



# Montgomery County Prevention Coalition

**Educate | Advocate | Empower**



**2024**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

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# WE ARE BETTER & STRONGER WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER.

## **MISSION**

To mobilize Montgomery County to prevent youth substance use and promote positive mental health through implementation of evidence-based prevention strategies and community collaboration.

## **VISION**

A community where every individual lives a substance-free life with optimal mental health.

# THANK YOU

FROM OUR COALITION MANAGER

The MCPC walked into 2024 with big dreams. We were just starting CADCA's National Coalition Academy and planned to apply to become a Blue Ribbon Coalition. We were planning to complete four suicide prevention murals throughout the community through a grant from Culture Works – a lofty goal, we knew. We were heading into the second year of our Strategic Action Plans.

2024 was the year when these big dreams – and more – were realized. We were asked to present at state and national conferences, including the CADCA conference in Washington, D.C. We did, in fact, receive recognition as a Blue Ribbon Coalition – one of the top 11 in the country. We added four new murals to the community, launched our suicide survivor support group, created our Safe Homes campaign, supported Erin's Law implementation in schools, and so much more. For me, 2024 was the year I started to see some great confidence exude from Coalition members. You started to realize the impact of your work and saw others across the state taking notice. You started to realize what I knew all along – just how great you are.

I had the highest hopes for 2024, but what I didn't expect was that it would be my last year as the Coalition's Manager. That happens sometimes; new opportunities come along and the seasons of life change. I will miss this work dearly, but I will mostly miss working with each of you daily. Your passion for the cause and commitment to your community is nothing short of astounding and inspiring. I loved working alongside friends and fellow preventionists each day. I promise to remain the Coalition's biggest fan.

With that, I am excited to hand over the Manager role to Megr Francis, whose vision, leadership and community connections will take the MCPC to the next level. I know that Megr will make needed changes, add a new style and flair, and continue the vital work that you do each day. I can't wait to watch you grow and shine. I promise to remain the Coalition's biggest fan.

Love,

*Colleen Oakes*

**Colleen Oakes**

Former Montgomery County Prevention Coalition Manager

# 2 COALITION

## OVERVIEW

### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS



**Matt Tepper**  
He/Him  
President



**Tazeen Ahmed**  
She/Her  
Vice President



**Lake Miller**  
He/Him  
Treasurer



**Megan Garrison**  
She/Her  
Digital  
Communications  
Chair

### SUPPORT STAFF



**Tristyn Ball**  
She/Her  
Director



**Colleen Oaks**  
She/Her  
Manager



**Taniayah O'Quinn-Sims**  
She/Her  
Assistant Manager



**Sasha May**  
She/Her  
Training  
Specialist



# PERSONAL AGREEMENT

As a member of the Montgomery County Prevention Coalition (MCPC), I understand the need for respectful collaboration between all members. As a growing, diverse community coalition, I understand and value our differences. This valuing of diversity can only take place when we have a safe space where everyone is welcome to have brave conversations.

I know that everyone is here because they want to advance the mission of the MCPC to prevent substance use and promote mental wellness. We are all part of the MCPC and represent the communities that we live in and serve.

I understand that we are all human and have diverse skills and knowledge in building inclusive communities. Everyone's unique experiences and backgrounds make us better as a coalition.

Growth from within can be difficult. With the support of other coalition members, I am able to examine my personal biases, understand the perspectives of others and broaden my understanding of people who are different from me.

## I take responsibility for:

- Entering discussions and meetings from a place of curiosity
- Assuming good intentions
- “Calling in” other members of the Coalition and offering feedback without shaming or judgement
- Asking clarifying questions before reacting
- Recognizing and struggling with my own sensitivities
- Respectfully communicating concerns
- Respecting the confidentiality of all personal information shared by coalition members

# 3 PARTNERING TOGETHER FOR ONE GOAL

In order to work together to address issues of substance abuse and Mental Wellbeing in our communities first we need to understand the local data on these issues.

## SUBSTANCE USE DATA

**6%** of Montgomery County 7-12<sup>th</sup> graders reported alcohol use in the past 30 days (Panorama, 2024).

**3%** of Montgomery County 7-12<sup>th</sup> graders reported smoking a cigarette in the past 30 days (Panorama, 2024).

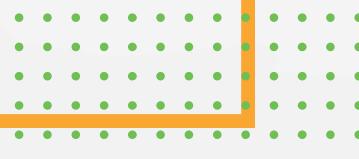
**6%** of Montgomery County 7-12<sup>th</sup> graders reported using an electronic vape product in the past 30 days (Panorama, 2024).

