



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Date: September 4, 2018

Contact: Tim Alford

Office: (202) 225-2015

Rep. Stivers Tours, Receives Updates on Appalachian Recovery Center Project

NELSONVILLE, OH – Last week, Congressman Steve Stivers (R-OH) joined local officials, addiction and recovery specialists, and representatives from Hocking College and Ohio University at the former Hocking Correctional Facility, and the future home of what has been dubbed the Appalachian Recovery Center Project. Over 40 people involved in the project attended, including Ohio University President Duane Nellis, Hocking College President Betty Young, Hocking County Municipal Court Judge Fred Moses, and Gary Mohr, outgoing director of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (ODRC).

The project is a collaboration amongst 19 entities operating in the region, including organizations like Hopewell Health Centers, Substance Abuse Treatment and Recovery (STAR) Program, AHV 317 Board, Ohio Health, Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC) of Southeast Ohio, Ohio Health, and the Foundation for Appalachia. Services from Hocking, Athens, and Vinton County are also actively involved under the efforts spearheaded by Hocking County Municipal Court Judge Fred Moses.

“I was excited to tour the site and learn about the continuing progress of repurposing this facility,” Stivers said. “This is more than just a trade-in; it is a trade-up. Not only does this have the potential to alleviate the job loss due to the prison closure, it would provide a desperately needed wrap-around treatment center to make real progress in addressing the opioid epidemic in southeast Ohio. I stand ready to help be a resource in any way that is needed for this project.”

The project’s three-part model will turn the site into a multi-use facility that tackles several issues impacting the region, including the need for facilities to jail female misdemeanants and low-level felons, community diversion programs, mental health treatment, residential in-patient and non-intensive out-patient drug treatment, job training and education, and transitional housing services.

Rep. Stivers is working to find potential grants that could help secure the necessary funding for the Project to be completed within the next year.