

NAMI Ohio Executive Director Terry Russell appointed to the RecoveryOhio Advisory Council

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NAMI Ohio Executive Director Terry Russell was appointed Friday by Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine to the RecoveryOhio Advisory Council, a panel charged with advising the governor on mental illness and substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery services.

DeWine, who became Ohio's 70th governor on last week, said in a statement that he established the council in response to concerns he heard from "struggling families who say Ohio's system for treating those with mental health and substance use disorders needs repair."

"I'm calling upon the members of this council to advise my administration on strategies to mend this fractured system. With improvements, I truly believe that Ohio can better assist those who are struggling to recover and help them lead high-quality, productive lives."

The council will be chaired by RecoveryOhio Director Alisha Nelson.

In addition to Russell, the diverse group includes former Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland; retired Ohio Supreme Court Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton; Lucas County Sheriff John Tharp; Pastor Greg Delaney, Outreach Coordinator for Woodhaven; Suzanne Dulaney, executive director, County Commissioners Association of Ohio; Joan England, executive director, The Mental Health & Addiction Advocacy Coalition; Orman Hall, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area / Ohio University; Dr. Navdeep Kang, Director of Operations for Behavioral Health

Services, Mercy Health; Teresa Lampl, Associate Director, Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Service Providers, and Jessica Nickel, Founder, Addiction Policy Forum.

Other members are Dr. Shawn Ryan of Ohio Society of Addiction Medicine; Brenda Stewart, Founder, The Addict's Parent United; Sarah Thompson, Executive Director, Ohio Citizen Advocates for Addiction Recovery; Cheri L. Walter of the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities, and Juliet Doris Williams, Executive Director, The P.E.E.R. Center.

DeWine charged the council with coming up with preliminary recommendations by March 8 on prevention and early intervention programming in communities and schools; Improving access to treatment services; developing strategies on support, employment, and housing; improving the quality of care for mental health and substance use disorders; creating efficiencies across systems; serving underserved populations including youth, older adults, and veterans; measuring critical outcomes, and coordinating federal, state and local resources.