



NEWS

The NEO NEWS was established in December 2016 as a quarterly newsletter highlighting current events at NEOCAP and throughout the NEOCAP region.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JONES JOINS TRUMBULL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AS A TRUSTEE



Meghan E. Reed
Director

Meghan Reed
TCHS Director

On June 9, 2023 the Trumbull County Historical Society (TCHS) voted to approve Jake Jones, to a three year trustee term on the society's board. Director Meghan Reed says, "Jake brings a wealth of community experience to the TCHS board. His leadership has made Warren a better place for so many people and we are excited to have his expertise and skill sets!" The TCHS By-laws point out that the Trustees' duties include the preservation, care and management of its property ... responsible for appointing an executive director to manage the daily functions of the society. "While obtaining my Bachelor's degree in History, I Minored in History which gave me great appreciation for learning and history," says Jones.

MISSION STATEMENT: The Trumbull County Historical Society collects, preserves, and interprets the history of Warren and Trumbull County to educate diverse regional communities about the people and events that have shaped its rich history.



(pictured left to right) Jake Jones, Dan Machuzak, and Teri Lacy

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SIP & PAINT

erson (pictured on the top left), a retired Art teacher from Warren
 oth residents and staff in an afternoon “Sip and Paint” at both the
 facilities. There is a positive connection between art and mental
 activities such as sculpting, painting, or drawing are known to lower
 stress levels and promote mental calmness.



WINNERS



Marissa Morrow



Christopher Morris



COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT MAY 22, 2023

In conjunction with Mental Health Month “do some spring cleaning with mental health in mind,” 17 NEOCAP staff members signed up to clear land for LAYLA SAVES LIVES, a non-profit creating a meditation and suicide prevention garden to provide a safe haven to anyone in need of friendship and guidance dealing with victims of suicide.

LAYLA SAVES LIVES is an organization created by Michael May in the name and honor of his teenage daughter, Layla Ashley May, who committed suicide April 11, 2022.

Michael is a life long Warren, Ohio resident that has dedicated himself to providing community outreach to young adult populations.



Michael May

“Suicide is the second-leading cause of death among people age 15 to 24 in the U.S. Nearly 20% of high school students report serious thoughts of suicide and 9% have made an attempt to take their lives, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness. (Mar 15, 2022)”



“LOOK AROUND, LOOK WITHIN” WAS THE FOCUS FOR MENTAL HEALTH MONTH 2023

HEALTH HOME ENVIRONMENTS

Optimizing your space to improve your mental health is something that anyone can benefit from. For those living with mental health conditions, it is one tool of many that can be used to improve and support your mental well-being.

NEIGHBORHOODS AND TOWNS

Did you know that your ZIP code plays a role in your health? It might surprise you to learn that up to 60% of your health is determined by where you live. Your neighborhood, along with your town and large geographical region, impacts your sense of community and belonging, and determines how easily you can access the things and services you need, including for your mental health.

THE OUTDOORS & NATURE

Spending time in nature is linked to many positive mental health outcomes—improved focus, lower stress, better mood, and reduced risk of developing a mental health condition. Most studies on nature and well-being look at green spaces like parks and forests, but researchers are also beginning to look at blue spaced—places with ocean and river views. However, you don't need a picture-perfect outdoor experience to get the benefits of nature.

SAFE AND STABLE HOUSING

Housing is more than just protection from the outdoor elements. Safe and stable housing is a basic need, and it can be difficult or impossible to care for your mental health if that need is not met.

material taken from Mental Health America website



MASSAGE THERAPY

Massage can be a very effective treatment for mental health conditions as it helps to reduce stress and anxiety, improve sleep, lower blood pressure, promote relaxation, and alleviate chronic pain symptoms.

Staff from both locations enjoyed a 15 minute chair massage during the Mental Health Wrap-Up Luncheon.



JEOPARDY!

JEOPARDY: Veronica Milhous (pictured left) created and led staff in a “Mental Health” version of the game of Jeopardy.



Tracy Snider, Warren CAPE Coordinator, joined us again this year, providing handouts of the various programs available to staff.

