

# Concurrent Session 5: Opioid Affected Youth Initiatives

Moderator: Carol P. Gordon, Institute for Intergovernmental Research

- From Recommendation to Implementation: The Funding and Development of the Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Alliance
  - Speakers: Carina Havenstrite and Kelsey Tambasco, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania
- Camp FUN! Hancock County, Ohio's Approach to Creating Connections for Youth Impacted by Addiction
  - Speaker: Precia Stuby, Hancock County, Ohio



# 2024 National Forum on Overdose Fatality Review

The Alignment of the Opioid Affected Youth Initiative

From Recommendation to Implementation: The Funding and Development of the  
Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Alliance

Camp FUN! Hancock County, Ohio's Approach to Creating Connections for Youth  
Impacted by Addiction

Moderator: Carol P. Gordon, Moderator, IIR

Presenters: Carina Havenstrite and Kelsey Tambasco, Lackawanna County,  
Pennsylvania

Precia Stuby, Hancock County, Ohio

# The Opioid Affected Youth Initiative



OJJDP Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Provider:  
Institute for Intergovernmental Research (IIR)

# Did you know . . .

- 106,000 persons in the United States died from drug-involved overdoses in 2021, including illicit drugs and prescription opioids; approximately 90% of overdose deaths involved opioids
- One in eight children aged 17 or younger are living in households with at least one parent who has a substance use disorder
- Impacted youth are at an increased risk for child maltreatment and child welfare involvement compared to other children

Sources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>

<https://nida.nih.gov/research-topics/trends-statistics/overdose-death-rates>

<https://ncsacw.acf.hhs.gov/topics/parental-substance-use-disorder.aspx>

# The What: OJJDP's Response to the Epidemic



**THE OPIOID  
AFFECTED YOUTH  
INITIATIVE**

# The Opioid Affected Youth Initiative (OAYI)



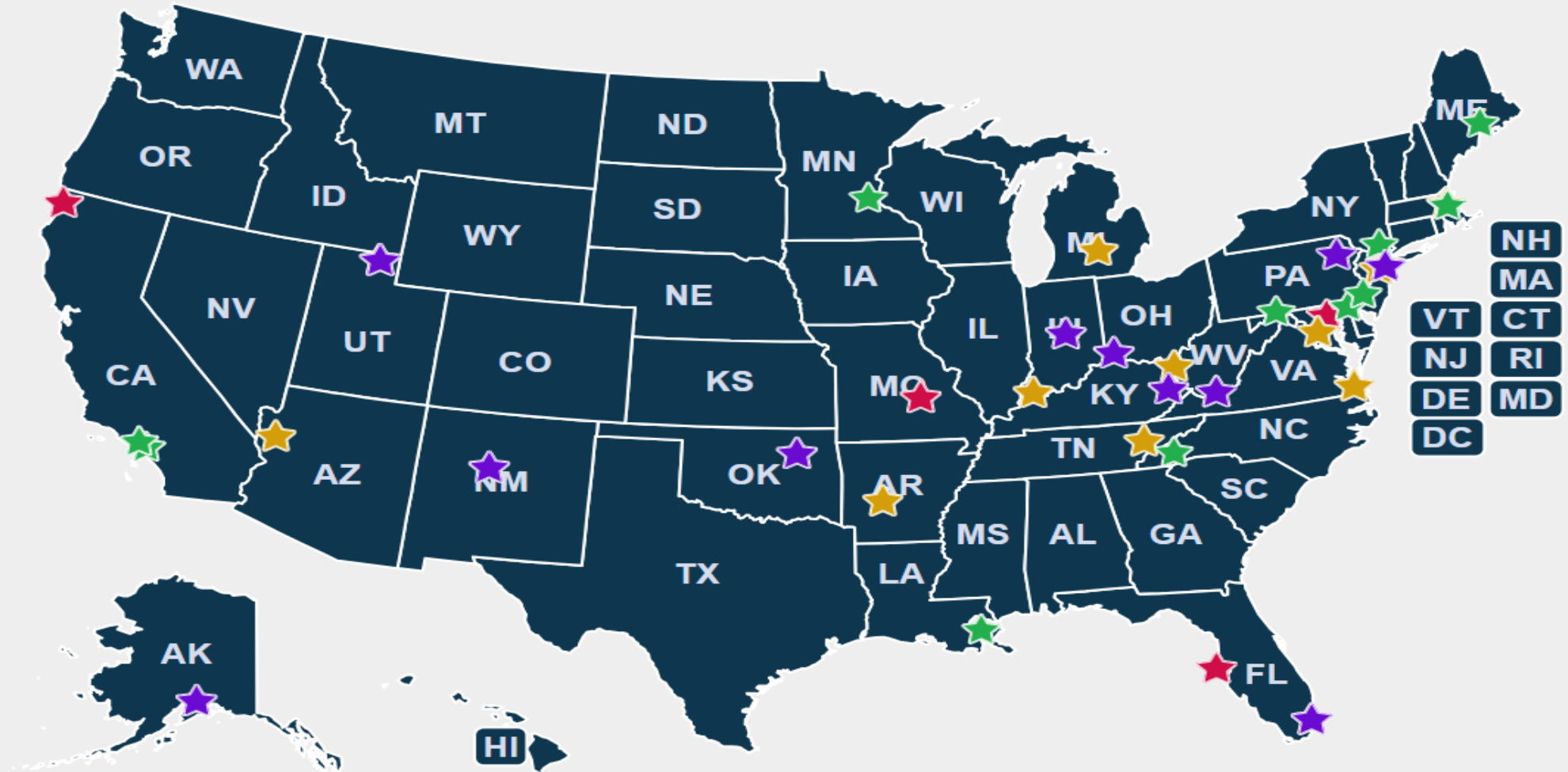
- Supports integrated services for impacted children, youth, and families utilizing multidisciplinary approaches to implement and coordinate programs and strategies to ensure public safety support through youth- and family-focused
  - System-level impact concepts
  - Data-driven solutions
  - Coordinated responses

# The OAYI Footprint . . .





# OAYI Project Sites 2018–2023



# Youth Engagement

Project planning, design, and implementation

Project strategies and goals

Data collection and analysis

Monitoring and evaluation

Alignment of project goals and measurable outcomes

Promising or evidence-based practices

Assessing progress and impact against project goals and measurable outcomes

Building and maintaining partnerships and collaborating with key leaders and stakeholders

