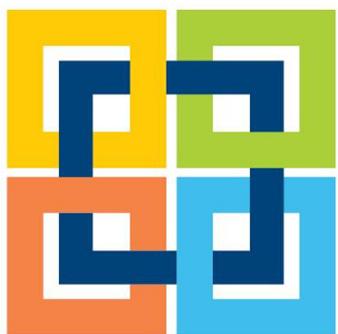




ANNUAL REPORT

STATE OF THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC



**Hamilton County
Addiction Response
Coalition**

formerly known as the Hamilton County Heroin Coalition

HC ARC STEERING COMMITTEE

Executive Chair

Commissioner Denise Driehaus

Director

John Young

Program Administrator

Meagan Gosney

Prevention Committee

Nicole Schiesler, PreventionFIRST!
Leah Dennis-Ellsworth, UMADAOP

Treatment Committee

Neil Tilow, Talbert House
Patrick Tribbe, Mental Health and
Recovery Services Board

Interdiction Committee

Chief Tom Synan, Village of
Newtown
Chief Cedric Robinson, Cincinnati
Fire Department
Trina Jackson, Hamilton County
Office of Reentry

Harm Reduction Committee

Tim Ingram, Hamilton County
Public Health
Sara Bolton, The Health
Collaborative
Moira Weir, Hamilton County Jobs
and Family Services

Faith Committee

Rev. Lesley Jones, Truth & Destiny
Covenant Ministries
Rev. Dr. Alphonse Allen, Allen
Temple AME

Business Committee

J.B. Buse, LOTH Holdings, LLC
Bob Castellini Jr, Morgan Stanley

EXECUTIVE CHAIR'S STATEMENT

Addiction doesn't discriminate—it affects all kinds of people, from all kinds of backgrounds, from every neighborhood across the county. It's a chronic illness, not a choice. And it's why the Hamilton County Heroin Coalition (HCHC) was formed. As we have progressed through the work of the coalition, we have come to realize that our old name no longer accurately reflects our work. While particular drugs may rise and fall in popularity, Hamilton County will always need a comprehensive and collaborative strategy to fight the disease of addiction. And so, we are renaming the HCHC. We are now the Hamilton County Addiction Response Coalition (HC ARC).

The HC ARC is an action team that connects people to the right resources and treatments. We address addiction through comprehensive solutions. This inter-system cooperation is built on four pillars: prevention, treatment, interdiction, and harm reduction. These pillars represent the areas of expertise of those serving on the subcommittees of the HC ARC. Additionally, we have engaged local governments, the business community, hospitals, and the faith community to help strengthen our work. While we are trending in a hopeful direction by most metrics, Hamilton County is still seeing more negative consequences from addiction than before the current crisis began. Pursuing and expanding this collaborative approach is just as important as ever.

The following document was created using information provided to us from coalition members to give the Hamilton County community insight into the magnitude of the problem of addiction, a better understanding of the work of the HC ARC and its partners, a synopsis of what strategies have led to positive outcomes, and an overview of what we hope to accomplish in the coming year. A special thanks goes to the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners for their ongoing support and commitment to addressing the addiction crisis in our community.



DENISE DRIEHAUS

Executive Chair

PREVENTION COMMITTEE

Committee chaired by:
Nicole Schiesler, PreventionFIRST!
Leah Dennis-Ellsworth, UMADAOP

The work of the Prevention Committee is focused on four prevention strategies: provide information/public awareness, build skills/education, reduce access/availability, and modify policy.

Successful initiatives of the Prevention Committee in 2019:

- Created new partnerships with local Hospice organizations and transition centers to distribute 655 Detera bags for safe medication disposal.
- A Mini-Grant was awarded to Sycamore Township to host a Community Forum at Deer Park High School. The Public Library in Cincinnati Westwood Branch partnered with PreventionFIRST! to host a Community Forum.
- Hosted Building Prevention With Faith Event with 103 participants attending.
- Promoted Take Charge Ohio and National Take Back Days. On the October 2019 Drug Take Back Day, 1920.6 pounds of medication were disposed.
- Price Hill and Mt. Washington distributed drop box location flyers, promoted monitor/secure/dispose, gave out 800 Detera bags, hosted 2 Parenting for Prevention, train youth in pHARMING Effects/and adults in Generation Rx, Coaches, hosted 8 total Community Engagement activities.
- In partnership with Interact for Health and Hamilton County Public Health, verified Hamilton County drop box locations and promoted OhioRxDisposal.com
- Two Hamilton County schools participated in pHARMING Effects educating students refusal skills and critical thinking skills.
- Annual PreventionFIRST! Coalition Academy held in September with 100 participants attending.
- Annual PreventionFIRST! Youth Summit held in October with 205 participants attending.

