



## ***Opiate Task Force Meeting Minutes***

September 13, 2018

**In Attendance:** *Alex Reuther, Amy Foley, Angela Livesay, Anthony Huffman, Beth Bullock, Cathy Krieg, David Painter, Diane Flowers, Ed Humphrey, Gretchen Behimer, Jackie Lindner, Jaime Lutson, Jeff Sellars, Jessica Johnson, Jill Wallace-Cooper, Julie Frey, Karen Scherra, Keith Robinson, Kimberleigh Szaz, Lori Watkins, Lee Ann Watson, Marcia Oganowski, Mary Lynn Birck, Mary Wolff, Megan Barrett, Melissa Kaetzel-Cole, Sharon Richmond, Stephanie Shelander, Tara Jimison, Tracie Sellars, Tyra Scherer, Lindsey Aranyos, Sonya Carrico, Emily McAfee, LaRae Roach, Katlyn Bell, Jerry Wittmeyer, Jennifer Stimmal, Lora Moore, Ashley Newberry, Brett Phillips, Rhonda Birkhimer, Donald Oda, Linda Oda, Lisa Myers, Tina Fischer, Patricia Lawrence, Darren Miller, Christine Miles, Dan Bielecki, Scott O'Reilly Bill Stearns, Jeannette Nichols, Christine Cornelius, David Cornelius*

- I. Introduction and Review of Minutes** – *Lee Ann Watson, OTF Co-Chair*
  - a.** All in attendance introduced themselves. Minutes from July 12, 2018 were reviewed and amended.
  
- II. Discussion of Ohio Issue 1, the Drug and Criminal Justice Policies Initiative** – *Judge Donald E. Oda, Warren County Common Pleas Court; and Molly O'Neill, Mighty Crow*

Judge Oda discussed Ohio Issue 1 and his stance in opposition of the proposed amendment. Some key points addressed include:

- Judge Oda is in agreement with many of the ideas included in Ohio Issue 1, but his concern is the people who don't want to stop using or can't stop using.
- He pointed out that there are already diversion programs in place for first time offenders and those charged with possession of small quantities of drugs.
- In his experience, compliance among offenders doing outpatient treatment programs as part of their sentence is low compared to those who remain incarcerated and receive treatment in the diversion program.

- He is also concerned that Issue 1 sends the wrong message to the public by reducing or eliminating the consequences of crimes.
- Judge Oda pointed out that the 25% sentence reduction included in the proposed amendment applies to everything besides murder, rape, and child molestation; therefore, it's not only drug-related charges that would be impacted by the amendment.
- Lastly, he stated that if Ohio Issue 1 passes and it's not effective and doesn't work the way it was intended, then it would be very difficult to reverse.

Molly O'Neill discussed Ohio Issue 1 and her support of the proposed amendment. Below is a summary of key points from her presentation:

- Molly stated that currently the system continues to do the same thing and expect different results, which is the definition of insanity.
- She explained that the amendment would be a shift of resources within Ohio – additional resources in addiction and recovery instead of the corrections and courts.
- She summarized the three main provisions of the amendment and explained that the 25% sentence reduction is “earned time off” and not automatically applied to every sentence. Individuals would have to do educational programming or treatment that they are recommended to do.
- Molly also described the probation to prison pipeline provision and explained how the provision would allow courts to send individuals with technical violations to jail for a “wake up call” like drug courts often do rather than automatically to prison for one year.
- Lastly, Molly stated that 70% of the money saved by the state will go directly to the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to provide grants for treatment services including recovery and family services.

Judge Oda and Ms. O'Neill took questions from the OTF members in attendance. Several OTF members in attendance expressed interest in discussing Ohio Issue 1 again during the October OTF meeting and focusing on how the proposed amendment would impact Clermont County on a local level.

### **III. Action Items and Review of Upcoming Meetings – Lee Ann Watson, OTF Co-Chair**

- a. The next OTF meeting is October 11, 2018.