Sustainment planning

# The Advisory Board



## OAYI Youth Advisory Board Youth National Opioid Wellness Task Force (YNOW Task Force)

- Composed of emerging leaders aged 18–24 with any of the following lived experiences:
  - Personal opioid use disorder or substance use disorder (SUD)
  - Family member or friend with SUD, in treatment, or in recovery
  - Living or have lived in an opioid-impacted community
  - Juvenile or criminal justice involvement
  - Child welfare involvement



**OAYI  
yab  
YNOW TF**

**2024**

### VISION

The vision of the YNOW Task Force is to cultivate an advanced understanding of the impact of opioids and SUDs on youth through collaborative opportunities and partnerships. Serving members will:

- Enhance IIR's TTA approach by informing on strategies for effectively engaging impacted youth through participation in the development and facilitation of virtual and in-person TTA events, including the launch of OAYI's inaugural youth summit.
- Reduce the stigma associated with SUDs by educating the public about the issues that youth impacted by SUDs experience through the design of a nationally distributed youth engagement toolkit; engagement on social media platforms such as Instagram and Threads; the launch of a segment on OAYI's podcast, *Answering the Call*; and support of the development and dissemination of a quarterly newsletter.
- Expand and refine their leadership and self-advocacy skills through ongoing education and broadened opportunities for professional growth including attendance and/or presentation at youth-related conferences and other events in the field.

### MISSION

The impact of this board will be to enhance youth survival and safety by leveraging the lived experiences of young people and redefining recovery as any positive change. Through advocacy, education, and awareness, we will advance evidence-based prevention and sustainable recovery efforts that are rooted in foundations of cultural humility, holistic approaches, reduction of stigma, and restorative justice. Understanding substance use as a complex social phenomenon that requires change, not just within individuals, but within their social systems, will frame how we engage community stakeholders—including youth, families, educators, and policymakers—to implement restorative practices that heal communities.

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Be between the ages of 18 and 24.
- Have at least one of the following lived experiences:
  - Currently live or have lived in an opioid-impacted community
  - Personal SUD
  - Juvenile or criminal justice involvement
  - Friend or family member (parent, sibling, or close relative) with SUD, in treatment, or in recovery
  - Child welfare involvement

### PURPOSE

The Opioid Affected Youth Initiative (OAYI) was established to support integrated and comprehensive intervention, prevention, and treatment services for youth and families who have been impacted by opioid and other substance use disorders (SUDs). As the training and technical assistance (TTA) provider, the Institute for Intergovernmental Research (IIR) is committed to supporting the efforts of states, communities, and tribes in reducing the adverse impact of opioids and SUDs through effective and meaningful engagement with youth. The broader OAYI TTA model and framework for the youth advisory board (YAB), formalized as the Youth National Opioid and Wellness (YNOW) Task Force, is informed by the understanding that the youth voice is central to sustainable system improvement and helps strengthen the responses to improving equitable access to substance use support.

The purpose of the YNOW Task Force is to create collaborative opportunities and strategic partnerships among emerging leaders and key stakeholders; inform strategies for successful engagement in local communities; and empower youth with lived experiences to lead sustainable efforts toward stigma reduction through advocacy and action. The YNOW Task Force reflects the voices and perspectives of youth representing diverse communities and promotes the development of a support network among young people with shared experiences that will help cultivate an advanced understanding of the impact of opioids and SUDs on youth and families.

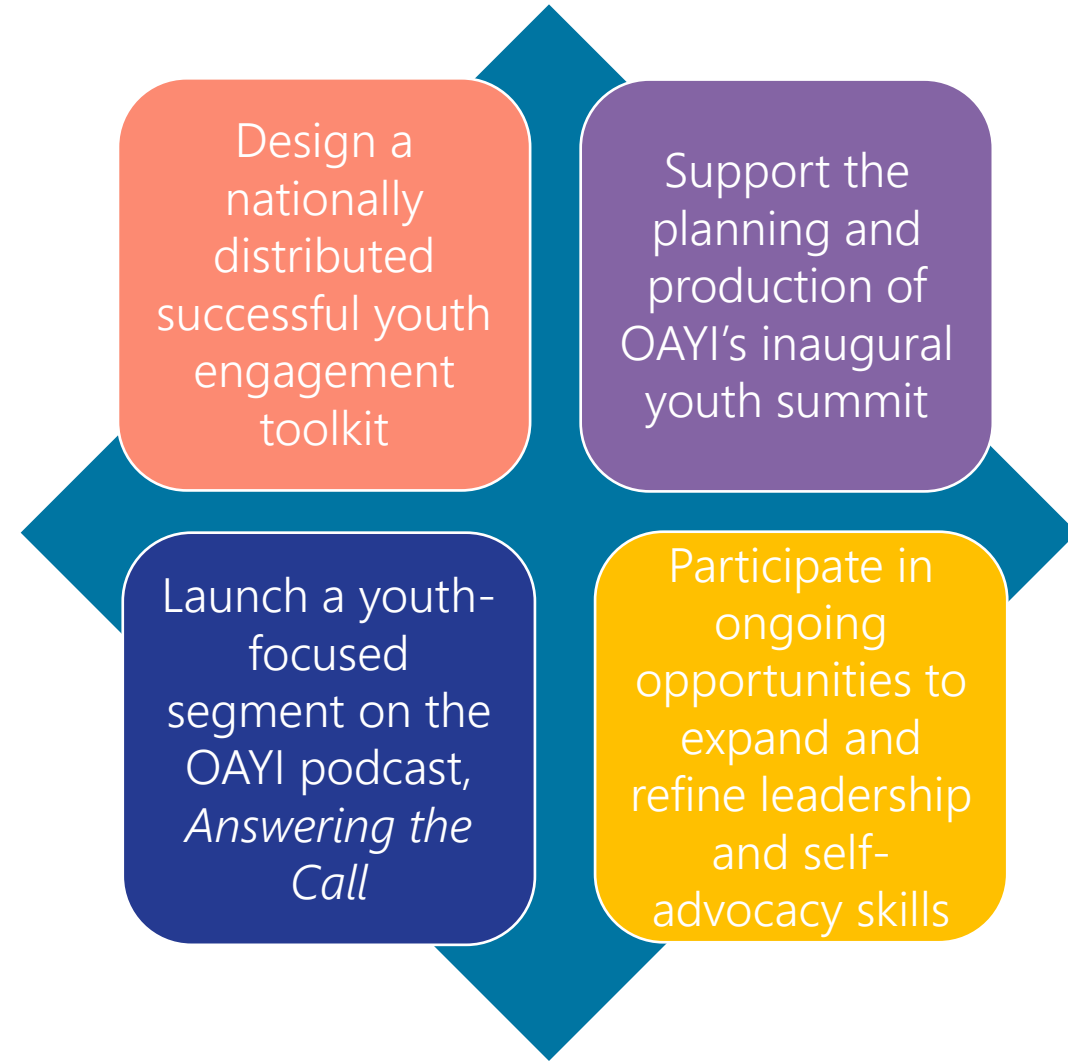
The YNOW Task Force is a 14-person board consisting of 10 board members and four executive leadership positions. The designated presiding coordinator is a member of IIR's OAYI TTA team.

