



PCSAO is very excited to announce that Meghan Wheeler has joined PCSAO as an Ohio START Program Manager. Meghan will work closely with current program manager Marla Himmeger to assist PCSAs with START implementation. In addition to her new role with PCSAO, Meghan is an independent training and technical assistance consultant in the justice, treatment, child welfare and social services fields, and she delivers professional training, grant writing, curriculum development and technical assistance services on the national, state, and local level.

Meghan has also served as a consultant for the Supreme Court of Ohio, National Association of Drug Court Professionals, National Drug Court Institute, Center for Children and Family Futures, Policy Research Associates, and NIATx Learning Collaborative. Prior to her work nationally, Meghan worked on the state and local level here in Ohio within the juvenile and adult treatment and court systems providing clinical intervention, supervision, case management, program management and policy development

HAMILTON COUNTY

Successfully hired a new family peer mentor through MHA! She has shadowed another family peer mentor from Warren County and has begun serving their first family!

HIGHLAND COUNTY

Successfully hired a new START caseworker to fill the vacant position started mid-October! Highland County also anticipated its first START graduate in the month of October!

WARREN COUNTY

Warren successfully signed MOU's with two new behavioral health partners; Recovery Defined and Talbert House. They have continued positivity and engagement from parents with their START worker and Family Peer Mentor even through more stressful times.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY FUTURES MAKES A VISIT

National training/TA partners from Children and Family Futures came to Ohio to train and onboard our new counties as well as continue to provide expertise and assistance to our existing counties by helping them inch closer to fidelity!

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO...

- HOPE Parent Partner Recognition Banquet- November 6, 2018
- OACBHA Medical Marijuana Symposium- November 9, 2018
- Family Centered Approach for Children of Addicted Parents-November 14, 2018

Greetings from a Family Peer Mentor,

My name is Moneka Minnis and I am the family peer mentor for Gallia county. I also have client's in Meigs county as well. I have been a family mentor almost 10 months now and I love the START program because I am able to relate to our families that are dealing with substance use issues. This is something that I once dealt with and maybe if there was a program like this during my active addiction it may have been a little easier to get that support and understanding that I needed. It is extremely rewarding to help and see families be put back together as a whole.

Welcome New Ohio START Counties

KICKOFF OF COHORT 2

The Ohio Start pilot program began October of 2017 with a cohort of 17 southern Ohio counties. Nearly a year and many successes later, the START program is expanding to 17 more counties around Ohio. New counties include: Ashtabula, Butler, Carroll, Delaware, Erie, Hardin, Lorain, Mercer, Morrow, Muskingum, Ottawa, Richland, Seneca, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, and Washington.

The new county expansion is thanks to the continued support of the Office of the Ohio Attorney General and funding through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) as well as the State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant issued through OMHAS.

All new counties of the second cohort joined together Tuesday Oct. 30th to kickoff their first training session and to learn more about the START program. Representatives from our national training and TA partners Children and Family Futures helped inform and get our new counties ready for their exciting year ahead.

Trainings & TA

The training/technical assistance team has officially gone live with registration. An email containing the link to registration was sent through the list serve on 9/14. Here are a few of the upcoming trainings:

- 11/7: Supporting a Recovery Lifestyle (Ross County)
- 11/30: Child Trauma Screening (Ross County)
- 12/7: Engagement Skills - Motivational Interviewing (Ross County)



Why do you support Ohio START?

The Ohio START program received grant support from the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), to assist in our work with children who are at risk due to parents' substance abuse. PhRMA recognizes that Ohio's opioid crisis demands an all-out response and is supporting a variety of programs that advance solutions to help families and communities.

-Jenny Camper, PhRMA