



O-TOWN NEWS – March 2022

Greetings! Happy “almost Spring”. Amidst cold winds, Crocus are out, Daffodils are trying, and Tulips wait in the wings! Hopes are high for warm sun to come and stay.

This O-Town covers two topics very important to all members of our local community: the Hope Is Here Coalition’s response to the opioid crisis and the Oxford Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan Update. These topics affect all generations of residents in the Oxford area today and for decades to come.

Why should older adults be concerned about the opioid epidemic? The NIH reports that due to chronic pain, some older adults are susceptible to pain killer use and potential dependence. Further, the opioid epidemic has created a dramatic increase in “Grand-Families”, families where grandparents are raising grandchildren full time. According to the Public Children Services Association of Ohio, about 100,000 Ohio grandparents are raising grandchildren full time.

There is hope. On behalf of the Oxford community, thank you to the ***Hope Lives Here*** coalition for all you do to address this critical issue locally. A special thank you to ***Miami University’s Office of Student Wellness*** for funding this issue of O-Town News and for sharing this important information. The Oxford area is incredibly fortunate to have so many highly qualified local organizations working together to treat and support those struggling with addiction. THANK YOU!

Hope Lives Here

(Submitted by Cecilie McGhehey, Miami University Office of Student Wellness)

The state of Ohio has been on the forefront of the addiction crisis since the opioid epidemic came to light in the early 2000s. In 2007, unintentional drug poisoning became the leading cause of injury death in the state, surpassing motor vehicle crashes for the first time on record. This trend continues with Butler County, which is ranked third in the state for the number of unintentional drug overdose deaths by county for the period 2013-2018.

Recognizing a need for prevention, treatment, and recovery services, the U.S. Health Resources and Service Administration awarded grants to expand services in rural areas. Butler County Mental Health, Addiction, and Recovery Services accepted a

\$1 million grant for services in the Oxford area and established a consortium—the Oxford Area Addiction Response Initiative. Members are:

- Butler County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Services Board
- Miami University, Office of Student Wellness
- TriHealth McCullough-Hyde Memorial Hospital
- Talawanda School District
- Coalition for a Healthy Community - Oxford Area
- Epiphany Community Services

The consortium implements prevention, treatment, and recovery initiatives, addressing the needs of the education, healthcare, treatment, and first responder sectors while also building collaborative relationships. The Regional Harm Reduction Collaborative and Butler County General Health District provide additional advisory and input. Now in year two of grant implementation, the consortium has developed several programs and campaigns as described below.

Oxford Hope Campaign. *“Find us where a community comes together. Where we help our neighbors and friends when they need it the most. Where we shine a light on addiction without shame and build a road to recovery. United, Oxford chooses hope.”* The Oxford Hope campaign aims to inspire hope for addiction recovery and decrease the stigma associated with addiction. Campaign information can be found at www.OxfordHope.com. Look for messages promoted throughout Oxford on yard signs, flyers/stickers, uptown banners, and Kroger carts. Many community partners have engaged with this campaign, including Kroger, Kofenya, the City of Oxford, and DuBois Book Store.

McCullough-Hyde Peer Support. TriHealth’s McCullough-Hyde Memorial Hospital used grant funding to improve substance and opioid use disorder referral information for hospitalized patients and their families. The hospital now has a dedicated peer support staff from DeCoach Rehabilitation Centre on-site three days a week. Staff is available through telehealth for off-site starting this month. The peer support staff has lived experience with substance misuse. They follow up with clients for up to one year to ensure care is known and support is available.

Miami University Initiatives:

Generation Rx University. To reach Miami students on a peer level, the grant supplemented the promotion of Generation Rx University. This national program, created by college students, aims to prevent prescription drug misuse on college campuses. The [HAWKS peer health educators](#) share information about the project in their health-related presentations to student groups, residence halls, and classes.

SBIRT - Miami University student health services, through TriHealth, implements a screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment program annually to all students who visit the clinic as part of their routine checkups. The program allows clinicians to quickly assess if a student needs additional support to reduce substance use.

Medication Lock Bags - Grant funds were used to acquire medication lock bags for campus distribution. These bags allow for the secure storage and monitoring of medications. Medication lock bags are available for students, faculty, and staff.

