



## Ohio

### Hancock County Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services

#### Enhancements to a Community-Based ROSC Project

10/01/19 Grant Start → 09/30/22 Grant End

## Overview

This project will serve Hancock County, located in northwestern Ohio, with a population of approximately 75,000. Most residents are white (94 percent) and about 11 percent live below the federal poverty line. Hancock County has witnessed an influx of heroin, fentanyl, and carfentanil, as well as other prescription opioids, which has led to increasing overdoses, incarcerations, emergency department (ED) visits, and drug-related pregnancies and births every year since 2009. According to Hancock Public Health, (ED) visits related to drug overdose increased 146 percent from 2014 to 2017, while unintentional drug overdose deaths increased 191 percent. During that same period, the Opiate Task Force reported that the number of infants born prenatally exposed to substances increased 290 percent, and those born with neonatal abstinence syndrome increased 240 percent. In Hancock County, drug-related jail incarcerations increased 44 percent from 2014 to 2017. The Hancock County Sheriff's Office reported that the jail is full and that, at any given time,

up to 70 percent of its population is detoxing from drugs and/or alcohol use. Total charges for possession of drugs including heroin, cocaine, oxycodone, hydrocodone, fentanyl and methamphetamine increased from 97 in 2015 to 217 in 2018.

## Grant Focus

- Expand law enforcement diversion and first-responder models that connect individuals to substance abuse treatment and recovery support services.
- Employ the use of alternatives to incarceration programs for nonviolent drug offenders.
- Expand jail-based treatment and effective reentry programs.
- Expand peer support services and recovery housing.
- Increase access to naloxone.
- Link data sets to identify trends and focus resources.

- Expand models of public health, behavioral health, and public safety information sharing and collaboration at state and local levels.
- Support children and youth affected by the opioid epidemic.
- Build capacity in underserved regions impacted by the opioid epidemic.
- Expand public awareness about opioid abuse.
- Educate public safety and criminal justice stakeholders about substance abuse.

## Program Approach

The project aims to bring together law enforcement and other public safety officials with public health and treatment providers to better serve individuals who may benefit from being diverted from the criminal justice system and into opioid use disorder treatment and other social service systems. These efforts will facilitate coordination across systems to provide a greater continuum of care for individuals with opioid use disorder.

Through an enhancement of the Recovery Oriented System of Care (ROSC), the project goals and are to:

- Train law enforcement and other public safety officials on the evidence-based law enforcement assisted diversion (LEAD) program, and to initiate the program in the county.
- Explore efficient and effective methods to coordinate local efforts with the Ohio High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area.
- Explore the use of Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program.
- Conduct an evaluation of the project's impact on reducing and preventing opioid abuse and overdose.

## Project Partners

- Findlay Police Department
- Family Resource Center
- Brandeis University
- Hancock County Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS)
- Dr. Michael Flaherty, Ph.D., National ROSC Consultant
- LEAD National Support Bureau

## Contact Information

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