 [www.opioidaffectedyouth.org](https://www.opioidaffectedyouth.org) • [oayi-yab@iir.com](mailto:oayi-yab@iir.com)  

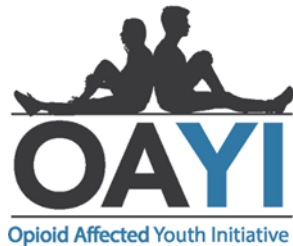
# Key Engagement Activities



We are committed to leveraging the lived expertise of the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) in every aspect of our training and technical assistance support, including providing opportunities for them to lead their own efforts.



# Connect With Us!



If you have any questions about the Opioid Affected Youth Initiative (OAYI), please contact Carol P. Gordon, Project Lead.

Email: [cgordon@iir.com](mailto:cgordon@iir.com)  
[oayi-info@iir.com](mailto:oayi-info@iir.com)

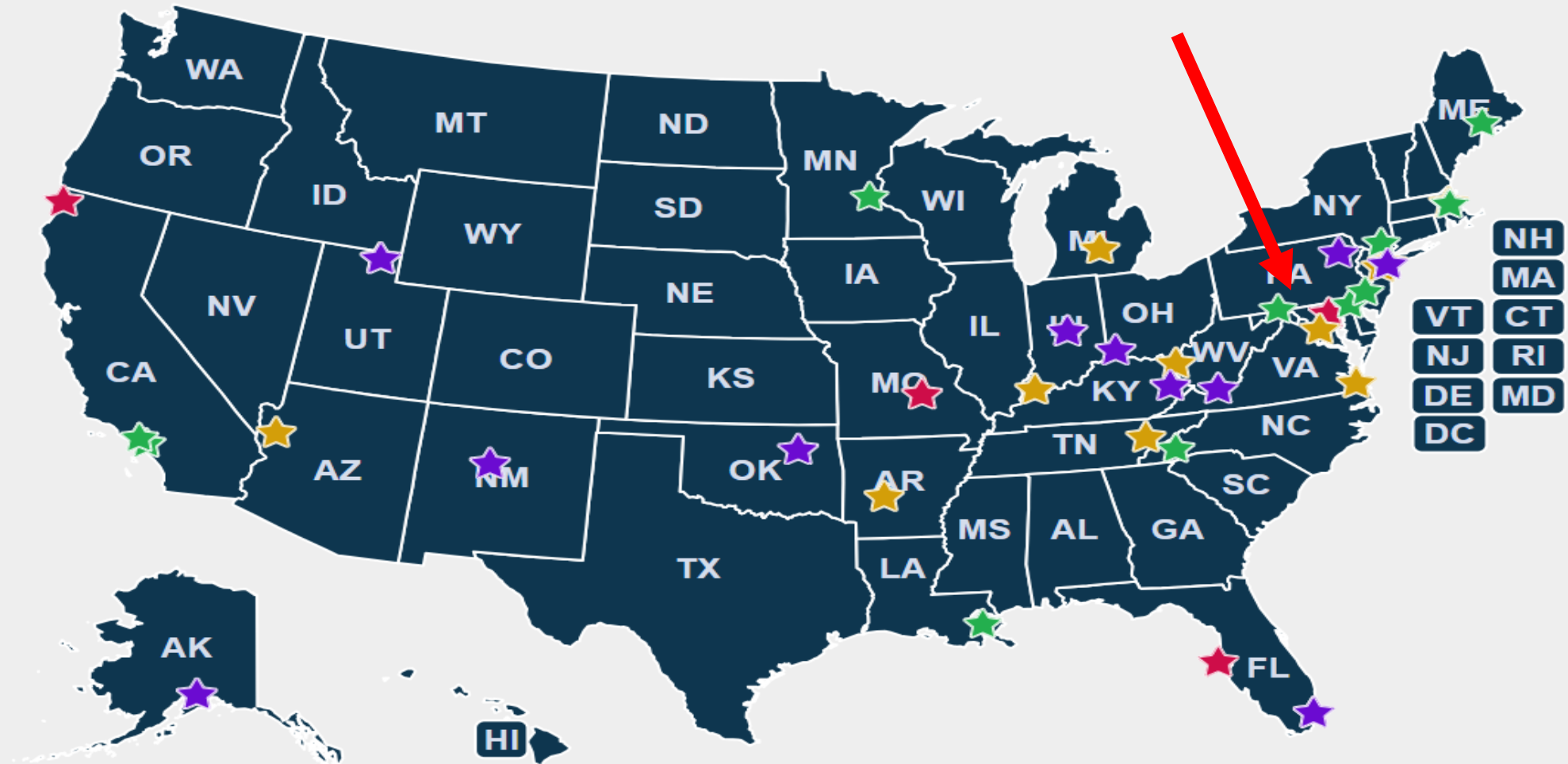
Website: [www.opioidaffectedyouth.org](http://www.opioidaffectedyouth.org)  
Phone: (850) 385-0600

If you have any questions about the OAYI Youth Advisory Board (YAB) or other youth engagement efforts, please contact Darian Appleton, YAB Coordinator.