Goals of the Prevention Committee in 2020:



Data collection and analysis to better understand the current and local youth opioid, and prescription medication issues in the community.



Change the community norm that youth prescription/opioid consumption is acceptable through community education.



Decrease easy access and availability of prescription drugs and opioids for youth through prescriber education and by increasing awareness and availability of safe storage and prescription drug disposal options.



Improve policy related to effective prevention education for youth in schools.



INTERDICTION COMMITTEE

Committee chaired by:

Chief Tom Synan, Village of Newtown

Chief Cedric Robinson, Cincinnati Fire Department

Trina Jackson, Hamilton County Office of Reentry

Successful initiatives of the Interdiction Committee in 2019:

- Launch of the One-Stop Resource Center.
- Secured federal funding and logistics for the LEAD project. This pre-arrest diversion project has been coordinated with the Cincinnati Police Department, Cincinnati and Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office.
- The Policy Sub-Committee made recommendations to Ohio's version of Casey's Law. Those recommendations were given to state legislatures and have been included in SB3.
- Supported the Fentanyl Sanctions Act which was passed by a bipartisan Congress and signed into law by the President at the end of 2019. It gives the United States the ability to identify traffickers of fentanyl in other countries such as China, Mexico and others, allowing the U.S. Treasury to implement sanctions on those dealers in an attempt to reduce the amount of fentanyl coming into the U.S.
- Met with Congressional staffers and advocated for the NOPAIN Act which would allow doctors and patients to have more options other than just opioids. It would level the field placing non-opioid alternatives on the same reimbursement plans and give alternatives for those dealing with pain. The NOPAIN Act has been introduced to Congress.
- Spoke at the PAARI conference in Washington DC discussing HCHC pre-arrest diversion programs and work with state legislators about SB3. Attended briefing with the U.S Drug Czar James Carroll at the White House Executive Offices.
- Partnered with other communities assisting to build community Coalitions; Crawfordsville Indiana, Bardstown, Kentucky and joining Indiana University as advisors assisting communities to build coalitions.

The Interdiction Committee focuses on law enforcement, including supply reduction and diversion. This committee has undertaken the job of influencing policy change at the local and state level.

Goals of the Interdiction Committee in 2020:



Expand the One-Stop Resource Center services as well as partner with Northern Kentucky officials and coordinate events so both sides of the river have resources available to those in need.



Launch the LEAD project in Cincinnati District 1 and Central Business District with The Hamilton County Office of Reentry.



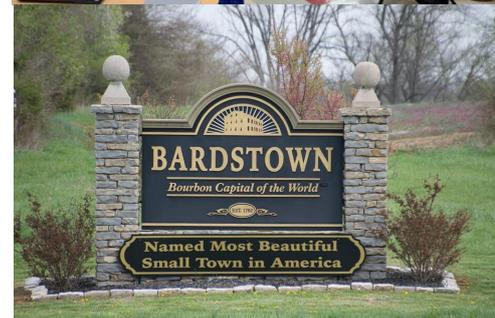
Continue working with state legislatures to either pass updates to Ohio's version of Casey's Law either in SB3 or a stand alone Bill.



Continue our partnerships with our federal partners, legislators and Congress supporting laws that assist reducing the amount of fentanyl coming into the United States as well as legislation that increases the capabilities for communities to provide treatment and longer term care.



Continue to assist and partner with other communities building coalitions, sharing resources and ideas.



ONE-STOP RESOURCE CENTER PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



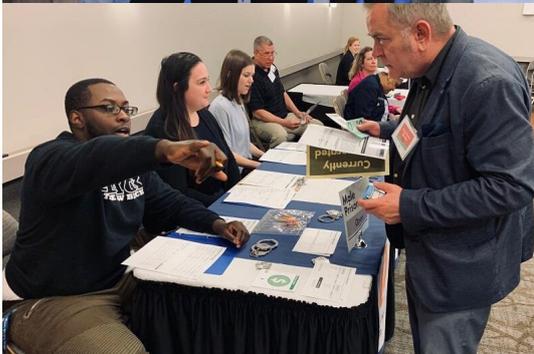
The Hamilton County One-Stop Resource Center was created to eliminate barriers to accessing supportive services for all Hamilton County residents, including those with criminal convictions.

