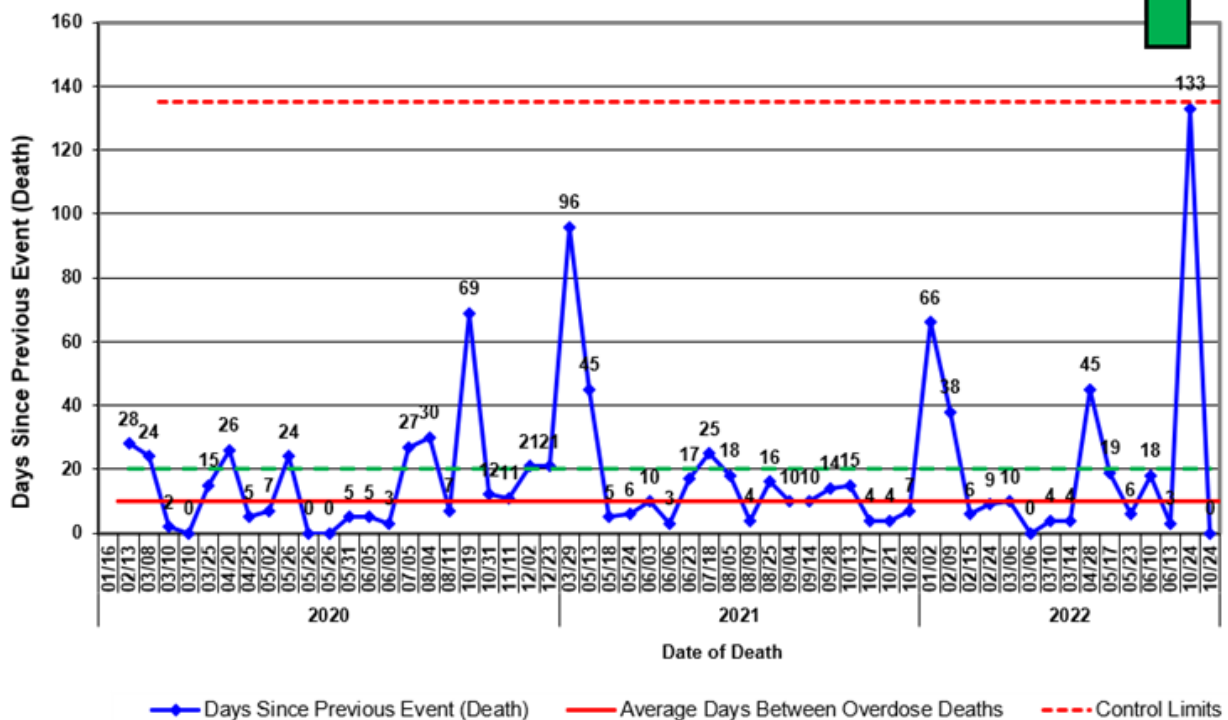
01 Establish measurable outcome, identify high-impact areas

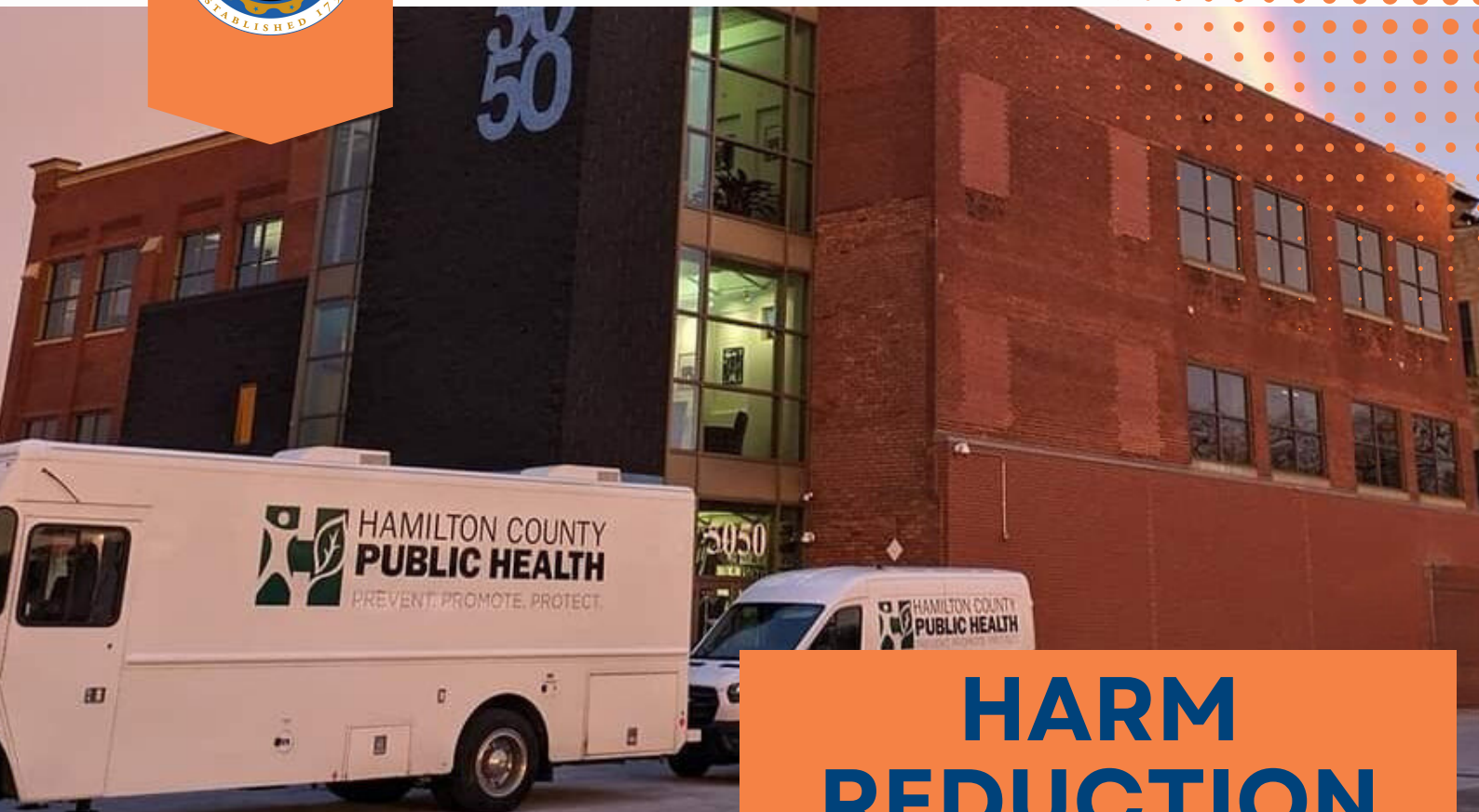
02 Encourage diverse stakeholders for independent interventions

