



Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Mentor Program

September 2022



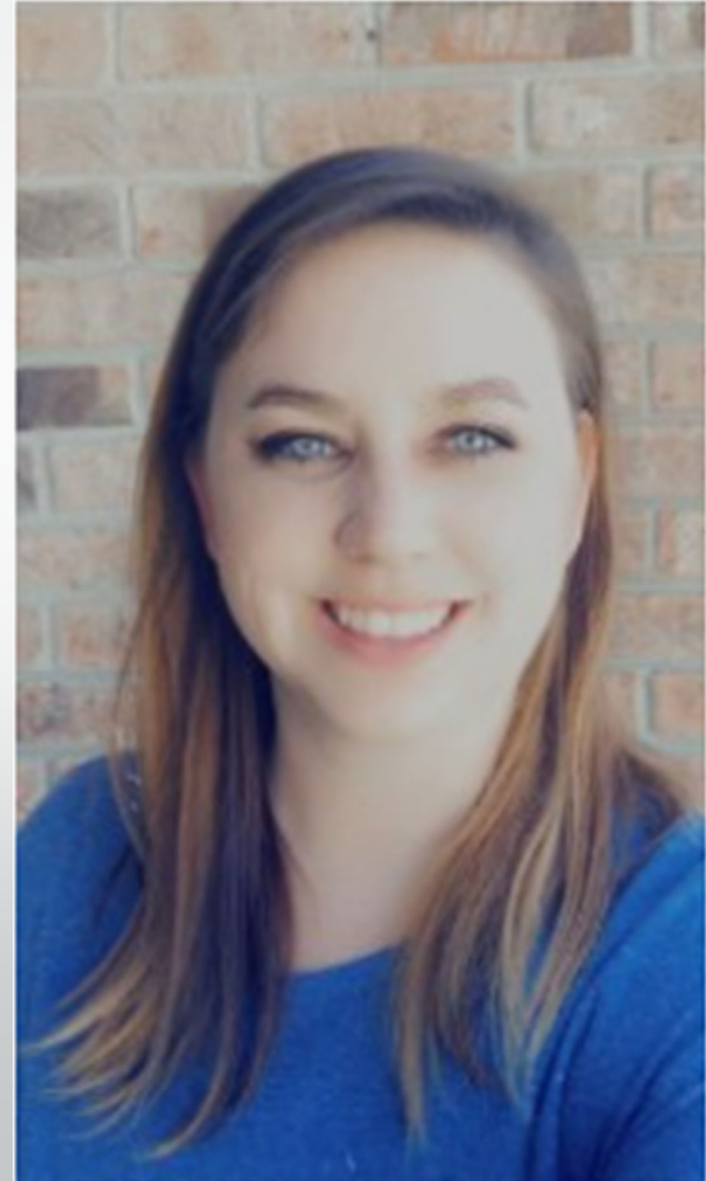
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Agenda

- Welcome
- Mentor Program Overview
- Mentor and Mentor Plus Sites
- Lackawanna County Mentee Experience
- Questions
- Adjourn

OFR Mentor Program

- Opportunity for new OFR sites to learn from experienced peers
- Pronged approach: direct communication, virtual or in-person site visits and follow up evaluation
- Travel compensation for sites meeting in-person
- Two tracks for observation
 - OFR Mentor
 - OFR Mentor Plus

Mentor and Mentor Plus Program

OFR Mentor Sites

- 1-hour introductory call at least 1 week before the OFR mentee site visit
- Host 2-hour OFR observation
- Host 1-hour post review discussion call at least one week after the OFR virtual site visit
- National OFR resources provided.

OFR Mentor Plus Sites

- 1-hour introductory call at least 1 week before the OFR mentee site visit
- Host 2-hour OFR observation
- Host 1-hour post-review discussion call at least 1 week after the OFR mentee site visit
- National OFR resources provided.
- Ongoing coaching, check-in calls, and other needs as requested.
- Host mentor plus site at the mentee site OFR team.

