

ODMH Kids News: Building Ohio's Future



Monthly E-Newsletter

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Access to Better Care (ABC) Update from Director Sandy Stephenson

The Ohio Family and Children First (OFCF) Access to Better Care (ABC) Initiative is addressing the urgency and impact of behavioral health needs across Ohio's child-serving systems. In the current biennium, the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) has promoted Requests for Proposals (RFP) for ABC activities for targeted priority areas.

The following is a summary of these activities and the counties who have been competitively selected to receive funding:

ABC SFY 08-09 RFP Activity Summary:

Access to Better Care (ABC) is an Ohio Family and Children First (OFCF) initiative built on the crucial role of the behavioral health system (Alcohol, Drug, Addiction and Mental Health Services/ADAS/MH boards and their provider networks) to provide leadership with county Family and Children First Councils (FCFC) and their member agencies to address the needs of families having children with intense behavioral health needs across the developmental spectrum and within the many settings where these children require or receive care. ABC supports OFCF statewide commitments for the health and well-being of children and families by strengthening the role of parents as empowered advocates for their children. Family-centered, child-focused models of care and parent-professional and cross-system partnerships are at the heart of Family and Children First.

Early Childhood Mental Health Initiatives

Strengthening state and local governmental efforts focused on the behavioral health needs of children

birth to six and their families is a continuing priority of the Strickland Administration. Biennial budget funding for this priority population was allocated to ODMH within the ABC budget.

The Early Childhood Mental Health RFP covered three initiatives: Early Childhood Mental Health Treatment (ECMHT), the Incredible Years Program (IY), and the Maternal Depression Program (MDP). Through the implementation and expansion of these three initiatives, access to early childhood mental health treatment services for young children and their families will increase, proven effective parent training and education will be expanded, and the effects of maternal depression will be better identified and treated.

Funds were designated by the Governor's Office specifically for ECMHT within the ODMH budget. Applicants were required to implement an ECMHT program that is not currently available in their local system of care or expand and enhance a current ECMHT where access and/or capacity are limited.

Funds allocated to the following mental health boards represented a mix of both geographic regions and county populations:

Southwest - Allen/Auglaize/Hardin, Montgomery
Central - Clark/Greene/Madison, Franklin, Logan/Champaign, Union
Northeast - Cuyahoga, Lake
Northwest - Hancock
Southeast - Portage, Stark

These proposals will serve between 600-650 young children and families.

Financial awards of up to \$10,000 per fiscal year per board to support the evidence-based Incredible Years (IY), a parent and family life psycho-educational program. Applicants were asked to display how

they either plan to implement an IY Program that is not currently available in their local system of care or expand and enhance one where existing access and capacity is limited. The following ten (10) boards were recommended for funding:

Northeast - Medina, Summit, Trumbull
Central - Fairfield, Franklin, Wayne/Holmes;
Southwest - Adams/Lawrence/Scioto, Butler, Warren/Clinton
Southeast - Washington

The RFP for the Maternal Depression Program offered financial awards of up to \$10,000 per fiscal year per board to support screening and referral for mothers at risk of maternal depression. Successful applicants displayed how they plan to increase: the number of mothers screened for maternal depression, the number of mothers referred for further services to treat maternal depression, and the percentage of mothers were referred and received further service. Nine boards were awarded funding:

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ABC SFY 08-09 RFP Activity Summary *(Con't from pg. 1)*

Northeast - Trumbull
Northwest - Hancock
Central - Ashland, Clark/Greene/Madison, Fairfield, Union
Southwest - Clermont
Southeast - Athens/Hocking/Vinton, Washington

Behavioral Health Juvenile Justice Initiatives

The Biennial Budget included as a Governor's priority an expanded ABC allocation for additional behavioral healthcare services grants to serve serious youth offenders with serious behavioral healthcare needs. This allocation is in addition to SFY 08-09 ABC funds to continue six projects competitively selected in SFY 06-07 and an independent evaluation by Kent State University. The independent evaluation of the SFY 06-07 grant funded projects demonstrated progress in reducing recidivism and corresponding commitments to state correctional facilities, showing positive clinical gains, and promoting greater family stability. The continuation funding for SFY 08-09 was provided to Montgomery, Fairfield, Cuyahoga, Logan/ Champaign, Franklin and Union Counties. Expanded funding is dedicated to the implementation and evaluation of effective and evidence-based practices for additional youth, development and/or enhancement of additional components of community-based care, and better coordination among systems within the continuum of care. Cuyahoga, Montgomery, and Butler Counties received expansion funds. Remaining funds will be used to issue another BH/JJ request for proposals no later than April with an award scheduled for July 1, 2008.