03 Evaluate short-term efficacy

04 Reward, adapt, and reapply successful actions

East Price Hill Days Between Overdose Deaths  
2020 - 2022





# HARM REDUCTION

## COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE DELIVERY:



Provide practical strategies, tools, and comprehensive access to harm reduction services tailored to meet the diverse needs of individuals and communities.

Ensure that harm reduction services are delivered without stigma and are data-driven, with a focus on improving overall community health outcomes.

## STAKEHOLDER ALIGNMENT AND ADVOCACY:



Develop key talking points about harm reduction to align stakeholders and prioritize audiences through strategic content development and targeted conversations.

Advocate for policies and initiatives that support harm reduction efforts, emphasizing the importance of evidence-based approaches and community engagement.

## ACCESS IMPROVEMENT AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT:



Identify barriers to accessing harm reduction services and develop strategies to address these barriers while meeting the evolving needs of the community.

Conduct regular assessments to evaluate the effectiveness of harm reduction services, gather community feedback, and implement improvements based on identified needs and challenges.

**The Harm Reduction Committee is dedicated to fostering a collaborative network of service providers aimed at promoting the health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities.**

**By prioritizing access to comprehensive harm reduction services delivered without stigma, the committee strives to address the complex needs of vulnerable populations affected by substance use.**

**Through data-driven approaches and stakeholder engagement, the committee seeks to improve access to harm reduction services while advocating for policies that support community health and safety.**

**Tiffany Mattingly,**  
The Health Collaborative



**Greg Kesterman,**  
Hamilton County Public Health



## HARM REDUCTION

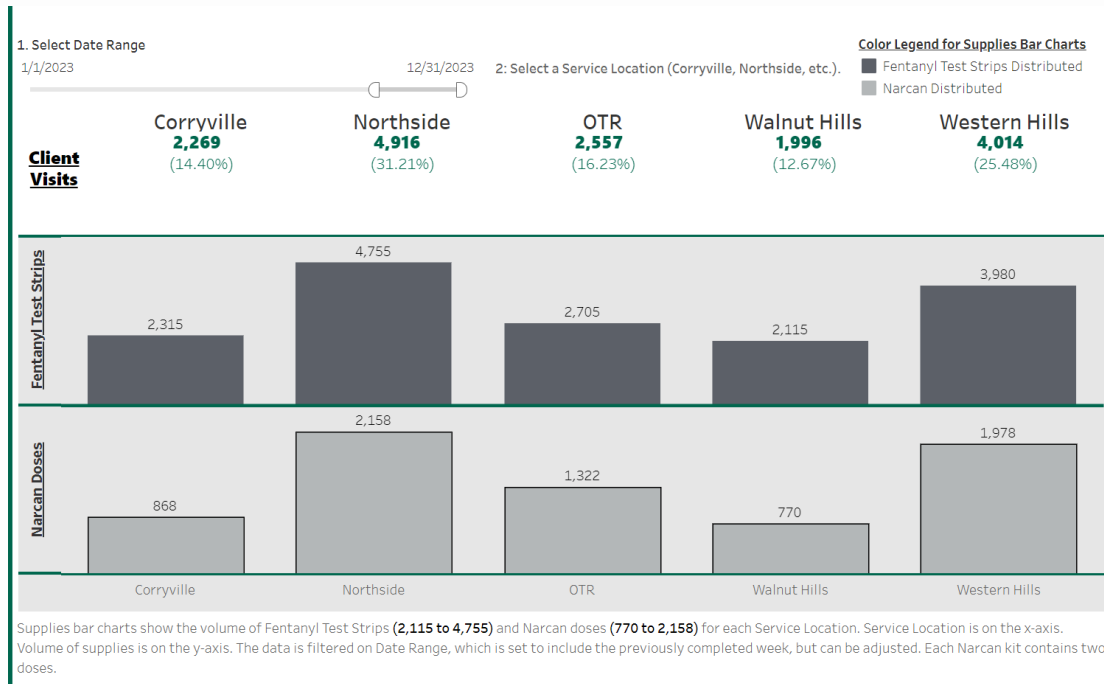
Dedicated to providing stigma-free access to essential services, the Harm Reduction Committee has launched three vending machines in collaboration with the Cincinnati Fire Department, Neighborhub Health, and UC Health. These machines offer items like naloxone, fentanyl test strips, wound care supplies, safe sex materials, and Dterra bags, operating anonymously 24/7 for registered participants.

In response to the increasing severity of wounds from xylazine in the drug supply, Hamilton County Public Health has partnered with Neighborhub Health to provide wound care services at the Corryville SAFE Services site every Friday. Moreover, Neighborhub Health's mobile unit extends healthcare assistance to SAFE services participants, highlighting a commitment to tailored and comprehensive healthcare solutions for our community.

