

MEDIA ALERT



Mahoning County
Children Services

330-941-8888 www.mahoningkids.com

CONTACT: Jennifer T. Kollar

Public Information Officer

PHONE: 330.941.8810

EMAIL: Jennifer.Kollar@jfs.ohio.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 17, 2018

Mahoning County's Juvenile Court, Children Services, Mental Health & Recovery Board Schedule Joint Press Conference Focus on Ohio Issue 1 and Issue 2

[YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO] – Mahoning County Juvenile Court, Mahoning County Children Services and Mahoning County Mental Health & Recovery Board have witnessed first-hand the devastating effects the opioid crisis has and continues to have on children and families. Together, the three agencies have scheduled a joint press conference focusing on state-wide Ohio Issue 1, and local Issue 2.

Joint Press Conference

Date: Friday, October 19, 2018

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Location: Mahoning County Juvenile Court
300 E. Scott Street, Youngstown, Ohio

Press conference speakers will include: The Honorable Theresa Dellick, Mahoning County Juvenile Court and Randall B. Muth, J.D., Mahoning County Children Services speaking on Ohio Issue 1. Duane Piccirilli, Executive Director, Mahoning County Mental Health & Recovery Board will speak about local Issue 2.

Regarding state-wide Ohio Issue 1, Judge Theresa Dellick, Mahoning County Juvenile Court and Randall B. Muth, J.D., Executive Director, Mahoning County Children Services concur that non-violent individuals with a substance use disorder are better served through treatment instead of incarceration and adamantly agree that Ohio Issue 1 does not solve that problem and instead will have a devastating toll on Ohio communities, especially children and families.

"Mahoning County, like many other counties across the state, have very effective drug courts which connect addicts to treatment which helps motivate successful outcomes," states Randall B. Muth, J.D., Executive Director, Mahoning County Children Services.

Judge Dellick believes that without the threat of serious prison time, many addicts will completely disregard treatment. "Those in possession of deadly drugs like fentanyl will receive a lighter sentence whereby many addicts will forego necessary treatment and continue using to their detriment and the community. Without the threat of jail, many addicts will not be encouraged to seek treatment," states Judge Dellick.

"We know treatment works and people recover. Sometimes individuals need the courts to provide the motivation. This amendment would make that all but impossible. Simply put, Ohio's Issue 1 is the wrong execution of the right idea," Muth declares.

Duane Piccirilli, Executive Director, Mahoning County's Mental Health & Recovery Board is urging voters to support local Issue 2 and explains why passage is vital. "Untreated mental illness leads to increased unemployment, substance abuse, homelessness, incarceration and suicide. Treatment works. People recover. Recovering people work, they pay taxes and they positively contribute to the communities they live in."

For more information about these agencies and their services contact:

Mahoning County Juvenile Court: 330.740.2278

Mahoning County Children Services: 330.941.8888

Mahoning County Mental Health & Recovery Board: 330.746-2959

###