



## Over 1,200 Ohioans Gather to Celebrate Recovery

*For Immediate Release*  
October 14, 2019

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Columbus, OH – With the goal of strengthening and empowering the recovery community in Ohio, the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) is hosting Ohio's 2019 Recovery Conference. With over 1,200 individuals in recovery and family members in attendance, the fourth annual statewide recovery conference provides a beacon of hope for the recovery community.

"All too often, we're hearing and talking about the results of untreated mental illness and addiction. The complex nature of effectively responding to mental illness and substance use disorders continues to drive policy conversations and media coverage. We spend too much time talking about the problems and the failures. We aren't spending enough time talking about the successes and what works," stated Cheri L. Walter, CEO of the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities. "This conference provides a unique opportunity to highlight recovery and share the success stories, the positive outcomes. With events like this we spread a message of hope throughout Ohio and we empower individuals in recovery to share their stories in order to help others throughout our great state truly understand mental illness and addiction."

Throughout the conference individuals in recovery from mental illness and/or addiction and their family members are coming together to learn about advocacy, empowerment, wellness, and more, while celebrating recovery together.

"Each year, this event is an exciting and moving experience for all in attendance," said Jerry Craig, OACBHA President and Executive Director of the Summit County ADM Board. "This annual event is a wonderful opportunity for many Ohioans to celebrate recovery both as individuals and as a community. As we collectively celebrate and promote recovery, we endeavor to eliminate the stigma associated with mental illness and substance use disorders. Individuals in recovery represent hope for those still struggling."

"As an individual in long-term recovery, I believe that *Treatment Works, People Recover, and Recovery Is Beautiful*, and I know that we see the beauty of recovery at this conference and in our communities every day," Walter shared.

Ohio's 2019 Recovery Conference, hosted in partnership with the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, is the premier recovery event in Ohio offering education and information on topics such as advocacy; empowerment; job skills development; peer supports and services; community involvement; cultural competency; self-care; wellness; and more.

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