**From the Director…**

**Combatting the Opiate Crisis**

Ohio has been hard hit by the opioid crisis. Research shows that public awareness of the issue is high, but many Ohioans don’t perceive much of a threat to their own children and families. Many parents admit to having a “not my kid” mindset, leading them to overlook the importance of preventative measures. But the facts are real:

1. One in four teens will misuse or abuse a prescription drug at least once in their lifetime.
2. Nearly half of teens who misuse prescription drugs get them from their parents’ medicine cabinet.
3. When you talk to your kids about the dangers of drugs, you can cut their risk of abuse in half.

[insert your library name] is committed to strengthening opioid prevention in our community and stopping the next generation from abusing prescription opioids. That’s why we are joining public libraries, businesses and other community groups across the state to help spread education and prevention messages through the Denial, OH campaign. Denial, Ohio public service announcements (PSAs) are set in the fictional town of Denial, Ohio, where residents are “in denial” that their children could become addicted to opioids.

Please check out the PSAs (there’s a link on our website), take a look at the Denial, Ohio posters around the library, or pick up our fact sheet. Help us stop opioid abuse in [insert your city name]; educate your family and friends about the proper use and disposal of prescription opioids and how to safely secure prescriptions. To learn more, visit dontliveindenial.org.