Mentor or Mentor Plus Matching Process

- Facilitator or coordinator of an existing OFR team.
- Complete registration link:
 - [OFR Peer Mentor Site Visit Application \(smartsheet.com\)](https://smartsheet.com)
- Attend IIR introductory virtual meeting.
- Mentee applicant matched with mentor site with similar demographics through IIR.

2022/2023 Mentor Sites

Mentor

- Cuyahoga County, Ohio
- Dearborn County, Indiana
- Hamilton County, Ohio
- Lexington County, South Carolina
- Marion County, Indiana
- Sauk County, Wisconsin
- Winnebago County, Wisconsin
- Yavapai County, Arizona

Mentor Plus

- Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania
- Ocean County, New Jersey
- Utah

Ohio: Cuyahoga and Hamilton Counties

- State OFR Legislation
- Coroner or Medical Examiner System
- Next-of-Kin Interviews
- Cuyahoga
 - Established in 2019.
 - Office of the Medical Examiner and Cuyahoga County Board of Health co-lead OFR meeting.
 - Urban Community- Cleveland
 - Virtual Meeting
- Hamilton
 - Established in 2017.
 - Executive governing committee that is led by Health Commissioner
 - Urban Community- Cincinnati
 - Hybrid meeting format



Wisconsin: Sauk and Winnebago Counties

- No State Legislation
- Coroner or Medical Examiner System
- Established in 2018
- OFR Data System
- Winnebago:
 - Facilitated by an outside contractor
 - Separate recommendation and monitoring team and implementation task force
 - Rural Community
 - In person meeting
- Sauk:
 - Home to Ho-Chunk Nation Tribe
 - Rural Community
 - Virtual Meeting



Indiana: Dearborn and Marion Counties



- State Legislation
- Coroner System
- Established in 2020
- OFR Data System
- Dearborn
 - Reviews all suicide and overdose cases
 - Shares border with other state
 - Rural community
 - In-person meeting
- Marion
 - Next-of-Kin Interview
 - CDC Foundation Public Health Analyst (PHA) and/or Drug Intelligence Officer (DIO) represented in meeting
 - Recommendations Subcommittee Based on themes identified
 - Urban- Indianapolis
 - Virtual Meeting

Utah State and Lexington County, South Carolina

- Supported by Drug Intelligence Officers and Public Health Analysts through ORS Program.
- Utilize Next-of-kin Interview
- Virtual Meeting
- Utah
 - Established in 2017
 - State OFR legislation
 - Attorney General's Opioid Task Force serves as Governing Committee
 - Centralized medical examiner office
 - Themed-case selection
- Lexington County, South Carolina
 - Established in 2021
 - Funded by National Association of County Health Officials (NACCHO).
 - Team co-managed by the Lexington County Coroner's Office and a community psychologist.

Yavapai County Arizona

- Established in 2016.
- State OFR legislation
- Medical examiner system
- Executive governing committee is chaired by MATFORCE coalition board
- Next-of-Kin interviews
- Home to two tribal nations, the Yavapai Apache Nation and the Yavapai Prescott Indian Tribe
- Rural Community
- Virtual case review




Ocean County, New Jersey and Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania

- County Based Reviews
 - OFR Mentor Sites
 - Virtual Case Review
 - Next-of-kin Interviews utilized.
- Ocean County, New Jersey
 - Established in 2017
 - State OFR Legislation
 - Led by health department.
 - Bi-monthly executive committee meeting
 - Surveys team members regularly.
 - Lackawanna, Pennsylvania
 - Established in 2020.
 - No state OFR legislation.
 - Led by District Attorney's office.
 - Semi-annual data and recommendations meeting
 - County coroner system

