



Building Unity by Carrying the NA Message Across Systems and Borders



1

The Ohio State University College of Medicine

Monthly and yearly presentations to medical students, with Trusted Servants from across the US (and several other groups).

2

The Ohio Dept of Rehabilitation and Corrections

Secure virtual prison meetings for MBTW, and including them virtually in COM presentations

Presenting to Medical Students - Starting Out



2018 Message from Director

Got a voice message and returned his call the same day. If he was calling us, he was also calling others.



What NA Does

We couldn't do what they first asked for, but we kept the convo going to discover what we **could** do.



Open Meetings

Went with directors and 5 students to two meetings, a 9:30-11 and 12-1, on same day.



We started out with one meeting, and lots of nervousness, willingness, optimism, gratitude, and excitement all mixed together.

We did not set out with a 10-year plan.

Highly reliable & organized

(5/10/2022 9:37:52 AM) One of my favorite sessions in med school. Very impactful and good for us to hear. I learned a lot and gained a new perspective.

(5/10/2022 10:36:40 AM) The NA speakers were incredible and impactful. I will not forget this lecture or their story.

(5/11/2022 7:02:47 PM) This was such an informative and insightful session, and I learned so much about NA that I didn't know before. Keep this session every year!

(5/12/2022 8:31:41 AM) I really appreciated the chance to hear from some of the NA members about their experiences--I thought it gave some really helpful perspective.

(5/13/2022 11:07:53 AM) Educational and inspiring.

(5/20/2022 11:17:46 AM) I really enjoyed having this session. It was great to have a dedicated block of time for the presenters to speak freely about their stories.

(5/29/2022 10:21:36 AM) The instructors from NA were very informative. I cherished how they were willing to share their experiences with a room filled with medical trainees. Their stories enhanced the AMRCC orientation reminding us why relationships are crucial in patient care and how we can make a difference.

(5/31/2022 2:17:43 PM) I really liked the resources that Dr. Fernandez used to teach about addiction and recovery. I also learned a lot from hearing from the narcotics anonymous representatives.

How Medical Students Experience NA at Ohio State

Structured exposure across training + real-world engagement
4 hours total exposure, including direct NA meeting experience before graduating



2nd Year - Large Panel

6 members share about NA and their lived experience

~200 students + faculty

Large auditorium setting

Every August



Fourth Year - Small Group Sessions

4-40 students per monthly session

Direct dialogue with 2-4 NA members

MBTW participate

Each student attends only once



Course Requirements

Attend two open NA meetings

Submit written reflection

Evaluate small group session

Average rating 4.75 - 4.95 / 5.0

The Direct Reach (doesn't include non-Med)

of med students in 8.5 years

2,200

+ 200 nurses, 25 pharm, and 100 residents

One doctor touches

15,000 – 125,000

patients during their career (see add'l materials)

Combined

33,000,000 – 275,000,000

Estimated number of unique lives touched by 2,200 students over the span of their careers

Four Channels of Reach (some of the following apply to non-Med as well)

Direct Care

The patients they personally treat.

Indirect Ripple

Families, caregivers, and communities influenced by those patients.

Training & Mentorship

Students, residents, and colleagues they shape. Each of them will have their own thousands of patients.

Research & Publication

A single research paper can:

Influence clinical guidelines

Change prescribing practices

Shape how thousands of clinicians treat patients

Reach additional millions of patients indirectly

2027 Medical Education Innovation Conference



- **Humanizing Addiction Education:** Utilizing Community Narcotics Anonymous Partnerships and Personal Recovery Narratives to Teach Fourth-Year Medical Students About Addiction
- COM goal was to innovate addiction education for 4th year med students through an NA community partnership with patients' lived experience as the central teaching tool.
- Because NA is offered worldwide, other institutions have the opportunity to engage in similar community learning partnerships if they are willing to “take the risk” to reach out.

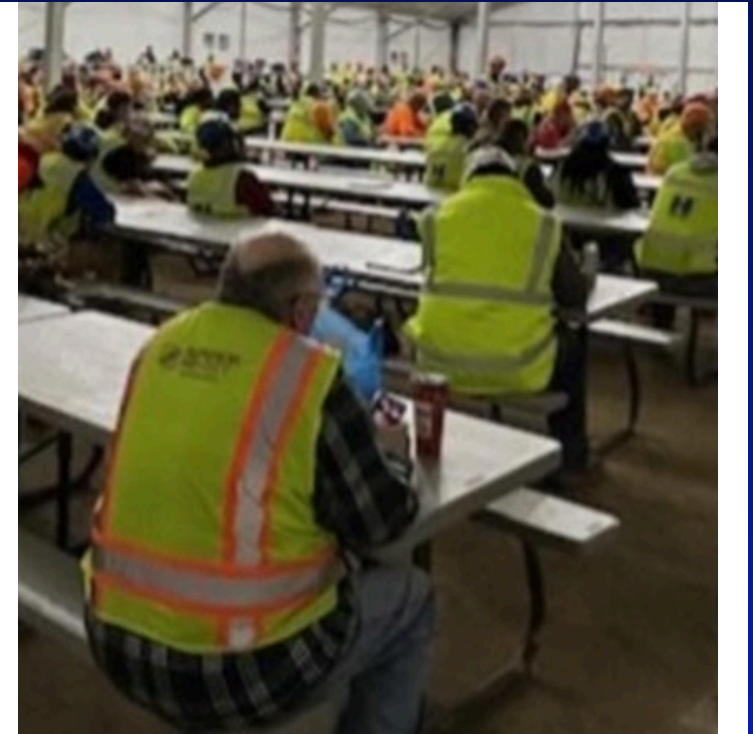
Other groups



Virtual presentation to 100+ staff; 5 books to 23 branches; fliers & Recovery Month '27



Opiod summit '16; lunch & learn in '17; COVID article '20



Construction crew 100 in 2023; in 2024 there were 1,200 attendees over two days

Other groups



Community presentation in early '17 led to 4H / OSU Extension in December



About 200 **international** nursing students through friend, over a year; foreign language literature



One time in 2021, with about 8 students. Not enough band width to keep it going.

