



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Fairfield County ADAMH Board supports DEA National Drug Take Back Day

LANCASTER, Ohio, April 22 — On Saturday, April 27, 2019, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Fairfield County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health (ADAMH) Board will join Ohio University Lancaster, the Lancaster Police Department, other local partners, and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to give the public its 17th opportunity in nine years to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. During DEA National Drug Take Back Day, Fairfield County has two participating locations: the Ohio University Lancaster campus, 1570 Granville Pike, Lancaster, and the Violet Township Service Center, 4909 N. Center St., Pickerington. Sites cannot accept liquids, needles, or sharps. The service is free and anonymous with no questions asked.

“Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines — flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash — both pose potential safety and health hazards,” says Fairfield County ADAMH Board Executive Director Rhonda Myers, MA, MSW, LISW-S. “That is why we’re very grateful to Ohio University Lancaster and the Lancaster Police Department for leading this important event for the community.”

This DEA National Drug Take Back Day initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in homes are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the United States are alarmingly high as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s National Survey on Drug Use and Health shows year after year that the majority of misused and abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including someone else’s medication being stolen from a home medicine cabinet.

Last fall Americans turned in nearly 460 tons (more than 900,000 pounds) of prescription drugs at more than 5,800 sites operated by the DEA and almost 4,800 of its state and local law enforcement partners. Overall, in its 16 previous Take Back events, the DEA and its partners have taken in almost 11 million pounds — nearly 5,500 tons — of pills.

For more information about the disposal of prescription drugs or the April 27 Take Back Day events, go to www.DEATakeBack.com or www.fairfieldadamh.org/dea-national-drug-take-back-day.html.

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The Fairfield County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health (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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