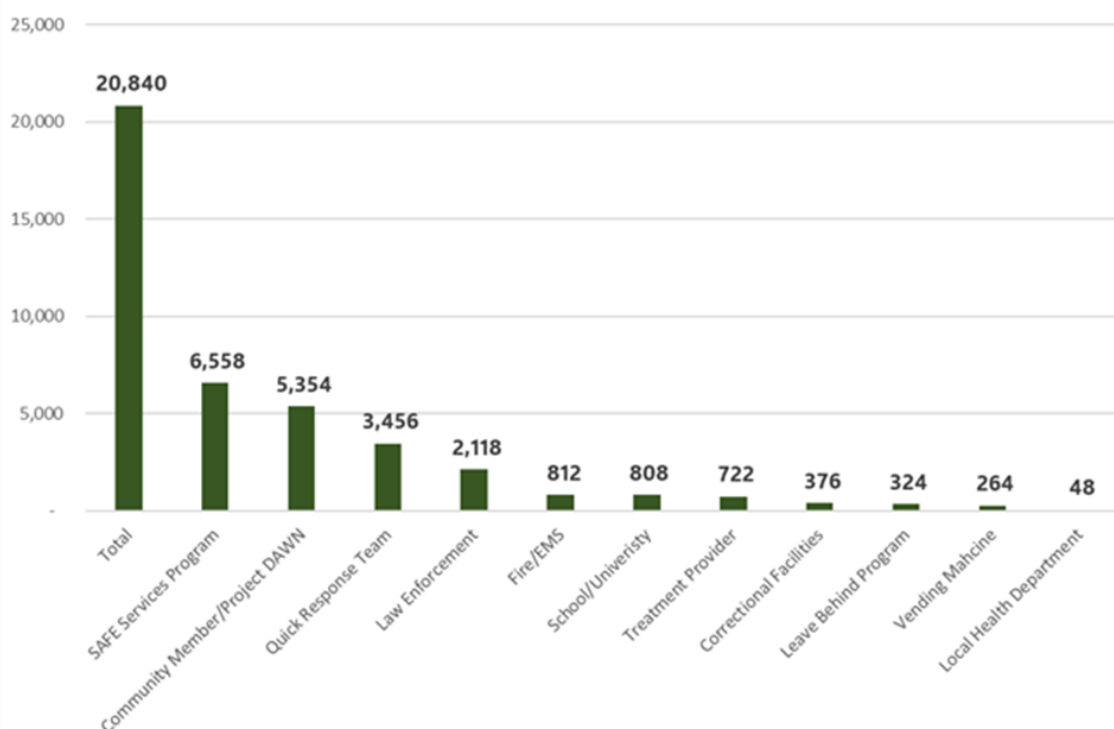
Looking ahead, efforts will focus on enhancing linkage to care initiatives across various domains. Collaboration with QRT aims to improve community linkage, while partnerships with the Addiction Services Council aim to strengthen linkage within the justice center. Additionally, leveraging HCPH personnel will extend linkage to care offerings within the disease prevention clinic.

Furthermore, priority is placed on provider education to deepen understanding of substance use disorder and mitigate associated stigma. Through targeted education sessions, healthcare students and professionals across diverse health-related fields will gain insight, fostering a more informed and compassionate approach to addressing these challenges.

## SAFE Services Supply Distribution



## 2023 Naloxone Distribution by Dose





## Stories Over Stigma

**This initiative aims to combat stigma by humanizing overdose and substance use-related calls. Through building rapport with first responders and equipping them with practical tools, the program fosters understanding and empathy in the field.**



**In 2023, Hamilton County Public Health unveiled the Stories Over Stigma program, a collaborative effort between HCPH, fire departments across the county, and individuals with firsthand experience of substance use.**



**This year, we partnered with 12 fire departments, conducting 37 training sessions with overwhelmingly positive feedback. One attending first responder emphasized the importance of persistence in helping those in need.**



**We are committed to extending sessions to first responders while also broadening the initiative's reach to encompass local businesses and community organizations.**



# FAITH COMMUNITY



## MEMBERSHIP EXPANSION AND OUTREACH:

Expand the membership of the committee by reaching out to additional faith-based organizations and community leaders who are passionate about supporting individuals in recovery.

Conduct outreach efforts to engage faith communities and encourage participation in coalition activities and initiatives.



## FAITH ROUNDTABLE ESTABLISHMENT:

Create a faith roundtable consisting of multi-denominational clergy and congregational representatives to facilitate collaboration and communication among faith communities.

Host quarterly meetings to provide a platform for sharing resources, best practices, and support for individuals and families affected by addiction.



## ADDICTION AWARENESS EVENTS:

Recruit 30 congregations to host addiction awareness events aimed at raising awareness about substance use disorders and promoting understanding and compassion within the community.

Collaborate with faith-based organizations to organize and promote events that provide education, support, and resources for individuals seeking recovery and their loved ones.

**The Faith Community Recovery Committee recognizes that recovery encompasses all aspects of an individual's life, including mind, body, spirit, and community.**

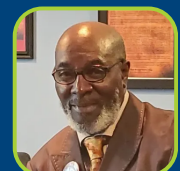
**For many individuals, faith plays a crucial role in their journey to recovery. The committee is dedicated to leveraging the compassion and local understanding of faith communities to bring hope and healing to those in need.**

**By fostering collaboration and raising awareness, the committee seeks to support individuals struggling with addiction and promote holistic recovery within the community.**

**Cameron Foster,**  
Addiction Services Council



**Bishop Mark Flagg,**  
Rose Chapel Missionary Baptist Church



# AFRICAN AMERICAN ENGAGEMENT WORKGROUP

**To raise awareness and establish a bridge connecting the African American community in Hamilton County to accessible, available, and affordable addiction treatment and recovery services.**

In collaboration with various agencies and fourteen churches, the AAEW facilitated several impactful initiatives.

