



# The Harold Rogers Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Grant

## Overview

---

In 2013 the Fairfield County Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health (ADAMH) Board was awarded The Harold Rogers Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Grant. This was the first time individual localities had an opportunity to compete for this grant and the ADAMH Board was one of only six grantees nationally. Within that cohort, two grantees were state agencies and four were county agencies. The purpose of the grant was to enhance the capacity of regulatory agencies, law enforcement agencies, and public health officials to collect and analyze controlled substance prescription data.

The ADAMH Board, in collaboration with a large group of community partners, had extensively documented the impact of prescription drug use in Fairfield County. The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) volunteered to partner on the grant application due to our commitment to the data and having already begun addressing opiate drug abuse issue in our community. Because of our combined efforts and the strong support from the community, the ADAMH Board was awarded the 18-month grant, which subsequently was extended for another 18 months, ending September 2016.

The grant was administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance.

## Key Components

---

The grant provided the ADAMH Board an opportunity to pilot a local collaborative effort between public health and criminal justice professionals. Data was collected and analyzed to determine best practices for data sharing, prioritizing treatment, and promoting prevention efforts for at-risk individuals. The three main components of the grant included:

- ◆ Expanding data collection, data sharing and community mapping
- ◆ Expanding prevention efforts in the school and outreach efforts to businesses
- ◆ Expanding targeted screening and assessment, and promoting engagement in treatment

## Staff Resources

---

With these grant funds, the ADAMH Board (in collaboration with The Recovery Center) was able to hire: one full-time counselor to be placed at the jail to assess inmates upon intake, one full-time and one half-time prevention specialists to work in several schools in the community, and one full-time data analyst to collect and analyze data with the guidance of NCSC.

The jail counselor was responsible for scoring a substance abuse screening that the jail booking agent collected from all incoming inmates and for conducting a more detailed assessment of inmates willing to be part of this research project. The counselor also implemented a substance abuse treatment group for inmates and provided referrals to treatment and prevention providers after their release

with the hope that these additional means of support will increase the success of re-entry and possibly decrease recidivism rates.

The prevention specialists were responsible for providing prevention services to local middle and high schools including community-based outreach and education services. It was hoped that these positions would provide the opportunity to connect with the Fairfield County youth before drug abuse begins.

The data analyst was responsible for collecting data from Local and State agencies regarding drug abuse and offender demographics. The analyst hoped to use this information to narrow down “who” the target population was in our community, so that we could begin to focus on “how” to promote successful recovery through treatment and prevention services.

## National Center for State Courts

---

An integral part of this grant project was utilizing the expertise of the staff of the National Center for State Courts. NCSC staff came onsite to ask questions, to give direction, to add extra persons for interviews with community partners and to help initiate the work. Behind the scenes NCSC staff created necessary documents for the jail assessment and a separate survey for persons in the criminal justice system and persons in treatment. They also worked with the jail clinician as data was collected and analyzed the huge amount of data that was collected.



## Prevention Programs

---

Pickerington Middle Schools were chosen to be recipients of the funding of this grant due in part to the growth of Pickerington over the past ten years, which necessitated increasing the number of schools in Pickerington, and also realizing that providing drug abuse prevention in these schools had not been initiated.



An evidence-based curriculum, *Too Good for Drugs*, was chosen to be introduced to fifth and sixth grade students in the Pickerington Middle Schools for two years. Instruction was given to students over 10 weeks. Pre-tests were given to assess on which parts of the curriculum students needed more work compared to other sections. Post-tests were also given with the goal of 70% of students either maintaining or increasing knowledge in two areas: harmful consequences of drug use and resistance/decision making skills. The percentages for all classes met or exceeded the agency goal both years of participation.

Students in the Fairfield Union Local School District were also recipients of similar instruction by a part-time prevention specialist. The first year a shortened version was implemented and during the second year students received a full version in the Middle School comparable to students in Pickerington.

## Treatment/Research in Jail

---

In order to screen all inmates in the Fairfield County Jail, the Simple Screening Instrument was used to assess a person's risk of developing a substance use disorder. Answers to this screening instrument were obtained during booking of individuals into the jail. Later the jail clinician scored these screenings and this provided information on who to ask to participate in the research project involving a longer assessment. One hundred forty-six (146) assessments were conducted. The results from the assessments provided information that may be used to evaluate programs to serve this population better. In addition the jail clinician held a weekly educational group session and gave inmates information on how to follow up for drug/alcohol treatment upon release from jail.