Making the Most of the Mentor Program

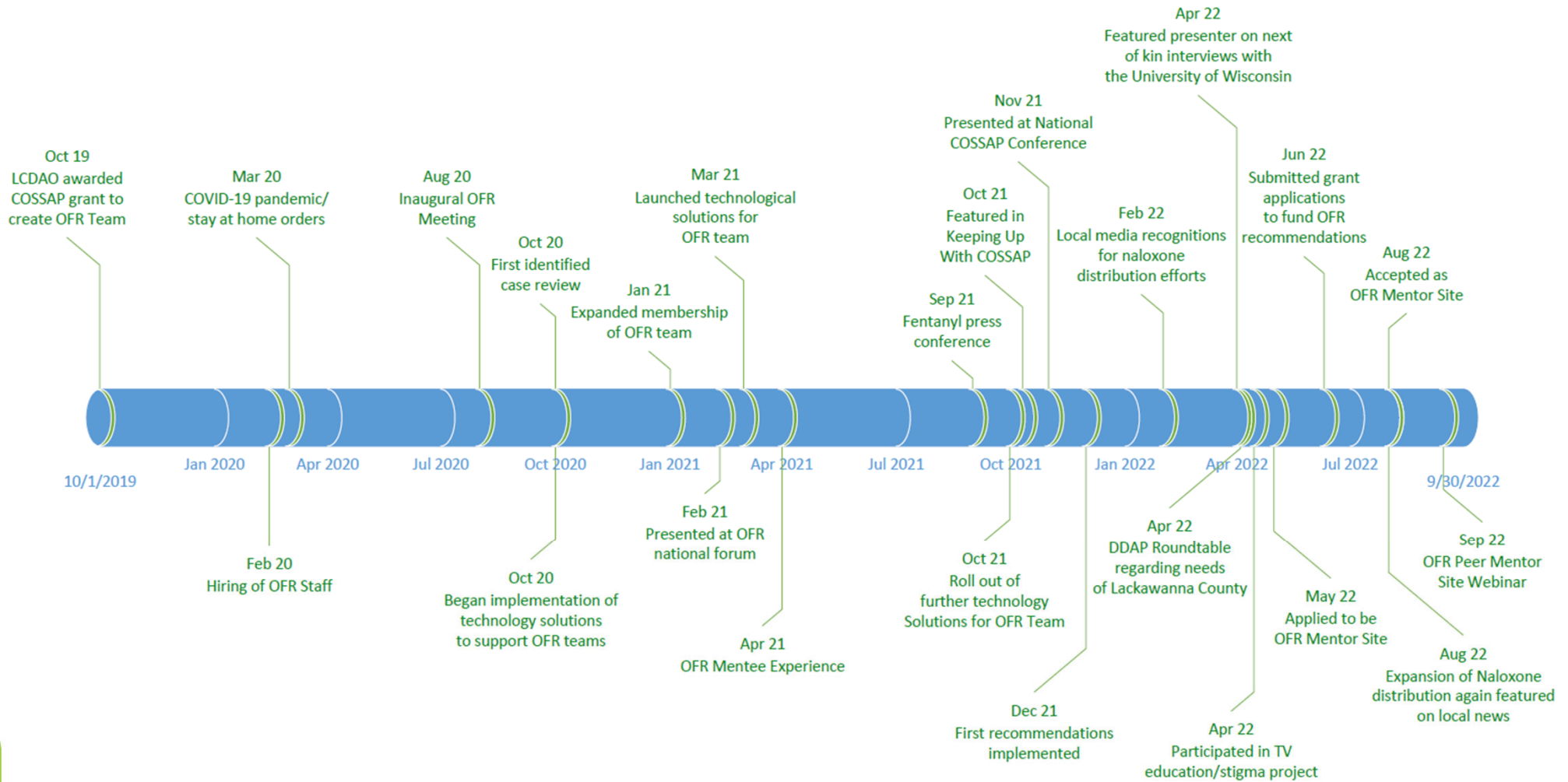
- Establish an OFR team.
- Ask questions!
 - Prepare questions about the mentor site to familiarize yourself with their team and structure.
 - Proactively engage in conversation with mentor.
- Set expectations.
 - Define the goals of what you hope to learn.
- Complete evaluation on conclusion of experience.



