



Board of Pharmacy

Free Training for EMS Stakeholders and Other Partners in Substance Use Disorders, Recovery, and Bridge Programs

Ohio is one of five states selected to participate in the National Governors Association (NGA) Learning Collaborative on expanding the role of EMS to prevent overdose and Governor DeWine has designated the Ohio Department of Public Safety as the lead agency for this initiative. The goal of the project is to identify best practices that should be supported for the EMS role in reducing the number of deaths from opioid overdose with bridge programs and effective partnerships with mental health resources and other stakeholders.

As part of the NGA Learning Collaborative and funding from the CDC, the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of EMS is excited and honored to announce that Stephen Murray, a paramedic and national speaker on overdose, is providing three presentations in Ohio. From a personal and professional standpoint, he will share his experience as an overdose survivor, mitigation of its associated stigma, and the value and impact of paths to recovery. The State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services (EMFTS Board) has approved this educational opportunity for two hours of continuing education credit for certified Ohio EMS providers who attend the program.



Stephen Murray, MPH, NRP

Stephen Murray retired as a Lieutenant and paramedic from a decade of EMS experience, having worked in Pittsfield and Northern Berkshire County in Western Massachusetts. He has extensive experience in overdose response and prevention work and was one of the architects of the Berkshire Post Overdose Program (BPOP). Lt. Murray also founded the SafeSpot Overdose Hotline, a harm reduction service that was designed to activate EMS for people who became unresponsive while using drugs alone. He draws on more than a decade in long-term recovery from opioids and stimulants on personal experience as a person who uses drugs. Lt. Murray is a survivor of overdose and a frequent speaker on the subject of the EMS role in providing care to people who use drugs.

Presentation Locations and Times

Friday, July 19, 2024 at 9 a.m.
Columbus Fire Training Academy
3639 Parsons Ave.
Columbus, Ohio 43207

Friday, July 19, 2024 at 5 p.m.
Wayne County Regional Training Facility
2725 South Millborne Road
Apple Creek, Ohio 44606

Saturday, July 20, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.

Logan High School
14470 State Route 328
Logan, Ohio 43138

The program is free of charge for all attendees. EMS providers, EMS agencies, EMS medical directors, and all partners and stakeholders in substance use recovery (SUD) and bridge programs are welcome and encouraged to attend. EMS CE certificates for Ohio EMS providers who attend this program will be issued by the Division of EMS. In order to obtain EMS CE, attendees must sign-in at the registration area and attend the entire presentation.

The overdose crisis has impacted our nation to the point where the number of opioid overdose deaths has exceeded the number of motor vehicle crash fatalities. Although the number of deaths is high in the metropolitan areas, the rate of opioid overdose deaths (deaths per capita) is highest in the rural areas. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Ohio has the seventh highest death rate for drug overdose mortality in the nation.

SUD is a disease that requires treatment from several sectors of the healthcare community. Naloxone is effective for emergent resuscitation from an opioid overdose; however, true recovery from the disease is facilitated by creating a bridge to connect a patient with the appropriate mental health resources. Suboxone®, a fixed-dose combination of buprenorphine and naloxone, is an effective medication that can be administered to bridge a patient from recovery from an overdose with naloxone to a recovery program that allow the patient return to society with a positive, productive life. Due to an evolving and complex drug supply, overdose risk extends beyond those with substance use disorders, making it necessary to engage people who use drugs across the spectrum of use. EMS are uniquely positioned to reach people in the community who are at risk for overdose who may not be engaged in other services.

Questions? Contact the Division of EMS at (800) 233-0785.



People call, text, and chat the 988 Lifeline to talk about a lot of emotional needs—not just thoughts of suicide. Whatever your reason, the #988Lifeline is there to help. There is hope.

Ohio Board of Pharmacy
Mike DeWine, Governor | **Steven W. Schierholt**, Executive Director

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