Email: [dappleton@iir.com](mailto:dappleton@iir.com)

Follow the YNOW TF on Instagram  
[@ynowtaskforce!](https://www.instagram.com/ynowtaskforce/)

# The Opioid Affected Youth Initiative





# 2024 National Forum on Overdose Fatality Review

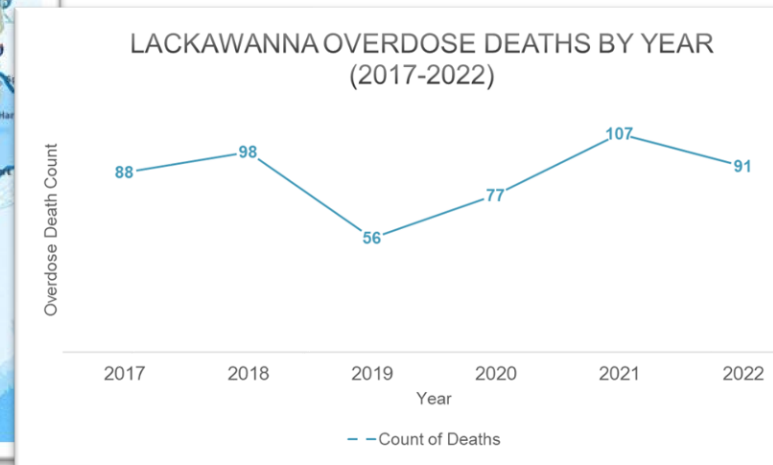
## **From Recommendation to Implementation – The Funding and Development of the Lackawanna County Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Alliance**

Carina Havenstrite & Kelsey Tambasco  
Lackawanna County District Attorney's Office

# Site Information



- **County:** Lackawanna County
- **City, state:** Scranton, Pennsylvania
- **Year started:** 2020
- **Estimated number of overdose deaths per year:**  
Average 86/year over last 5 years
- **Size of jurisdiction**
  - Population – 215,896
  - Largely rural
  - 48 million+ people within 4-hour drive
- **Funding source:** COAP/COSSUP

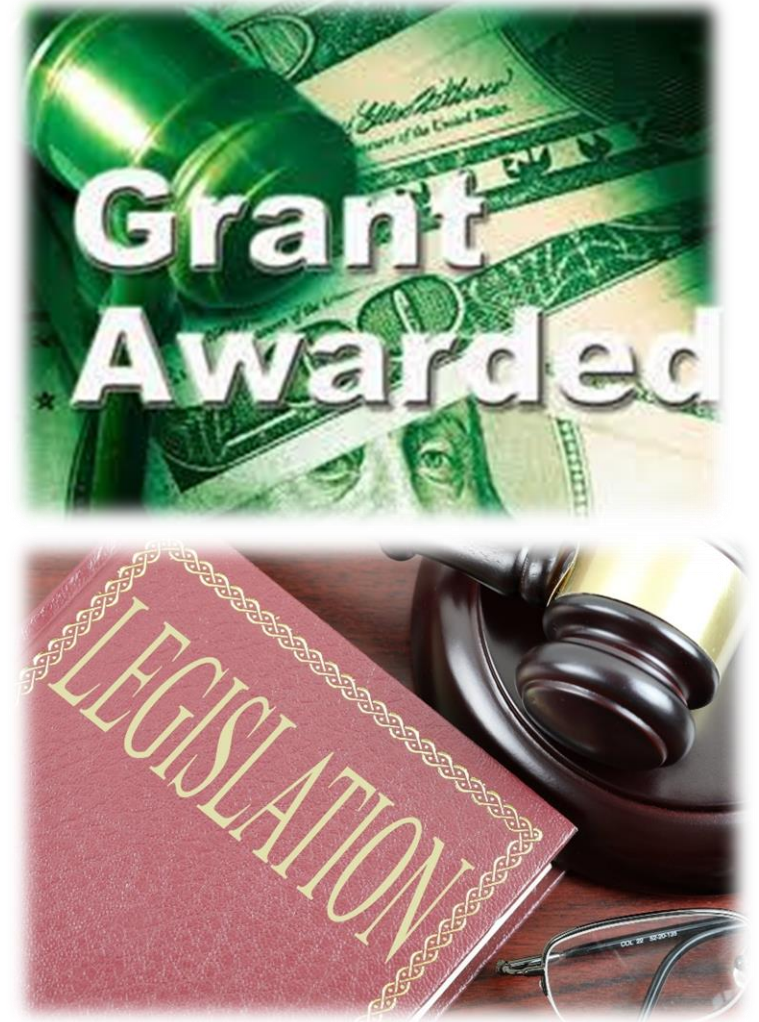




# Our OFR Journey



- October 2019 – COAP Award
- COVID-19
- October 2020 – First Case Reviews
  - 2 cases per month reviewed – 63 cases to date
  - Semi-annual data and recommendations meeting
- October 2022 – OFR Legislation
- October 2022 – COSSAP Award
- 2023/2024 BJA OFR Mentor Site





# Recommendation Overview



## Recommendation

Actively pursue, obtain funding for, and implement a Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Alliance within Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania



## Recommendation Identified

- First identified October 2020
- Very FIRST OFR case reviews
- Significant data to support initiative and continues to grow

## Recommendation Implemented

- Definitely not your “low-hanging fruit”
- Long and tedious journey
- The journey continues...



# It's All in the Data...



## Early support of our grant applications:

25% cases = parents to children under the age of 18

58% cases = Drug/alcohol use prior to the age of 16

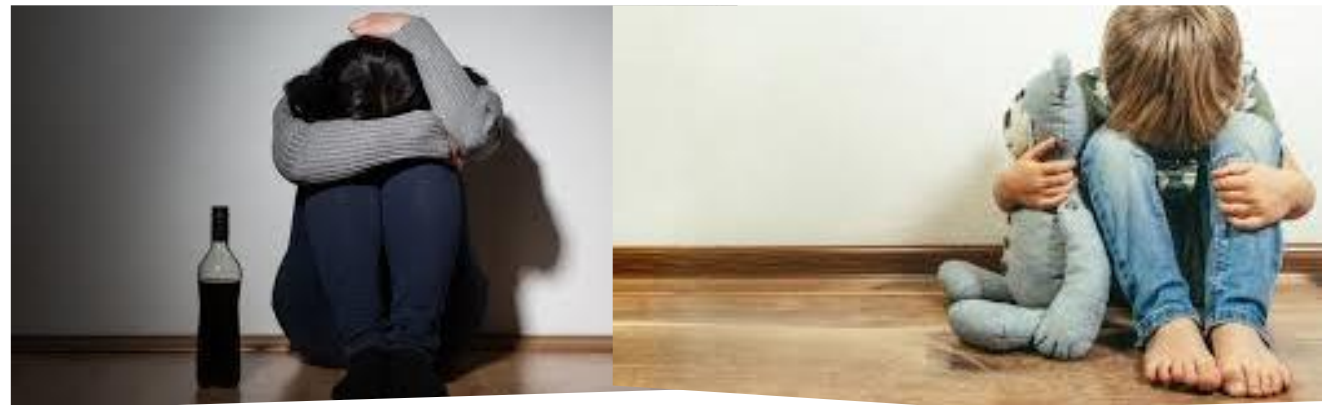
56% of incarcerated parents with minor children reported D&A use

