



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Fairfield County ADAMH Board, Opiate Task Force collaborates to offer free Narcan at local event

LANCASTER, Ohio, July 10 — On Thursday, July 9, 2020, the Fairfield County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health (ADAMH) Board in partnership with Project F.O.R.T. (Fairfield County Overdose Response Team), Kroger, and the Fairfield County Opiate Task Force distributed potentially lifesaving Narcan kits to approximately 70 community members during the Be a Smart Cookie Drive-through Narcan Giveaway and Training event in the parking lot of the Kroger at 1621 N. Memorial Dr. in Lancaster.

Despite the extreme heat and humidity, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., staff members representing the Fairfield Department of Health, Lancaster Fire Department, Lancaster Public Transit, Lancaster Recovery Services, Lutheran Social Services, New Horizons, OhioGuidestone and The Recovery Center actually provided participants with a Narcan/naloxone kit, training, drug disposal (Deterra) bag, community resources, and a cookie, because July 9 happened to also be National Sugar Cookie Day. Counselors were also onsite for any needed assistance.

“Fairfield County has seen a significant increase in overdoses in the first six months of 2020, and even more alarming are the number of overdose deaths. Fairfield County has seen 86 overdoses with 12 overdose deaths in the first six months of 2020, compared to 64 overdoses and five deaths for the same time period in 2019,” said Project F.O.R.T. Director Scott Duff. “That is why events like we hosted yesterday are so important to our communities. We have to continue to put resources in our residents’ hands and let them know that there are very good treatment and recovery options right here in Fairfield County.”

The event was free thanks to Grant No. GA1RH33529 from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an operating division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. No registration required. Participants just had to drive or walk up to the event booth to receive their goodie bags and brief one-on-one Narcan/naloxone training. Because of COVID-19, event volunteer workers wore masks, tried to social distance as much as possible, and encouraged the use of the sanitizer onsite.

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“The Fairfield County Opiate Task Force is a group of community members and organizations that work collaboratively to make a positive impact during the opiate crisis by distributing needed resources,” said Fairfield County ADAMH Board Prevention Coordinator Toni Ashton, MSEd, LSW, OCPC.

The event was also successful due to contributions made by Fairfield County 2-1-1 (Information & Referral), and *Towne Crier Community News*.

The Fairfield County Opiate Task Force is charged with the responsibility of coordinating the efforts of the medical treatment, law enforcement, community education and community relations efforts to combat the opiate and heroin addiction crisis confronting Fairfield County.

The Fairfield County ADAMH Board is responsible for the planning, funding and monitoring of mental health, addiction and recovery services in Fairfield County. ADAMH promotes wellness and recovery from mental health and addiction disorders by providing a continuum of care consisting of prevention, recovery and community support services for those affected by addiction and/or mental health disorders in Fairfield County. For more information, visit www.fairfieldadamh.org.

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