

## **Ohio's Coordinating Centers of Excellence (CCOE) Initiatives**

### **A Resource for Evidence-Based Practices**

Within the past few years, a new type of education and training resource has emerged in Ohio's mental health system: The Coordinating Centers of Excellence (CCOE). This article is meant to provide an overview of Ohio's CCOE initiative overall, the nine CCOEs, and the role they play supporting Ohio's Mental Health Clinical Quality Agenda.

The accelerated adoption of Evidence-Based Mental Health Practices, along with increasing emphasis on Consumer Outcomes and Performance Improvement techniques, constitute the three foundational elements of Ohio's Clinical Quality Agenda promoting resiliency and recovery. Ohio's Coordinating Centers of Excellence are expert resources responsible for promoting one of these three elements, Evidence-Based Practices. Evidence-Based Practices are those services supported by research or expert consensus that have demonstrated good outcomes for consumers of mental health services. In addition to being evidence-based, the practices promoted by CCOEs must be of high relevance in addressing critical needs of adults or children with serious mental illnesses. The level of evidence associated with a clinical practice, as well as the relevance of that practice to adults and children with serious mental illness, were the chief criteria through which the nine CCOEs were established.

Each of Ohio's nine CCOEs is supported by ODMH and composed of a unique mix of collaborate partners which include ODMH, Ohio universities, consumer or advocacy groups, local mental health boards, private research entities and a provider trade association. The CCOEs are small, generally with less than a half-dozen full time staff. The primary audience of CCOEs is agency-based mental health practitioners, but CCOEs also interact with consumers, family members, and other key constituencies. CCOEs follow a proven, three-phase model to promote evidence-based practices. In the first phase, CCOEs engage, or assist in motivating practitioners in the use of a particular evidence-based practice. In the second phase, they teach and train about the practice. In phase three, CCOEs reinforce and provide ongoing feedback concerning the practice. Depending on their configuration and the type of services they offer, some CCOE services are free of charge, or others may be fee-based.

Although the CCOEs are small and the program is still in its early stages, agencies in 30 of Ohio's 50 mental health Board areas have consulted with at least one of Ohio's seven CCOEs. Two of Ohio's CCOEs and eight of Ohio's mental health agencies are also involved in a national, evidence-based practices research project testing the use of standardized implementation materials and approaches. Ohio is one of eight states involved in this three-year effort. A list of the CCOEs, their websites, as available, and contact information follows:

#### **1. Substance Abuse/Mental Illness (SAMI)**

The Ohio Substance Abuse/Mental Illness CCOE, sponsored by Case Western Reserve University, is promoting the utilization of Integrated Dual Diagnosis Treatment (IDDT) for adults with co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse. In collaboration with ODMH, this CCOE is participating in the National Implementing Evidence Based Practices Project, assisting with implementation of the IDDT treatment program. For further information on the SAMI CCOE and contact information, visit their website at <http://www.ohiosamiccoe.cwru.edu>

#### **2. Center for Learning Excellence (CLEX)**

This CCOE, administered by the John Glenn Institute for Public Policy at the Ohio State University, is designed to assist local school systems and alternative schools in addressing the

educational, social, and behavioral needs of children and adolescents. For additional information about the Center for Learning Excellence, visit their website at <http://cle.osu.edu>

### **3. Ohio Medication Algorithm Project (OMAP)**

The OMAP project, administered through the University of Cincinnati Department of Psychiatry and the Clermont County Mental Health Board, is designed to promote the use of best mental health medication practices through the use of medication algorithms. OMAP is expanding from the initial stage of promoting one algorithm for schizophrenia to including algorithms for major depression and bipolar disorder. For more information about OMAP, visit their website at [http://www.psychiatry.uc.edu/cqir/omap/new\\_home.htm](http://www.psychiatry.uc.edu/cqir/omap/new_home.htm)

### **4. Center for Innovative Practices (CIP)**

The Center for Innovative Practices, sponsored by the Stark County Mental Health Board, Case Western Reserve University and other academic institutions in northeast Ohio, promotes the utilization of Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST), an intensive, time-limited family treatment approach involving communities and schools. For additional information on the Center for Innovative Practices, contact Patrick Canary, Executive Director, at [patrickk@cipohio.org](mailto:patrickk@cipohio.org) or visit their website at [www.cipohio.org](http://www.cipohio.org)

### **5. Illness Management and Recovery CCOE (IMR)**

The Illness Management and Recovery CCOE, sponsored by the Medical College of Ohio, is also collaborating with ODMH to participate in the National Implementing Evidence Based Practices Project, implementing the Illness Management and Recovery program. For additional information on the IMR CCOE, please contact Mary Kay Smith, M.D., at [maryksmith@mco.edu](mailto:maryksmith@mco.edu), or Alice Claggett, Psy.D. at [aclaggett@mco.edu](mailto:aclaggett@mco.edu) or visit their website at <http://www.mco.edu/depts/psych/ccoe/>

### **6. Criminal Justice CCOE**

This CCOE, sponsored by the Northeast Ohio University Colleges of Medicine and supported by the Summit County ADAMH Board, is designed to promote the statewide development of criminal justice diversion programs using a consensus model developed at the national GAINS Center. For information about the Criminal Justice CCOE, visit their website at <http://neoucom.edu/CJCCOE>

### **7. Cluster Based Planning Alliance CCOE**

The Clusters CCOE, supported by the Ohio Council of Behavioral Healthcare Organizations, and administered by Synthesis, Inc, seeks to improve service quality by promoting the use by mental health agencies of an approach which “clusters” clients based on clinical characteristics, and using these clusters as a basis for service planning. For more information on the Cluster Based Planning Alliance CCOE, contact Synthesis’ president, Bill Rubin, at [synthesis@ameritech.com](mailto:synthesis@ameritech.com) or visit the website at <http://www.ohiocouncil-bhp.org/ohiocluster.htm>

### **8. CCOE for Dually Diagnosed: Mental Illness and Mental Retardation, Developmental Disabilities (MI/MR-DD)**

This CCOE, supported by Wright State University and The Ohio State University, promotes best practices for persons with co-occurring MI/MR-DD and provides assistance with building community capacity through regional and statewide training, assessment and local teambuilding. For more information contact Ed Comer at [Edward.Comer@wright.edu](mailto:Edward.Comer@wright.edu) or Betsey Benson, Ph.D. at [Benson.3@osu.edu](mailto:Benson.3@osu.edu) or visit the website at <http://www.ohiomimrdd.org>

To help assess the effectiveness of the CCOE initiative in meeting its goal of assisting with the adoption of evidence-based practices, ODMH is collaborating with Decision Support Services, Inc., and the Ohio State University in a major research effort called the Innovation Diffusion and Adoption Research Project (IDARP). This research project is addressing two broad questions: 1) What factors and processes influence the adoption of innovations by mental health provider organizations? 2) What factors contribute to the longer-term assimilation of innovations by adopting organizations? Four of Ohio's CCOEs: OMAP, Cluster Based Planning Alliance, CIP, and SAMI, and organizations with whom the CCOEs interact are the primary subjects of this project.

For more information about the CCOE initiative overall, contact Lon C. Herman, M.A., ODMH Program Director of Residency, Training, and Learning at [hermanl@mh.state.oh.us](mailto:hermanl@mh.state.oh.us).