LACKAWANNA COUNTY OFR TEAM: OUR OFR JOURNEY

Carina Havenstrite – Program Manager –
Lackawanna County District Attorney's Office

Timeline



The Beginning

- ▶ Oct 2019—Grant Awarded
- ▶ Feb/March 2020—Staff hired
- ▶ March 2020—COVID-19 pandemic
- ▶ Planning
 - ▶ Digital Review
 - ▶ Confidentiality
 - ▶ Documents
 - ▶ Data Collection



- ▶ August 2020—Inaugural Meeting
- ▶ Oct 2020—First Case Review
 - ▶ HelloSign

Recommendations/Achievements

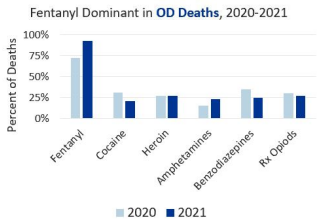
The Threat of Fentanyl in Lackawanna County

This is **new**, this is **terrifying**, and it is **deadly**.¹

- District Attorney Mark Powell

What is Fentanyl?

- Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is significantly **stronger** than morphine and is illicitly produced and trafficked in the United States
- Fentanyl poses great overdose risk **both alone** and in **combination** with other drugs, such as heroin and various stimulants¹

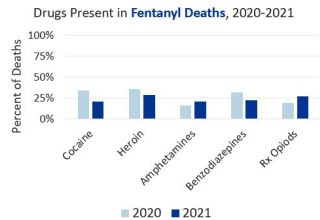


So far in 2021, the number of fentanyl-only deaths has **doubled** since 2020



Alarming Fentanyl Trends

- Deaths involving **fentanyl** without any other drugs have **increased 100%** in 2021
- 71%** of fentanyl-related deaths in 2021 DID NOT include heroin
- In 2020, **36%** of overdose deaths showed the presence of **fentanyl AND heroin**. So far in 2021, the percentage of deaths involving both substances is down to **29%**
- Local law enforcement reports that fentanyl is being **disguised** and sold as **heroin** and opiate pills such as **Percocet**.
- People with medical marijuana cards** are lacing dispensary-labeled products with fentanyl.
- Fentanyl is being sold at **half** the price from 2020 in **Lackawanna County** according to local drug task force officers.
- Local agencies are seeing fentanyl present in bloodwork in combination with **all types of illicit drugs, including marijuana**.
- Rising fentanyl **potency** and lower **prices increases** overdose **death risk**.



¹This project was supported by Grant No. 2019-AR-BX-K064 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the SMART Office. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

¹ Wilson N, Karjane M, Seth P, Smith H IV, Davis NL. Drug and Opioid-Involved Overdose Deaths — United States, 2017–2018. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2020;69:290–297. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6911a4external icon>



- ▶ February 2021—Three New Members
- ▶ September 2021—Fentanyl Press Conference
- ▶ December 2021
 - ▶ Fentanyl One-Pager
 - ▶ Grief Resources Pamphlet
 - ▶ Emergency Room Recovery Kits
 - ▶ EMS Leave Behind
- ▶ February 2022—School Naloxone Distribution
- ▶ May 2022—PD Naloxone Distribution
- ▶ June 2022—Grant Applications Submitted
- ▶ August 2022—Community naloxone distribution initiative exceeds 1,000 recovery kits distributed



Presentations/Features

- ▶ February 2021—National OFR Forum
 - ▶ OFR and Confidentiality without State Legislature
- ▶ October 2021—Keeping Up with COSSAP
 - ▶ As Overdose fatality Review (OFR) Circle Widens, Ripple Effects Intersect in Pennsylvania County - Team Recommendation Prompts Action for Fentanyl Testing
- ▶ November 2021—COSSAP National Forum
 - ▶ Effective Partnerships for Prevention and Intervention
- ▶ February 2022—Naloxone expansion featured on front page of local newspaper
- ▶ February 2022—Statewide Ambassador Workgroup
 - ▶ Featured OFR Team
- ▶ April 2022—Next of Kin Interviewing Webinar (University of Wisconsin)
- ▶ TODAY!! OFR MENTORSHIP PROGRAM



As Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Circle Widens, Ripple Effects Intersect in Pennsylvania County Team Recommendation Prompts Action on Fentanyl Testing

Catching Up With COSSAP, October 2021

The evolution of overdose fatality review (OFR) teams—public health and public safety officials who conduct death reviews in order to identify overdose prevention and intervention strategies—as a positive force for change in the nationwide battle against substance use took a quantum leap forward this year, if the new team in Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, is any indication.