Notably, four churches provided counseling services, resulting in 76 individuals engaging in treatment. The Peer Recovery Network's collaboration with churches led to 169 outreach events, 698 contacts, and 166 referrals to treatment centers.

The House of Joy's "Women with a Destiny" program placed 11 individuals in treatment, while Truth and Destiny church's events led 13 individuals to treatment and employment connections.

AAEW also organized three youth community conversations and a Youth Matters Summit attended by 61 youths.

Additionally, efforts by Greater New Hope MBC and Endeavor Church strengthened community engagement, reaching 2,065 individuals.



2,692 contacts with AAEW



2,065 people received harm reduction materials



266 people accessed treatment services



169 outreach events conducted



64 church champions were trained



61 youth attended Youth Matters Summit



59 youth attended community conversations



5 women entered sober living



3 churches hosted weekly support groups





# BUSINESS COMMUNITY



## AWARENESS AND EDUCATION:

Inform the business community about the coalition's mission and pillars by raising awareness and providing education on topics related to substance use and addiction.

Engage business leaders through outreach efforts, workshops, and informational sessions to promote understanding of the opioid epidemic and the role of businesses in addressing it.



## COLLABORATION AND RESOURCE SHARING:

Identify intersections where businesses can supply resources, strategies, and institutional knowledge to meet the needs of the coalition.

Foster partnerships between the business community and the coalition to leverage resources and expertise, enhancing the effectiveness of coalition initiatives and programs.



## EXPANSION OF RECOVERY-FRIENDLY WORKPLACE:

Expand and enhance the award-winning Recovery-Friendly Hamilton County Workplace Initiative to promote supportive environments for individuals in recovery within local businesses.

Collaborate with businesses to implement best practices, policies, and programs that support employees affected by substance use disorders, reducing stigma and increasing access to resources for recovery.

The Business Community Committee plays a pivotal role in coordinating efforts between the public and private sectors to maximize the impact of the coalition in promoting community health and safety.

With a focus on engaging local businesses, this committee strives to harness the collective power of the business community to combat the opioid epidemic in our county.

By raising awareness, fostering collaboration, and promoting engagement, the committee aims to inform business leaders about the coalition's mission and pillars, identify opportunities for businesses to contribute resources and expertise, and enhance the coalition's visibility across the region.

JB Buse,  
LOTH Holdings



Dan Meyer,  
Nehemiah Manufacturing



## BUSINESS COMMUNITY

In February 2023, Hamilton County Public Health's RFHC Initiative proudly accepted the Workforce Champion Award from the Workforce Council of Southwest Ohio, honoring our dedication to fostering employee well-being in the workplace. Following this accolade, in November 2023, RFHC was delighted to receive the CLIMB (Cincinnati Lifts Inclusion and Minority Business) Award from the Cincinnati Business Courier, showcasing our commitment to diversity and inclusion initiatives.

Over the past two years, RFHC has successfully onboarded 50 constituent workplaces, representing a collective workforce of over 15,000 employees. Our resource posters, accessed through context-specific Flowcodes, have been scanned 337 times as of February 9, 2024, providing employees with access to a wide range of substance use disorder treatment and recovery resources.

Initial survey findings from RFHC employers and employees reflect broad support for the program, with reports indicating enhanced employee retention, improved morale, and increased utilization of resources for mental health and substance/alcohol use disorder-related issues.

Through 112 engagement efforts, including training sessions and consultations, RFHC has facilitated indirect linkage to care and provided vital support to employees. Additionally, our outreach efforts have led to three anonymous linkages to care calls, underscoring the effectiveness of our initiatives.

Recognized as a leader in the national Recovery Friendly Workplace (RFW) movement, RFHC has been invited to extend support to other states and regions. Moreover, our selection to participate in the steering committee for a new global recovery initiative solidifies our reputation as a pioneer in workplace wellness and recovery support.





# RECOVERY

The Recovery Committee is dedicated to recognizing and amplifying the essential role of lived experience in shaping the coalition's initiatives and programs.

With a focus on incorporating the voices of individuals who have experienced addiction and recovery firsthand, the committee works to ensure that the needs and perspectives of those affected by substance use disorders are central to the coalition's efforts.

Additionally, the committee has identified a dedicated representative to focus on wrap-around support services, including transportation, housing, and other essential needs-based services, to provide comprehensive support for individuals in recovery across the region.

Cassidy Lekan,  
First Step Home



Lee Harrill,  
On the Front Lines Community Alliance



## AMPLIFICATION OF LIVED EXPERIENCE VOICES:

Facilitate opportunities for individuals with lived experience of addiction and recovery to share their stories, insights, and perspectives within the coalition.

Incorporate the input and feedback of individuals with lived experience into the development and implementation of coalition initiatives, ensuring that programs are responsive to the needs of those they aim to serve.

## WRAP-AROUND SUPPORT SERVICES ENHANCEMENT:

Identify gaps and barriers in access to wrap-around support services, including transportation, housing, and other essential needs-based services, for individuals in recovery.

Develop and implement strategies to enhance the availability and accessibility of wrap-around support services, working collaboratively with community partners and service providers.

## ADVOCACY AND EMPOWERMENT:

Advocate for policies and initiatives that support the rights and dignity of individuals in recovery, promoting empowerment and self-advocacy within the recovery community.

Provide resources and support to empower individuals in recovery to become advocates for themselves and their peers, fostering a sense of agency and leadership within the community.

## RECOVERY

In December 2023, the Hamilton County Addiction Response Coalition Steering Committee took a significant step by adopting a 7th pillar - Recovery. This pivotal decision aimed to formally incorporate the voices of individuals with lived experience into the coalition's framework, along with a focus on recovery support services such as housing, transportation, childcare, and other essential wraparound services crucial for stability post-treatment.