In our experience, the public is eager to learn about Narcotics Anonymous.

They are excited to learn, through NA presentations, that a free, credible, and widely available program of recovery exists—one they can confidently refer to patients, friends, family, coworkers, loved ones, and even strangers.



Even in professional settings, when spoken from the heart, it reaches the heart.

A Glimpse

In these presentations, we don't tell our whole story. No war stories. We give a glimpse. We give them just enough to see what addiction really looks like: the lying, the harm, the desperation. We give just enough for them to know that **this is real**. And then we show what changed.

The Change

We show them that through NA, through abstinence & working the Twelve Steps, we found a new way to live. We show them a program that is free, non-religious, widely available, and open to anyone. **Any addict**. That resonates with professionals.

The Hook

Too much “nuts and bolts” doesn't land, like number of meetings, attendance, demographics. It just becomes noise. Our message does two essential things: **It makes our experience real, and it makes it usable**. They now know where to send people, addicts like us.



Guests at COMNA

Wilvena G - NEZF; psych fellow
Kandace V - MZF, Indiana Reg
Chris F - AshleyCRCNA, RMZF
Ryan M - WZF

MBTW at COMNA

AOCl - In our Region, but a different Area
ISP - In another Region, but within our Zone
Arizona South - Had hoped to get them on too

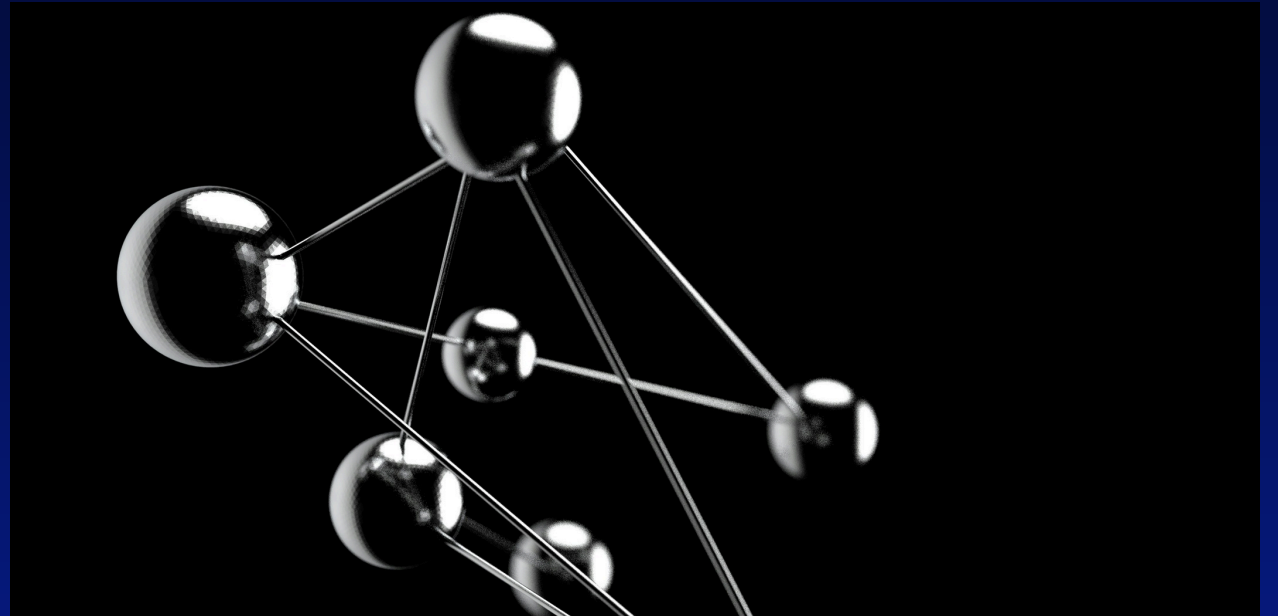
Colorado Convention

Ashley was a presenter - COMNA
Many ODRC and IDOC prison professionals, along with MBTW

UK - US sharing

Intentionally building NA's breadth & depth into our work by engaging members, trusted servants, and professionals across Areas, Regions, Zones, and internationally.

Non-addict
professionals
see NA members
collaborating
across
geography,
service bodies,
and lived
experience.



We use the collaboration itself as a demonstration of what NA is.

Professionals see incarcerated members, formerly incarcerated members, local members, regional/world-level service, different geographic communities, different ages, races, sexual identities, religions, etc., connecting and working together toward the same purpose

Join Us!

Central Ohio Area

Public Relations Subcommittee

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https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ahbN-aulnKxgPaM4WR6DtCLZdw0n2XLr?usp=drive_link