The One-stop Resource Center isn't your typical resource fair. Our goal is to offer our community access to service providers each month at the same location for assistance related to vital records, personal identification, substance abuse and mental health care, child support concerns, housing, record sealing or expungement, and health care.

When you visit the One-stop Resource Center, don't expect to just learn more about a local organization, but to make an appointment with a provider, begin the intake process, resolve issues or meet service related conditions of release.

A total of 225 residents of Hamilton County visited the One-stop Resource Center during the months of September and October 2019, as well as January 2020. While the One-stop is open to all of Hamilton County, approximately 60% of participants have been returning citizens. The most frequent need of residents was housing.

Hamilton County wants to make resources more accessible to the community.



**Final Friday of each month
from 10:00am to 2:00pm
Hamilton County Justice Center Lobby
900 Sycamore St.
Cincinnati, OH 45202**

HEROIN TASK FORCE PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

The Hamilton County Heroin Coalition Task Force was named “Task Force of the Year” by Ohio NARCO, a not-for-profit law enforcement association serving Ohio’s law enforcement community. Representatives from across Ohio selected the Hamilton County Heroin Coalition Task Force based on their impact on the community, drug seizures, initiative and collaboration. Several members of the Task Force accepted the honor from both Ohio NARCO and the Ohio Task Force Commanders Association at the at the 2019 Annual Training Conference in Columbus.