**6%** of Montgomery County 7-12<sup>th</sup> graders reported misusing prescription drugs in the past 30 days (Panorama, 2024).

**20%** of Montgomery County 7-12<sup>th</sup> graders reported gambling with money or things while playing cards, betting on skills or sports, buying lottery tickets or scratch offs, or in internet gaming in the past 30 days (Panorama, 2024).

**9%** of Montgomery County 7-12<sup>th</sup> graders reported marijuana or hashish use in the past 30 days (Panorama, 2024).

**176%** individuals died of overdose in Montgomery County in 2024 (Public Health Dayton and Montgomery County, 2024).





**By understanding the local data, we can come together and support our community in an informed and measurable way. Knowing our community is the foundation for creating a better environment and optimizing health.**

## Mental Wellness Data

**10%** of Montgomery County 7-12<sup>th</sup> graders reported being a victim of physical abuse (Ohio Healthy Youth Environments Survey, 2019-2020).

**68%**

of Montgomery County 7-12<sup>th</sup> graders have experienced at least one Adverse Childhood Experience (ACES) (Ohio Healthy Youth Environments Survey, 2019-2020).

**11%** of Montgomery County 7-12<sup>th</sup> graders have witnessed abuse (Ohio Healthy Youth Environments Survey, 2019-2020).

**20%**

of Montgomery County adults are at risk for or experiencing a gambling problem (Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services, 2022).

**5%** of Montgomery County 7-12<sup>th</sup> graders reported experiencing sexual abuse (Ohio Healthy Youth Environments Survey, 2019-2020).

**16%**

of Montgomery County 7-12<sup>th</sup> graders reported seriously consider attempting suicide within the past 12 months (Ohio Healthy Youth Environments Survey, 2019-2020).

# 41 BY THE NUMBERS

**263**  
COALITION  
MEMBERS

**3,909**  
SERVICE  
HOURS

**3**  
PROJECT  
GROUPS

**81**  
ZOOM  
CALLS

**82**  
ORGANIZATION  
S REPRESENTED

**226**  
COMMITTEE  
MEMBERS

**114**  
MEDIA  
FEATURES



# 5

# SUBCOMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

We continued to make strides to reduce substance use and improve mental wellness throughout 2024. The following are the year's highlights from each subcommittee.

## OPIOD PREVENTION

### Tabling

- Overdose Awareness Day
  - Shared resources with over 200 individuals
- FOA Rally
  - Over 303 participants visited the committee table and gathered resources
- Have A Gay Day Resource Fair
  - Had over 132 individuals participate

### Red Ribbon Week

- Second District Wide Red Ribbon Event
- Youth Prevention Leaders and Hope Squads helped in planning
- Shared information over announcements, Parent Square, Flyers
- Students across the district signed the Red Ribbon Week Pledge

### DEA Take Back Day

Saturday, October 26, 10am – 2pm

Partnered with:

- Calumet Center in partnership
- Zik's Pharmacy
- Kroger in Centerville
  - Shared Resources and Deterra bags



### Advocate of the Year!



**Nick Violet**  
(he/him/his)





Demetruis Fuqua

## Welcomed New Co-Chair

Demetruis Fuqua

## Safe Homes Pledge and Campaign

- Planning and Creation
- Sent decals advertising Safe Homes
- Shared information at events
- Asked community and families to take the pledge for Safe Homes

## Hosted Table at the Hollywood Casino during:

- March: Problem Gambling Awareness Month
  - 1,535 community members impacted
- September: Responsible Gaming Education Month
  - 514 community members impacted



## 2024 Ohio Problem Gambling Conference

- Presented on Addressing New Problems of Practice with the CADCA 7 Strategies for Community Change

## Review of the Digital Detox Website

- Members went through to ensure business still exist
- Removed businesses that we reconsidered promoting
- Added minority owned businesses

PROBLEM  
GAMING AND  
GAMBLING  
PREVENTION



## Proposition Bets

Proposition bets or “prop” bets are bets on anything not directly related to the final score or result of the game; for example, how many passes a certain player will make. Prohibiting prop bets helps keep players safe from harassment from betters who want athletes to perform in certain ways; this includes things like harassment on social media or even stalking college players on campus.

The Policy and Advocacy committee wrote a policy statement on concerns around proposition betting on college players and then share this with the NCWA who had similar concerns.

These concerns around proposition betting was then shared up to the Ohio Casino Control Commission (OCCC) who moved to prohibit proposition bets on individual college athlete; helping to keep the student athletes safe.

