DEFIANCE COUNTY
DRUG FREE COALITION

Defiance County Drug Free Coalition
1300 E. Second St., Ste. 100
Defiance, OH 43512
(419) 784-3818

Defiance County Drug Free Coalition Quarterly Meeting	
Date	Tuesday, October 20, 2026 | 8:30am – 10:15am
Location	Defiance County EMA | 22491 Mill St, Defiance, OH 43512
Mission & Vision	Mission: Preventing substance misuse in Defiance County through education, awareness, and collaboration with community members and organizations. Vision: Building a drug free community for a brighter and healthier future.
Coalition Leadership Contact Information	• Coalition Coordinator: Taylor Jessing, tjessing@defiancecohealth.org • Jessica West, jessica.west@defiancecohealth.org • Brian Heil, bheil@defiancecohealth.org • Bridget Fischer, bfischer@defiancecohealth.org

Time and Speaker	Agenda Item	Notes	Action Items
Welcome: 8:30am – 8:40am Taylor	• Introductions • Approve meeting minutes	• **IN-PERSON**: Taylor Jessing, Jessica West, Jamie Gerken, Brian Heil – DCHD; Tom Boals – Recovery Community; Jeffrey Beam – Resurrection Recovery; Todd Shafer – MAN Unit; Meredith Schmersal – Probation; Chelsea Diedrich – Arrowhead Recovery; Dr. John Racciato – Coroner; Joy O'Donnell – Defiance County Prosecutors Office; Amanda Waldvogel – RSNWO/Serenity Springs; Doug Engel – DCSO; Nikki Arnold – DC; Kathy Minck – Community Member; Mayor Mike McCann – City of Defiance; Kayla Michaels- Defiance Municipal Probation; Patrice Tolbert-Maggot, Fostina Stewart, Mira Banks – Zepf Center; Jon Kendrick – Team Recovery; John Diehl – Recovery Community; • **ONLINE** – Bridget Fischer – DCHD; Adam Kunz – DPD; Nicole Ferguson – MAN Unit; Bethany Shirkey – Four County ADAMhs; Patricia Hardy – Ohio Guidestone; Erin Spieth – Defiance County Juvenile Court; Gavin Bartley –	

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		Senator Husted-Toledo office; Brandon Fisher – Defiance City Schools; Chris Stewart – Office of Reentry; Laurie McCann-Mercy Health Defiance; • **Approve Meeting Minutes**: Kathy motion to approve – Todd seconded. Motion passed.	
Housekeeping: 8:40am-8:50am	• Branding/Name	• Taylor shared that in the last several months there has been discussion about changing the name of this coalition to reflect the mission and vision – increase awareness of all the issues. There is a federal grant – Drug Free Communities (DFC) – which sometimes gets confused with our group and funding source. Taylor is sharing this info and asking consideration for the next meeting. Potential new names include: Defiance County Substance Use Prevention Coalition; Defiance County Prevention Coalition. Taylor welcomed other suggestions for name change. This would also come with a new logo/branding. Mayor asked what the mission and vision is – Jessica read these (which are at the top of the page). Sheriff asked if it is worth the cost? If we are getting attention with this name, would we lose attention/following with the name change? Taylor shared that the cost would be minimal and Brian shared the previous 501c3 was dissolved years ago when the coalition came under the DCHD leadership. Cost would be new table cover, new tent, reprinting any current branded materials. • Name proposals can be sent via email to Taylor. Taylor may send a survey out for voting on name in December to present at the January meeting.	
Tobacco Grant: 8:50am – 9:00am Taylor	• Tobacco Grant	• **TU27**: Taylor shared a brief overview of the Tobacco Grant deliverables. D1 is admin focus; D2 is Adult cessation, D3 is youth focused. We just wrapped quarter 1. Taylor and Brian attended all required meetings. • **Annual Data Assessment** – Tobacco Survey is currently open with anyone who lives or works in Defiance County over the age of 18 can take the survey to win a gas card. Only 44 responses – last survey a couple of years ago had over 600 responses. Please share this flyer/survey with coworkers and community members. Digital flyer will be attached with these minutes.	Tobacco Survey Flyer