2021 = 983 minor children impacted by parental incarceration

48% cases = reported childhood trauma

Early discussions related to children at the scene of an overdose

\*\*\* Statistics thought to be significantly underreported \*\*\*



# It's All in the Data...



## Of our 63 cases reviewed:

45% cases = biological children

Average age of first substance use = 16 yrs  
Youngest first substance use = 10 yrs

80% cases = reported childhood trauma (emotional, physical, sexual, neglect, etc.)

62% cases = recommendation related to need for DEC/Opioid Affected Youth Initiative (OAYI)

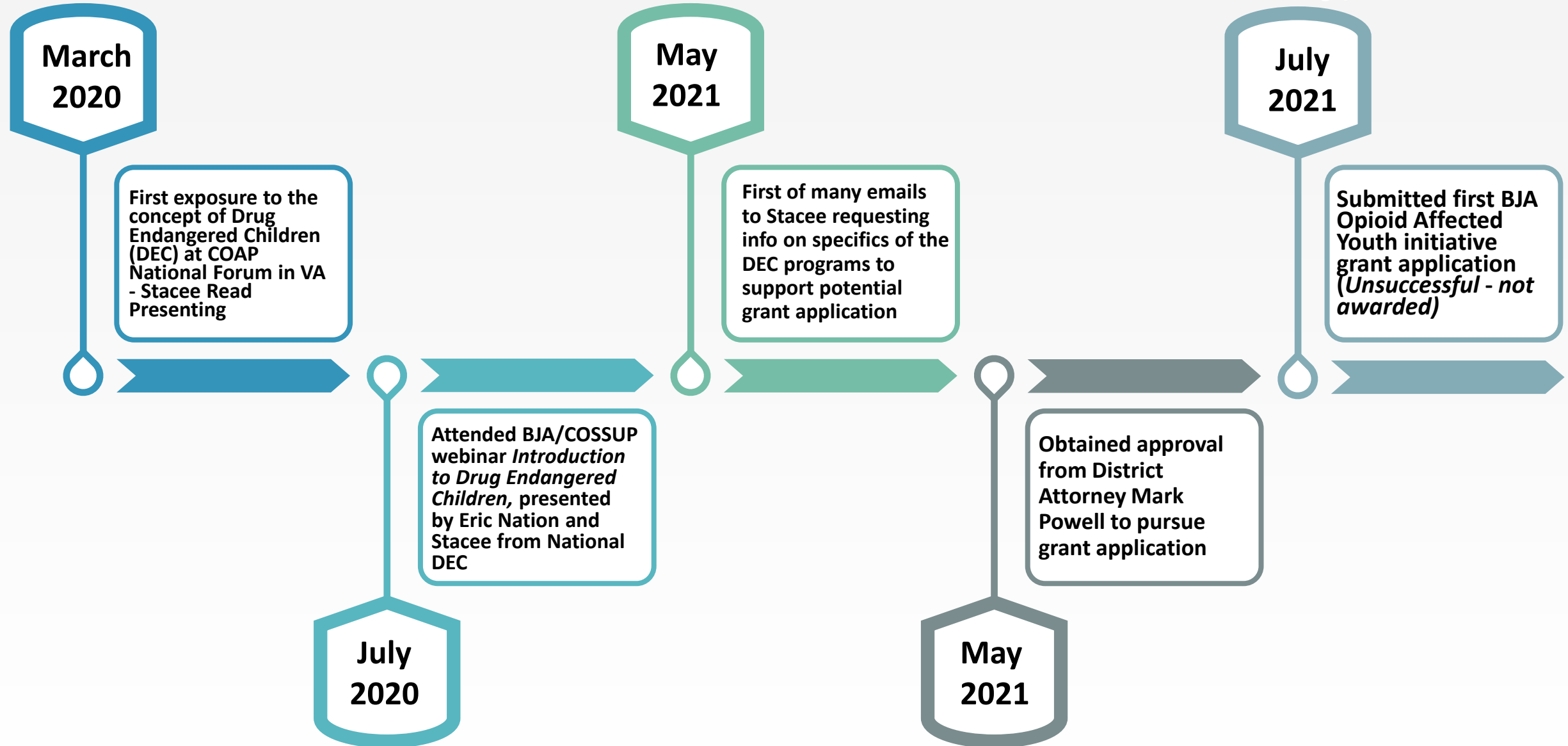
42% cases = decreased academic performance, truancy, and/or some sort of violence at school during youth/childhood

