

Expansion will boost addiction treatment 250%

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A gap in addiction treatment in Southwest Ohio will shrink soon with the opening of expanded services at the Cincinnati Center for Addiction Treatment.

The center helps people with substance use disorders of all kinds and includes medication assisted treatment with psycho-social help, which scientists say is the best care available for those with opioid and heroin addiction.

Construction of a new outpatient facility on the grounds of the current, West End location is expected to be finished by the end of June, said Ron Derstadt, vice president of administrative services. The new location will be called the Spaulding Recovery and Family Care Building. It's a 22,200-square-foot building for outpatient services, a new primary healthcare clinic and an outpatient behavior health center, Derstadt said Friday. The center is also retrofitting its existing building to expand services for detox and residential patients.

The plan is especially important during the nationwide heroin and opioid epidemic.

Ohio has been experiencing huge annual increases in unintentional overdose deaths: In 2015, the state counted 3,050 such deaths, compared with 2,531 in 2014, according to the Ohio Department of Health. Fentanyl, an opioid that is far more potent than heroin and is inundating Ohio and surrounding states, accounted for 1,155 of the 2015 overdose deaths, up from 533 the year before. The deaths keep coming. Hamilton County coroner's office is still counting its overdose cases for 2016, but in February, Dr. Lakshmi Sammarco said the tally of overdose deaths [was at 388](#).

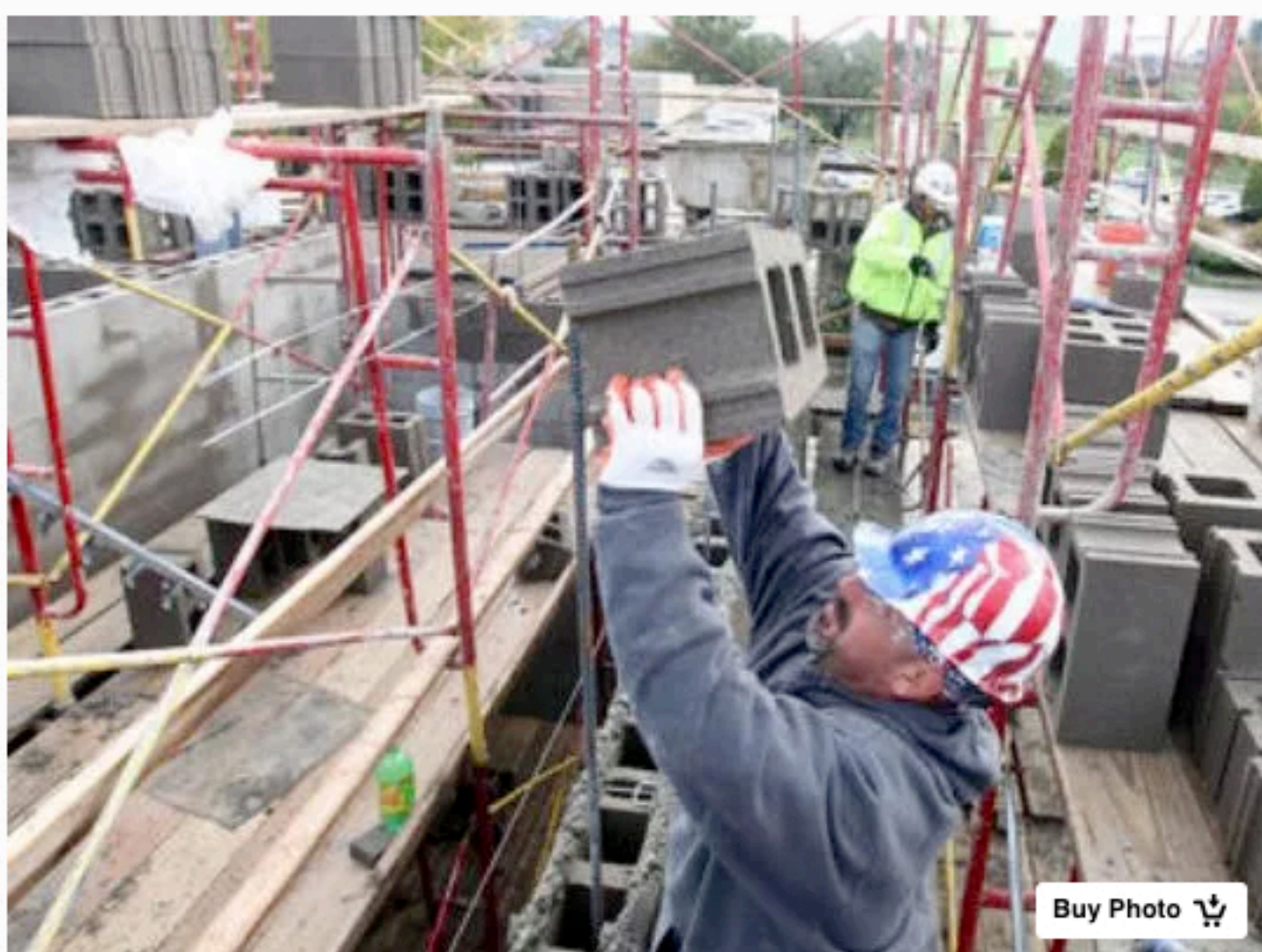
In addition to the climbing death rates from overdoses, there is a dearth of medical professionals who use medication to [treat the addicted](#). Nationwide, only about [11 percent of people who need addiction disease treatment get it](#), a federal Substance Abuse Mental Health Administration survey shows. That figure includes people with all types of substance use disorders, not just those with heroin and opioid use disorders, which often go without standard treatment.

The addiction center [announced the \\$5.7 million project last April](#). It has grown since then. Initially, plans called for two floors but now it's three. The center anticipates tripling its patient capacity.

Here's what officials say the expansion will do:

- Increase patient capacity more than 250 percent from about 1,700 annually to about 6,000.
- Provide healthcare at its Monarch Health Clinic, which will focus on integrated patient care.
- Add the Outpatient Behavioral Health Clinic for individual, group and family counseling. The original plans didn't include these services, to be located in a basement that was going to be used for storage.
- Retrofit the existing building for the expanded detox and residential offerings.

To date, \$4.6 million has been committed to a campaign drive, including a \$300,000 donation from the Deaconess Foundation, center officials said Friday.



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The Center for Addiction Treatment in the West End is adding a building and will triple its patient capacity. (Photo: Enquirer file photo)