Intensive Home Based Treatment Initiative (IHBT)

IHBT is designed to provide intensive services averaging 2 to 6 hours of face-to-face treatment per week. The locus of intervention is home and/or school. IHBT requires low caseloads (4 to 6 families typically), active clinical supervision and a full complement of case coordination and adjunct family supportive services. Grant IHBT services are targeted to children with severe emotional disturbance and at risk of out-of-home care (hospitalization, incarceration, or other substitute care); at risk of self-harm or injury to others; or are returning home from placement.

An RFP was issued announcing awards up to \$100,000 for 18 months (Jan 2008 to June 2009) to:

- 1) establish or expand Department certified IHBT services;
- 2) assure that the service is county-specific with IHBT admission linked community-gate keeping and the service linked to filling identified gaps in the community's system of care and;
- 3) to have a feasible strategy to sustain the service when the grant funding ends. Funding was distributed to mental health boards by regions and designated to a specific county provider.

Fifteen providers were awarded funding through their local board and include:

Northeast - Beechbrook (Lorain), Ravenwood (Geauga), The Counseling Center (Columbiana)
Northwest - Four County Counseling Center (Four County), SAFY (Allen), Family Resource Center (Hancock)
Central - Richland, Oesterlen (Clarke), Appleseed (Ashland)
Southwest - Woodland Centers (Gallia/Jackson/Meigs), Darke County MH Clinic (Darke), Butler Behavioral Health (Butler)
Southeast - Tri County Counseling Center (Athens), Children's Advantage (Portage), L&P (Washington)

Together with the leadership of the Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council, we thank all county Family and Children First Councils, community behavioral health boards and providers who stepped up to apply for one or more of the current biennial budget ABC RFP opportunities. The competitive proposals reflected strong local collaboration on behalf of children and families to improve access to behavioral health services and supports across all child-serving systems.

Message from Sandy Stephenson, Director, ODMH

Children's Advocacy Centers Reduce Trauma to Child Victims

In Ohio, there was a time when children, who were victims of abuse, were often re-victimized by the agencies and people who were supposed to help them. Professionals from different disciplines would repeatedly interview and examine child victims of abuse in environments designed for adults to meet the sometimes conflicting requirements of the agencies involved. Some communities recognized the issue and began to adopt a national children's advocacy center (CAC) model

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Children's Advocacy Centers Reduce Trauma to Child Victims *(Con't from pg. 2)*

which coordinated efforts to investigate, prosecute and treat abuse in ways that are child-focused and child-friendly.

Within a Children's Advocacy Center, agencies and professionals work together as a multidisciplinary team (MDT) to reduce the trauma young victims experience from interaction with confusing systems and to enhance the community's ability to respond to child maltreatment. The benefits of a Children's Advocacy Center are apparent: consistent and fast follow-up to abuse reports; medical and mental health referrals that benefit the child; a dramatic reduction in the number of interviews that a child must undergo; increased successful prosecutions; and most importantly, consistent and compassionate support for these children and families. Along with an interview and medical evaluation, a comprehensive mental health assessment and treatment program for victims and non-offending family members is an essential component of the CAC model.

Supported by a coordinated approach, with the assessment and interventions provided in a child friendly environment, child victims are more likely to be better and more effective witnesses. But most important, child victims and their families begin the healing process sooner and experience more successful treatment outcomes.

In a recent OJJDP-funded study conducted by the University of New Hampshire's Crimes against Children Research Center, the multisite evaluation of CACs impact on children, families, systems and communities found that in regards to mental health services, 60 percent of CAC children received referrals for mental health services (compared to 22 percent in non-CAC communities). Of the CAC children referred, 31 percent were counseled onsite by a therapist (www.unh.edu/ccrc/multi-site_evaluation_children.html). Each CAC is designed to serve the needs of that particular community, therefore are large CACs and small CACs. Some are located within hospitals; some are in renovated houses. Each CAC must meet certain standards which can be found online at www.nca-online.org.