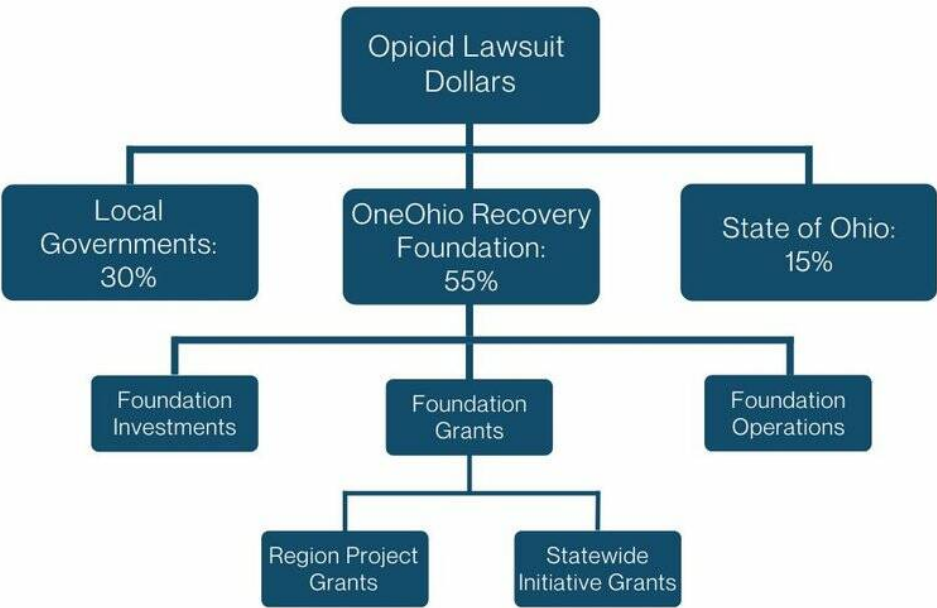
We're proud to welcome Cassidy Lekan of First Step Home and Lee Harrill of the On the Front Lines Community Alliance to fill these vital roles. At its core, community recovery is about lifting each other up and driving inspired action for change.

In 2019, six Ohio Certified Peer Recovery Supporters convened to brainstorm ways to enhance the credibility and versatility of the emerging peer profession. The result was the On the Front Lines Community Alliance. OTFLCA works closely with Relink.org, a centralized database offering seamless access to referral information, covering every Ohio zip code. This comprehensive resource database encompasses addiction recovery, behavioral health, reentry, and family resources, including basic needs like housing, food, clothing, and employment.

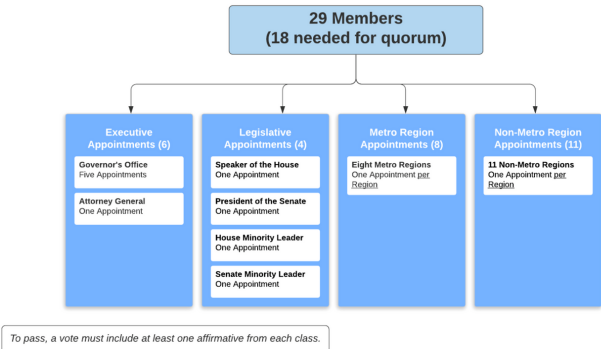
Additionally, the Peer Advisory Council (PAC) stands as a joint project comprising dedicated representatives from the OTFLCA, each with lived experience of substance use disorder or mental health. These council members play a crucial role in guiding the organization's mission by leveraging their professional expertise, diverse knowledge of constituent perspectives, and connections to local resources, colleagues, and peers.

Together, we strive to ensure that addiction response efforts remain relevant, person-centered, and informed by the lived experience of those affected by addiction, fostering meaningful change in our community.

# OneOhio Recovery Statewide Foundation



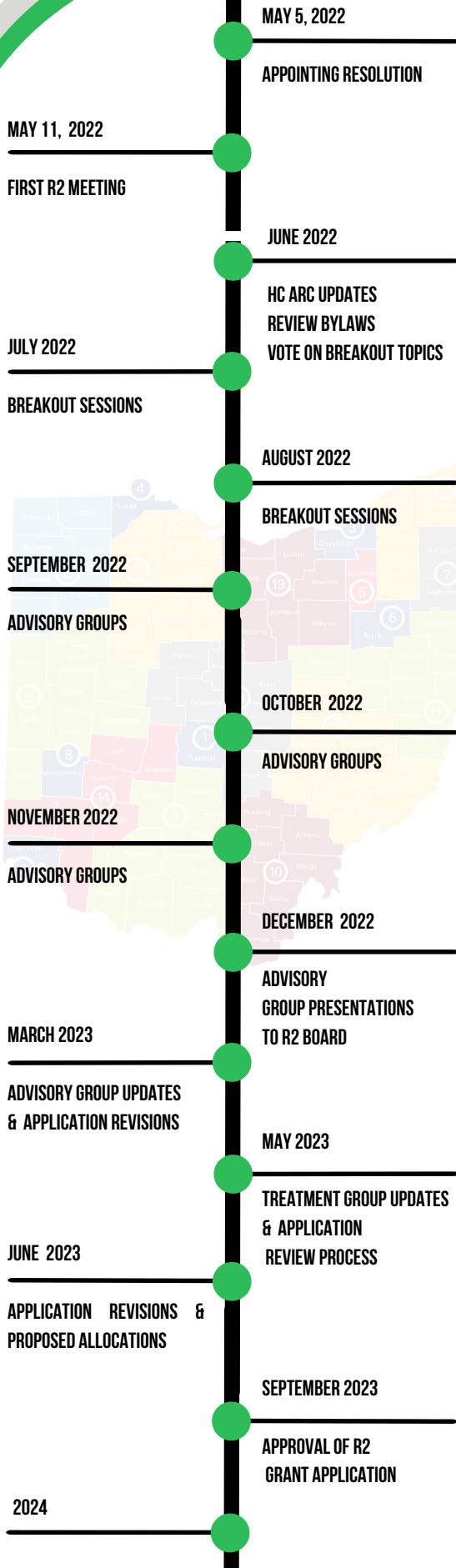
## Abatement Strategies



## 2024 REGIONAL GRANT CYCLE -- KEY DATES

| Key Dates            |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| RFP Release          | March 4, 2024 |
| Registration Opens   | March 4, 2024 |
| Application Opens    | April 2, 2024 |
| Application Due Date | May 3, 2024   |





## HAMILTON COUNTY ONEOHIO REGION 2 FOUNDATION GOVERNANCE BOARD

Hamilton County has secured a substantial settlement agreement with opioid manufacturers and distributors, totaling over \$800 million for Ohio and its communities to address the opioid crisis.

