

December 2023

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HELEN JONES-KELLEY



I love December! In addition to Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and other beloved holidays, we also pause for World Aids Day, Human Rights Day, and Bill of Rights Day.

This is the time of year we try to be a bit more intentional about spending time with our loved ones counting our blessings. It's also the time of year when holiday stress can get the best of us. We want to remind you that help is just a phone call or text away. The Miami Valley Warmline is a great place to start if you just need a listening ear. The number is 937-528-7777. People are there to help you Monday-Friday from 11 am - 7 pm. The Crisis Call Center has clinicians available to help those experiencing a mental health crisis. That number is 833-580-2255. If you prefer to text, you can always reach out to the Crisis Text Line by texting 4hope to 741741. No one should suffer alone, not during the holiday season or ever. I share my deepest gratitude to our many mental health, substance use, and prevention providers who continue to give of themselves to help others in Montgomery County. I hope each of you will be able to carve out a little time to reflect on the many blessings of 2023 and dream about the great things we can do together in 2024. Happy Holidays!

Helen E. Jones-Kelley

CRISIS RECEIVING CENTER WELCOMES CLIENTS

The new Crisis Receiving Center now welcomes individuals who need immediate access to crisis mental health services. The Crisis



Receiving Center is located at 601 S. Edwin C. Moses Blvd, inside Elizabeth Place. RI International is operating the center that provides crisis services to individuals experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis. Anyone can walk into the center to be connected to services. To seek mental health support on the phone, call the Crisis Call Center at 833-580-2255.

NEW COMMUNITY INSIGHTS DASHBOARD

We have heard your feedback that many of you were looking for a real-time dashboard that would provide demographic information about individuals seeking mental health services in Montgomery County. The new ADAMHS Community Insights Dashboard is now live and can be found on our website.



ADAMHS CELEBRATES MULTIPLE HONORS

ADAMHS is honored to receive multiple awards for the work of our team, as well as our Executive Director, Helen Jones-Kelley. Members of our team attended the Dayton Business Journal Business of the Year Gala. ADAMHS was a finalist for Business of the Year in the Community Supporter category. Highlighted work includes a particular focus on Black youth mental health, implementing innovative crisis services, and providing mental health support following the train derailment in East Palestine. Helen Jones-Kelley was given the John E. Moore, Sr. Lifetime Achievement Award for Racial Diversity at the Dayton Business



Journal Leaders in Diversity event. This Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes and celebrates Helen's 40+ years of public service, focused on improving the lives of families and children. Helen was also honored with the African American Leadership Award at the statewide UMADAOP Conference. This award is presented to someone who demonstrates commitment to improving the level of wellness of African American communities by developing or implementing exemplary behavioral health services. Congratulations to Helen and the entire team at ADAMHS for this well-deserved recognition.

ADAMHS CHOSEN TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL ANTI-STIGMA INITIATIVE

Montgomery County ADAMHS has been chosen as a pilot site for the National Anti-Stigma Initiative. The Anti-Stigma Initiative is a pilot program of the Addiction Policy Forum. Partners will help deploy and test new anti-stigma interventions and a stigma survey in our community.



The nationwide pilot is working to:

- Reduce addiction stigma, including stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination intent
- Increase knowledge about addiction in local communities
- Improve helping behaviors towards individuals with substance use disorder (SUD)
- Identify levels of addiction stigma in a community to establish a baseline indicator

"Montgomery County ADAMHS has been working to reduce stigma in our community for many years. It's a privilege to be chosen by a national organization to develop best practices that will impact communities across the county," said Kimberly Priester, Director of Treatment & Supportive Services for ADAMHS.

ADAMHS PROVIDES YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TO TEACHING CANDIDATES

Wright State University is partnering with ADAMHS to offer Youth Mental Health First Aid training to teaching candidates to prepare them for the challenges facing our children today.



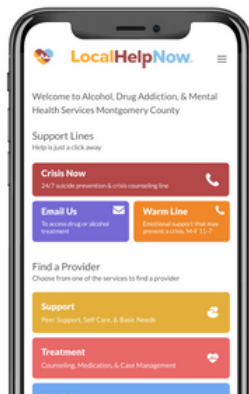
"Teachers will be working with hundreds, perhaps, thousands of students throughout their careers. Knowing that 1 in 5 children experience mental health disorders

each year, it is very likely that educators will encounter students experiencing mental health challenges, mental disorders, or mental health crises," said Amy Elston, Ph.D. at Wright State University. "Educators will need to know how to help those students and guide them to the appropriate professionals. Youth Mental Health and First Aid training provides educators with an easy-to-remember action plan that educators can utilize as needed."

ADAMHS began offering this training in 2019, and the demand has grown from 6 classes to 10 classes in 2023. Courses were offered in September and October, with 120 students signing up for the training.

LocalHelpNow
MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Connect to
resources for mental
health, substance
use, and more.



Find help at montgomerycounty.localhelpnowapp.com

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EQUITY ROADMAP IS RELEASED

In partnership with the Health Policy Institute of Ohio (HPIO), ADAMHS has released our Behavioral Health Equity Roadmap Assessment to the community. The assessment provides ADAMHS and our partners with information to inform the development of a future Behavioral Health Equity Roadmap.



"We are committed to ensuring everyone has access to quality care," said Tazeen Ahmed, Senior Program Coordinator – Health Policy & Equity for ADAMHS.

The report includes community conditions that support well-being, which include:

- Affordable housing and fair housing practices
- Jobs with livable wages
- Safe communities free from violence
- K-12 schools with resources to provide holistic supports to students and families
- Positive attitudes about mental health and disability
- Inclusive public spaces, such as drop-in centers, parks, and playgrounds

More information is still to come as we work with our community partners to address identified gaps hindering equitable access to services.

The full report is available [here](#).

#ADAMHSEVERYWHERE

The ADAMHS staff continues to show up at community events to spread the message of mental wellness. We were honored to participate in the Town Hall: To Shine a Spotlight on Mental Health at the University of Dayton Arena. Our team also supported the YWCA Voices Against Violence breakfast, Artemis Breaking the Cycle breakfast, Better Together Senior Services Conference, Tears, Tides, and Transformations Women's Conference, the Dayton Chamber Safety Conference, and the NCCJ Friendship Celebration. We love supporting our community!



Happy Holidays!