



## News Release

---

For Immediate Release

Contact: Latina A. Duffy  
740.654.0829 x242  
lduffy@ohiopps.org

### **Fairfield County ADAMH Board, Opiate Task Force collaborate to offer free Narcan**

LANCASTER, Ohio, July 9 — On Thursday, July 8, 2021, 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 30 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 4–7 p.m., staff members representing Kroger, Project F.O.R.T., OhioGuidestone, The Recovery Center and the Fairfield County ADAMH Board actually provided participants with a Narcan/naloxone kit, training, drug disposal (Deterra) bag, community resources, and a cookie, because July 8 happened to also be National Sugar Cookie Day.

“Project F.O.R.T. remains committed to providing Narcan to people in our community. We do this in partnership with ADAMH and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS),” said Project F.O.R.T. Director Scott Duff. “We have seen an increase in the number of overdoses in 2021 and particularly the numbers of overdose deaths. We were happy to once again partner with ADAMH and Kroger to get more Narcan out into our community.”

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 and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. No registration was 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.

“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.

-more-

The event was also successful due to contributions made by Fairfield County 2-1-1 (Information & Referral).

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 substance use disorders by providing a continuum of care consisting of prevention, recovery and community support services for those affected by substance use and/or mental health disorders in Fairfield County. For more information, visit [www.fairfieldadamh.org](http://www.fairfieldadamh.org).

###