



September Newsletter

Welcome to the first every Ohio START Newsletter! We plan to send a monthly newsletter to highlight the good work being accomplished in START, upcoming trainings, important conferences and other news pertinent to the pilot. If you have content you would like to add to the newsletter, please send it our way.

I am so inspired by all the hard work that each county has put into the pilot. Ohio START is now serving over 100 families and will double the number of counties participating in the pilot for the next grant cycle. I can't wait to see what the next year will bring! Thank you for all your hard work this year!!

-Fawn Gadel, Director of Ohio START

BROWN COUNTY

Last month, Brown County was able to add one new family to the START program as well as discharging a family from the program!

FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Fairfield County remains at a total of 14 start cases. They have hired 4 family peer mentors that all work 20 hours a week. Fairfield also just recently closed their first court involved case!

WARREN COUNTY

Warren County has decided to expand their behavioral health partnerships and is looking to pair up with two more providers.

START IS EXPANDING!

With our next grant cycle, the Ohio START program is hoping to add up to 18 more counties! If you are aware of any county that would like it to be involved in the program, please contact Fawn Gadel, fawn@pcsao.org

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO!

- Southern Consortium- September 12th
- PCSAO Conference- September 19-21
- OACBHA Recovery Conference- October 1-2
- Cohort 2 Kickoff- October 30th

Greetings from a Family Peer Mentor,

My name is Lily Niple and I am the START Family Peer Mentor for Vinton County, in partnership with SCOJFS and Integrated Services for Behavioral Health. Since January of 2018 I have been privileged to use the benefit of my own experience and recovery from Substance Use Disorder, to help navigate my peers through the process of reunification with their children and assist them in exploring what recovery looks like for them.

I find that the strongest commonality among all those I strive to assist is that they are unaware of the many resources available to them along their journey. Most have spent years thinking that their circumstances are hopeless, that there is simply something “wrong” with them, and that their addiction is just a devastating part of their inherent nature. Most have never seen so much as a flash of light at the end of the tunnel.

I show up to the situation knowing it's going to be gut-wrenching, heartbreaking at times, and it will certainly appear insurmountable. The most important part of this work is to continue to believe in the power of hope. I confront all the odds stacked against my peers and say, “We can do this!” and then fully believe and back my own words. I lend my experience in whatever way I can, even if it's just to let someone know that they are worth every second of the work.

Brown's Newest Mom & Baby!

BROWN COUNTY

The newest START case in Brown County involved a new mother and her baby. Upon being released from the hospital, the mother went straight to the Stepping Stones Program.

Great work by START staff and the Stepping Stones Program to allow their first child in custody to reunify with the mother in record time by utilizing an extended stay at the treatment facility.

The Caseworker and FPM continue to visit the mother and baby weekly in the treatment facility and the pair seem to be bonding very well!

Trainings & TA

The training/technical assistance team is gearing up for another year of supporting you in your implementation of OhioSTART. We will let you know when registration goes live again through the list serve.

- 9/26- Screening and Intervention for Substance Use Disorders (Clinton County)
- 10/3- Family Team Meetings (Ross County)
- 10/4- Screening and Intervention for Substance Use Disorders (Ross County)



Why do you support Ohio START?

Even though they are outside the range of usual human experience, traumatic events are fairly common, even among children. The majority of individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders have experienced trauma. When a child enters the foster care or the child protection system, trauma experiences are almost universal. We know that trauma has been implicated as a major driver of medical illness, including cardiac disease and cancer and we know that it affects a child's ability to learn, play and cope.

Preventing trauma and correctly identifying and responding to it when it has occurred has tremendous potential to impact the physical, mental, behavioral, social and economic health of Ohio's children, youth, their families and communities. By supporting Ohio START, we can improve the capacity of parents affected by substance abuse to care for their children's needs, promote their child's well-being and reduce child abuse potential; keep children safe and with their parents if possible, reunify families and promote attachment for children needing kinship or foster care placement; reduce the number of repeat referrals to child protective services, repeat recurrence of child abuse and neglect; and, enhance child developmental and emotional well-being.

-Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services