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		• **Cessation Media Campaign** – Currently Ohio Quitline campaign is out on DCHD social media and partner sharing also. Billboard on 66 by Menards. • **Adult SHS** – NOCAC family fun day and Senior Center Health Fair events completed the Screen and Refer. Also working with Legends on Tobacco Policy – Taylor completed a site visit and we are awaiting VP approval to receive and review their tobacco policy. If they say no, we will need to identify a new organization. Also working with the Defiance County Senior Center on their tobacco policy to make improvements to reduce secondhand smoke exposure. • **Youth Policy Change** – Working with Camp Lakota & Boy Scouts for this policy change to improve and move unwritten rules into written language. • **Youth SHS** – Catch My Breath Vaping prevention in schools – Tinora SRO providing and Ayersville interested in having Health Teacher provide this. • **Youth Action Plan** – Alternative to Suspension policy with Ayersville piloting this and data gathering to share with other schools. Also will again hold a Media Design contest for MS/HS students for a Live Vape Free cessation poster to display in HC Provider offices and schools. • **Store Audit** – Spring audit of tobacco retailers to check marketing/placement of products with youth entering data. • **Compliance checks** –. Taylor has talked with Mike Winslow from DC about having law enforcement students to complete these checks. Nikki remind Mike to connect with Taylor about scheduling the training for these checks. Sheriff shared that they have no enforcement authority. We shared DCHD also doesn't have enforcement – this falls under the FDA. • For Q1, $12750 reimbursed for deliverable completion. This doesn't go to DFC rather a separate TU fund – DCHD time is coming out of TU instead of DFC. • Adult/Youth Taskforce Meeting at 8:30 at DCHD this Thursday, October 22.	

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Workgroup Updates: 9:00am – 9:45am Workgroup Chairs and Taylor	• Prevention and Education Outreach Group- Kathy
	  ○ OAD Event Planning
	• Data Group- Brian/Bridget
	  ○ Marijuana Readiness Assessment
	  ○ Community Response Template
	• Harm Reduction/Treatment Workgroup- Jeff
	• Fiscal Update- Taylor
		• **ED/OUTREACH**: Kathy shared 3rd Annual OAD event at DC in August and Hotwash in September. Group felt overall things went very well – speakers were well received, layout was improvement for speakers and vendors. Working with DC to set date for next year and looking at adding more fans to keep the space more tolerable. Appreciate State Banks GIVES truck for free will donation dinner and Four County ADAMhs board for dessert funding. Will continue to seek ways to improve reach/attendance at the event. Alex – speaker with podcast – offered to advertise for the event in the future also. Thanks to Shannon from MVGC for presenting on and distributing Narcan at the event – also well received. Estimate around 100 attendees based on t-shirts taken – which is consistent with previous events. No funding this year other than donations solicited by Jessica to fund the event. Looking at ways to increase use of Drug Take Back box and bringing Memorial Table photos. Sheriff asked about other DC options that are air conditioned. Nikki shared that we did the Serrick Center the first year which was too small. Really no other A/C options. Todd suggested a Relay for Life type Bags with votive candles to represent those lost to overdose. Brian shared that the t-shirts are still being seen out in the community. Nikki wore her shirt to the Henry County event and local baker wore her's at a large community event also.
		• Taylor & Jessica presented vaping prevention for Defiance County 6th grade School Tours provided by Defiance County Soil and Water. We presented condensed version of Catch My Breath. Event was a UAW Park and Penney Nature Center. Wendy Baker & Schools were very appreciative and students were overall attentive.
		• **DATA:** Bridget shared about the Marijuana Readiness Campaign. This past spring this was completed by the Data Workgroup – results showed that community is at Vague Awareness. Group wanted to focus on law around marijuana, THC effects, etc. This info was provided to Jessica to create social media campaigns which were reviewed by some of the group members.	

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		Jessica shared the social media metrics for posts scheduled for Oct 12 at noon and Oct 15 at 7p – above average reach and engagement with lots of comments and interaction to the Oct 15th post. This information has also been added to the DFC section of the DCHD website: https://defiancecohealth.org/drug-free-coalition/#ohio-marijuana-law Other posts on this topic are scheduled throughout the next several weeks. Jessica will continue to thoughtfully schedule and monitor/respond to feedback on this campaign. • Brian shared appreciation for Jessica's monitoring and response to this post – noting the thoughtful, informative, and professional responses. Kathy also shared praise for the handling of this campaign. • County wide overdose response plan – every agency has their own policy if we have a large spike in overdose/large seizure. Looking a mobilizing a large community wide response with responsibilities and work plan to collaborate on this. Check for an email from Bridget with more info and tabletop planned to schedule in early 2027 to test this. DCHD would share increased messaging on overdose prevention and where to get Narcan. Brian also shared that the Four County ADAMhs Board is developing Regional Mental and Behavioral Health Disaster Response Plan – this is still being finalized. • Bridget shared that we are in the beginning stages of gathering data on marijuana use/misuse – this will really launch in 2027. • **HARM REDUCTION**: Taylor shared QRT team is mainly Nicole Ferguson and we are providing support with info/resources. We are still exploring the funding for Naloxone Resource boxes to establish in community to support harm reduction in county. Updated Substance Resource folders – will need to purchase more as we are getting low. Taylor will reach out to organizations in the folders to request more brochures. • Project DAWN update – DCHD previously was only able to provide for certain groups. This is being changed so that we may be able to provide to	

