ISSUE 20 JULY 2023





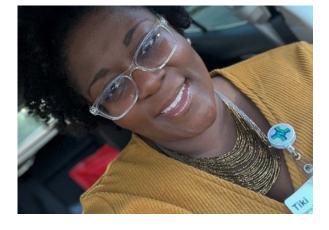
death since 2014. Mercy Health is committed to lead the charge to change that statistic. Mercy Health & AmeriCorps partnered to build Mercy Serves, a diverse, energetic, volunteer corps serving in Mercy Health Emergency Departments across the Tri-state area to prevent and reduce substance & opioid use.





As a part of the broader opioid epidemic response, AmeriCorps members provide patient education, substance use risk screening, emotional support, and referrals to treatment and social services for Emergency Department patients. Being on the front line of a patient experience also requires what the Mercy Serves members are none for and that is the "Human Touch".





Tikierra (Tiki) Thompson

I recently began my role as Program

Manager for Mercy Serves after working in
the field of education for over 15 years.

People and community have always played a
very large part of who I am. The opportunity
to educate, serve, and provide
compassionate care to and through
community is the opportunity of a lifetime. I
don't take lightly the work that we all are
doing and it is an honor to work alongside
people who want to make a difference.

<u>EVENTS</u> <u>SOCIAL</u> <u>CONNECT</u>

2023

July

S	M	Т	W	Т	F	<u>S</u>
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3		Becover Huch	ON THE	7	NEW FOUNDATIONS
9	10		W	13		OOFFEE Fellowship Meetings Meetings
16		18	19		GIVE CONSCT	22
23	24	83	2 26te	erseals	ON THE great least	RAMCO
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

August

<u>S</u>	M	Т	W	Т	F	<u>S</u>
30	31	1	2	3	14	5
6	7	8	ON THE		11	HERDIN
13	14	15	16	AAEV	GIVE COMMET RECEIVE	19
20	21	22	23	24	easterseals serving Creatman	26
FÜA	28	29	$30^{\rm Add}_{\rm Sc}$	liction Counc	å 1	2

September

S	M	<u>T</u>	W	T	F	<u>S</u>
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	ON THE	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	CIVE COMMOT	Public Health Front & Montgomery County
17	18	19	20	5		23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October

S	M	Т	W	Т	F	<u>S</u>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	ON THE	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	MEW	GIVE COME!	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4



The Recovery Center
of Hamilton County
Class Schedule



<u>True Freedom Recovery</u> <u>Yoga Class Schedule</u>



Peer Sustainability & Wellness (PSW) Weekly Support Group



May 2023 Newsletter

Hamilton County Addiction

Response Coalition Full

Meeting

INSSTAYRED



It's been an amazing journey, that I couldn't have done without the support from the amazing people at the On the Frontline meetings and the amazing women in the Empower Project.



CHAIN OF CONNECTION

Because of my unique experiences around pregnancy and parenting, I was asked to join the Empower Project in 2019 where I worked on developing surveys and literature through my lived experiences. After years of training and mentorship, I took on a leadership role, where I codeveloped a training module for peer supporters working with birthing people with a history of SUD around the time of pregnancy and postpartum. Recently, the Empower Project offered me the opportunity to become certified as a Peer Supporter.

In 2022 I started attending the On the Frontlines meetings. I was in awe of how everyone supported each other and worked together. I just knew I wanted to be a part of it. I started making connections and learning more about the professional side of the recovery community. Through going to the monthly gatherings, I found support and knowledge.

From the connections I made at the On the Front Lines gatherings, I got 3 scholarships: one for a CDCA, another for a Community Health Worker certification, a national certification as Event Interventionist, and a Peer Support certification for Kentucky.

I was determined to go into 2023 ready to be employed. I got my license for the first time in November 2022, and my GED in December of 2022. I started job seeking, where I was offered a position and then turned down because of my record. Thanks to the women in the Empower Project and the support I found at the Frontline meetings I stayed strong and driven. I got information on how to get a work qualification from the state of Ohio.

Today I am with a phenomenal organization, Firsthand. It feels so amazing to have a job doing what I love, helping others. I feel appreciated and cared about by my employers. I get to facilitate changing how people look at others with addiction or mental health struggles. I get to be an advocate for others struggling and guide them to help them through.

Tara Cain