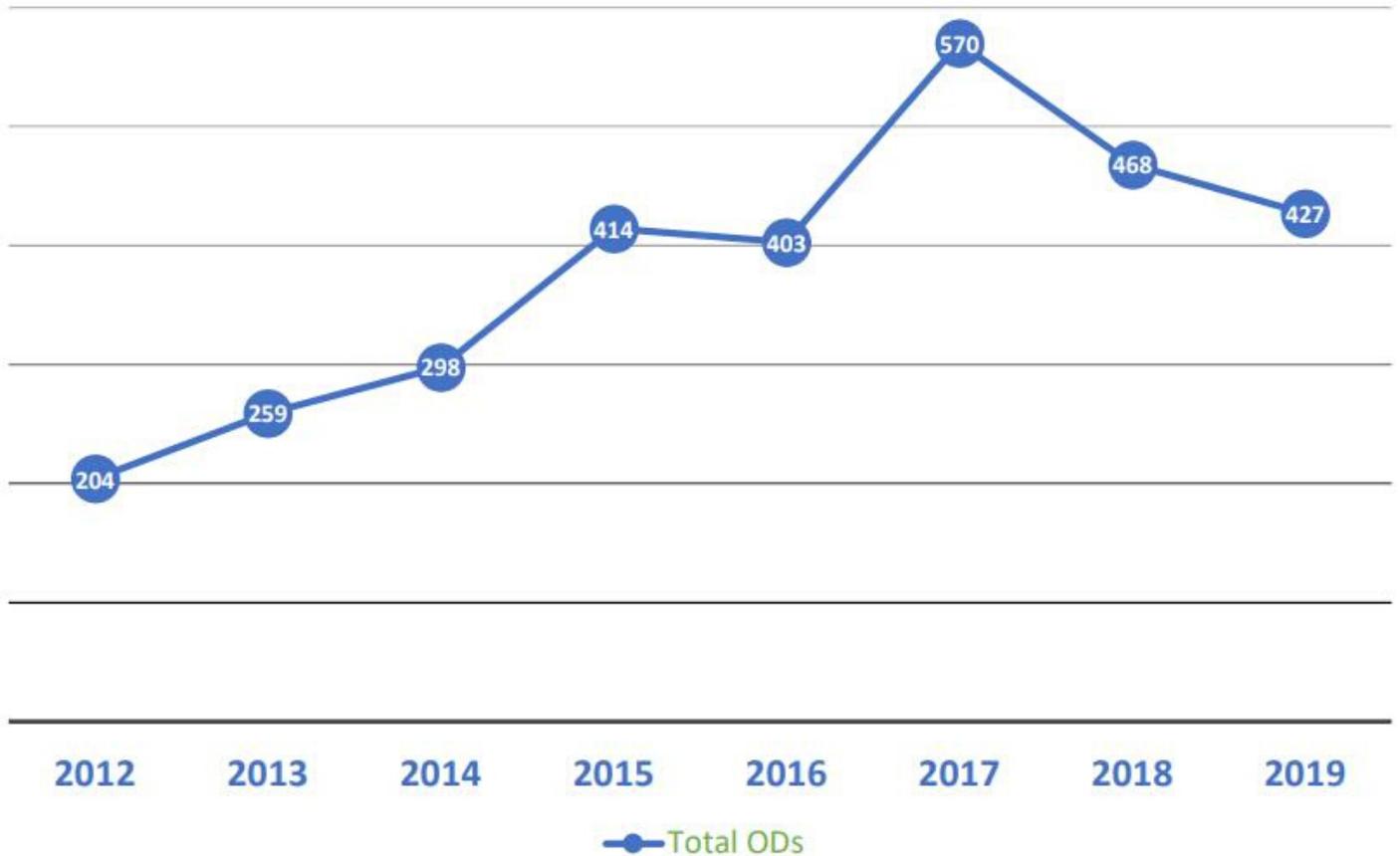
2019 Drugs Recovered

2.1	grams of Heroin
4.6	grams of Cocaine
312.2	grams of Heroin/Fentanyl mix
169.5	grams Fentanyl/Tramadol mix
40.7	grams Methamphetamine
767	grams Fentanyl/Methamphetamine mix



Heroin Task Force Program Spotlight Continued...

Total Overdose Deaths



**Total overdose death counts include any overdose death that occurred within Hamilton County. This count does not necessarily reflect Hamilton County resident deaths. These statistics are courtesy of the Hamilton County Coroner's Office.*

2019 Investigative Caseload



- 230 cases initiated, a <1% decrease from 2019
- 220 were heroin/opiate overdose death investigations totaling 224 total deaths, a <½ % increase from 2018
- 8 were non-fatal overdose investigations
- 2 were heroin/opiate related drug investigations

COUNTY-WIDE QUICK RESPONSE TEAM PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



The County-wide Quick Response Team (QRT) consists of local law enforcement officers and local fire/paramedic personnel, peer recovery coaches, and social service agencies who provide "In-home" triage and assessment of overdose victims with the immediate goal of connecting the overdose victim with the most appropriate treatment specific to their needs.

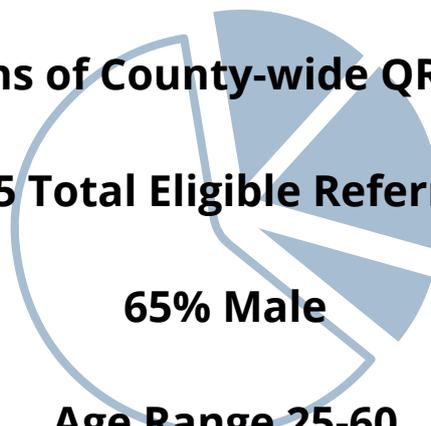
The QRT has been in operation since April, 2018. The team visits the Eastside of Hamilton County on Tuesdays and the Westside on Fridays. To date, 54% of contacted individuals have been referred or connected to recovery support services.

21-Months of County-wide QRT Activity

795 Total Eligible Referrals

65% Male

Age Range 25-60



TREATMENT COMMITTEE

Committee chaired by:
Neil Tilow, Talbert House
Patrick Tribbe, Mental Health and Recovery Services Board

Ongoing efforts have been made to outreach to individuals and families who need treatment, ensure access to treatment, continue to reduce barriers to treatment and initiate strategies for engagement.



Successful initiatives of the Treatment Committee in 2019:

- During 2019, several grant opportunities were made available to Alcohol Drug And Mental Health (ADAMH) Boards. Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board (HCMHR SB) was able to procure significant funding to address opiate addiction in Hamilton County.
- Through the State Opiate Response (SOR) grant, HCMHR SB applied for and received an award of \$75,000 for Treatment services. Thus, enabling the Engagement Center to increase bed capacity from 16 to 20.
- \$450,000 was awarded to HCMHR SB to increase access to Recovery Housing and an additional \$80,047 was awarded for Peer Support projects.
- Another successful effort of the Treatment Community has been the successful operationalization of the African American Engagement Workgroup (AAEW). This group planned and implemented the Prevention Opiate Summit.