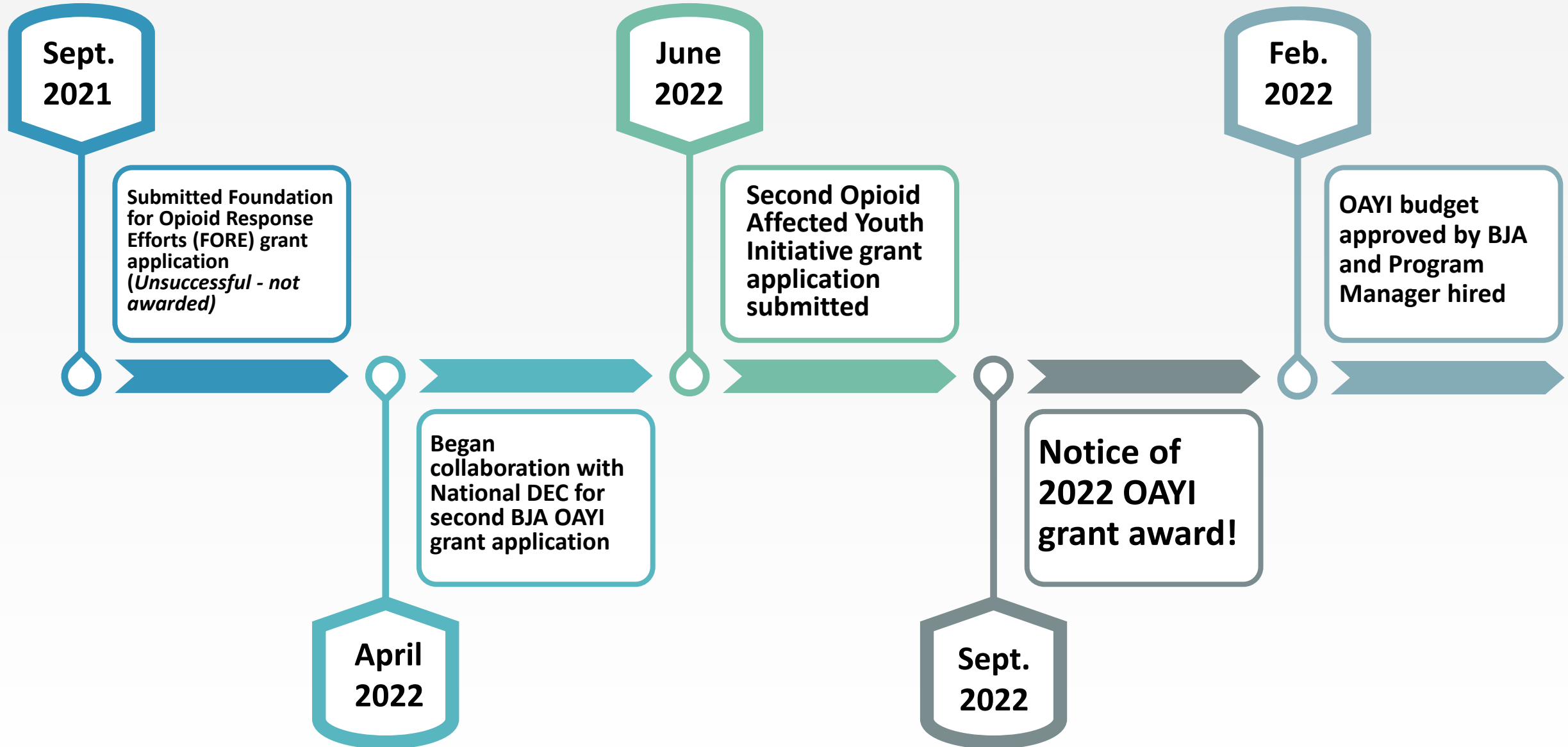
Youngest age of first arrest = 13 yrs

Parental drug and alcohol use and childhood trauma continue to be frequent and consistent themes seen in OFR

Identifying need to track additional data points (family history D&A use, children on scene)

# NOT Your "Low-hanging Fruit"





# Lackawanna County DEC Progress



**75%**

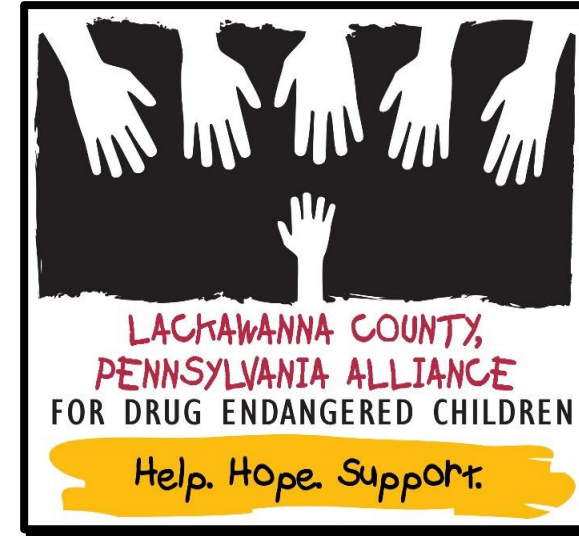
*of respondents agree children in our community are being severely affected by substance use*

Only  
**28%**

*of respondents agree our community understands the effects substance use has on children*

Only  
**21%**

*of respondents agree our community is prepared to address issues around drug endangered children*



- Program Manager
- Key Stakeholders
- National DEC Awareness Day
  - 50+ participants
  - Buy-in
- Training Webinars
  - 300+ responses
  - Report presented
- First meeting = December 2023
- Community Readiness Survey
  - 300+ responses
  - Report presented



# What Did We Learn?



Sometimes you have to play the long game

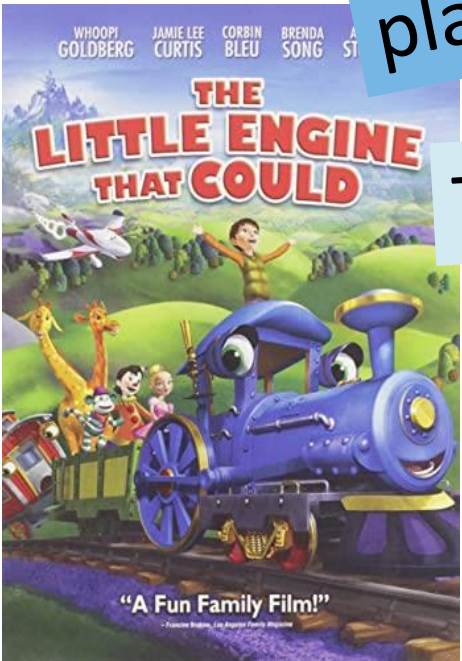
Be realistic about your capacity

Take the time to do it right

Don't be afraid of grants

Learn from the process

Reach out, collaborate, and don't reinvent the wheel





CONTACT US



**Carina Havenstrite**

Director of Program Management  
570-963-6717, ext. 7427  
[havenstritec@lackawannacounty.org](mailto:havenstritec@lackawannacounty.org)



LEARN MORE



**NATIONAL ALLIANCE**  
FOR DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN

Help. Hope. Support.



