This week, the Butler County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Services Board will join with the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities and the Ohio Governor’s office to honor first responders through a statewide Week of Appreciation (April 29 – May 5, 2019).

Butler County has been one of the hardest hit in the region from the opiate epidemic, and this has taken a toll on first responders who see the worst. In 2017, Butler County saw a spike with 232 total reported overdoses. This declined in 2018, with approximately 164 reported overdoses. Much of this success can be attributed to first responders and community partners who work to ensure the safety of the county.

This year the Butler County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Services Board has been joined by community partners to honor first responders in the county. On May 2-3, 2019, board staff will be visiting all local fire/ems departments to say thank you. They will be bringing donated items from Walmart (1505 Main Street, Hamilton OH), Flub’s Dari-Ette (981 Eaton Ave, Hamilton OH), and thank you cards provided by individuals in treatment with Brightview Health (5108 Sandy Lane, Fairfield OH).

Additionally, the Butler County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Services Board will be partnering with the Hamilton Joe’s (Great Lakes Summer Collegiate Baseball League). There will be a sponsored evening honoring First Responders later this summer. First Responders will also have access to tickets for games throughout the season, which will be distributed through the Fire/EMS Departments throughout the county.

On April 11, 2019, the Butler County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Services Board in partnership with NAMI Butler County held their 2019 annual awards dinner to honor those in the community that go above and beyond to support some of the area’s most vulnerable residents. Awardees included:

Officer Sheoki Reece, City of Middletown Police Department – Excellence in Crisis (First) Response;
Judge Joyce Campbell, Fairfield Municipal Court – Excellence in Criminal Justice;
City of Middletown – Supportive Recovery Community of the Year;
Dr. Quinton Moss, Modern Psychiatry & Wellness – Lifetime Behavioral Health Service Award;
Angie Pearson, Transitional Living Inc – Excellence in Leadership;
Margie Braunstein, Butler Behavioral Health & Primary Health Solutions – Excellence in Clinical Services;
Molly Hartel, Community Behavioral Health/Community First Solutions – Excellence in Support Service; Access Counseling/Hope House Homeless Outreach Team – Trailblazer Award; Mary Steele – NAMI Volunteer of the Year.

The Butler County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Services Board, along with their partners, are privileged to have local heroes dedicated to serving those with behavioral health needs across the county. This week is about saying THANK YOU!

Partners include:

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