Goals of the Treatment Committee in 2020:



Maximize access to Federal, state and local funding for community based treatment for addictive disease.



Continue to focus efforts on increasing access to treatment for minority communities.



Continue to work with the AAEW group to assist in community engagement for individuals and families with addictive disorders.



Analyze data related to efficacy of treatment services and routinely report the results to the Coalition.



Engagement Center's Program Excellence award at the Greater Cincinnati Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration's (GCC-ASPA) annual award luncheon.

The Engagement Center



ENGAGEMENT CENTER PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Most recently, HCMHR SB has been awarded \$5M in funding through several SOR grants to expand prevention and treatment efforts that increase access to all form of MAT, expand the use of recovery support and access to recovery housing, and prevention education. Working with local providers, these funds will focus on engaging high risk families and minority populations in an effort to decrease overdoses in the community and build capacity for increased awareness.

The Engagement Center is a twenty bed, short-term residential treatment program focusing on withdrawal management and connection to ongoing treatment and social supports that accepts clients with an Opioid Dependence Disorder twenty four hours a day, seven day a week. Referral sources include self, Quick Response Team, Hospital, Recovery Housing, and other agencies.

Since opening in May 2018, the Center has served over 1200 clients and currently averages 75 admissions per month. 70% of admissions are nonrecurring clients and the average length of stay is seven days.

Current trends are showing the average length of stay increasing as well and an increase in serving minority populations. The Center has begun utilizing Sublocade the long acting injectable of Suboxone and believe this will assist additional clients.

Housing remains a challenge, as does serving the medical and mental health needs of the clients.

The Engagement Center was honored to receive the Addiction Policy Forum, Innovation Award at the Ohio Statehouse in October of 2019. In April of 2019, The Engagement Center was honored for Program Excellence at the Greater Cincinnati Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration's (GCC-ASPA) annual award luncheon.

Client Profile



HARM REDUCTION COMMITTEE

Committee chaired by:

Tim Ingram, Hamilton County Public Health

Sara Bolton, The Health Collaborative

Moira Weir, Hamilton County Jobs and Family Services

Harm Reduction is grounded in human rights and therefore values all human life. The main principles include reducing harm by promoting health and encouraging positive change in communities. Health systems, including public health do this by monitoring and making available real-time data to better inform interventions and practice.

Successful initiatives of the Harm Reduction Committee in 2019:

- The Health Collaborative hosted a health system roundtable discussion with RecoveryOhio, including current opioid/addiction services offered within our regional health systems, from both adult and pediatric perspectives, as well as challenges and barriers to providing more comprehensive and coordinated care. Carol Baden, a community health advisor from RecoveryOhio, shared their 75-point plan, which is broken down into eight priorities.
- Harm reduction staff were able to attend a variety of community events to promote public health and link interested people to services. One successful event was the PRIDE event in the summer of 2019. Over 200 Narcan kits and education training was provided to PRIDE attendees. Public health teams were also able to administer Hepatitis vaccines and partner agencies provided HIV and Hepatitis C screening. Harm reduction has prioritized these events as a way to destigmatize addiction and facilitate linkage to services.
- The Narcan Distribution Collaborative efforts flooded Hamilton County with Narcan as to preserve life and promote access to treatment or healthcare services for people who use drugs. In 2019, 33,493 doses of Narcan were distributed in the community – a 25% increase over the number of doses distributed in 2018.
- The syringe services program has expanded this past year to three new sites in Hamilton County. These additional locations have resulted in a 14% increase in the number of visits to the exchange in 2019. This has also allowed for a 21% increase in HIV testing conducted with clients. The syringe program also launched fentanyl test strip distribution at our locations due to the prevalence of fentanyl and other synthetics in all illicit drugs.

Goals of the Harm Reduction Committee in 2020:



Expand harm reduction efforts by creating additional service locations for syringe exchange, including piloting “brick and mortar” sites in our county.



A large funding award in our county will allow for a systems level intervention to improve both data surveillance and continuity of care among healthcare and substance use treatment providers.



A real-time data dashboard is currently being built for anyone to access Hamilton County data around overdoses, syringe exchange, Narcan availability, deaths, and hopefully lives saved through the prevention of HIV and Hepatitis C.