**Kelsey Tambasco**

Data & Fiscal Analyst  
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**Stacey Read**

Director or DEC Network Development  
720-281-5939  
[sread@nationaldec.org](mailto:sread@nationaldec.org)



# Hancock County's Approach to Creating Connections for Youth Impacted by Addiction

Presented by: Precia Stuby, LISW

# Site Information

- County: Hancock County
- City, state: Findlay, Ohio
- Year started: 2015
- Estimated number of overdose deaths per year: 15.6 (We have been tracking since 2009. Highest number of deaths was 30 in 2017; there were 9 deaths in 2023 [first time in single digits since 2013].)
- Size of jurisdiction: 76,000
- Funding sources: Federal Opiate and Stimulant Response Funds

# Recommendation

- The Overdose Fatality Review Committee tracked the number of youths who lost a parent to an overdose. From 2015 to 2022, 85 children were identified. The recommendation was to start a camp for these children.
- When recommendation was identified: June 2021
- When recommendation was implemented: First Camp FUN was held in November 2021

# History of Camp FUN



## Why?



### Overdose Fatality Review:

- Since 2015, through 2022, 85 children in Hancock County have lost at least one parent to an overdose death

### Risk:

- Youth with a family history of addiction are at an increased risk (50% heritability)

### Protective Factor:

- Pro-social event/activity

### Make sure all youth know they count

### Camp FUN:

- (Friendship. Understanding. Nurturing.)

# How?

- Committee formed in June 2021
- Meet throughout the year via Zoom
- Developed 1<sup>st</sup> workplan in August 2021
- Visited Camp Mariposa in October 2021
- Held 1<sup>st</sup> Camp in November 2021
- Developed consistency
  - Frequency (2x/year)
  - Location (Church/Camp)
  - Months (June/November)
  - Activities

# Planning

## Committee

- 11 Members
- Pastor Fox, Committee Chair
- Bi-weekly Meetings
- Task Sheet Template
- Minutes

## Community

### Collaborations

- Trinity Lutheran Church
- First Presbyterian Church
- New Life Assembly of God
- Children's Mentoring Connection
- City Mission
- 50 North
- FOCUS
- University of Findlay
- Public Library

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# Activities

## Camp Staples

Art

Music

Animals

Physical Fitness

Reading

## Extras

Group Games/Activities

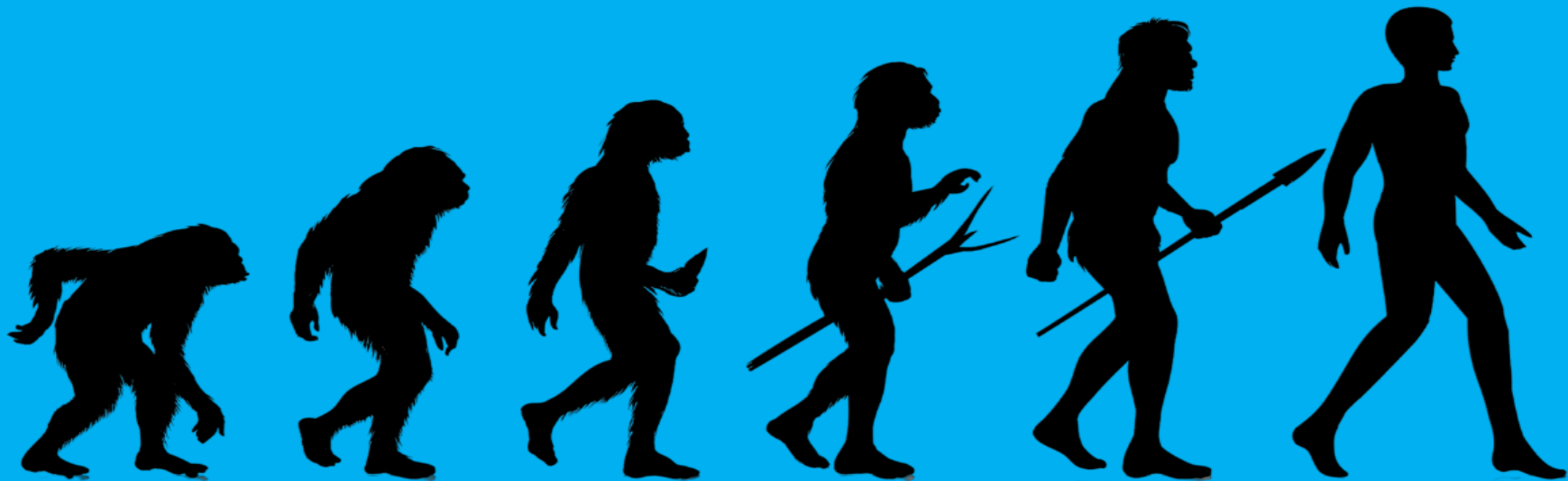
Free Time

Giveaways

Photo Stations



# Evolution of Camp FUN



# Camp FUN Activity History

	Art	Physical Activity	Music	Animals
November 2021	Awakening Minds Art	Guided Exercise	Heartstring Melodies	None
June 2022	Camp Berry	Nature Walk/Archery	None	Horses
November 2022	Awakening Minds Art	Obstacle Course	Heartstring Melodies	Support Dogs
June 2023	Awakening Minds Art	Nature Walk/Archery	Drumming Circle	Horses & Petting Zoo
November 2023	Awakening Minds Art	Cardio Drumming	Marathon Center of Performing Arts	Therapy Dogs

# Sample Schedules

## Fall Camp Schedule Example

9:00 – 9:15 a.m	Staff/volunteers arrive	
9:15 – 9:30 a.m.	Volunteer training	
9:30 – 10:00 a.m.	Campers arrive/check-in	
10:00 – 10:10 a.m.	Opening Remarks/Welcome	
	Group 1	Group 2
10:15 – 11:15 a.m.	Awakening Minds Art	Heartstring Melodies
11:15 – 12:15 p.m.	Heartstring Melodies	Awakening Minds Art
12:20 – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch / free time in gym	
1:00 – 1:20 p.m.	Large Group Game (Minute to Win It)	
1:25 – 2:25 p.m.	Service Dog Demo	Physical Activity
2:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Physical Activity	Service Dog Demo
3:30 – 3:45 p.m.	Closing	
3:45 – 4:00 p.m.	Pass out giveaways / Camper pick-up	

## Summer Camp Schedule Example

9:00 a.m.	Staff/volunteers arrive	
9:10 – 9:20 a.m.	Volunteer training	
9:30 – 10:00 a.m.	Campers arrive/check-in	
10:00 – 10:10 a.m.	Opening Remarks/Welcome	
	Group 1	Group 2
10:15 – 11:15 a.m.	Horses/Petting Zoo	Hike
11:20 – 12:20 p.m.	Hike	Horses/Petting Zoo
12:25 – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch / free time outside	
1:05 – 2:05 p.m.	Archery	Awakening Minds Art
2:10 – 3:10 p.m.	Awakening Minds Art	Archery
3:15 – 3:45 p.m.	Drum Circle with Jill	
3:45 – 4:00 p.m.	Pass out giveaways / Camper pick-up	

# Promotion of Camp FUN!

- Flyers
  - E-Updates
  - Newspaper
  - Radio
  - Hancock County Fair
  - Resource Tables at Community Events
  - Social Media
  - Addictions Coalition
- 
- A decorative graphic consisting of several short, thick, yellow dashed lines arranged in a curved, upward-sloping path in the bottom right corner of the slide.