## New Data Website Created

---

One part of the grant focused on sharing data among community partners. It was one thing to collect the data, but another to find appropriate ways to share it with others. A data website where data pertinent to prescription drug abuse could be shared was designed. Community Research Partners in Columbus built the website and created interactive visualizations of the data. In addition, fact sheets that provided further interpretation of the data were created by Editorial Partners and may be accessed on the website. Some of the data will be periodically updated as new data points are made available and some will be one-time data (e.g., data from the jail assessments) that will not be updated.



## OTF Strategic Planning

---

The Harold Rogers Grant "action group" role was completed by the Opiate Task Force in Fairfield County. Periodic updates were given to this group throughout the grant period. While initially there were two opiate task forces in the County, one based in Lancaster and one in Pickerington, funds from the grant allowed work towards bringing the two groups together. A strategic planner worked with a combined group of citizens to form a new Fairfield County Opiate Task Force that will move forward with new goals.



## Data Sharing Agreement

---

Throughout the grant, sensitivity to the confidentiality of information was a high priority. Releases of information by inmates, survey participants, and mental health and drug treatment agencies were created to allow for proper use of research information. Final approval to print and share data via the website was approved by an attorney with experience in this area who checked for compliance with HIPAA and 42CFR and other applicable confidentiality regulations. The attorney also created a two-page data sharing agreement for use with community partners.

## National Conference

---

In the spring of 2014, a delegation of eight persons from Fairfield County attended the National Prescription Drug Abuse Summit in Atlanta, Georgia. Besides a wide variety of plenary speakers from National agencies/organizations, there were seven tracks for workshops over two and a half days. Reports from participants were shared with the Opiate Task Force.

In the spring of 2016, a delegation of four persons attended this same conference again. The format was similar with plenary speakers and workshops. Surprisingly, President Obama came and spoke concerning the opiate epidemic that continues to rage across the country. This conference gave evidence of the efforts of persons from grassroots efforts, law enforcement, prevention, education, treatment, pharmaceutical companies and legislation who are working to eliminate this epidemic. It will take the efforts of all levels to begin to make a difference.

## Afterword

---

The Harold Rogers Grant provided vital services to schools and the jail that would not have otherwise been available to the community. These services were continued for at least a year after being supported by the grant although jail services differed slightly since assessments were no longer gathered. An extended effort was made in preparing the data for the website, which has now become a reality. It is our hope to update and add to the data presented on the new website for future use in eliminating the problem of prescription drug abuse in Fairfield County.

Finally, all of this would not have been possible without the excellent collaboration with the many partners in Fairfield County and the State of Ohio.

### Direct Partners with the Harold Rogers Prescription Drug Monitoring Grant

Fairfield County Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health (ADAMH) Board  
National Center for State Courts  
The Recovery Center  
Fairfield County Sheriff's Office  
Pickerington Local School District  
Fairfield Union Local School District  
Fairfield County Opiate Task Force  
Community Research Partners  
Editorial Partners  
Jacqui Romer-Sensky

### Community Partners

American Court Services	Lancaster Police Department
Child Protective Services	Mid-Ohio Psychological Services
Christina Shaynak-Diaz (Attorney)	New Horizons Mental Health Services
Fairfield County Common Pleas Court	OARRS - Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System
Fairfield County Coroner	Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services
Fairfield County Family, Adult & Children First Council	Ohio Department of Safety
Fairfield County Health Department	Ohio Hospital Association
Fairfield County Information & Referral/2-1-1	Ohio Mental Health & Addiction Services (OMHAS)
Fairfield County Job & Family Services	Ohio State Patrol
Fairfield County Juvenile/Probate Court	Ohio Supreme Court
Fairfield County Municipal Court	Pickerington Police
Fairfield County Prosecutor	Prevention Works for a Drug Free Fairfield County
Fairfield Medical Center	Stebelton Snider (Attorneys)
Fairfield-Hocking-Athens Major Crimes Unit	United Way of Fairfield County
Lancaster City Schools	Young Adult Prevention Initiative (YAPI) Coalition

*This project was supported by Grant No. 2013-PMBX-0011 awarded by Bureau of Justice Assistance. Points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.*