The Health Collaborative will be relaunching its behavioral health & addiction action group, leveraging the RecoveryOhio’s eight priority areas as a framework for an aligned regional agenda to increase impact.



THE EXCHANGE



HOURS AND LOCATIONS

MONDAY

NORTHSIDE

2 - 5 PM
1670 COOPER ST
CINCINNATI, OH 45223

TUESDAY

MIDDLETOWN

10 AM - 1 PM
400 BLOCK OF CRAWFORD ST
MIDDLETOWN, OH 45044

FAIRFIELD

2 - 5 PM
FAIRFIELD MERCY HOSPITAL
3000 MACK RD
FAIRFIELD, OH 45014

WEDNESDAY

OVER THE RHINE

10 AM - 1 PM
106 W MCMICKEN AVE
CINCINNATI, OH 45202

THURSDAY

CLERMONT COUNTY

10 AM - 1 PM
CLERMONT MERCY HOSPITAL
3000 HOSPITAL DR
CLERMONT COUNTY, OH 45103

CORRYVILLE

2:30 - 5:30 PM
HAMILTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
250 WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT
CINCINNATI, OH 45219

NORTHSIDE : CARACOLE

5 - 7:30 PM
4138 HAMILTON AVE
CINCINNATI, OH 45219
513.761.1480

FRIDAY

WESTERN HILLS

1 - 4 PM
TALBERT HOUSE WESTERN HILLS
4968 GLENWAY AVE
CINCINNATI, OH 45238

**STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?
SEND US AN EMAIL OR GIVE US A CALL**

513.316.7725

EXCHANGEPROJECT@HAMILTON-CO.ORG

 /HC_XCHANGE

FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE LOCATIONS PLEASE USE GPS AS LOCATIONS MAY BE APPROXIMATE DUE TO SPACE

 /HC.XCHANGE

FAITH COMMITTEE

Committee chaired by:

Rev. Lesley Jones, Truth & Destiny Covenant Ministries

Rev. Dr. Alphonse Allen, Allen Temple AME

Recovery encompasses an individual's whole life, including mind, body, spirit and community. For many, faith is critical to their recovery. The faith community committee helps the Coalition to raise awareness and use their compassion and local understanding to bring hope and healing to those in need.

Successful initiatives of the Faith Committee in 2019:

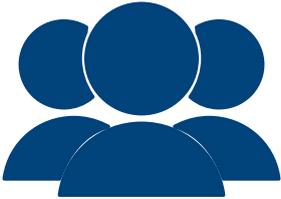
The primary accomplishment was the establishment of the Faith Committee and naming co-chairs--Pastor Lesley E. Jones and Rev. Dr. Alphonse Allen.

- Collaboration with PreventionFIRST! to host Faith in Prevention Conference. More than 100 people of faith attended the full day event hosted by Rev. Damon Lynch, Jr. at New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church.
- Collaboration with Faith in Public Life and the United Church of Christ to host the 2019 Naloxone Saves Tour, where more than 100 people of faith worshipped, prayed, and were trained on how to identify signs of overdose and administer Naloxone. 100 plus Naloxone kits were distributed at the event.

Goals of the Faith Committee in 2020:



Expand Committee Membership and Outreach



Create a faith roundtable of clergy and congregational representatives to host quarterly meetings



Recruit 30 congregations to host an Addiction Awareness Event



*Reverend Lesley Jones
(Truth and Destiny Church) -
welcoming guests to the "Building
Prevention
With Faith" event, April 2019.*



BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Committee chaired by:
J.B. Buse, LOTH Holdings, LLC
Bob Castellini Jr, Morgan Stanley

The Business Community Committee centers on coordinating public and private-sector efforts to maximize the impact of the Coalition to keep our community healthy and safe. The Business Community focuses on how local businesses can be part of the solution to combating the opioid epidemic in our County.

Successful initiatives of the Business Committee in 2019:

The primary accomplishment was the establishment of the Business Committee and naming co-chairs-- J.B. Buse of LOTH Holdings and Bob Castellini Jr of Morgan Stanley.

Goals of the Business Committee in 2020:



Inform the Business Community on the Coalition's mission and pillars



Identify the intersections between local business needs and the Coalition's work



Assist in the execution and expansion of recovery supports in our community such as workforce development and housing



Promote understanding to reduce stigma