By prompting the county's district attorney and the mayor of its largest city to call for the decriminalization of test strips to counter skyrocketing use of fentanyl, the OFR team showed itself to be the go-to vehicle for real-time, data-driven action in response to drug use trends in Lackawanna County.

In so doing, the OFR team's recommendations not only

Beginnings

When program manager Carina Havenstrite (below) set about establishing Lackawanna County's OFR team in early 2020 after receiving a COSSAP grant, "It was a challenge," she said. "There weren't nearly the resources then that OFR teams have now—no toolkit, no message exchange."

"So, it was very much about me reaching out to OFR teams that already existed," she said. "I spoke to Indiana's OFR team, where they'd had great results, and [following a request for training and technical assistance through COSSAP] to Philadelphia and the ORS, picking up pieces of this and that, deciding what worked best for us, sharing agreements and policies. The support was pretty amazing."

Ms. Havenstrite's outreach paid great dividends. Lackawanna County served as a mentee under Indiana's OFR team through COSSAP's peer mentorship program, and from COSSAP's new OFR toolkit, she and the data



Carina Havenstrite, Lackawanna County OFR Team Program Manager



OFR Mentee Experience (February - June 2021)

- ▶ Matched with Indiana Dept of Health
- ▶ Initial meeting to discuss our team, needs, area of focus, etc.



- ▶ Observed Cook County OFR Recommendations Meeting
- ▶ Recommendation changes implemented and presented to OFR Team (sustained one year later/positive feedback)

