



ODA Newsletter

Latest Deflection News & Information
September 2026

Dear Partners and Stakeholders,

Between April and August, the Ohio Deflection Association hosted five regional Lunch & Learn events, bringing training, resources, and networking directly to deflection, QRT, public safety, behavioral health, and community partners across Ohio.



These regional events were held in Northwest, Northeast, Central, Southwest, and Southeast Ohio, completing ODA's goal of providing an in-person learning and networking opportunity in each of its five regions. The regional format was designed to share information and strengthen relationships among local teams and offer participants an opportunity to discuss funding, program needs, emerging challenges, and opportunities for collaboration.

Each Lunch & Learn featured statewide partners and resources that can support the work taking place across Ohio and its communities. The Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center (ONIC) provided updates on emerging drug trends, Kratom and the "Grey Market" while the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) highlighted the Ohio Community Alert Notification System (OCANS) and its potential to improve the sharing of timely information with local Deflection/QRT teams and Mental Health & Recovery Boards. The events also included regional workgroup discussions led by ODA Regional Representatives, giving attendees an opportunity to identify local needs, share approaches, and build connections with neighboring teams and communities.

The Lunch & Learn series reflects an important part of ODA's mission: bringing education, guidance, resources, and real-time solutions closer to the professionals and community partners doing this work every day.

Updates from our Community Partners

Ohio Department of Public Safety



**Department of
Public Safety**

In 2022 the Ohio Department of Public Safety created the Bridging Recovery and Interdiction Data Gathering Enforcement (BRIDGE) program. BRIDGE brings together drug task forces and law enforcement who are working to disrupt the supply of drugs entering communities while simultaneously partnering with local service providers in a resource fair to offer low-level non-violent offenders and others with substance use disorders (SUD) immediate access to treatment outside the criminal justice system.

So far in 2026, nine Ohio counties have hosted BRIDGE events engaging with more than 4,247 people. During those events nearly 1,000 Naloxone kits were distributed, 200 Lbs. of unused medication was collected, 800 meals were provided to those in need, 130 referrals for treatment were made and 37 people entered treatment programs during the events.

Here at OCJS we are also working on preparing for the release of what we anticipate will be the final round of RecoveryOhio grant funding. We anticipate the Request for proposal to be released in September.



Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center

ONIC- Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center:
Supporting Ohio's Response to Emerging
Drug Threats

The Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center (ONIC), a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, supports statewide efforts to reduce overdose deaths and disrupt the illicit drug market.



Through digital forensics, criminal intelligence analysis, and case support, ONIC helps law enforcement agencies respond to emerging threats. ONIC also partners with drug chemistry laboratories, medical examiners, policymakers, and professionals in public health, behavioral health, and recovery to strengthen collaboration and develop data-driven strategies that address both drug supply and demand.

ONIC offers several resources for deflection practitioners, including its monthly Drug Trends Call with RecoveryOhio, intelligence bulletins, tailored presentations, educational website content, and the ONIC Strategic Report and Drug Control Strategy. ONIC is also a partner in Operation BRIDGE, an initiative connecting targeted drug interdiction efforts with treatment, recovery, and support services. To learn more, visit onic.ohio.gov, email ONIC@dps.ohio.gov for presentations or the monthly call, or contact BRIDGE@dps.ohio.gov to explore bringing an Operation BRIDGE event to your community.



Recovery Ohio



New and Expanded Recovery Ohio Tools Recovery Ohio is launching new resources and improving existing programs to give Ohioans more support in the fight against addiction.

Recovery Rachel, is a new twist on traditional chatbots. This tool guides individuals through available treatment and recovery services anytime, anywhere—without the need to understand behavioral health jargon. Recovery Rachel can be accessed at RecoveryRachelOhio.org.

The Overdose Early Warning Dashboard now takes all drug-related arrests into account when forecasting drug poisonings. This expansion helps more communities identify risk and intervene before lives are lost.

- The Recovery Friendly Workplace program continues to grow, helping employers support the well-being of their employees. Support can be for the caregiver of someone who struggles with substance use or an individual struggling with substance use themselves. The benefits are clear with employers reporting reduced turnover and improved productivity.

Together, these new and expanded tools are building a state where recovery is always within reach. Learn more at RecoveryOhio.gov.

NEO MED Deflection ECHO

New Resource for Ohio Deflection Teams

Deflection Team Resource Guide: Standardized Recommendations, Tools, and Templates for Ohio Deflection Teams.

The Ohio Deflection Association is pleased to share the Deflection Team Resource Guide, a comprehensive resource designed to support deflection teams across Ohio.

The guide was developed through a collaborative effort involving the Substance Use Deflection Initiative, Ohio's COSSUP evaluation team, Talbert House, the University of Cincinnati, Cordata Healthcare Innovations, and the Office of Criminal Justice Services, with support from the Ohio Deflection Association and lessons learned from deflection teams across the state.

The guide brings together recommendations, tools, and templates to help communities develop, strengthen, and sustain effective deflection programs.