In the beginning, Ohio CACs were established independently with only the assistance from the National Children's Alliance (NCA)—the accrediting body for CACs. In 2002, a group comprised of representatives from the handful of Ohio

CACs at the time, came together to form the Ohio Network of Children's Advocacy Centers (ONCAC) for state-based assistance. ONCAC is a Chapter of NCA, and a 501(c)(3), non-profit membership organization that provides assistance to the Ohio CACs and developing programs. ONCAC's mission is to promote the establishment and success of Multidisciplinary Teams (MDT) and Children's Advocacy Centers by providing support, education, & networking opportunities to enhance Ohio's response to child abuse. ONCAC hosts the Robert D. Horowitz Multidisciplinary Training Conference annually for child abuse professionals. The 2008 training is planned for October. For more information about ONCAC, trainings or developing/cooperating with a CAC in your county, please e-mail mail@oncac.org or call (614) 846-2844 (www.oncac.org).

For more information about an Ohio CAC in your county or in a nearby county, go online to www.oncac.org, and look in 'CAC Contacts' for contact information of all the Ohio CACs and developing programs.

*Kha N. Huynh
Ohio Network of Children's Advocacy Centers*

Alternative Education Spring Institute Combined with the PRIDE Conference

The Center for Learning Excellence (CLEX) and the Ohio Department of Mental Health are partnering with the Ohio Department of Education and PRIDE Youth Programs to sponsor a unique opportunity for alternative education staff and local behavioral health boards and providers for the Alternative Education Spring Institute. The 4-day combined event will be held April 2-5, 2008 at the Duke Energy Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. It will begin with a full day devoted to Alternative Education programs and their local behavioral health partners, and focus on practical solutions evaluation workshops tailored to requests from the programs. During the following days, Institute participants will join with the PRIDE program featuring dynamic speakers who will motivate, inspire and renew. CLEX staff collaborated with the PRIDE organization in the development and selection of workshops based on training requests from previous institutes.

PRIDE Youth Program is the nation's oldest and largest peer-to-peer organization devoted to education. Each year, the PRIDE World Drug Prevention Conference provides a forum for individuals and organizations – large and small, local,

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Alternative Education Spring Institute Combined with the PRIDE Conference *(Con't from pg. 3)*

national and international - to work together against drug abuse and violence. For more information visit www.prideyouthprograms.com.

The **Pre-Conference Evaluation Institute** is designed specifically for alternative education initiative staff and their behavioral health partners interested in showing evidence of program outcomes and continuing to improve their programs. CLEX evaluators, Dr. David Julian and Tammy Collins, will address the following :

1. Provide a basic understanding of the purposes and benefits of evaluation
2. Provide tools/resources helpful in developing evaluation plans/ instruments
3. Provide a framework to develop evaluation plans and instruments
4. Introduce basic quantitative and qualitative applied research methods
5. Introduce basic analysis and reporting methods

Jeff Yalden, an internationally renowned keynote speaker will provide participants with practical approaches in working with at-risk youth, in his entertaining style.

Participants may choose to attend the Pre-Conference Evaluation Institute or the full 4-Day Conference. Counselor and Social Work CEU's and BRCH's will be available. For additional information please contact **Staci Kelts prior to March 25th at CLEX at 614-247-6728 or kelts.1@osu.edu.**

*Kathy Paxton
Center for Learning Excellence, The Ohio State University*

WHAT'S NEW

RESILIENCY RING AT THE OHIO STATE HOUSE

E. Broad St. & S. High (downtown)
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Tuesday, May 6, 2008



Youth, families, professionals joining hands and circling the statehouse.

11:00am - 12:15 with 'Youth Entertainment' beginning at 11:00am

Children's Mental Health Awareness Week:

May is Mental Health Month. The National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health again declares the first full week in May, May 4-10, 2008 as National Children's Mental Health Awareness Week. The National Federation would like to invite all of its local chapters and statewide organizations to use this week to promote awareness about children's mental health. Join the national office in sending the following messages:

- Mental Health is essential to overall health and well being;
- Serious emotional and mental health disorders in children and youth are real and treatable;
- Children and youth with mental health challenges and their families deserve access to services and supports that are family driven, youth guided and culturally appropriate; and
- Stigma associated with mental illness should no longer exist.



More information or order ribbons:
Ctrl + Click on ribbon to follow link

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WHATS NEW *(Con't)*

Amended Timelines for Community Plan Guidelines Submission:

At the request of the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) and Community Mental Health (CMH) Boards affected by the impending closure of our Cambridge and Dayton facilities, the due date for the completed SFY 2009 Community Plans has been changed from March 3, 2008 to April 7, 2008. Additional information is available on the [SFY 2009 Community Plan Guidelines page](#).

