

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Mental Health Matters: A Community Conversation” registration now open *Community event invites neighbors to learn about issues, discuss solutions*

Dayton, Aug. 19, 2024 – In response to the growing and urgent conversation around the state of mental health issues and treatment challenges in our region, the community is invited to attend a special event “Mental Health Matters: A Community Conversation,” at Wright State University on Tuesday, Sept. 17.

Neighbors are struggling to access mental health care in our community. Providers, service organizations and support groups are facing hurdles to get critical resources for those who need them. Participants will hear from a panel of local experts who will discuss the crisis and what’s being done in our communities to address it.

The event will open with a keynote address from Scott McGohan, a passionate mental health advocate and community business leader. After retiring from the world of employee benefits, he founded One Morning, a mental health engagement catalyst built for organizations that care deeply about their people to bring mental health and substance abuse resources to life.

Panelists for the Community Conversation include:

- Crystal Allen – CEO, Boys & Girls Club of Dayton
- Tristyn Ball, Ph.D.– Director of Prevention and Early Intervention, Montgomery County ADAMHS (Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services) Board
- Kelly Blankenship, DO – Associate Chief Medical Officer of Psychiatry & Behavioral Health, Dayton Children's Hospital
- Barbara Marsh, Ph.D. – Director, Counseling and Wellness Services, Wright State University
- Greta Mayer, Ph.D. – CEO, Mental Health Recovery Board of Clark, Greene, and Madison Counties

“Mental Health Matters: A Community Conversation” is co-hosted by the [Dayton Daily News](#), the [Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association](#) (GDAHA), and [Wright State University](#). The event will be held in the Wright State Student Union. Seating at the Community Conversation is limited, and a free Eventbrite registration is required. Sign up to attend [here](#).

Event co-hosts believe bringing together neighbors to talk about our shared issue is important for the future of mental health response in our community.

“Our shared goal must be focused on helping residents understand that mental health challenges can impact anyone, at any point in our lives, while ensuring we have adequate resources to guide them through those challenges,” said Sarah Hackenbracht, president and CEO of GDAHA.

“The Dayton Daily News is dedicated to public service journalism, which means we’ll use our local media platform to share important information about mental health challenges, as well as resources that will be free for any readers who want to access it,” said Ashley Bethard, editor and chief content officer at the Dayton Daily News.

“The stories we share will highlight the work being done to battle this crisis – including solutions that could serve as inspiration or models elsewhere in Ohio and beyond.”

“This event is a tremendous example of the ways in which our community can come together to support one another and ensure we have the necessary resources to help anyone facing a mental health crisis,” said Dr. Amy Thompson, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Wright State University. “Nationally, mental health has become the second leading reason students drop out of college. Through collaborations like this, along with our campus-wide mental health task force and enhanced counseling services, we are working diligently to ensure Wright State students have the mental health support they need throughout their academic journey and beyond.”

The event will open its doors at 5:30 p.m. for a local mental health resource fair featuring local providers and support networks. The event discussion will begin with the keynote speaker at 6 p.m., followed by a panel discussion and a Q&A with guests.

For more information and to reserve your seat, visit the Mental Health Matters: A Community Conversation [webpage on Eventbrite](#).

WHAT: Mental Health Matters – A Community Conversation

WHEN: Tuesday, Sept. 17

WHERE: Wright State University Student Union, Apollo Room

TIME: 5:30 p.m. – doors open for resource fair; 6 p.m. – keynote address and discussion begins

RSVP: Seating is limited, and free registration is [required on Eventbrite](#).

Contact: Event media inquiries or questions can be emailed to Allison Swanson, Community Relations and Marketing Manager for Cox First Media at allison.swanson@coxinc.com