



## News Release

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For Immediate Release

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### **ADAMH-awarded SOR grant funds increase substance use disorder services in the Fairfield County Jail**

LANCASTER, Ohio, May 26 — In January 2021, the Fairfield County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health (ADAMH) Board accepted an Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services State Opiate Response (SOR) grant to be used to expand the continuum of care for persons with an opioid and/or stimulant use disorder or history of such a disorder. Federal Fiscal Year 2021 SOR dollars will be used to continue and expand SOR jail-based substance use disorder services. Services include continuation of a substance use disorder (SUD) counselor and two peer support workers. New for 2021 is a medication assisted treatment (MAT) program. Services will be provided by New Horizons Mental Health Services, an ADAMH Network of Care agency.

Fairfield County Sheriff Alex Lape states, “The substance use disorder counseling and peer support components are critical to address the needs of individuals who are incarcerated in the Fairfield County Jail. I am especially happy that we can now move forward with the medically assisted treatment component of services within the jail. These grant dollars will be put to great use to benefit local residents. Thank you, ADAMH and all members of our county group leading the effort to address the addiction issue.”

New Horizons Mental Health Services projects to serve a total of 100 persons in the SOR programs this year. Specifically, 75 persons are expected to receive SUD services from the counselor, 60 persons in the peer support program, and 75 persons in the new MAT program. Persons who are incarcerated have often experienced one or more traumatic life events and have a complicated set of life circumstances. The opportunity for one to start SUD services during incarceration creates a foundation for one’s recovery post-release; it creates a conduit to successfully continue sobriety when one leaves the jail and returns to the community.

The services of a jail-based counselor facilitate engagement in the recovery process and identifying the most appropriate array of evidenced-based practice programs tailored to the individual. Peer support offers practical help to support a person’s return to the community, such as assistance in completing paperwork to obtain housing, education/training, employment, medical care; providing or arranging transportation; navigating the behavioral health care service delivery system (e.g., counseling, intensive outpatient treatment, MAT), and securing other needed supports. When MAT is a component of the treatment plan, a nurse administers a 30-day injection of naltrexone that blocks the effects of opioids which decreases the cravings and need a person addicted to opioids feels.

“We appreciate the strong community collaboration and focus in Fairfield County to address substance use disorders in a Recovery-oriented System of Care approach. A bridge to outpatient substance use disorder treatment is created when substance use disorder programming begins when a person is in the jail”, says ADAMH Board Executive Director Rhonda Myers.

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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 disorders and/or mental health disorders in Fairfield County. For more information, visit [www.fairfieldadamh.org](http://www.fairfieldadamh.org).