



# The G.A.P. Network

A program of Prevention Action Alliance

## Registration Closing Soon: Grief and Advocacy Conference – Northeast Ohio



Registration for the Grief and Advocacy Conference in northeast Ohio ends Monday!

Don't miss your chance to connect with resources and experts on grief, advocacy, and prevention at this conference in northeast Ohio. We'll discuss the neurobiology of addiction, healing in our journeys of grief, the power of forgiveness, and how to turn our grief into advocacy.

Seating is limited, so please learn more and register now at [our Eventbrite page](#). Scholarships are available to cover the registration cost.

We are accepting a small number of walk-ins.

### Event Details

**Location:** Cornerstone of Hope  
5905 Brecksville Road  
Independence, OH 44131

**Date and Time:** January 12, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**CEUs:** 5.75

**Cost:** \$20

*Continuing Education pending.*

Register on  
Eventbrite!

Cleveland-Area  
Conference Flyer

Visit and Share the  
Facebook Event  
Page

## Registration Scholarships!

To apply for a scholarship that will cover the cost of registration, click the button below. Scholarships will be reviewed within 24 hours, and are available for all our regional conferences.

Apply for Registration Scholarship Here

## The Neurobiology of Addiction

Dr. Nicole T. Labor DO, BCFP, BCABAM, FASAM - Medical Director OneEighty Treatment Center

### Session Description:

Addiction 101 is a general overview of the disease of addiction that specifically aims to decrease the stigma around the disease and broaden the understanding of the disease concept. The lecture looks at very basic brain and neurotransmitter function during the disease process and explores the reasoning behind current treatment modalities.



## Losing a Daughter—Gaining a Mission

Sheryl Hirsh

Assistant Director of the Siegal Lifelong Learning Program at Case Western Reserve University

### Session Description:

This session will shed light on how to get involved on the community-level for everyday people and a testimony on how to transfer grief to find a role in the battle to combat the addiction epidemic and the stigma of those that suffer with substance use disorder and addiction. Sheryl will discuss how losing her daughter has given her a voice and a mission in life to help others suffering from the loss of loved ones due to substance use disorder.



## Finding Hope and Healing in the Grips of Grief

Julia Ellifritt, LISW-S

Cornerstone of Hope Bereavement Center Program & Education Director

### Session Description:

Grief is something that 100% of the population experiences. This program will focus on the defining mourning, grief, bereavement and complicated grief as well as discuss the difference between complicated and normal grief. It will also look at the factors that make our grief unique from one another. Persons with a mental health diagnosis or addiction may experience complications in processing their grief. Particular focus will be on clinical interventions to assist that group.



## Transforming Grief into a Call to Action

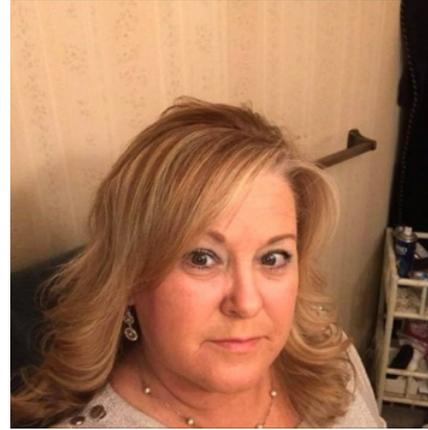
Brenda Cameron Ryan

Executive Director of Keys to Serenity

### Session Description:

Sharing your story the first time is one of the most difficult thing to do, but can also be the most empowering when we realize that we can continue the memory of our loved one by honoring them with our efforts to address the needs of our community. There are many suffering within our cities, unknowingly,

some are our neighbors. There are many ways to become involved. This session will reflect on a local grieving mother's call to action to benefit her community by addressing the need.



### Power of Forgiveness

Rev. Pete Bliss, D. Min., Th. D.  
Grief Care Fellowship

#### **Session Description:**

The ability to move beyond the pain of the past is critical in the grief, recovery or spiritual growth processes. Once you fully understand the benefits of, and challenges to, forgiveness, you will be equipped with proven, effective techniques that you can use immediately.



### Call to Action: Our Roles as Community Advocates

Tyler Begley, OCPSA  
G.A.P Network Coordinator  
Prevention Action Alliance

#### **Session Description:**

There is not a single solution will remedy the suffering from the addiction epidemic, and there is not a single person that will singlehandedly solve the problem. It will take an "all hands-on deck" approach from within our communities and working together to address the entire continuum of care. Research and experience have shown us that community-based prevention is the best, most effective way to combat substance abuse at the local level. But understanding good practice, knowing where to start, who to partner with, and how to organize those efforts can be overwhelming. This presentation will provide an overview of prevention and community-based prevention. Participants will engage with one another in identifying good practices and think about prevention from a community-lens.



## More to Come about Cincinnati-Area Conference

If the northeast Ohio conference doesn't work for you, [registration is now live](#) for the southwest Ohio conference.

This conference will feature:

- **Tom Synan**, Newtown Chief of Police
- **Dr. Julie Bemerer, Psy.D.**, of Cincinnati Children's Hospital
- **Elizabeth Spanel, MSW, LISW**, of Fernside Counseling
- **Tina Cadavid, LISW-S** of Hospice of Cincinnati
- **Christi Valenti-Lackner, B.A., OCPS**, of PreventionFIRST!
- **Lauren Bartoszek, Ph.D.**, of ASAP Norwood
- **Deborah Neyer, M.Ed., OCPS**, Fairfield Prevention

#### Event Details

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

**Time and Date:**  
January 26, 9 a.m.

Coalition

- Ellen Schoonover, of The G.A.P. Network Advisory Council

- 4 p.m.

Cost: \$10-\$15

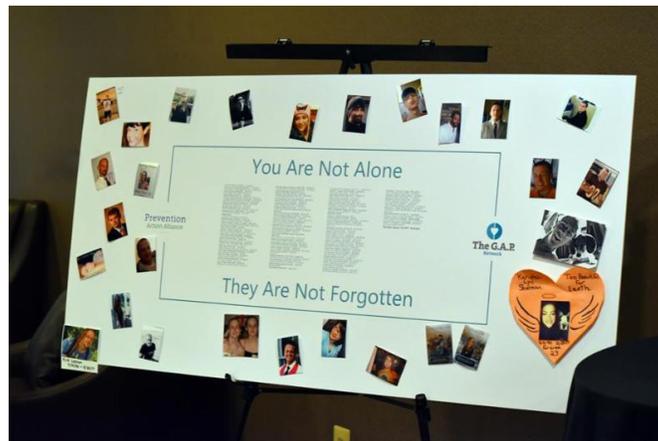
Below are links to learn more about this event and to download the official conference flyer. Please share the flyer with your friends, family, church, community groups, or anyone you think might be interested in attending. More details next week!

[Register & Learn More](#)

[Download & Share the Event Flyer](#)

[Visit & Share the Facebook Event](#)

## 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](mailto:tbegley@preventionactionalliance.org).

[Memorial Banner Web Page](#)



Questions? Comments Suggestions?

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

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