55% of these funds will be channeled through a state-level foundation to nineteen regional foundations, including Hamilton County's Region 2 Foundation.

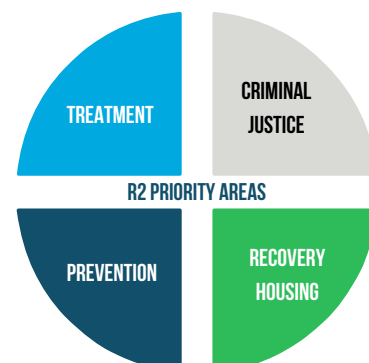
This Foundation's Governance Board will oversee the allocation of at least \$36,396,145.01 over the next 18 years to fund projects combating the opioid crisis in the area.

### 2024 REGIONAL GRANT SCHEDULE

Monday, March 4: RFP posted on this Grant HQ webpage; Grant registration opens in the OneOhio Grant Portal

Tuesday, April 2: Application window opens in the OneOhio Grant Portal

Friday, May 3: Application submissions due in the OneOhio Grant Portal by 11:59 p.m. EST



# Hamilton County OneOhio Local Funds

## 2023 Grant Awards

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Workforce Development Services</b><br><b>\$300,000</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providing workforce development services to individuals with lived experience in Ohio Certification Peer Support.</li> </ul> | <b>Recovery Housing and Support Services</b><br><b>\$272,250</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foster the development and implementation of innovative recovery housing models and wrap-around support services for individuals transitioning from higher levels of care</li> </ul> | <b>Prevention Programming</b><br><b>\$247,000</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Addressing substance use issues, particularly opioids, with a special emphasis on vulnerable populations.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adolescent</li> <li>Older Adult</li> <li>African American Community</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
|---|--|--|

### Awarded Agencies:

Addiction Services Council

EasterSeals

### Awarded Agencies:

Sunstone

Blue Heart Services



Oxford House

### Awarded Agencies:

PreventionFIRST!

eXclusive Services

## 2024 Funding Priorities

|   |  |   |  |  |  |   |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| <b>Treatment</b><br> | <b>Address the Needs of Criminal Justice Involved Persons</b><br> | <b>Services for Children</b><br> | <b>Leadership, Planning, and Coordination</b><br> | <b>Prevent Over-Prescribing of Opioids</b><br> | <b>Prevent Overdose Deaths (Harm Reduction)</b><br> | <b>Stigma Reduction, Training, and Education</b><br> |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|

