



NEWS RELEASE

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The County of Summit earns national achievement award for “Bringing Mental Health to Main Street”

WASHINGTON – The County of Summit’s health initiative, *Bringing Mental Health to Main Street*, has been recognized with an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo). The awards honor innovative, effective county government programs that enhance services for residents.

NACo recognized the county-wide collaboration of Summit County agencies, non-profits, government and businesses to support this effort. Over 50 organizations created a community-wide three-day event named *Bringing Mental Health to Main Street*, promoting awareness of knowing the five signs of emotional suffering, educating citizens on how to respond to someone in emotional distress and identifying local services available to provide the help they need.

“One out of five Americans suffer from a mental health condition at some point in their life,” said County Executive Ilene Shapiro. “Promoting awareness of knowing the 5 signs in order to recognize emotional suffering is important to all of us. We must reach out, connect and provide help.”

NACo President Bryan Desloge said, “Counties overcome complex challenges, provide essential services and constantly do more with less. We applaud these Achievement Award-winning counties for outstanding efforts to improve residents’ quality of life.”

Jerry Craig, Executive Director of the County of Summit ADM Board adds, “We want to be a healthy community. This event, in partnership with the national Campaign to Change Direction, is just the beginning of an ongoing community-wide effort to support emotional wellness and break down stigma that prevents many from seeking help.”

Nationally, awards are given in 18 different categories that reflect the vast, comprehensive services counties provide. The categories include children and youth, criminal justice, county administration, information technology, health, civic engagement and many more.

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NACo will recognize award-winning counties at its 2017 Annual Conference and Exposition July 21–24 in Franklin County, Ohio.

Started in 1970, NACo's annual Achievement Award Program is designed to recognize innovative county government programs. Each nominee is judged on its own merits and not against other applications received.

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The National Association of Counties (NACo) unites America's 3,069 county governments. Founded in 1935, NACo brings county officials together to advocate with a collective voice on national policy, exchange ideas and build new leadership skills, pursue transformational county solutions, enrich the public's understanding of county government and exercise exemplary leadership in public service. Learn more at www.naco.org

