

Success Stories: Saving Lives Through Education, Improving Lives Through Wellness & Sobriety



New Partnership: Edna House

In 2017, the Edna House for Women received a variety of services from the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) including free hepatitis, HIV, and STD testing at our facility as well as birth control and gynecological services at the Board's Title X clinic. Our residents also learned about the ways in which women's health is affected by alcohol and drugs, especially those with opiate addictions. Overall, our partnership has been well-received by both our staff and residents. Together, we have

taught our women to care for themselves physically, starting with a focus on long-term sobriety. We are truly grateful for the services offered and look forward to working again with CCBH throughout 2018.

-Nicole Reed, Program Administrator, The Edna House for Women

The Edna House for Women offers long-term, structured sober living and education to women seeking recovery from addiction to drugs and alcohol.

-Our Mission

Our program was founded on the belief that every woman, regardless of her circumstances, could get sober if given the opportunity, and that the existing recovery community offered the critical link to the long term, uninterrupted sobriety that so many of us failed to attain on our own.

-Our Vision

2017 Resident Data

- 42% of those seeking a contraceptive chose a long-acting reversible contraceptive (IUD or Implant)
- 45% reported intravenous drug use
- 65% of clients reported a history of sexual abuse
- 74 women received a Chlamydia/Gonorrhea screening
- 76 women received a rapid HIV screening
- 92 women opted to come for an office visit, 100% received a well-woman exam
- 199 women received education about a variety of health topics
- ZERO unintended pregnancies occurred among women seen for medical appointments

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Implementation

A meeting took place to discuss this important topic with the goal of sharing knowledge, resources, and continuing the discussion of how to best empower the women in recovery with reproductive health information, prevention, and services.

The Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) has provided education at a local women's recovery home about topics including:

- the association between addiction and unintended pregnancy
- breast and cervical cancer prevention
- sexually transmitted diseases
- non-coercive , tier-based contraceptive counseling, in particular information about IUDs and implants.

With the help of the women at the centers, CCBH identified additional educational outreach topics

- HIV testing, prevention, and pre-exposure prophylaxis
- Hepatitis C
- Pregnancy.

CCBH has provided sexually transmitted disease (urine chlamydia and gonorrhea) and HIV screenings in the recovery housing setting. CCBH has referred and assisted with follow-up and appointment scheduling for both problem visits and well-women exams, including breast and cervical cancer screenings and birth control at our Parma location. Blocks



Future steps

- Continue to provide education, testing, and appointment referrals for the women at the home.
- Continue to grow and adapt to the individual needs and interests of the women at the center.
- Continue to gather data about reproductive health, stigma, health care barriers, and empowerment of women experiencing addiction and in recovery.
- Expand to other women's recovery centers around the Greater Cleveland area.