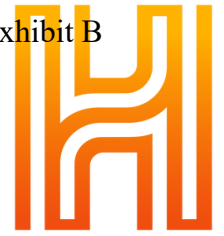


**HAMILTON COUNTY  
ADDICTION RESPONSE  
COALITION  
AGENCY LIST**

|  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <b>3CDC</b>  | <b>Cincinnati Fire Department</b>                         | <b>DeCoach Rehabilitation Centre</b>                   | <b>Hamilton County Board of County Commissioner</b>                |
| <b>A1 Stigma Free Coalition</b>                      | <b>Cincinnati Health Department</b>                       | <b>Drug Free Clubs of America</b>                      | <b>Hamilton County Coroner's Office</b>                            |
| <b>Acadia Healthcare</b>                             | <b>Cincinnati/Hamilton County Public Library Branches</b> | <b>DSD Advisors LLC</b>                                | <b>Hamilton County ESC</b>   |
| <b>Addiction Services Council</b>                    | <b>Cincinnati Ohio Police</b>                             | <b>Easter Seals</b>                                    | <b>Hamilton County Fire Chiefs Association</b>                     |
| <b>AFL- CIO</b>                                      | <b>Federal Credit Union (COPFCU)</b>                      | <b>Enerfab</b>   | <b>Hamilton County Heroin Task Force</b>                           |
| <b>Alkermes</b>                                      | <b>Cincinnati Police Department</b>                       | <b>Ethan Crossing</b>                                  | <b>Hamilton County Job and Family Services</b>                     |
| <b>Allen Temple Church</b>                           | <b>Cincinnati Reds</b>                                    | <b>eXclusive Services</b>                              | <b>Hamilton County Mental Health &amp; Recovery Services Board</b> |
| <b>American Legacy Theatre</b>                       | <b>Cincinnati State</b>                                   | <b>FC Cincinnati</b>                                   | <b>Hamilton County Office of Reentry</b>                           |
| <b>Anderson Township</b>                             | <b>Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber</b>                    | <b>Findlay Market</b>                                  | <b>Hamilton County Prosecutor</b>                                  |
| <b>Archdiocese of Cincinnati</b>                     | <b>Cincinnati Works</b>                                   | <b>Freestore Foodbank</b>                              | <b>Hamilton County Public Health</b>                               |
| <b>ARC Centers</b>                                   | <b>City Gospel Mission</b>                                | <b>From Fatherless to Fearless</b>                     | <b>Hamilton County Sheriff's Office</b>                            |
| <b>ASAP Norwood</b>                                  | <b>City of Cincinnati</b>                                 | <b>Fortin Advisory</b>                                 | <b>Harm Reduction Ohio</b>   |
| <b>Because You Matter LLC</b>                        | <b>City of Sharonville</b>                                | <b>Frost, Brown, Todd</b>                              | <b>Healthcare Access Now</b>                                       |
| <b>Best Point Education &amp; Behavioral Health</b>  | <b>CleanSlate Centers</b>                                 | <b>Glad House</b>                                      | <b>HealthPath Foundation</b>                                       |
| <b>BioCoRX</b>                                       | <b>Clermont Recovery Center</b>                           | <b>GLAST</b>   | <b>Hightowers Petroleum Co.</b>                                    |
| <b>Bloc Ministries</b>                               | <b>Cohear</b>   | <b>Glenwood Behavioral</b>                             | <b>Hope Valley Recovery</b>  |
| <b>Block By Block</b>                                | <b>Colerain Township</b>                                  | <b>Government Strategies Group</b>                     | <b>Hope Over Homlessness</b>                                       |
| <b>Blue Heart Services</b>                           | <b>Common Pleas Court Hamilton County</b>                 | <b>Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services</b>   | <b>Hotel California By the Sea</b>                                 |
| <b>BlueRidge Vista</b>                               | <b>Community Health Alliance</b>                          | <b>Greater Cincinnati Foundation</b>                   | <b>Huntington National Bank</b>                                    |
| <b>Boulder Care</b>                                  | <b>Community Medical Services</b>                         | <b>Greater Cincinnati Fusion Center</b>                | <b>IlSCO</b>   |
| <b>Brightview Health</b>                             | <b>Cordata Healthcare Innovations</b>                     | <b>Greater Cincinnati YMCAs</b>                        | <b>Indivior</b>  |
| <b>Caracole</b>                                      | <b>Council Member Jan Michelle Kearney's Office</b>       | <b>Green Light Fund</b>                                | <b>Interact for Health</b>   |
| <b>Cedar Oaks Wellness Center</b>                    | <b>Council Member Mark Jeffrey's Office</b>               | <b>Hamilton County Administration</b>                  | <b>JBM Packaging</b>   |
| <b>Center for Addiction Treatment</b>                | <b>Council Member Meeka Owen's Office</b>                 | <b>Hamilton County Adult Probation</b>                 | <b>Jeff Wyler Auto Group</b>                                       |
| <b>Center for Closing the Health Gap</b>             | <b>Council Member Victoria Park's Office</b>              | <b>Hamilton County Association of Chiefs of Police</b> | <b>KAV Health Group</b>  |
| <b>CenterPoint Health</b>                            | <b>Court Clinic</b>                                       |  | <b>Kettering Health</b>  |
| <b>Charlie Health</b>                                |   |  | <b>Key Bank</b>  |
| <b>Chess Health</b>                                  |   |  |  |
| <b>Cincinnati Regional Business Committee</b>        |   |  |  |
| <b>Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center</b> |   |  |  |

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Lanmark Recovery                               | Ohio State University Medical Center   | Strategies to End Homelessness           |
| Legacy Healing                                 |  |  |
| Life Point Health                              | Omega Mentoring Association            | Sunrise Treatment Center                 |
| Linder Center                                  | OneCity For Recovery/The Hopeline      | Sunstone Life                            |
| LOTH Holdings                                  |  |  |
| Lotus Health LLC                               | On the Front Lines Community Alliance  | Sycamore Township                        |
| Lumiere Healing Center                         | Operation 2 Save Lives & QRT National  | Talbert House                            |
| Mary Magdalen House                            | Our Daily Bread                        | Tender Mercies                           |
| Med Max RX                                     |  |  |
| Mental Health and Addiction Advocacy Coalition | Our Sam Foundation                     | The AMOS Project                         |
| Mercy Health Cincinnati                        | Oxford House                           | The Bail Project                         |
| Miami University                               | Pinnacle Treatment Center              | The Christ Hospital                      |
| Midwest Spine Interventionalist, LLC           | Potter House Recovery                  | The City of Middletown                   |
| Minds at Peace                                 | PreventionFIRST!                       | The Crossroads Center                    |
| Modern Psychiatry and Wellness                 | Prospect House                         | The Gorilla Glue Co.                     |
| Naphcare                                       | Pyramid Health                         | The Health Collaborative                 |
| Nehemiah Manufacturing                         | Quiet Star Capital                     | The Ohio Attorney General's Office       |
| New Foundations Community Housing              | Real Works 2020                        | The Sheakley Group                       |
| NKY Health Department                          | Recovery Ohio                          | The Unity Center of Cincinnati           |
| Norwood Health Department                      | RecoverWisely                          | Thrive Peer Support                      |
| Office of Aftab Pureval                        | Relink                                 | Transitions NKY                          |
| Office of US Senator JD Vance                  | Renew Recovery                         | Transformations                          |
| Office of US Senator Sherrod Brown             | Restoring Hope Counseling and Coaching | Trustpoint.One                           |
| Ohio Attorney General's Office                 | Resurge Recovery                       | UC Health                                |
| Ohio Community Health                          | Safe RX                                | UMADAOP                                  |
| Ohio Deflection Association                    | Salvation Army                         | United Way                               |
| Ohio Department of Health                      | Santa Maria Community Services         | University of Cincinnati                 |
| Ohio National Financial Services               | Seacrest Recovery Center               | US House of Representative Brad Wenstrup |
|  | Serenity Recovery Network              | US House of Representative Greg Landsman |
|  | Shelterhouse                           | Velocity Biogroup Corps                  |
|  | Spero Health                           | Village of Amberley                      |
|  | Springfield Township                   | Village of Newtown                       |
|  |  | Weightless Anchors                       |
|  |  | Woodhaven                                |