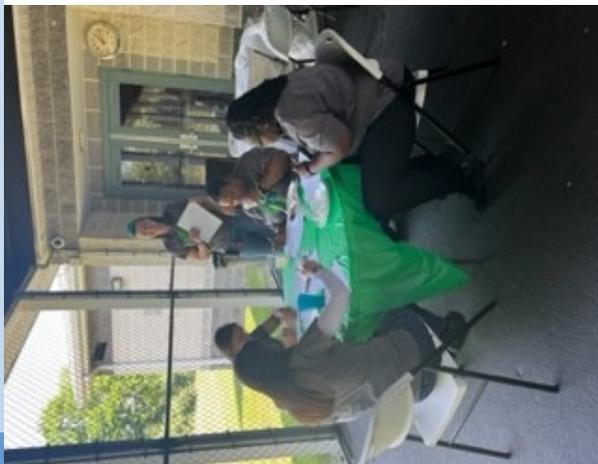


Group photo (right) of the staff members that won the raffles for the gift basket of relaxation items, gift cards, NEOCAP polo shirt, and a free month of jeans.



JEOPARDY!

Samantha Neiheisel (standing on the right), created a competitive computer version of the Jeopardy game for the Warren facility.



CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRUMBULL COUNTY DAY REPORTING CENTER

Effective July 1, 2023, NEOCAP will no longer staff and operate the Trumbull County Day Reporting Center. Chief of Probation Tracy Hunt and her Team Staff will take over the operations at the Center. NEOCAP's involvement dates back to 2015 during its planning stages. NEOCAP has been the sponsor of the Center since its opening on April 4, 2016. Executive Director Jones expressed that "the Day Reporting Center is a valuable asset to the courts, and families of Trumbull County. I look forward to seeing it continue to grow and develop under new leadership."



Original Day Reporting Staff (December 2016)

ANTONETTE WASHINGTON ACCEPTS NEW CHALLENGE

On June 26, 2023 Antonette will start in her new role as a Mental Health Administrator at the Female Facility. Antonette has been with NEOCAP for 17 years and she spent the last 6 years in the position of Day Reporting Center Administrator.

In 2002, she was hired as a Resident Supervisor and since joining the team, she has continuously grown in duties and responsibilities that included periods of time serving as Case Manager, Intake Staff, Program Specialist, and Day Reporting Center Administrator. Antonette has extensive knowledge and experience working with the female offender and she will be a valuable asset to our female population.



Antonette Washington
Mental Health Administrator

LISA GINN JOINS THE NEOCAP TEAM

On May 22, 2023 Lisa joined the NEOCAP team as a Compliance Manager assigned to the Female Facility. For the past 23 years Lisa has worked as a Corrections Officer (CO) at the Ashtabula County Sheriff's Department. In her CO capacity, she became keenly aware of offender behavior, property, and commissary systems. Prior to joining the Sheriff's Department, Lisa worked four years for Ashtabula City Schools as a Paraprofessional working with the severe behavior handicapped children.

We are very excited that Lisa was ready for a new challenge in life and she chose to bring her knowledge, talent, and skills to NEOCAP. Welcome aboard Lisa!



Lisa Ginn
Compliance Manager
Mental Health Administrator

BUREAU OF COMMUNITY SANCTIONS FY23 PROGRAM REVIEW

The Bureau of Community Sanctions (BCS) conducted a two-day Program Review on March 13-14, 2023. The first stage of the Review included conducting a review of the agency's documentation for the program's compliance with BCS Program Standards. Part two included resident and administration file reviews, staff and resident walk-through at both the Warren and Painesville facilities. BCS staff review team were James Dowdell, Greg Michael, Karl Blissenbach. All four Reviewers expressed high praise for the program components, maintenance, and upkeep of the facilities.



NEOCAP HOSTS OPEN HOUSE — APRIL 28, 2023

BY: KIM MASSARY

On Friday, April 28, 2023, NEOCAP hosted an Open House for Judge Harris (Ashtabula County), Judge Schroeder (Ashtabula County), Judge Rice (Trumbull County), Judge O'Brian (Trumbull County) and their support staff.

During the two-hour presentation, a group on our intake procedures, the Open House concluded with a tour of the facility.