## Family Dollar's Liquor License

In partnership with Old North Dayton, the Policy and Advocacy Committee supported residents' voices in opposing granting a liquor license to a local Family Dollar. Residents raised concerns regarding community safety and potential negative impact on the area.

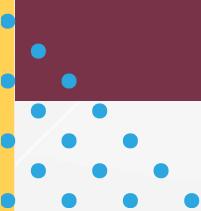
## Erin's Law

In 2022 Ohio passed Erin's Law (as part of SB 288) which require schools to provide age-appropriate sexual abuse prevention education to students, Train school personnel on child sexual abuse detection, and Inform parents and guardians of child sexual abuse warning signs.

In collaboration with the Power Based Violence Committee, Policy and Advocacy wrote a letter addressed to school personnel regarding requirements as illustrated in the bill, best practices from a prevention stand point, and additional resources to help school.

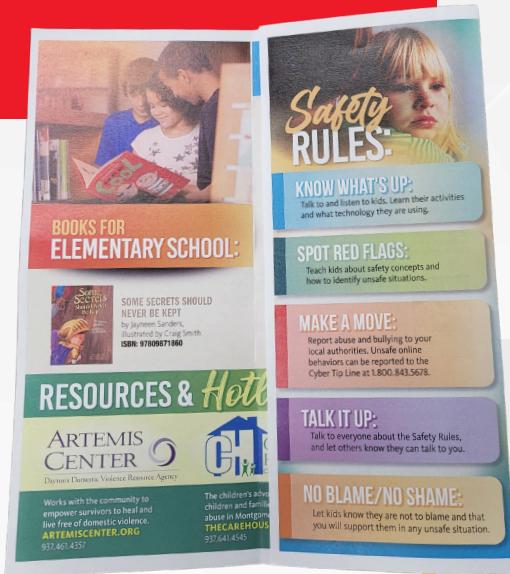


**Jordan Ostrum**



## Supporting Parents in Talking to Their Kids about Violence

- The Power Based Violence committed created a brochure titled "How to Keep your Kids Safe From Violence" to be distributed throughout the community
- Distribution to all Dayton Metro Library Locations. Patrons at each location can pick up the brochure



## Erin's Law

- Partnered with the Policy and Advocacy Committee to create a letter addressed to schools in order to educate them about Erin's Law and provided them with resources
- Held a webinar: Erin's Law - A Community Conversation for school personnel

## Power-Based Violence Local Business Survey

- Sent a survey to local businesses asking about violence in the workplace and its impact on the businesses and employees

## Teacher Appreciation

- Celebrated Teacher Appreciation Day at Trotwood Middle School
- Created a Teacher Fill-in Self-Care resource for area teachers

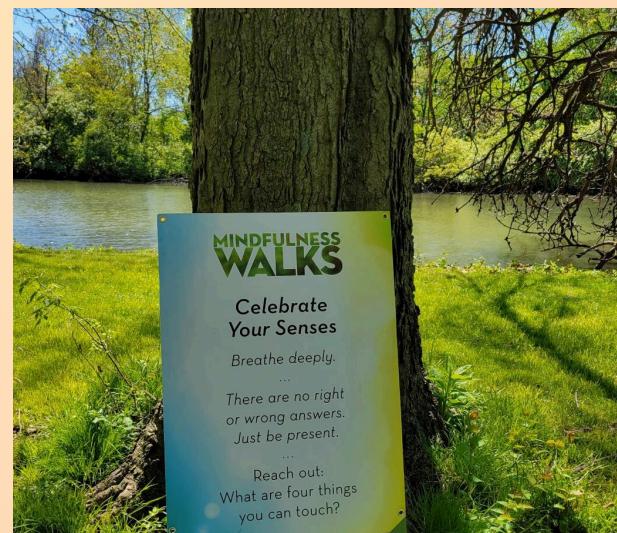
SELF-CARE  
PROMOTION

## SRM Trainings

- 380 Youth and Adults Taught
- A total of 590 taught since 2023

## Mindfulness

- Mindfulness Bookmark for YLP Schools and youth within Montgomery County
- Supported Five River MetroParks and their first permanent installation of a Mindfulness Walk at Eastwood Park





### **Suicide Loss Survivor Support Groups**

- In 2024, we launched our Suicide Loss Survivor Support Groups to support survivors who have lost someone to suicide
  - Completed 2 Support Groups
- Hosted Additional Support Group Facilitator Training in June
- Recruited 30 LOSS Team volunteers

### **Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors**

- Created the L.O.S.S Team
- Hosted Training for Volunteers
- Began partnering with local law enforcement to support survivors

