



# NEWS RELEASE

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For More Information Contact:

Dept. of Public Safety-Cathy Collins, (614) 645-8210  
Columbus Div. of Fire-B/C Steve Martin, (614)645-7859  
ADAMH-Aimee Shadwick, (614) 222-3751  
Southeast Healthcare-Myken Pullins, (614) 225-0980

## **ADAMH, Southeast Healthcare and Columbus Division of Fire join forces with Rapid Response Emergency Addiction and Crisis Team (RREACT) Pilot Program**

The Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health (ADAMH) Board of Franklin County is proud to announce a partnership with Southeast Healthcare and the Columbus Division of Fire to immediately address access to treatment for those involved in addiction-related mental health crisis incidents. A two-year pilot program, funded by ADAMH at \$496,490 each year has kicked off in the Central Ohio area utilizing a collaborative model to enhance patient access to healthcare services and treatment for substance use disorders, improve disposition of patients throughout the community healthcare systems and provide a systems-based approach to continuity of care.

“The opiate epidemic is impacting our entire community, and it will take the work of everyone to fight this public health crisis. This is why ADAMH is proud to fund RREACT, an innovative project that offers immediate substance use disorder treatment services to a person who experiences a life threatening overdose. Staff members from the Columbus Division of Fire and Southeast will work together to connect more people to treatment services and ultimately, save more lives,” said David A. Royer, ADAMH Chief Executive Officer.

A Rapid Response Emergency Addiction and Crisis Team (RREACT) will consist of mental health nurses and outreach coordinators placed within the Emergency Medical Services model to respond in real time to community need. The trial program will prioritize opiate overdose response city-wide with secondary efforts directed towards supporting mental health crisis in identified areas of the Columbus. Southeast will work with ADAMH and other providers to provide evidence-based approaches for patients experiencing addiction and/or mental health crisis that are protocol-based to ensure standardized approach to assessment, treatment and disposition. The team will meet individuals on-scene to assist them wherever they are in their recovery and provide immediate linkage to resources and treatment.

Columbus City Mayor Andrew J. Ginther remarked “The Columbus Division of Fire has dedicated resources to address issues of addiction and mental health which will enhance public safety, improve crisis response, reduce inappropriate hospital and jail transports and assure that coordinated treatment and follow-up care is available. This will provide immediate resource linkage after EMS personnel respond to an overdose. This new approach is a start to addressing the opioid issues our community is confronting.”

In response to an opiate overdose, the RREACT team will be requested by EMS/Dispatch communication center for on-scene response. The team will provide support to paramedics; assess for lethality if necessary; offer brief crisis intervention; and collect information on current linkage to services and facilitate re-linkage if appropriate.

“At Southeast we feel honored to be a part of this outreach collaboration to further our mission as an agency working within the community to reach individuals struggling with mental health and/or the disease of addiction. We are grateful to the local emergency departments and other collaborating agencies for their support of this program as we work together to strengthen our community response to the opiate epidemic.” - Amy Becher, MS, MSW, CNP, RREACT Program Manager

The pilot program will be monitored for necessary adjustment throughout the two years with potential expansion in the future.

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