



The G.A.P. Network

A program of Prevention Action Alliance
Funded by
Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

Last 3 Days to Register! Cincinnati-Area, Ohio Grief and Advocacy for Prevention Conference



General Overview

What is this conference?

- With 14 Ohioans being taken away from us every day due to substance overdose, we know there are 14 more families that are grieving the loss of their loved one and want to understand what they are going through with their grief.
- This event is intended to provide those families with information on the grieving process with regards to stigmatized grief, to show that they are not alone in their grief, and ways that they can become involved within their communities to combat the current addiction epidemic.

This educational conference will address:

- Substance Use Disorder/addiction and behavior
- Coping with grief & trauma
- Combating stigma
- Advocacy for prevention
- Peer support options

Who should come?

- Family members and friends who have lost someone to substance overdose loss or Substance Use Disorder/ addiction
- Professionals looking to learn about Substance Use Disorder/addiction and grief
- Community leaders looking to identify local resources
- Advocates for prevention

[Register Here!](#)

[Apply for Registration Scholarship Here!](#)

Date: January 26th, 2019

Location: Crossroads - West Side
8575 Bridgetown Road
Cleves, OH 45002

5.50 Continuing Education Credits (CEUs) are available and approved by the Ohio Chemical Dependency Board

Introducing Our Speakers for the Cincinnati-Area Conference (Full Details Below)

Newtown Chief of Police Tom Synan

Hamilton County Heroin Coalition

Dr. Julie Bemerer Psy.D

Cincinnati Children's Hospital

Ellen Schoonover

G.A.P. Network Advisory Council
Community Advocate & Mother who lost her son to overdose and whose experience was told by Sam Quinones in his book: *"Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic"*

Elizabeth Spanel, MSW, LSW

Fernside Counseling

Tina Cadavid, LISW-S

Hospice of Cincinnati

Christi Valentini-Lackner BA, OCPS

PreventionFIRST!

Dr. Lauren Bartoszek Ph.D., CHES

ASAP Norwood
Miami University Visiting Assistant Professor

Deborah Neyer, M.Ed., OCPS

Fairfield Prevention Coalition

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[Learn More About The G.A.P. Network](#)

[Addiction Epidemic Response Overview](#)

Chief of Police Tom Synan - Newtown
Hamilton County Heroin Coalition

Learning Objectives:

- Interpret most recent statistics related to the current addiction epidemic and examine latest programs and initiatives occurring that affect the local community.
- Discuss multi-jurisdictional and multi-agency collaborations including actions taken by law enforcement and other government agencies.

- Identify and discuss the barriers that still need to be addressed in making progress for substance misuse prevention and harm reduction.

Mr. Tom Synan's wide experience has allowed him to have a unique look into the heroin crisis. He is a United States Marine Corps veteran and a 25-year police veteran with the Newtown Police Department. For the last 10 years, he has served as Police Chief and as a SWAT Team Leader veteran.



In 2014, after watching the last of an entire family die from drugs—the last two from heroin—Mr. Synan met with other members in Hamilton County and helped form the Hamilton County Heroin Coalition where he sits on the Steering Committee and Chair Interdiction. Mr. Synan coordinates law enforcement efforts to reduce supply and works with other members to help reduce demand.

Mr. Synan was asked to testify in Washington D.C. at a U.S. Senate Homeland Security Committee giving testimony on synthetic opiates and the impact Fentanyl and Carfentanyl have had on the country. Mr. Synan spoke for the Clinton Foundation alongside President Clinton and other distinguished panelists on the opioid crisis at Johns Hopkins University.

Mr. Synan's career and work with the opiate epidemic has been recorded and archived in the National Law Enforcement Museum in Washington D.C. His work with the Hamilton County Heroin Coalition has been used in national and international publications and media outlets. He has seen the many ways heroin touches lives and the efforts it takes to help individuals, families struggling with addiction, and the impact on communities.

Watch: Cincinnati Enquirer's video on Police Chief Tom Synan

Watch: "It's time we stop viewing addiction as a crime."

How to Talk to Children about Traumatic Events

Dr. Julie D. Bemmerer, Psy.D.
Cincinnati Children's Hospital

Learning Objectives:

- Learn the different types of traumas and trauma symptoms.
- Understand traumatic grief, specifically related to overdose death.
- Learn how to support children who have experienced trauma, such as having a family member who died by overdose.



Dr. Bemmerer received her Doctorate of Psychology from Xavier University after completing a clinical psychology internship at UC Davis Children's Hospital, CAARE Center in Sacramento, California. During internship, she learned and practiced Trauma-Focused Cognitive-Behavioral therapy and Parent-Child Interaction therapy, evidence-based treatments for trauma. She then completed her fellowship at Rowan University's CARES Institute in Stratford, New Jersey.

