



Dr. Vicki Whitacre Joins OSPF Board

Vicki Whitacre, M.D. is OSPF's newest board member. She received her M.D. from OSU and interned in pediatrics at Children's Hospital in Columbus. She completed her residencies in pediatrics and emergency medicine at the University of Kentucky Medical Center in Lexington, KY. Since then, she has lived in Zanesville, OH with her husband, Arthur Neal Moose. They have three children and five grandchildren.

Dr. Whitacre worked in the emergency departments of Bethesda Hospital and Genesis Healthcare System for 25 years. Since retiring from EM in 2001, she has been the Medical Director of the Zanesville Muskingum County Health Department. She has been involved in the Muskingum County Suicide Prevention Coalition since its beginning in 2003.

Register Now for Understanding Schizophrenia and Bipolar Disorder Free Webcast

In observance of Mental Illness Awareness Week, the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare is pleased to offer a free webcast, *Understanding Schizophrenia and Bipolar Disorder*. It is based on the content of the popular public education program, *Mental Health First Aid USA*. The webcast describes the risk factors, signs and symptoms of disorders in which psychosis occurs, the importance of early intervention, and what you can do to help a person in crisis. You'll have an opportunity to ask questions about how you can support someone with a serious mental illness.

The webcast is presented by Mary Cimini, a Mental Health First Aid USA national trainer, and head of the Lifewatch Employee Assistance Program in Rhode Island. In addition to her degrees in Social Work, Communications, Adult Education and Human Resources Management, Mary has more than 25 years consulting experience, and she provides coaching, training and systems intervention for the public, private and not-for-profit sectors.

[Click Here For Free Registration](#)

U.S. Accelerates Suicide Prevention with Public/Private Partnership

Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and Department of Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates announced last week the acceleration of efforts to respond to what has become a foremost, preventable public-health tragedy in our nation: suicide. Together they announced the founding membership of the executive committee and public and private sector co-chairs of the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention. The purpose of the alliance is to engage every sector of society—public, private, and philanthropic—in working together more effectively to reach people at risk and help them stay safe. Out of this alliance will grow advancements for practitioners, policymakers, service providers, communities, families, agencies and other partners that play a vital role in reducing the burden of suicide in America.

Study Shows Stigma Unaffected by Disease Model

In a recent survey conducted by researchers at the Indiana University and Columbia University, results show that although more Americans now believe that mental illness and alcohol dependency are medical or genetic in origin than did so in the mid-1990's, they are just as likely to reject those who suffer from. Moreover, those who believed that the disorders were diseases were more likely to support treatment, but stigma did not decrease. To read more, please [click here](#).



Americans Still Not Tolerant of the Mentally Ill

Social stigma related to psychiatric conditions does not appear to have decreased despite increased knowledge about mental illness, according to a new report that compares 1996 and 2006 results from the General Social Survey. During that ten-year period, the percentage of people who attributed depression and schizophrenia to brain biology increased, and most 2006 respondents thought that the illnesses should be treated by a doctor and with prescription medicine. However, most respondents reported they wouldn't want to work closely with someone with schizophrenia or alcohol dependence, and most said they would not want a person with depression or schizophrenia or depression to marry into their family. According to Bernice Pescosolido, who led the research for the new report, "We need to think about new ways to think about "difference" and tolerance. The focus should not be on 'disease like any other' but competencies and community integration, the fact that 'everybody has something' that they live with and have successful lives." [Read the abstract of the new report in American Journal of Psychiatry](#)

OSPF Invites You to Join with the Ohio Coalition for Healthy Communities Behavioral Health Care is Health Care Campaign

The campaign is designed to illustrate that behavioral health care is treatment of addiction and mental illness, and health care is the treatment of the body, the brain is an essential part of the body -- - **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE IS HEALTH CARE!** Here's how you can participate! Visit www.ohioc4hc.org/bandaids to find out about the campaign.

