



Mental Health and Recovery Services Board

1200 North State Route 53 • Tiffin, Ohio 44883-9799 • Tel.: 419-448-0640 • Fax: 419-448-8743

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Mircea Handru

Phone: 419-448-0640

Opiate Resolution

written by Mircea Handru, MBA

On Thursday, April 27, 2017 the members of the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Seneca, Sandusky and Wyandot Counties unanimously passed a resolution in response to the Ohio's opiate epidemic.

WHEREAS, the members of the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Seneca, Sandusky and Wyandot Counties are committed to leading Seneca, Sandusky and Wyandot Counties in establishing high quality, innovative, cost effective and culturally sensitive mental health and addiction services; and

WHEREAS, Seneca, Sandusky and Wyandot Counties lost 28 lives in 2016 due to opioid overdoses; and

WHEREAS, Ohio leads the nation in opioid overdose deaths; and

WHEREAS, the number of fentanyl-related drug overdose deaths throughout Ohio continues to increase each year **from 84 in 2013, to 503 in 2014, to 1,155 in 2015**; and

WHEREAS, an average of eight people die as a result of a drug overdose each day in Ohio, one death every three hours; and

WHEREAS, opiate prescription rates have decreased, but heroin, fentanyl, and carfentanyl continue to be more and more accessible; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Seneca, Sandusky and Wyandot Counties urge the Governor of the State of Ohio, the Ohio General Assembly, and Ohio's Congressional Delegation to declare the opiate epidemic an emergency, prioritizing the needs of Ohioans impacted by opioid addiction by dramatically increasing investments in prevention, treatment, recovery support, education, and interdiction efforts to end this epidemic.

If you or someone you love needs help with mental health or addiction services, please contact the Board's office at 419-448-0640.

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