Dr. Bemmerer completed an in-depth training of Trauma-Focused Cognitive-Behavioral therapy with one of its creators and learned another evidence-based treatment called Combined Parent-Child Cognitive-Behavioral therapy. She is now a psychologist at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Services where she provided trauma therapy to

children and their families. She also provides trauma assessment, consultation, and therapy services in Children's Foster Care Clinic.

Understanding and Coping with Grief

Elizabeth Spanel, MSW, LSW
Fernside Counseling

Tina Cadavid, LISW-S
Hospice of Cincinnati

Learning Objectives:

- Discuss Fernside's and Hospice of Cincinnati's experience in supporting families and adults who have been affected by a loss due to addiction.
- Identify common grief reactions after a death.
- Describe grief related to loss due to addiction.
- Define healthy ways of coping with grief.



Liz Spanel is a Licensed Social Worker and is a Program Coordinator for Fernside: A Center for Grieving Children and Families. She holds a Bachelor of the Arts in Sociology from the University of Dayton and a Master of Social Work from The Ohio State University.

Liz joined Fernside's staff in March 2014. She coordinates the Community Outreach & Education Program, giving presentations about topics such as how grief affects children at different developmental stages and grief and the holidays. Liz also coordinates Fernside's Crisis Response Program, providing guidance and resources to schools after they've been affected by a death and leading support groups for children grieving the loss of a peer. Liz is also responsible for coordinating East Side and Tuesday Blue Ash group nights, supervising volunteers, and serving as the primary contact for attending families. As part of Fernside's School Program, Liz facilitates grief support groups in schools across the community for children who have had a death. Liz resides in Cincinnati, Ohio with her husband and daughter.

Tina Cadavid is a social worker and bereavement counselor. Tina graduated from Loyola University Chicago with her undergraduate degree in 2004 and with her Masters in Social Work in 2005. Tina works at The Hospice of Cincinnati in the Goldstein Family Grief Center, and she provides one-on-one bereavement and anticipatory grief counseling for adults and children as well as family and grief support groups. Tina co-facilitates an adult grief retreat each year, developed a grief support group for the loss of a loved one due to addiction, developed a grief focused book club, and runs a quarterly grief event series through The Grief Center.

Tina works closely with Fernside: A Center for Grieving Children and provides services not only to Hospice families but to the community as a whole. Tina also facilitates a yearly grief support group for women who are in treatment for addiction. Previously Tina was a therapist in group homes in Chicago, Illinois, where she worked with children and teens, managed partial hospitalization programs, worked in the hospital ER setting, and offered private therapy services. Tina resides in Cincinnati, Ohio with her three children.

Embracing Grief & Find Hope

Loss

Ellen Schoonover

The GAP Network Advisory Council

Grieving Mother

Session Description

This presentation will cover four pillars of hope that can aid families who have lost a loved one to a substance related overdose.

Learning Objectives:

- The participants will leave this workshop with tools to help them feel emotionally stronger.
- The participants will learn to identify new and creative ways to honor their loved one.
- The participants will have a better understanding of finding purpose after loss including how to educate others on the stigma of addiction.



Ellen Schoonover grew up in Columbus Ohio, earned a Bachelor's of Social Work, met her husband, Paul, at college, and raised two sons, Myles and Matt. In May of 2012, just one day out of rehab, Matt died of an overdose at age 21. Paul and Ellen knew nothing about opiate addiction, and, at that time, there was very little coverage of it in the news. They had a choice to make. They could hang their head in shame and not talk about it, or they could help prevent this from happening to other families. They chose the latter and are grateful for the opportunity to educate the public, help families understand this epidemic, and support other parents who have lost their child to addiction.

Ellen serves on the advisory council of The G.A.P. Network and helped develop their Coping with Loss After an Overdose: A Resource Packet. She spoke monthly to a parent group at The Woods at Parkside, has participated in several faith-based round tables, and was featured in Sam Quinones' book Dreamland. She has shared Matt's story at: town hall meetings, community forums, school parent nights and assemblies, the Ohio State Bar Association, the Statewide Superintendents Meeting, Toledo NAMI mental health conference, The Funeral Directors Association of Central Ohio, Ohio's 2016 Opiate Conference, 2016 Recovery Conference, Youth to Youth National Conference, and the More than a Number Event.

A Community Approach to Prevention Panel

Dr. Lauren Bartoszek, Ph.D., CHES

ASAP Norwood

Miami University Visiting Assistant Professor

Session Description:

At ASAP Norwood, we believe everyone has a role to play in prevention. Surviving this epidemic and enduring potential grief and loss can be about finding meaning in a circumstance that has no reason or explanation. This presentation will introduce you to coalition work by describing our mission, focus areas, and past and current projects and prevention efforts. You will be given some simple tips and tricks for finding and joining a coalition, and you'll learn what to expect once you've joined a coalition. Finally, you'll receive tangible action items for developing your advocacy skills around substance abuse prevention.