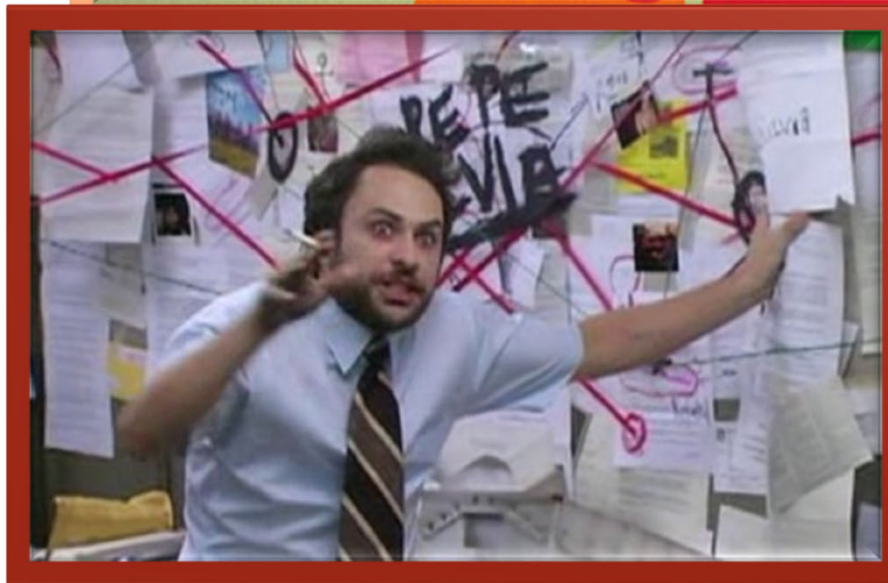


OFR Mentor Site

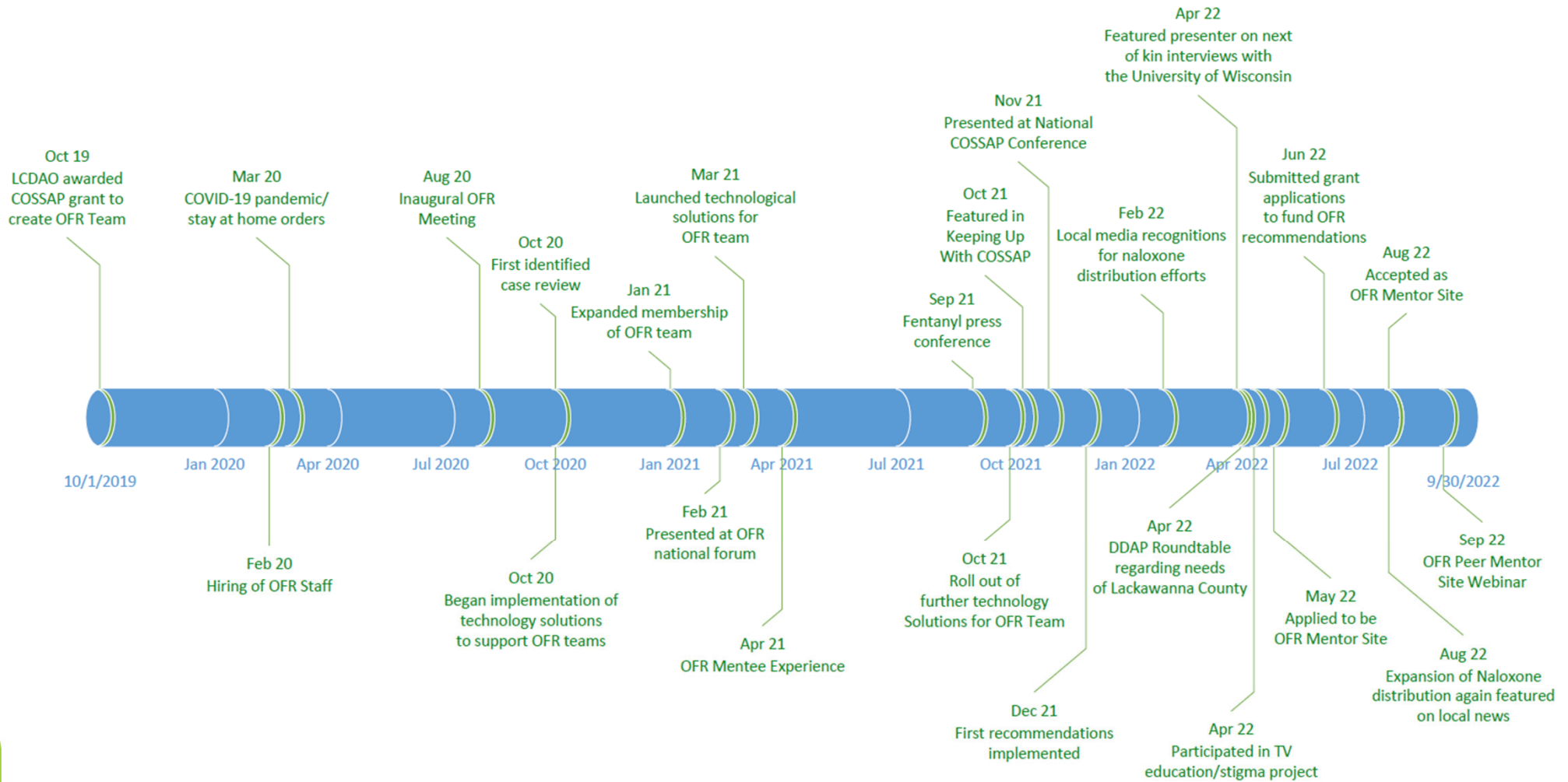
- ▶ Linked to numerous OFR teams through presentations, message exchange, and IIR
- ▶ Sharing experiences and resources
- ▶ We all need to work together to prevent overdose
- ▶ Looking forward to meeting new teams and helping them on their OFR journey

Consider Mentorship

- ▶ Learn from our OFR experiences
- ▶ Don't reinvent the wheel
- ▶ There is always something we can be doing better
- ▶ Identify your area of focus



Questions?



- ▶ Carina Havenstrite
 - ▶ Program Manager
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 - ▶ havenstritec@lackawanna county.org

IF YOU
CHANGE
NOTHING,
NOTHING
WILL
CHANGE

"Don't hesitate
to contact me"





Questions?