# Total Overdose Deaths

Data courtesy of the  
Hamilton County Coroner's Office

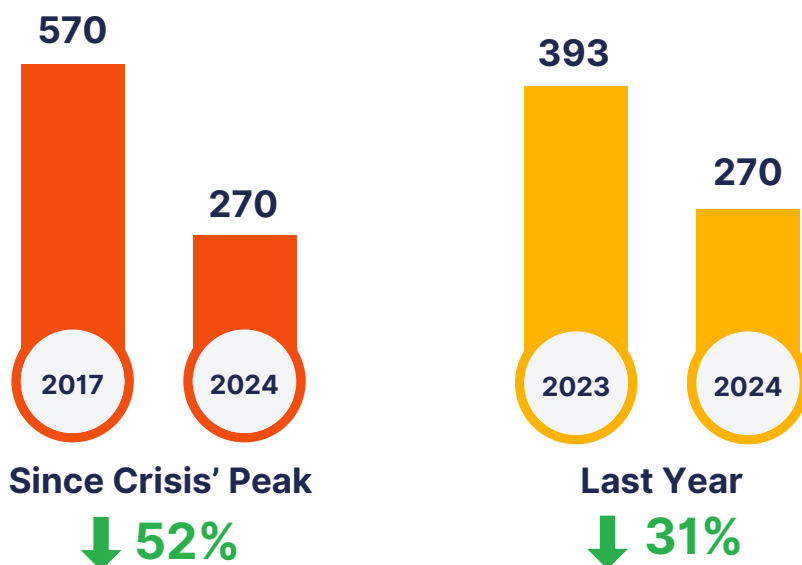
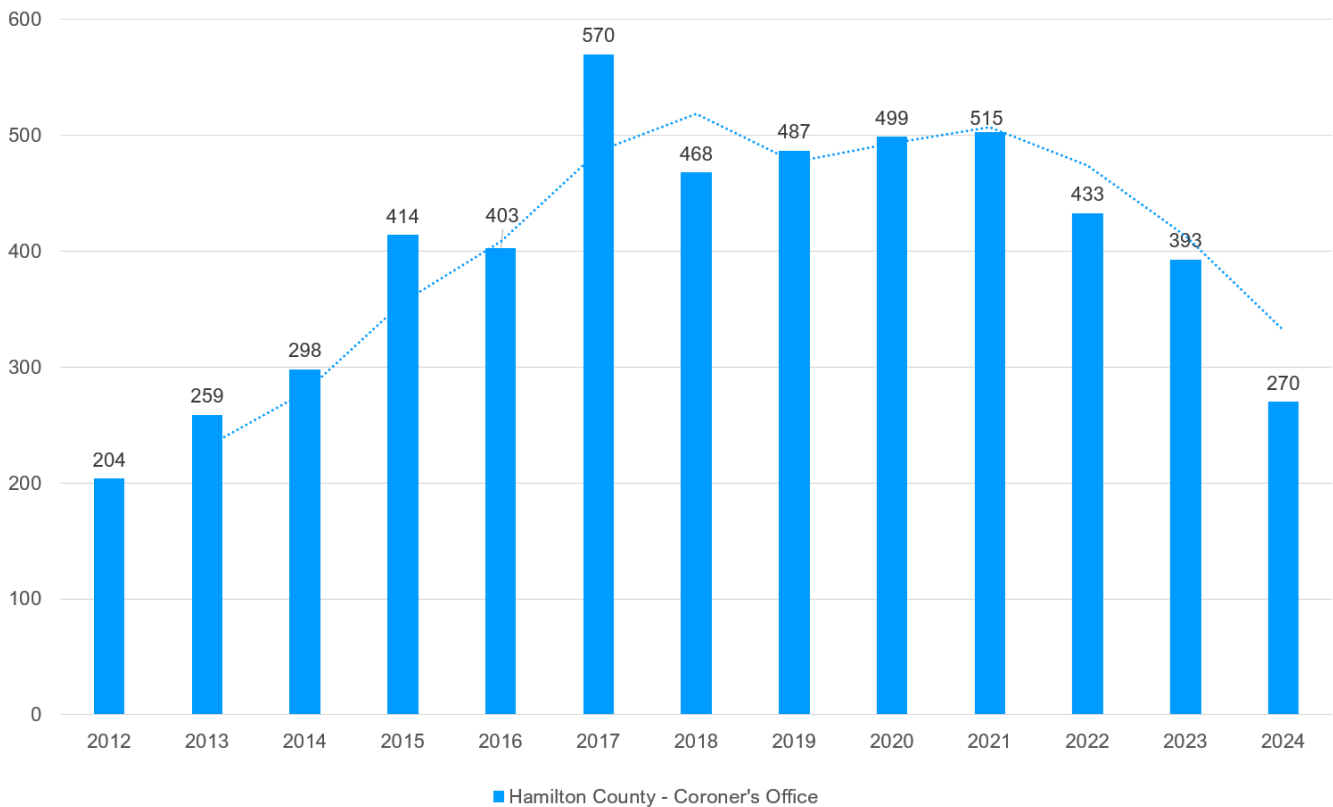


Chart 1 above illustrates the total overdose deaths in Hamilton County from 2012 to 2024. Meanwhile, Chart 2 to the left highlights **a significant 52% decrease in overdose deaths** since the peak of the crisis in 2017, dropping from 570 deaths to 270\* in 2024. Furthermore, there's been a consistent **year-to-year decrease of 31%**, with the number of deaths decreasing from 393 in 2023 to 270\* in 2024.

\*These figures are provisional and subject to review and confirmation by the Hamilton County Coroner's Office. As of the first week of November, the Coroner's Office has certified 237 cases, with toxicology results still pending for the remainder of the year. To account for potential additional cases, they are conservatively projecting 30 more. Final confirmed data is expected to be released in March 2025.