Community Resources. The City of Oxford is offering new community resources in partnership with the Regional Harm Reduction Collaborative. These services will be offered weekly beginning next month. Each month, an on-site harm reduction specialist offers free and anonymous services including:

- NARCAN□ distribution
- Rapid HIV/HEP-C testing
- Fentanyl testing strips
- Medical referrals
- Overdose prevention/harm reduction education
- Safe Sex supplies

Safe Medication Disposal. Safe medication disposal allows for safe, environmentally-appropriate disposal of unused, expired, or unwanted prescriptions or over-the-counter drugs. The goals of the grant helped to expand existing medication take back days in the community and on campus. The year-round safe medication drop boxes located at the Oxford Township building, Miami University Police Department, and Oxford Police Department were also improved. In the past 8 years, these collection points have properly disposed of over 3,000 pounds of medication.

Training. The grant sponsored free training to local mental health providers in January on how to optimize coding and billing for their services. Training included diagnosis and procedure coding as well as billing to Medicaid, Medicare, and private insurance. The grant funded the purchase of up-to-date ICD-9 and ICD-10 coding books for each provider in attendance.

Looking Ahead. Although the pandemic has changed the timeline of some grant activities, future programming and activity planning is well underway. Activities include Naloxone training, more drug take-back days, transportation assistance to/from substance use care, and support for local development of recovery communities.

Need someone to talk to? Butler County Mobile Crisis Team is a 24-hour hotline. Call 1-844-427-4747 for adults of all ages. Miami Students can also reach out to Miami's [student counseling service](#).

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MESSAGE FROM AGE-FRIENDLY OXFORD

Message From Age-Friendly Oxford – All Ages Are Invited!

What: Viewing of a pre-recorded presentation on the Oxford Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan by MSKS Planning Consultants.

When/Where: Monday, March 21, at 1:30 pm at Oxford Seniors

The Oxford Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan will be the City's guiding document for the next 10-20 years! Have you been able to view this and provide your input? If not, there is still time. To help folks understand the process and respond, AFO has scheduled this information session. The City's response cards and surveys will be provided for your convenience. Public input will be received until Friday, March 25.

What is most important to you for Oxford's future, and what will make Oxford a more livable community for you in the coming 10-20 years?

- *Roads, traffic and public transportation?
- *Climate resilience, energy/utilities and disaster preparedness?
- *Health, safety and equal access to community resources and opportunities?
- *The area economy and the City's finances and budget?
- *Jobs and employment?
- *Retirement and aging in place?
- *Parks, recreation, and outdoor spaces?
- *More options and creativity for dining, shopping, social gathering?
- *Housing?
- *Other?

FROM THE CITY - OXFORD TOMORROW COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

As a follow up to November and February editions of the O-Town News, the City of Oxford is pleased to announce the public participation portion of the comprehensive planning process is **now underway!** The Oxford Tomorrow process is an effort to gauge community members' perspectives on growth, development, and change in Oxford over the next 10-20 years. It has been 14 years since Oxford last updated its Comprehensive Plan, and much has changed. Citizens of all ages and walks of life are urged to get involved and let their voices be heard. The City has retained planning design firm **MKSK** to assist with the development of Oxford's next Comprehensive Plan. Below is a recap of the 3 phases of the Oxford Tomorrow planning process:

Phase 1: Where We Are (Summer/Fall 2021) – **Complete**

This phase involved creating an understanding of current conditions, recent trends, and pertinent issues. A Steering Committee, established by City Council, met on six occasions since May of 2021. Equipped with information from City staff and consultant firm MKSK, the Committee participated in several brainstorming exercises to develop a sense of challenges and opportunities.

Phase 2: What We Heard (Winter/Spring 2022) – **Current**

During this phase, the community is being engaged through two public input sessions and several online tools including a survey, ideas wall, and interactive map. Input received will help to inform what the City should continue doing (where it is excelling), and what the City should do differently moving forward.

Phase 3: Moving Forward (Spring/Summer 2022) - **Upcoming**

During this phase, a draft Comprehensive Plan will be developed based on the public feedback received in Phase 2 and presented to the Steering Committee to review and refine. At least one public open house event may be held to share draft plans and recommendations before moving the process to City Council.

How can I get involved?

- **Public Input Session #1:** The first Oxford Tomorrow public input session was held virtually on February 16. The recorded event is available to view on the City of Oxford's YouTube page (www.youtube.com/user/cityofoxfordohio). This event included background findings and information from the MKSK consultants.