Dr. Lauren Bartoszek teaches undergraduate and graduate students in the Public Health major at Miami University in Oxford, OH. Additionally, she is the faculty advisor for Eta

Sigma Gamma (a national health education honorary student organization) at Miami. She earned a PhD in Health Education from University of Cincinnati in 2016, with a cognate specialization in substance abuse prevention. Dr. Bartoszek has been published in professional journals and presented at national conferences on substance abuse prevention and adolescent health.

As a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES), she has been an active member of Activating Substance Abuse Prevention (ASAP) Norwood coalition for almost 2 years, more recently taking the coordinating role of the new Advocacy Sub-committee and the leadership role of the ASAP Norwood steering committee. In this role, she has helped the coalition obtain funding for advocacy projects including medication assisted treatment (MAT) awareness and Tobacco21. Dr. Bartoszek lives in Norwood with her husband and in her spare time, loves teaching Barre3.

[A Community Approach to Prevention Panel](#)

Christi Valentini-Lackner, BA, OCPS
PreventionFIRST!



[Session Description:](#)

When a community desires change, it takes a group of people working together to have a sustained influence. Coalitions are a great way to work together to achieve goals around community change. This presentation will discuss the importance of coalitions, the action steps community members need to take to create a successful coalition, and the need for organized sectors, representation and leadership.

Christi Valentini-Lackner is an Ohio Certified Prevention Specialist and has worked in the field of prevention for more than 15 years. Christi is the Director of the Center for Prevention Action at PreventionFIRST!, which aims to change or influence multiple community conditions to reduce community-level alcohol, tobacco, and other substance problems. Christi graduated from Ohio University with a Bachelor's of Psychology. Valentini-Lackner is the co-author of the low risk drinking course for adults Minimize Risk-Maximize Life and a 2016 recipient of the ADAPAO Advocate Award.

[A Community Approach to Prevention Panel](#)

Deborah Neyer, M.Ed. OCPS
Fairfield Prevention Coalition



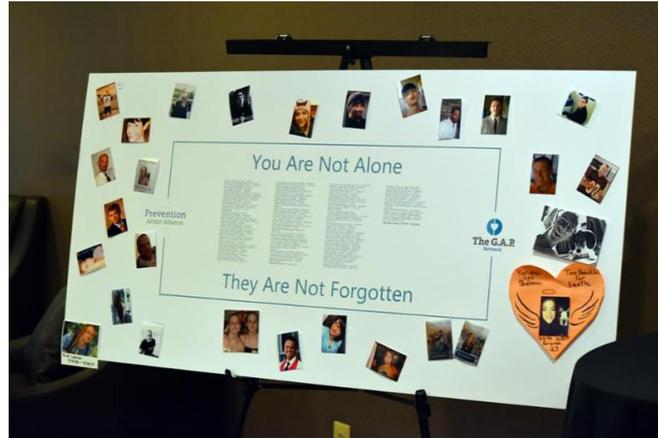
[Session Description:](#)

Mock crashes, scare tactics, shock ads do little to change risky behavior in youth. Find out what research tells us about real, lasting change. Understand what gets youth jazzed about life and about being a positive influence to their peers.

Deborah Neyer is the Executive Director of the Fairfield Prevention Coalition, a community organization that enhances youth well-being in Fairfield. The group uses research-based strategies to change policies, practices, and perceptions to build resilience and reduce risky behavior. Deb teaches wellness classes at Miami part-time, but her primary focus is building into the youth and adults of Fairfield. Deb has a Bachelor's of Communication from Bowling Green State University and a Master's of Education with a focus in health promotion and behavior change from the University of Georgia, was a fellow

at the Centers for Disease Control, won the Excellence in Teaching Award at Miami University Hamilton, and graduated from the CADCA National Coalition Academy. She lives in West Chester with her husband and two teenage daughters, is an artist, reads avidly, and loves travel, fitness, dancing, and scuba diving.

Honoring Our Grief



The opioid epidemic has devastated Ohio. Currently, 14 Ohioans each day are passing away due to substance misuse, and each one of them is loved by someone.

You are not alone in your grief. [Here we remember those people as the fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters that they were.](#) They are not forgotten.

If you would like to make a submission to the Memorial Banner, please contact Tyler Begley at tbegley@preventionactionalliance.org.

[Memorial Banner Web Page](#)



Questions? Comments? Suggestions?

[Click here to email Prevention Action Alliance](#)

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