Judge Harris stated that "it helped me visualize the program when Judge Schroeder stated, "This is a fantastic opportunity for their time and attention."



Kim Massary
Deputy Director



Kristina Henik
Clinical Director



Dr. Prochaska (center) with two (2) of the CJ students



LAKE ERIE

ON BY: KRISTINA HENIK

COLLEGE

Massary, Clinical Director Kristina Henik, Female Facility Director Jennifer Melvin and Intake Administrator, Jeigh Maynard went back to college! They spent the morning at Lake Erie College in Painesville sharing information with Criminal Justice students from two (2) of Dr. Brenda Prochaska's classes. During the two (2) hours they were there, they presented an overview of the history, funding and operation of Community Based Correctional Facilities (CBCF); a detailed summary of the program NEOCAP offers offenders, and an overview of the various staff positions and current opportunities for employment at NEOCAP.

Students appeared to be interested in the unique way that one can work with an offender while employed at a CBCF due to its unique coupling of corrections and treatment. Much time was spent explaining the way a therapeutic milieu is achieved and maintained at NEOCAP through hiring of the right staff, utilizing evidence-based practices, maintaining staff code of ethics and accepting the right offenders. Reinforcing the point that this is required in order to produce and sustain a safe and supportive environment where positive behavior change can occur.

Dr. Prochaska participated in a tour of the Female Facility in November 2022 and shortly after reached out to us, inviting us to present in her classroom. She thanked the team from NEOCAP stating, "I appreciate your willingness to help me introduce the students to the variety of opportunities that lie ahead of them."

DIRECTORS JONES AND MASSARY ATTENDED STRATEGIC PLANNING FORUM



On April 26-27, 2023, Executive Director Jake Jones and Kim Massary joined other Community Based Correctional Facility Directors in two days of strategic planning. This event was sponsored by CorJus, Inc, of which NEOCAP is a member. CorJus is a network of community-centered agencies that promote excellence in the Ohio criminal justice system through advocacy, education, and collaboration. Both days were utilized to identify strategies to best support member agencies and ways to continuously improve relationships with state and local stakeholders over the next two years.



Jake Jones
Executive Director

Jones expressed "we had two very productive days and I'm feeling energized and excited about the direction that our organization will be taking over the next two years."



**37TH ANNUAL
AFRICAN AMERICAN
ACHIEVERS ASSOCIATION
FESTIVAL**

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JUNE 2ND, 3RD, 4TH 2023

• PARADE • LIVE ENTERTAINMENT •
• RIDES • GAMES • FOOD •
• HEALTH FAIR • AND MORE!

#



Karen Vadino
Summit Presenter

ASAP DRUG SUMMIT 2023 — BY: KRISTINA HENIK

On May 26, 2023, 18 NEOCAP staff members attended the 2023 Drug Summit sponsored by the Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention (ASAP) coalition of Trumbull County. Each year, this day long training provides an opportunity for local professionals working in the prevention and recovery community to come together to learn and network. This year, Brad Lander, PhD., LICDC-CS, Clinical Director of Addiction Medicine at the OSU Wexner Medical Center, provided an overview of the way the human brain operates when a person suffers from substance abuse disorder. Author Sam Quinones, *Dreamland* (2015) and *The Least of Us* (2021), provided insight he obtained during the last 12+ years he spent studying the opioid epidemic in America. The afternoon featured some comedic relief from one of our favorite social workers, Ms. Karen Vadino, who spoke about human connection and the value of relationships. In addition to Ms. Vadino, the afternoon consisted of a variety of breakout sessions covering current drug trends, recovery resources, and activities and ideas for providers. The 18 clinically licensed NEOCAP staff were able to earn needed CEUs, while learning and networking.



JOB FAIR—LAKELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

On April 5, 2023, Deputy Director Kim Massary and Operations Director Lisa



Kim Massary
and Lisa Rowe

Rowe at the Lakeland Community College Job Fair. College students and job seekers from the public, were able to visit more than 50 different variety of industries and occupations. NEOCAP, Ohio State University, and Lake County Sheriff Department were in attendance all day long to help candidates to pursue work in the criminal justice field. The job fair ran from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Lakeland College Athletic and Fitness Center.

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