

The Criminal Justice and Mental Illness Task Force
Quarterly Meeting – 11/6/2017 @ 10:00 a.m.

Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton, Retired opened the meeting with updates on the Stepping Up Conference, which was a huge success. She explained there were many different county wide program representatives who attended to learn about the services that Stepping Up offers. She also explained that the budget requests were approved in order to keep the program moving forward. Stepping Up now has 34 counties participating.

Dr. Mark Munetz introduced our first speaker, **Dr. Erik Messamore, Associate Professor, Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED) - The Schizophrenia Opportunity:**

Reducing public burden and improving life quality through timely recognition and evidence-based care. Dr. Messamore explained that schizophrenia is a neurological emergency and if it can be diagnosed very early then the person can have a successful outcome. He gave a brief history of psychiatry. There was a shortage of doctors for the people that were considered mentally ill. Due to this, mental hospitals were opened to house the mentally ill.

Dr. Messamore also noted that violence is very rare with people who have been diagnosed as schizophrenia.



The Schizophrenia
Opportunity.PPTX

Results from processes that tilt brain functioning toward producing inaccurate internal maps of the external maps of the external world. When the dopamine levels fluctuate this generates feelings of apprehension and a sense that the world has changed in some uncertain way. Some of the psychosis symptoms are being suspiciousness, paranoia, delusions, hallucinations, disorganization of thoughts, and unusual behavior. The longer the illness goes untreated the poorer long term outcomes are. There are several illnesses that can produce symptoms identical to schizophrenia and should be ruled out before a diagnosis.

Dr. Messamore spoke of the medication clozapine that has been very successful in 80% of the patients diagnosed with schizophrenia. He explained the prescribing process, how it works, side effects, costs and other issues that were first observed at its original release. Since that time, the medication is prescribed with side effects to patients who do not have other health issues. Clozapine also is effective

in reducing suicide rates. Many jails do not provide clozapine, which is troublesome since these inmates often then relapse. With every relapse, it becomes more difficult for the individual to recover.

Justice Stratton then introduced **Mike Woody and Ruth Simera to give updates on CIT and Strategic Planning.** CIT began in 1988 in Memphis, Tennessee. The Summit County Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Board advocated and was able to get the Director of Training at Akron Police Department to pay for Mike Woody to attend training through the CIT Courts in Memphis.

Mike Woody became very involved with CIT and offered the first CIT training course for Ohio in May 2000. There were 20 officers selected to attend and receive this training. Mike then collaborated with Justice Stratton to promote CIT training to other law enforcement agencies. The first CIT National Conference was held in 2005 and had over 700 attendees.



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This is a public service announcement that goes out to the public.

Ruth Simera spoke about the core elements of CIT and explained that CIT is so much more than training. She explained the evolution and how many officers have been CIT trained to date. Ruth also reviewed four key strategies of the Ohio Strategic Plan. The Ohio CIT Coordinators Group will continue to reach out to law enforcement and train as many officers as possible. They are currently working with CJCCoE and NAMI for technical assistance.

Karhlton Moore, Executive Director, Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services Update on the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board Update From the Ohio Collaborative Community – Police Advisory Board

Director Moore talked to the group about understanding the collaborative, how it started in 2014 and so many changes have happened since it began. After a number of incidents between law enforcement and the public in Ohio and in the nation, several people asked Governor Kasich to avoid unrest in Ohio and to implement ways to create a relationship with the community and law enforcement.

As a result, Governor Kasich created a Task Force to come up with best practices to improve community and police relationships. The Task Force held four meetings around Ohio to gather information and input. The final report included

at least 180 recommendations for the Task Force to examine for possible implementation.

Ed Burkhammer, Sgt (Retired), Law Enforcement Liaison, Office of Criminal Justice Services – He provided an update on the law enforcement agency certification program. The goal is to make sure that the 900 plus law enforcement agencies in Ohio have written policies and procedures for personnel to follow. By doing so, all officers, within that community, will then be operating on the same page. The hope is that this process will improve community police relations.

Ed conducts trainings throughout Ohio to help police departments standardize department policies. By 2018, he hopes to have bias free policing standards in all 88 counties. Further information can be found at <http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov>, including information about the Change Starts Here campaign.

Michelle Gillcrist then invited subcommittee co-chairs to provide updates on projects being undertaken. The next Task Force meeting will be sometime in February. The meeting came to a close at 1:00 p.m.

[Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board Update](#)

[Promoting CIT in Ohio & the Ohio CIT Strategic Plan](#)

[The Schizophrenia Opportunity by Dr. Erik Messamore \(NEOMED\)](#)