Upcoming Trainings:

September 10th

Sarah Reed, MHA, Mental Health and Recovery Services Board
Beyond the Barn: Checking in on Ohio's Agricultural Community

October 8th

Kathy Legg, PRSS/CDCA
Joseph Kiesler, MD
Kelli Jarell, MD

Street Medicine as a Novel Platform for Harm Reduction

[Download All Deflection Team Resource Guide Here](#)





Stay Connected: Training & ODA Updates



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

2027 OHIO DEFLECTION ASSOCIATION SUMMIT

 **FEBRUARY 17-19, 2027**
 SUMMIT HOTEL | CINCINNATI, OH

*Share Your Expertise.
Shape the Future of Deflection.*

The Ohio Deflection Association is seeking dynamic presenters for the 2027 ODA Summit!

We invite professionals, practitioners, and community partners to submit engaging presentations that share innovative strategies, promising practices, successful programs, and lessons learned from the field.



TOPICS MAY INCLUDE:

 Deflection & Pre-Arrest Diversion	 Quick Response & Outreach Teams	 Innovative & Emerging Practices
 Law Enforcement, Fire & EMS	 Peer Support & Recovery	 And More!
 Behavioral Health & Substance Use	 Community Partnerships & Collaboration	

READY TO PRESENT?

SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL TODAY!

We look forward to learning from your experience and expertise!

SUBMIT ONLINE:

 <https://oda.eventsair.com/2027odasummit/presenter-portal>

Questions? Email us at admin@ohiodeflectionassociation.org for more information.

 **PROPOSALS DUE: OCTOBER 31, 2026**

Ohio Deflection Association
ohiodeflectionassociation.org



The flyer is for an ODA Quarterly Webinar. At the top left is the ODA logo, which includes the text "Ohio Deflection Association" and "ODA". To the right of the logo, the text "OHIO DEFLECTION ASSOCIATION" is displayed. Below the logo, the title "ODA QUARTERLY WEBINAR" is prominently featured. Underneath the title, a tagline reads: "Bringing communities together to advance deflection and support pathways to care." To the right of the text is an image of a laptop displaying a webinar interface with a person icon and the word "WEBINAR". Below the title and tagline, a red banner reads "FEATURED SPEAKER". Underneath this banner is the NAMI logo, which consists of a stylized globe icon and the text "nami National Alliance on Mental Illness". To the right of the NAMI logo, a paragraph states: "Join us as our featured speakers from NAMI – the National Alliance on Mental Illness – share valuable insights, resources, and strategies to support individuals and strengthen our communities." Below the NAMI section, there are three columns of information. The first column has a calendar icon and the heading "DATE", followed by "Wednesday, September 23, 2026". The second column has a clock icon and the heading "TIME", followed by "2:00 – 3:00 p.m.". The third column has a laptop icon and the heading "FORMAT", followed by "Virtual Webinar". To the right of these columns is a section titled "WHY ATTEND?" with a group of people icon. It lists four bullet points: "Learn from national leaders in mental health", "Explore innovative approaches to deflection", "Connect with peers and share best practices", and "Strengthen community partnerships and impact". Below the "WHY ATTEND?" section is a QR code. At the bottom left, there is a section titled "REGISTER TODAY!" with a laptop icon and the text: "Reserve your spot for this important conversation about deflection and mental health in our communities." To the right of this section is a calendar icon. At the very bottom, a red banner contains the text: "REGISTRATION LINK: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/Hz4HSJcPJp>".

ODA QUARTERLY WEBINAR
Bringing communities together to advance deflection and support pathways to care.

FEATURED SPEAKER

nami
National Alliance on Mental Illness

Join us as our featured speakers from NAMI – the National Alliance on Mental Illness – share valuable insights, resources, and strategies to support individuals and strengthen our communities.

DATE
Wednesday, September 23, 2026

TIME
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

FORMAT
Virtual Webinar

WHY ATTEND?

- Learn from national leaders in mental health
- Explore innovative approaches to deflection
- Connect with peers and share best practices
- Strengthen community partnerships and impact

REGISTER TODAY!
Reserve your spot for this important conversation about deflection and mental health in our communities.

REGISTRATION LINK: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/Hz4HSJcPJp>

Stay Connected with ODA

Thank you for being part of the Ohio Deflection Association community. We appreciate the work you are doing across Ohio to strengthen deflection efforts, connect individuals with the right resources, and build healthier communities.

Stay connected with ODA for upcoming trainings, events, resources, and opportunities to collaborate. Together, we can continue to grow deflection across Ohio.

And remember to save the date for the next ODA Summit, February 17–19, 2027, in Cincinnati, Ohio!

Have questions about the Summit or ODA? Please reach out to us at admin@ohiodeflectionassociation.org.

We look forward to seeing you there! Thank you for being part of the work!



[Visit our Website](#)



Ohio Deflection Association | Cincinnati | Cincinnati, OH 45247 US

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