

FREE CLINIC NEWS

A quarterly newsletter to help keep you informed!

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2017 Executive Directors Retreat

On June 5th, join the OAFC Staff and Clinic Leadership from around Ohio at Mohican State Park for an all-day Executive Directors Retreat! Come learn, relax, and rejuvenate with your peers.

The OAFC has secured a special room rate for Sunday and Tuesday Night! Make it a getaway for yourself or your family!!



Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided With Naloxone)

Project DAWN is a network of community-based opioid education and naloxone distribution programs coordinated through the Ohio Department of Health. The programs seek to prevent overdose deaths by



dispensing kits containing naloxone, an opioid overdose reversal drug also known by its brand name, Narcan. When administered to a person who is overdosing on opioids, naloxone can reverse an overdose that might otherwise have been fatal. In Ohio, anyone – not just police officers and first responders – may legally carry and administer naloxone.

Like the nation as a whole, the drug epidemic in Ohio continues to escalate. Opioid-related overdose deaths in our state rose to 2,590 last year, a 28 percent increase from 2014. This includes deaths due to both heroin and prescription pain medications, as well as a growing number of overdoses associated with the potent opioid fentanyl.

Ohio's Project DAWN programs educate members of the public on recognizing overdose, administering naloxone, performing rescue breathing and seeking emergency medical attention. The target audience is laypeople who have family or friends at risk of overdose or who are at risk of overdose themselves. Individuals who participate in a training session receive a kit that includes doses of naloxone to take home with them free of charge.

There are more than 50 Project DAWN sites around the state located at health departments, mental and behavioral health agencies and medical facilities. Please visit the Ohio Department of Health's Project DAWN website to refer your patients to the nearest location. Project DAWN programs can also be implemented in free clinics such as yours. For more information about Project DAWN and community naloxone distribution, or to discuss implementing a program in your clinic, please contact the Project DAWN Coordinator, Amy Holthusen, at amy.holthusen@odh.ohio.gov.

Volunteers Earn Continuing Education Credits

Governor Kasich signed into law a bill that allows licensed professionals to earn up to 1/3 of the continuing education credits through volunteer work in free clinics. Volunteers may earn one (1) credit hour for each 60 minutes spent providing health care services. This bill goes into effect on April 6th, 2017

The bill permits certain health care professionals to satisfy a portion of their continuing education requirements by providing health care services without compensation to indigent and uninsured persons. Under the bill, a licensing agency that licenses health care professionals must apply toward the satisfaction of a licensee's continuing education requirements the provision of volunteer health care services if the following conditions are satisfied:

1. The licensing agency requires licensees to complete continuing education as a condition of license renewal;
2. The health services are provided to an indigent and uninsured person;
3. The health care professional provides the health services as a volunteer;
4. The licensee satisfies the requirements to qualify for immunity from liability for providing volunteer health care services to indigent and uninsured persons;
5. The health services provided are within the licensee's scope of authority.

The bill specifies that these continuing education requirements apply to the following licensing agencies:

State Dental Board, Board of Speech-language Pathology and Audiology, Board of Nursing Ohio, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board, State Board of Optometry, Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board, Ohio Optical Dispensers Board, Chemical Dependency Professionals Board, State Board of Pharmacy, Ohio Board of Dietetics, State Medical Board, Ohio Respiratory Care Board, State Board of Psychology, State Board of Emergency Medical Services, State Chiropractic Board, State Board of Orthotics, Prosthetics, and Pedorthics, Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Licensing Board, and any other licensing agency that considers its licensees to be health care professionals.

VISTA Member Spotlight: Haley Coleman



SOAR

Student Run Free Clinic

This fall was exciting as September 2016 was the opening of the SOAR Student-Run Free Clinic (SRFC) at Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED). Haley and her team have worked to train and coordinate over 60 volunteers. SOAR SRFC has had 4 clinic days, 3 medication therapy management days, and 22 patient visits. We hosted a site visit from Volunteers In Medicine and became a member of the organization. We also hosted a site visit from the OAFc and become official members.

Haley organized and held a public forum for the community to introduce our clinic and assess how we can best serve the community. The public forum was well attended by representatives from local non-profits, churches, service organizations, behavioral health clinics, and the health department. Organizations offered great support and advice. It's been amazing to see the community really come together for this clinic! SOAR SRFC has been invited to take part in the Healthcare Coalition as part of the 2016-2019 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) of Portage County. Haley and her colleagues will be working with organizations in Portage County to be part of the planning to better address the needs of our patients and improve their access to care.

Haley helped write and submit the \$25,000 AAFP Foundation Family Medicine Cares USA Grant. SOAR SRFC was notified that they were the recipients in late November. The money will be used to purchase equipment and supplies for the clinic. Haley was also part of the efforts to secure a \$25,000 donation from the Walter W. Born Foundation. SOAR SRFC is very excited about everything they will be able to do for our patients!

Haley coordinated the recent launch of a new blog for the clinic and has organized volunteers to create the blog. Currently Haley is updating the policy and procedure manual, organizing the spring volunteer application process, preparing for spring volunteer orientation, creating handbooks for volunteer roles, updating the clinic business plan, exploring EMR options, recruiting physician volunteers, working to establish a storage system of QA from the clinic, and beginning to search for grants for operational cost.



2017 Clinic Storytelling Project!

OAFC needs your help! We are collecting stories from clinics across Ohio, just like the stories you read on the last page! We know one of the best advocates for free clinics are our patients and volunteers.

Over the next few months, Emily, the OAFC VISTA member, is going to be collecting stories from clinics to compile into one larger story for a great representation of what you all are doing in Ohio!

We need as much participation as possible! If you're interested in participating, please contact Emily at eodle@ohiofreeclinics.org for more information!



Calendar of Events

March

10 **Spring Communications Workshop**

17 **St. Patrick's Day**

April

16 **Easter Day**

May

29 **Memorial Day (OAFC Closed)**

June

5 **OAFC Clinic Leadership Retreat**

Ohio Association of Free Clinics
35 North Fourth Street
Suite 350
Columbus, Ohio 43215



Register Today!
March 10th 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
OAFC Spring Workshop
www.ohiofreeclinics.org