### **Suicide Prevention Murals**

- Total of 5 Murals in the community

### **Outreach**

- During the 988 shop in September, 4,613 materials were distributed to 27 organizations
- Connected with & shared resources with over 400 people during Mental Illness Awareness Week
- Distributed gunlocks and suicide prevention posters/flyers





## Youth Leadership

- 243 Youth Leaders in Prevention
- 5,913 students served through the Youth Leadership in Prevention Program
- 4,054 community members served through the Youth Leadership in Prevention Program



## Youth Lead Projects

- Gem City Career Prep Spirirt Week
- Drug Free Poster Contest
- Red Ribbon Week
- Be An Upstander
  - 5 news schools in 2025

## School Partnerships

- Expanded partnership to 15 schools
  - 5 new schools in 2025



## Brookville Jr /Sr High School

# THANK YOU TO SARA

# 6 CULTURE OF

# COMMITMENT

## Champions of Change 100+ Hours

Rebecca Lewis

Nick Violet

## Super Supporter 75+ Hours

Ashley Cable

Amber Wilson

## Victorious Volunteers 50+ Hours

Tazeen Ahmed

Sarah Badger

Brittini Long

Sasha May

Vanessa Merrifield

Emily Mongelli

Wanda Ortiz Thayne

Jordan Ostrum

Karen Via

## Passionate Participant 20+ Hours

Wendy Berkshire

Heather Bowles

Hannah Brown

Margaret Bruns

Claudia Burnell

Colleen Callahan - Penquite

Ebony Calloway

A'Maria Carter

Ralph Davis

Leigh Ann Fulford

Demetrius Fuqa

Megan Garrison

Erica Gist

Kery Gray

Kayla Hairston

Lora Hammons

Amy Hamilton

Breanna Hamilton

Sue Hanna

Jordan Hodges

Joy Hoeferlin

Pat Holmes

Jeremy Joseph

Michelle Knight

April Lewis

Cynthia Lewis

Serida Lowery

Shiree McFarland

Lake Miller

Heath Nogle

Topher Peck

Christopher Riga

Shannon Russell

Stacy Smallwood

Quinton Smith

Trent Smith

Pat Stearns

Kayce Stewart

Matt Tepper

Amy Van Verth

Karen Weaver- Wilson

Stacy Whittaker

Jacie Womack

**JANUARY 3, 2024**

Dry January Inspires New Menu Items at Local Bars / **WBTV**

**JANUARY 8, 2024**

About Ohio's Law on Parental Consent for Teen Social Media / **Government Technology**

**JANUARY 7, 2024**

Explainer: New Ohio law requires parental consent for minor social media use / **Dayton Daily News**

**JANUARY 12, 2024**

'Uniquely Dayton' awards honor special volunteers / **Spectrum News**

**JANUARY 13, 2024**

New support group helps those who lost loved ones to suicide / **WDTN**

**JANUARY 14, 2024**

Health professionals concerned for kids as new marijuana law could increase exposure / **Dayton Daily News**

**FEBRUARY 6, 2024**

The link between seasons and suicides; professionals share available resources / **WRGT**

**FEBRUARY 9, 2024**

Gambling addiction support services ahead of Super Bowl LVIII / **WDTN**

**MARCH 29, 2024**

Political ads can stir up negative emotions; here's how to cope / **WDTN**

**MAY 1 2024**

DEA making changes to marijuana classifications / **WDTN**

## ● MAY 22, 2024

Mural unveiled in Dayton to spread hope as suicide numbers increase / **WDTN**

## ● AUGUST 6 2024

New suicide survivor support program launches in Montgomery County / **WDTN**

## ● JUNE 3, 2024

New murals in Dayton offer hope and education on suicide awareness / **Dayton Daily News**

## ● JULY 3, 2024

Prevention Coalition hopes new suicide prevention mural reaches people in need / **Dayton Daily News**

## ● SEPTEMBER 3, 2024

Is marijuana addictive? Experts weigh in / **Dayton Daily News**

## ● SEPTEMBER 4, 2024

How do I talk to my child about marijuana now that it's legal in Ohio? / **Dayton Daily News**

## ● SEPTEMBER 4, 2024

Five on 2: September is Suicide Prevention Month / **WDTN**

## ● SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

"Give them a voice;" Coalition aiming to bring awareness, prevent youth suicide / **WHIO**

## ● OCTOBER 20, 2024

Dayton unveils fourth mural in suicide prevention series with block party / **WKEF**





## Montgomery County Prevention Coalition

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🌐 [preventionmc.org](http://preventionmc.org)