# Flyer Sample

## Camp Fun!

Friendship - Understanding - Nurturing

Camp FUN is a **FREE** day camp for youth (ages 9-12 & 13-17) who have experienced family addiction and/or overdose. The purpose of Camp FUN is to provide a positive, encouraging, and supportive experience.

**June 17, 2023**

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

(Check-in begins at 9:30 a.m.)

Camp Berry

11716 CR 40, Findlay

*Rain or Shine*

Join us for a day filled with exciting activities, including hiking, ponies, archery, petting zoo, crafts, and more!

Registration is OPEN! [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

Or visit [www.yourpathtohealth.org](http://www.yourpathtohealth.org) for more information.



SCAN ME

*“Camp FUN gave my grandchild something ALL youth need—fun, acceptance, and time for being a kid!” - Stephanie*

# Budget

Approximately \*\$2,500 per Camp

- Venue – Camp Berry
- Vendors – Awakening Minds Art, horses, petting zoo, Heartstring Melodies, etc.
- Food
- Giveaways – Books, Promo Items with Camp FUN logo

Public Awareness/Recruitment – Flyers, Signage

\*Amount does not include donations from churches (facility rental, food, transportation and additional giveaways)



# Number of Kids Served/Testimonials

Over 50 Kids Served and Continuing to Grow!

Examples of Positive Feedback Received:

*“My son said he had tons of fun and wants to go again! He was very happy he went and met new people.”*

*“What a wonderful program!”*

*“This is a super meaningful experience for these kids and I’m so grateful for those who are able to help.”*

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# What's Next?

## Continuing to Grow & Improve

- Recently added “Something to Read” as staple giveaway
- Working to connect kids with local agencies/resources
- Providing self-care items/ideas to parents and caregivers
- Continuing to nurture relationships with area businesses in hopes of developing future partnerships (e.g., YMCA)

## Toolkits Now Available!

Includes:

Planning Meeting Task List  
Planning Timelines  
Sample Schedules  
Sample Flyers  
Sample Giveaways

Contact Hancock County Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) at [adamhs@yourpathtohealth.org](mailto:adamhs@yourpathtohealth.org) to receive your toolkit today!



# Gratitude

Camp Mariposa

Ohio Mental Health and  
Addiction Services  
(OhioMHAS)

# Contact Information

## *Precia Stuby*

Executive Director

Hancock County ADAMHS

[pstuby@yourpathtohealth.org](mailto:pstuby@yourpathtohealth.org)

(P) 419-424-1985

## *Gregg Fox*

Pastor, Camp FUN Committee Chair

Bluffton Trinity UMC & Rawson New Hope UMC Church

[prefarm@aol.com](mailto:prefarm@aol.com)

(P) 419-306-0233

# Additional Support Available!



## OFR Email Exchange

- Great way to network with your peers!



## OFR Message Exchange Sign-Up

The OFR message exchange is a platform for those involved in Overdose Fatality Reviews to engage with one another. Enrollment in this message exchange is by permission only, and the [terms of use](#) apply.

The fields marked with the \* are required.

First Name\*

Last Name\*



## Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Request

- Expertise is available to support your OFR efforts
- We are here to help you troubleshoot day-to-day challenges as they arise



## Training and Technical Assistance Request

Regardless of funding source, anyone can request OFR training and technical assistance. Expertise is available to support the expansion and development of overdose fatality review (teams) through a variety of formats, including but not limited to:

- Host one-on-one calls to troubleshoot day-to-day challenges
- Identify available resources and materials
- Connect TTA requestor to peers in the field
- Present to team or meeting attendees
- Convene professionals to address a need
- Facilitate virtual meetings and workshops



# OFR Mentor Site Opportunities



- The purpose of the Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Mentor Program is to elevate, communicate, and leverage OFR promising practices while building bridges between nascent teams and those with demonstrated success. The OFR Mentor Program provides a unique opportunity to learn the application and practice of OFR from experienced peers
- Interested sites can apply here

A flyer titled "Overdose Fatality Review Peer Mentor Site Opportunities". It includes a description of the program's purpose, a list of activities in a typical OFR mentee experience, and a QR code for application. The flyer also features the OFR logo and the BJA's Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program logo.

**Overdose Fatality Review**

## Peer Mentor Site Opportunities

The purpose of the Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Peer Mentor Program is to elevate, communicate, and leverage OFR best promising practices, while building bridges between nascent teams and those with demonstrated success. The OFR Peer Mentor Program provides a unique opportunity to learn the application and practice of OFR from experienced peers.

### OFR Peer Mentee Application

OFR peer mentor participants are matched to an experienced mentor site program that provides consultation and support through direct communication and a virtual\* OFR site visit, to see first-hand how OFRs work in practice.

A typical OFR mentee experience will include:

- One-hour introductory call at least one week before the OFR virtual site visit
- Two-hour OFR observation
- One-hour post review discussion call at least one week after the OFR virtual site visit
- Facilitated discussions with one or two OFR members as requested by peer mentee
- Feedback to IIR by both mentor and mentee about their experience

(\*Note: In-person virtual site visits are on hold during the COVID-19 response.)

Request a virtual site visit by completing this online form. ([http://s.ilr.com/OFRSite\\_Visit](http://s.ilr.com/OFRSite_Visit))

**OFR**  
Overdose Fatality Review

BJA's  
**Comprehensive**  
Opioid, Stimulant,  
and Substance Abuse  
Program

# Questions?