At times, participants were given the ability to enter responses to a number of survey questions. If you missed this virtual meeting, it's not too late to take the exact same survey! Go to www.surveymonkey.com/r/39XLL9D to take the survey online, or simply **detach the survey portion on the last page of this**

newsletter, complete the questionnaire (front and back), and mail to: **City of Oxford, Community Development, 15 S. College Ave. Oxford OH 45056.**

- **Public Input Session #2:** The next public input session will be at Oxford Bible Fellowship (800 S. Maple St.) on **APRIL 18 from 6:00-7:30pm**. **All members of the public are encouraged to attend!** Through this “science fair” style event with booths and interactive exercises, the public can provide feedback to help further refine recommendations in the Plan.
- **Ideas Wall:** The Ideas Wall is an online bulletin board where community members can post ideas for Oxford’s future and identify strengths, weaknesses, and priorities. You can find a link to the Ideas Wall by going to www.oxfordtomorrow.org/get-involved or type in the following address into the internet address bar: <https://mksk.mysocialpinpoint.com/oxford-comprehensive-plan/ideas#/>
- **Interactive Map -** available for providing input or ideas on an interactive map of Oxford. Community members can drop “pins” on locations to identify places to maintain, protect/preserve, or improve. You can find a link to the Interactive Map by going to www.oxfordtomorrow.org/get-involved or type this address: <https://mksk.mysocialpinpoint.com/oxford-comprehensive-plan-interactive-map#/>

- **Postcards:**



Oxford Tomorrow Postcards are perfect for brief comments. The card offers space to write 3 suggestions, or you use the entire space to write whatever comments you wish. Post cards are available for ***pickup*** at the following locations:

- Oxford Municipal Building lobby (15 S. College Avenue)
- Lane Library
- Oxford Seniors
- Family Resource Center/TOPSS

Postcards can be ***dropped off*** at any of three utility/parking drop boxes Uptown, at:

- Oxford Municipal Building (in alley across from the Arts Center)
- Oxford Memorial Park (accessed from W Park Place)
- Oxford Police Station (near corner of High and Poplar)

Where can I learn more? www.oxfordtomorrow.org is the homepage. Click **“Subscribe to E-News”** to sign up for coverage of the Oxford Tomorrow process. Also watch the City’s main website (www.cityofoxford.org) and [City E-newsletter](#).



PUBLIC INPUT SESSION #1 - SURVEY

To take this survey online, visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/39XLL9D. Or simply detach this entire survey page, complete the questionnaire (front and back). Drop off or mail to:

City of Oxford, Attn: Community Development, 15 S. College Avenue, Oxford OH 45056.

1. Please select all that describe you:

- I am a resident of Oxford
- I am a student at Miami University
- I work at Miami University
- I own property in Oxford
- I am a renter in Oxford
- Other: _____
- I own a business in Oxford
- I live in a nearby town or township
- I visit Oxford
- I would like to live in Oxford
- I work in Oxford

2. What are your 3 favorite things about Oxford?

3. What are the 3 most important things you would change or improve about Oxford?

4. What is missing in Oxford that would make it a more welcoming, livable place for all?

5. Please rate the importance of the following topics for this plan to address:

Scale: 1 = Not at all important, 6 = Extremely Important

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| _____ Housing | _____ Transportation & Mobility |
| _____ Economic Development | _____ Safety, Health & Equity |
| _____ City & Miami University Relations | _____ Culture & Recreation |
| _____ Climate & Sustainability | _____ Utilities & Infrastructure |

6. In what ZIP code is your permanent address? _____

Questions 7 through 11 are optional, but will help us to know who we're hearing from:

7. What is your age?

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 18 | <input type="checkbox"/> 35 – 44 | <input type="checkbox"/> 65 – 74 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18 – 24 | <input type="checkbox"/> 45 – 54 | <input type="checkbox"/> 75+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 25 – 34 | <input type="checkbox"/> 55 – 64 | |

8. How would you describe your gender?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Woman | <input type="checkbox"/> I prefer not to answer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Man | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-binary or gender non-conforming |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> I prefer to self-describe: _____ |

9. How would you describe your race? (Select all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian American | <input type="checkbox"/> White or Caucasian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

10. Do you identify as Hispanic or Latina/o/e?

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|

11. If you'd like to receive email updates about the Oxford Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan, please provide your name and email below:

Name: _____

Email: _____

End of Survey. Thank you for your input.