



For Immediate Release

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ADAMHS Earns Four National Achievement Awards

Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) is being recognized with four Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo). The awards, three in human services and one in information technology, honor innovative, effective county government programs that strengthen services for residents.

“We are thrilled by this honor, as it recognizes our efforts to produce high quality and innovative services for our community,” said ADAMHS Executive Director Helen Jones-Kelley. “We continue to learn, and to turn that learning into effective and relevant programs that help improve the well-being and quality of life for all Montgomery County residents.”

The Human Services category focuses on the ability to assist residents, particularly veterans, children, and the elderly and/or disabled residents and recognizes ADAMHS for the following programs:

The Montgomery County Rx Medication Safety Campaign educates individuals community-wide on how to have a healthy relationship with medication. In addition to learning about prescription drugs and how to manage them, this campaign distributed 65,000 free medication disposal bags throughout the county since 2017, resulting in the proper disposal of nearly three million pills.

The Montgomery County Prevention Coalition mobilizes community collaboration to prevent youth substance use and promote positive mental health through evidence-based prevention strategies. The Coalition is working on more than 40 community-wide strategies that impact behavioral issues such as gambling, suicide prevention and opioid misuse.

The Montgomery County Training Institute educated more than 5,000 behavioral health professionals and community members in 2018 to equip them with skills to help others in crisis. Topics include suicide prevention, mental health first aid, nicotine addiction and smoking cessation. Since its inception in 2016, the Training Institute has increased both the number of courses and residents trained and has expanded its offerings to reach new audiences across the region.

The Information Technology category recognizes creative uses of technology that make county processes more efficient and cost-effective and recognized ADAMHS for the following.

The Montgomery County Emergency Room Overdose Notification System provides an emergency room alert to community providers when there is a suspected drug overdose. The alert occurs within 24 hours to activate immediate patient engagement, outreach, follow-up and, treatment services. The objective is to quickly (re)engage as many ER overdose patients as possible into addiction treatment.

NACo will recognize ADAMHS in July at its 2019 Annual Conference in Nevada.

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ADAMHS is responsible for the planning, funding and monitoring of public mental health and alcohol and other drug addiction services. Under Ohio law, ADAMHS is the local county entity with responsibility for coordinating the public behavioral health system in Montgomery County. ADAMHS collaborates on the strategic initiatives of the Board of County Commissioners and supports the professional development needs of local governmental departments as well as approximately 30+ community-based organizations.

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