OSPF has rolls of band-aids stickers for every County Suicide Prevention Coalition and will distribute the stickers at the OSPF Annual Conference on December 1-2, 2010.



Cincinnati, Detroit Selected as Final IT Pilot Communities Under Innovative HHS Recovery Act Beacon Program

HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius today announced that Cincinnati and Detroit are the two final pilot communities selected under the new Beacon Community Program that is using health information technology to help tackle leading health problems in communities across the country. [Read more](#)

Several Significant Elements of Health Care Reform Were Effective on September 23:

- Young people up to age 26 will be able to remain on their parents' insurance policies;
- Insurers will be prohibited from denying coverage to children with pre-existing conditions;
- Insurers will no longer be able to cancel individuals' policies except in cases of outright consumer fraud;
- Lifetime limits (limits on the amount of money insurers will pay in claims over an individuals' lifetime) will be prohibited;
- New restrictions will be placed on insurer's ability to impose annual limits;
- Insurance plans will be required to cover certain preventive services, including depression screening and regular behavioral assessments for children.

The rules on lifetime/annual limits and preventive care will not apply to plans with "grandfathered" status, which means plans that have not significantly changed their benefits or cost-sharing requirements since the law's passage.



National Survey Reveals Increases in Substance Use From 2008 to 2009

Marijuana use rises; prescription drug abuse and Ecstasy use also up

The use of illicit drugs among Americans increased between 2008 and 2009 according to a national survey conducted by SAMHSA. The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) shows that the overall rate of current illicit drug use in the United States rose from 8.0 percent of the population age 12 and older in 2008 to 8.7 percent in 2009. This rise in overall drug use was driven in large part by increases in marijuana use.

The annual NSDUH survey, released by SAMHSA at the kickoff of the 21st annual National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month, also shows that the nonmedical use of prescription drugs rose from 2.5 percent of the population in 2008 to 2.8 percent in 2009. Additionally, the estimated number of past-month Ecstasy users rose from 555,000 in 2008 to 760,000 in 2009, and the number of methamphetamine users rose from 314,000 to 502,000 during that period.

"These results are a wake up call to the Nation," said SAMHSA Administrator Pamela S. Hyde, J.D. "Our strategies of the past appear to have stalled out with 'Generation Next.' Parents and caregivers, teachers, coaches, faith and community leaders, must find credible new ways to communicate with our youth about the dangers of substance abuse."

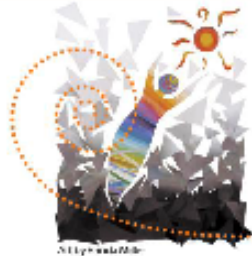
"Today's findings are disappointing, but not surprising, because eroding attitudes and perceptions of harm about drug use over the past 2 years have served as warning signs for exactly what we see today," said Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Gil Kerlikowske. "Fortunately, this administration's National Drug Control Strategy, with its focus on prevention, treatment, smart law enforcement, and support for those in recovery, highlights the right tools to reduce drug use and its consequences. But our efforts must be reinforced and supported by the messages kids get from their parents. Past-month marijuana use was much less prevalent among youth who perceived strong parental disapproval for trying marijuana or hashish once or twice than among those who did not—4.8 percent versus 31.3 percent, respectively."

[Continue Reading](#) | [See the Full Report](#)

QUESTIONS? Contact OSPF at (614) 292-8585 or email at givens.62@osu.edu or holton.32@osu.edu

See the Next Page for an Important Announcement!

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Connecting for Life

SAVE THE DATE!!!

DECEMBER 1 & 2, 2010

7TH ANNUAL OHIO SUICIDE PREVENTION COALITION CONFERENCE

**FEATURING: THOMAS JOINER PH.D. ACADEMIC
PSYCHOLOGIST AND LEADING EXPERT ON SUICIDE
AUTHOR OF "WHY PEOPLE DIE BY SUICIDE" AND
"MYTHS ABOUT SUICIDE"**

**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION & BROCHURE
SOON TO FOLLOW**