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		anyone in the community and could distribute at community events. We have re-applied for this and await response – we will still be able to distribute to the groups we currently support. Mayor asked about measurables to test the effectiveness of distribution of Naloxone? Are overdoses down? Taylor said statewide through Project DAWN we can get distribution data. With Law enforcement, we can get use info. Public does not report to DCHD (or always to health care provider). Jamie shared a personal story of her daughter who came upon a young man unconscious, called 911, EMS came and delivered Naloxone and provided care for the individual. Jamie has encouraged daughter to carry Naloxone in case of touch exposure, etc. Taylor showed the Project DAWN bag – Nicole F. has a single dose keychain – which we would like to look into funding to provide to law enforcement. Mayor asked about shelf life for product – Taylor said depends on the brand. Some are 2 years – any is better than none (even expired). Sheriff shared that we keep saying accidental overdose – there is a causation/choice. Brian said this speaks to also where we are exploring the name change to speak to the fullness of our preventative actions. Jon Racciato shared that there is some consideration/encouragement to changing overdose deaths to potential homicide deaths and the cost for autopsy/death investigations. Taylor shared that our reporting language is unintentional overdose death. Todd said he would term it as intentional and unintentional. Taylor shared that Project DAWN training covers all the ways that one can overdose. • **FISCAL**: Brian shared the fiscal update – please see attached slides for more information. We appreciate all who support this coalition with partnership and funding. Brian floated that we may want to discuss if the group would like to approve expenditures in the future (set level for DCHD to move – set levels for coalition approval of purchases).	

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Member Sharing 9:45am – 10:15am	• Round Robin community updates. Please limit updates to 3 minutes per person. If you have more to share, please email Taylor and she will include additional updates in the meeting minutes.	• PATRICE: enjoyed Overdose Awareness Event – wonderful! Fatherhood project in Williams & Paulding – ready to help serve community. • JESSICA: DCHD received the AH27 grant (with Williams & Putnam Co. HD's) to continue NORY trainings. Yesterday, she trained over 160 staff at Defiance City Schools. Also working with Law Enforcement to add NORY to CPT training for Defiance County Law Enforcement to get the training and credit for it. Coffee with a Cop is Thursday at NOCAC PATH Center – please join us! • KAYLA: Brittany no longer with office – currently hiring. • TOM: kudos to Jessica & Dr for all the good work. Wishlist for a Detox center in the 4 county area – so important with the nearest in Ft Wayne or Toledo. Taylor asked if Tom has connected with Nicky Ferguson? • SHERIFF: Deputies went through pink slip training. Alcoholism is now under behavioral health so they can have these individuals assessed via healthcare provider. Working with healthcare systems on new process. Thanks to this group for all the information being put out. Request for OAD to not be on the week of fair – we will look at the dates to accommodate the request. Taylor offered support for meeting on behavioral health changes with HC providers. • TODD: shared the trends in the drug world – Meth still big and huge uptick in Cocaine. Mushrooms are also up again in the area. Todd shared that they are seeing counterfeit pressed pills coming through the area also. • JON: Drug overdoses seeing are due to cocaine – has not seen fentanyl in a while. Drug problems are not going away. • KATHY: DFC Ed and Outreach group will meet again in January – please connect with Kathy or Taylor to join this group. • JOY: Prosecutors office does prosecute overdose deaths with crimes associated with these deaths such as involuntary manslaughter and	**2027 Meeting Dates: January 19, April 20, July 20, October 19**

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		corrupting an individual with drugs if they are found to be the person providing the individual who died with the drugs. • AMANDA: Recovery Services Grief Counseling continues – Serenity Springs Playground Dedication this Friday: please come from 2 – 4 to celebrate this! • CHELSEA: Availability for detox and serving this area – please reach out for support or info. • MAYOR: thanks for all you do! • NICKI: DC hiring another clinician in Counseling Center. DC seeing increase in alcohol, cocaine, and mental health issues also. Monthly dorm inspections occur with findings even with advance notice given (liquor, weed, etc). • JAMIE: Coalition in existence since 2012 – 14 years of work – great job all! Expected the commentary on the marijuana – talked with Jessica about it. Anchor in the mission and stay the course! • BRIAN: shared Food Council Open House happening tomorrow at DCE- 2nd floor conference room from 2- 4p – please come! • TOM: Project DAWN packets on bench, each vehicle, etc – but doesn't carry on himself. Reminder of importance to carry on self. • FOSTINA: launched Maternity Journey in Defiance and getting into providers offices. Building partnership to get community members the care they need. • MIRA: Full service mental health and recovery at Zepf Center – harm reduction vending machines in their lobby. • TAYLOR: trained in Responding to Addiction – presentation to groups on stigma, addiction, and resources. Typical paired with a Project DAWN presentation. About a 2 hour presentation – contact Taylor to schedule this. It will be a part of the Regional Substance Use Prevention Breakfast in Feb. 2027.	

Minutes taken by: Jessica West

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Next meeting: January 19th @ 8:30 – 10:15am at the Defiance County EMA or via Microsoft Teams.