Network News Online:

The Ohio Mental Health Network for School Success (OMHNSS) will be distributing Network News Online for 2008. In an effort to share the work of the Network more widely, readers will be able to access the newsletter online and via e-mail and have the ability to print and share the information with friends and colleagues. The current issue of Network News highlights the School Support Service Summit that was held in Cleveland last fall and can be accessed at: <http://www.units.muohio.edu/csbmhp/newsletter.html>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 26, 2008

Videoconference Series: Co-Occurring Disorders: The Effects of a Criminal History on Recovery

Sponsors: Ohio SAMI CCOE, Ohio Departments of Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services

Location: 12 various Video Conference Locations in Cleveland OH

Content: Addresses key topics in understanding the impact of a criminal history on housing & employment during recovery of individuals with substance use disorders & severe mental illness. Trainees will be asked to assess their own knowledge, skills & attitudes related to the treatment of co-occurring disorders & to create a plan for improvement.

More information: Contact Crystal Smith, phone: (216) 398-3933 or e-mail: crystal.smith@case.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS *(Con't)*

April 2-4, 2008

OAASFEP Spring Conference: Title I/Federal Programs: Celebrating Our Commitment to a Generation of Learners - ALL Children, Our Children

Sponsor: Ohio Association of State & Federal Education Programs (OAASFEP)

Location: Hyatt regency at the Greater Columbus Convention Center; 350 N. High St., Columbus, Ohio 43215

Content: Focused workshops & learning sessions brings together high quality national & international educators along with practical application from teachers & administrators from across Ohio.

More information: Conference packet @ www.oasfep.net.

Registration information and/or questions: (877) 463-8331 (toll free).

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**April 4, 2008**

### **2008 Tools for Today and Tomorrow-Conference: Professionals Caring for Children with Special Health Care Needs: Making a Difference... One Pro to Another**

**Sponsor/Location:** Cleveland State University, Cole Center for Continuing Education, 3100 Chester Ave. Cleveland, Ohio

**Content:** To provide professionals in health, education & social services a shared learning experience; gain practical information about providing care throughout the lifespan, deepen partnerships, & increase awareness/appreciation of what is done to make a difference in the lives of children with special health care needs.

**More information:** Conference packet @ [www.oasfep.net](http://www.oasfep.net).

Registration and/or questions: (877) 463-8331 (toll free).

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## UPCOMING EVENTS (con't)

**May 6, 2008**

**Annual Symposium: Working for Safe Schools: Practical Strategies to Reduce Bullying**

**Sponsor:** The Ohio Commission on Dispute Resolution & Conflict Management

**Location:** Riffe Center, 77 S. High St., Columbus, Ohio

**Workshops:** Cyber-bullying, workplace bullying, diversity & bullying, bullying students, others.

**Keynote:** Lyn Mikel Brown, Ph.D., national expert on female aggression and the role of the media and author of *Girl Fighting: Betray and Rejection Among Girls*.

**Contact:** Information and registration forms can be assessed at [www.disputeresolution.ohio.gov](http://www.disputeresolution.ohio.gov). For questions call (614) 752-9595.

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May 9-10, 2008

2008 NAMI Ohio Annual Conference: Community: The Foundation of Recovery

Sponsor: NAMI Ohio in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Mental Health

Location: Hyatt Regency Columbus; 350 N. High St., Columbus OH

Content: The Foundation of Recovery will focus on the elements that are vital to recovery. Consumers, family members, advocates & mental health professionals will go home armed with information to support and improve the climate of recovery.

More information: Registration form at: www.namiohio.org or contact Karen Lindburg at karenl@amiohio.org, phone: 614-224-2700.

OTHER NEWS

Current Events - Across the State:

<http://dmhext01.mh.state.oh.us/dmh/events/listing.nsf/HomePage?OpenAgent>

Ohio Family and Children First: <http://www.ohiofcf.org/>

Kids: Quick Links:

Archived and Recent Editions of this newsletter (also subscribe)

<http://www.mh.state.oh.us/kids/kidsnewsletter/kidsnews.html>

Suicide Prevention:

<http://www.mh.state.oh.us/kids/suicideprev/suicide.prevention.html>



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