

Ty Ankrom's Here's What I Think ...

Pickaway County adults have been stepping up to make a difference in the opioid epidemic that has racked the area.



Nationwide, 174 people die every day in the United States from drug overdoses.

The Pickaway Addition Action Coalition (PAAC) has committed to end drug addiction in the county by 2020.



PAAC has put together a list of resources on its Web site, drugfreepickaway.com, and has posted its Parent Resource Guide on the site. It can be read online or downloaded as a PDF.

Our young people are also taking steps, joining drug-free clubs that are available at Circleville and Logan Elm schools and at Pickaway-Ross Career & Technology Center. As members of these clubs, they vow to be drug free and commit to random drug tests.

At the state level, Gov. John Kasich and First Lady Karen Kasich have created Start Talking!, a drug prevention program that provides another tool for parents, guardians, educators and community leaders to initiate conversation with young people about avoiding drugs.



At www.starttalking.ohio.gov, visitors can access tools under three categories:

Talking to your kids; safeguarding your home; and signs and symptoms.

In addition, there are links to a resources page, as well as pages for family and educators. At the community page (<http://starttalking.ohio.gov/>

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Community) is a link to a toolkit: Action Guide to Address Opioid Abuse.

A national organization, www.addictionpolicy.org, is another site with a wealth of resources. The group also has state chapters. For information on the Ohio chapter's activities, go to www.facebook.com/APFOhio/.

The organization has a sheet that explains addiction (http://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/bfe1ed_635d67f649f34719b33dc4e604c03450.pdf), a brochure (http://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/bfe1ed_2e60ef8c344249a8be83674a215c2546.pdf) and a video (www.youtube.com/watch?v=v6rEiMq7mV8&feature=youtu.be).

In addition to checking out these resources, a group was started that raises funds to support the MADE drug-free clubs in all Ross County schools. The Buck Fifty is a 150-mile relay race and all proceeds go back to the schools. The 2018 race is scheduled for April 13. While registration closed Feb. 1, if a team would like to register, send an e-mail to raceinfo@thebuckfifty. Businesses interested in being a sponsor also can send inquiries to that address.



Teachers looking for a way to get students involved can enter the Start Talking! Start Recording: Ohio's Youth Got Talent competition. The talent show is open to Ohio middle school and high school students. For complete contest details, go to <https://preventionactionalliance.org/oygt/>.

Ty Ankrom is the superintendent of the Pickaway County Educational Service Center. He can be reached at ty.ankrom@pickawayesc.org.

