

# News and Views



4th Quarter Issue  
December 2022

## They're Baaack: Measles in Ohio

*Editorial submitted by  
Geri Rousculp*

Infectious disease nerds like me closely followed the COVID epidemic as well as the societal debate regarding COVID vaccinations. Such a debate has been with us since Ohio began requiring vaccination for school children in 1959 (although smallpox vaccine requirements began in 1872!).

Following a later-debunked Lancet journal article in 1998, which claimed the MMR vaccine caused Autism, many parents chose to avoid or limit their children's immunizations. That trend has not sub-

sided and Franklin County is feeling the effects. A measles outbreak was first reported the week of November 7th. By the 18th, the reported cases had grown to 24, all in unvaccinated children: Nine were hospitalized. By the 29th Franklin County had 44 cases, then 58 by December 6th.

Many parents still not only view childhood immunizations as potentially harmful, but also view their respective diseases as more of an inconvenience than the serious health threat they are.

While measles is one of

the most highly infectious diseases, it is also one of the most preventable. Even a single shot combined with mumps and rubella, given around 12 months of age, offers up to 90% effectiveness.

Several years in the recent past prove that the capacity to eliminate measles exists. As recently as 2020 the United States reported only 13 cases of measles in eight jurisdictions\*. In 2021 forty-nine were reported in five jurisdictions.

Recall that in 1980 the World Health Organization declared smallpox

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## Health Educator's Institute 2022 Wrap-up

*Submitted by Anne  
Marie Hodges, HEI Chair*

A gigantic thanks to all of our members who were able to join us in October for the annual HEI event at Maumee Bay State Park & Lodge. A special thanks to those who shared research, presented programs or

other skill-focused sessions. And, of course, much fun was had by all, based on the feeds I saw at #HEI2022 & #OSOPHE!

HEI 2023 is already in sight. If you are interested in joining the planning committee or taking on a support role, we

want to hear from you — select HEI Planning Committee in your membership portal, which will help us include you when the committee begins meeting in 2023.

HEI dates and location for 2023 will be released soon. Watch your emails for updates.

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# Member Spotlight—Your Current OSOPHE Secretary

*This edition's Member Spotlight is on our current secretary. Read on to learn more about this busy, motivated and vital member of our chapter.*

Q. Full name and place of employment (and years there):

**Tori Ivan, CHES**, Mental Health America of Ohio since March of 2020 (2 years, 8 months). My current role is Fairfield County Client Navigator. I was previously a Mental Health First Aid Statewide Program Manager.

Q. Previous employment and approximate number of years:

I was at the Licking County Health Department, working as a Health Educator II in the tobacco program. I worked there for two years.

Q. City/town where you live:

Olde Towne East in Columbus.

Q. What do you like best about your current position?

In my role, I direct the people of Fairfield County to mental

health and recovery resources and provide education on the behavioral healthcare system. I love working with rural populations due to the unique challenges they face. I am also very passionate about health literacy and accessibility, which this role allows me to directly address.

Q. What current projects are underway?

My program slowed down considerably during the pandemic and I have been working to grow it over the past year by conducting significant outreach activities and collaborating with partnered agencies to ensure that people are aware that it is available. Separate from my workplace, I am currently pursuing my Master of Social Work at The Ohio State University.

Q. If CHES or MCHES, how does being certified help you and/or our profession?

I have been a proud CHES since 2017. This certification provides information to others on my skills and training, ensures that I am continuing to receive educa-

tion, and bolsters the visibility of health education as a profession.

*"I love working with rural populations due to the unique challenges they face."*

Tori Ivan

Q. Pets and family members:

I have a partner of almost ten years, Mal, and together we have a gigantic black cat named Toost.

Q. Current and previous positions with OSOPHE and how long:

I have been a member of OSOPHE since 2018 and have been the secretary since 2021.

Q. Hobbies and activities:

I love listening to podcasts, watching TV, running, and crafts. Currently, my time is almost fully taken up by grad school!

Q. Single word that describes you:

Steadfast!

## Measles, cont'd

eradicated from the world. Vaccine-preventable diseases can be potentially eliminated.

Many parents still not only view childhood immunizations as potentially harmful, but also view their respective diseases as more of an inconvenience than the serious health threat they are. Adults with young and school-aged children have not witnessed the devastation caused by polio, diphtheria, measles and other vaccine-preventable diseases. According

to the CDC approximately one in four patients with measles will be hospitalized. Encephalitis will occur in about one per 1000 cases. Death occurs in 1 to 2 cases per 1000.

COVID brought out the best and worst in society. The best was the public health and medical care response to the epidemic. The worst was the polarization, which pitted utilization of vaccines against mistrust of the science behind them. Regarding vaccines,

we lost some of the caring whether our behavior negatively impacted others.

The need to create meaningful messages which encourage vaccination of children—and adults—continues. Public health educators can use their knowledge and skills to help increase vaccination rates in their respective communities. As Dr. Amy Acton, former Director of Health, often reminded us, "We are all in this together."

\*50 states, NYC and DC

# Ohio's Whole Child Podcast and Newsletter

*Submitted by Hilary Stoll*

This fall the Ohio Department of Education launched the Whole Child Podcast (<http://www.ascd.org/podcasts>) and the Whole Child Newsletter (<http://owcn.ascd.org/winter-2022-23>).

In the latest Whole Child Podcast, Setting the Groundwork for Healthy Schools, Ohio education leaders delve into the Healthy tenet of Ohio's Whole Child Framework. The episode highlights how schools and districts can coordi-

nate health resources and implement policies and practices that foster health to help students grow and thrive.

The winter edition of the Ohio Whole Child Newsletter also addresses the topic of health. The newsletter includes a recording of the latest Whole Child Network Webinar (<https://ascd.wistia.com/media/9wasy452yg?c=>) featuring Washington County's Creating Healthy Communities' Program partnership with Fort Frye Local Schools

sharing their strategies to address multiple facets of school and community health. To suggest contributions to the newsletter, please email [wholechild@education.ohio.gov](mailto:wholechild@education.ohio.gov).



## Job Posting

*Submitted by Chastity Washington*

We have a job open within our center. It is a Community Outreach Analyst that will assist in the delivery of existing community outreach efforts and other initiatives in the LGBTQ+ community and youth/young adult population. This is an entry level position that might be nice for

recent grads. Please share the job link below with those you think would be interested.

[https://osu.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/OSUCareers/job/Columbus-Campus/Program-Coordinator-HS-\\_R64308-1](https://osu.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/OSUCareers/job/Columbus-Campus/Program-Coordinator-HS-_R64308-1)

## Member Updates

Congratulations to **Kat Bray** from the Lorain County Health District! She and her husband are expecting their first baby. It's a girl- due March 1st. Here's a photo of the proud parents-to-be taken at a recent shower in the Cincinnati area (where Kat's husband is from).



## Chapter Member

### Discounts



Contact National Delegate Nicole for information about how to receive a discount to the national conference.

[Nicole.smith@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:Nicole.smith@odh.ohio.gov)

**Sheronda Whitner**, long-time OSOPHE member, has a new position within the Ohio Department of Health. She is now the Specialty Services Supervisor at ODH. Well done, Sheronda!

# Grief as a Public Health Issue – Project Update

*Submitted by Lois Hall*

In the fall of 2021, the Ohio Department of Health funded a project to provide Grief Recovery Method (GRM) education and support for local Public Health (PH) professionals. As a result of the overwhelming impact of the Covid pandemic on these staff, they understood that the underlying condition they were experiencing was grief.

Grief is defined as the normal and natural response to change or loss of any kind; the conflicting feelings resulting from the end of, or change in familiar patterns of behavior. The Covid experience certainly fits that description.

The project has *three main components*, and continues through June 2023.

The *first component* is education/awareness. A series of over 40 webinars (and a few in-person sessions) have been presented across Ohio reaching approximately 1000 PH professionals from all areas within the system – educators, nurses, environmental health specialists, administrators and others. The 60-90 minute presentation was well received, with participants also being able to talk about the changes they experienced in the context of grief.



GRMS trainees from July 2022 at the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners, Worthington, Ohio.

A *second component* of the project is to provide GRM support to those interested in learning more and working on the personal grief they've experienced. This support, paid for by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) funds, allowed about 40 individuals to go through either the 8 week GRM group format or the 7 session one/one format so far. These programs were provided by various GRM Specialists across Ohio, and reimbursed by the project. In addition, several local health departments also chose to provide small group "sharing/listening" sessions for their staff who wanted to participate. These are one time opportunities to "give voice" to their experiences, and to also note what went well, or what they learned through the pandemic's early days.

The *third component* is to train local PH staff to become Grief Recovery Method Specialists (GRMS) who will be able to lead/present the GRM programs throughout their communities. A total of 25 spots were funded through the contract. To date, 19 staff have been trained and are beginning to provide groups, one-on-ones, and community presentations in their areas.

**Six training spots are still available – specifically for PH staff in Southeast Ohio where few GRMS are available.** One of the first 19 trained has completed her first "pilot" group – and her comment was that "this is the most fulfilling thing I've ever done (except for raising my kids)." This component is perhaps the most exciting of all – because as

we know in public health – if you want something to really make a difference – it must be successfully institutionalized. Having these new GRMS embedded in the public health system is hoped to be a huge contributor to that institutionalization!

You can learn more about the GRM and related programs by going to:



GRMS trainees from August 2022 at the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners, Worthington, Ohio.

[www.griefrecoverymethod.com](http://www.griefrecoverymethod.com).

Check out the blog tab. To find someone in your area who is a GRMS, go to the bottom of the *About Us* tab and put your city or zip code in the Legacy Specialist database.

To learn more about the ODH project, please contact:

Lois Hall  
lhall@griefrecoverymethod.com,  
or, by clicking  
[www.griefrecoverymethod.com](http://www.griefrecoverymethod.com)