



As we enter our next grant cycle, we are proud of all the work that Ohio START has accomplished over the last year. During this last grant cycle, cohort 1 counties: hired family peer mentors, we now have 24 employed; began serving families, over 130 START cases have been opened; and successfully closed 16 START cases. Most importantly, this program is having a positive effect on the families. This is a huge accomplishment! As we get ready to double the number of counties participating in the pilot, we are excited to bring this program to the new cohort and we can't wait to see what our successes will be over the next year.

Children and Family Futures will be returning to continue to provide ongoing training and technical assistance to Ohio START counties. Participants are encouraged to attend as teams that should include: PCSA administrative program contact; PCSA START caseworker(s); Family Peer Mentor(s); and BH provider administrative staff/supervisors. Content for the day will be based on the themes gleaned from the Ohio Start Strategies and Practices Review Tool self-assessment and follow up calls with the counties. CFF will present on best practices This is a one-day event for Southern Cohort 1 counties and you should register to attend either Oct 31 or Nov 1 at <https://tinyurl.com/ohiostart1819>

-Fawn Gadel & Marla Himmeger

### FRANKLIN COUNTY

During the month of August, the Franklin County START team hired a caseworker and family peer mentor. FCCS has met with AOD/BH provider and is attending trainings. They hope to start serving families very soon!

### GALLIA COUNTY

In August, Gallia County served six families. All the adults in the program are currently in AOD counseling. Of the children in the program, 4 of the 14 are in counseling or have been referred and 3 infants were referred to Early Intervention.

### MEIGS COUNTY

Meigs County family peer mentor was hard at work this month with the children by helping clients get children enrolled in school and after-school activities, providing parenting support, and in one case, accompanying a child to their open house and meeting their teachers.

## START & SEOLS

START is pairing up with Southeast Ohio Legal Services (SEOLS) to provide legal assistance to START participants. SEOLS can provide attorneys to those who cannot afford it and help navigate START clients through the court systems.

For more information or to make a referral go to

[www.seols.org/seols4success/](http://www.seols.org/seols4success/)

## WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO...

- Cohort 2 Kickoff- October 30<sup>th</sup>
- HOPE Parent Partner Recognition Banquet- November 6<sup>th</sup> (RSVP by Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>)

## *Greetings from a Family Peer Mentor,*

“My name is Samuel Patterson and I am currently employed through a partnership with Eden Counseling Centers and Franklin County Children Services. I have been an Ohio Peer Recovery Supporter for almost a year. As addiction runs rampant through our communities we are starting to see the overall effects that addiction has not just on the individual, but the family as well. Addiction is a family disease. It has always been very heart-warming to see an individual achieve recovery. With so much time and focus being spent on the individual, it is easy to forget that family members suffer in a different, yet equal way.

I am extremely excited to be involved with the Ohio START Program because it is going to give me the privilege and opportunity to not only help the sick and suffering addict, but the family members who end up being caught in the thunderstorm that we call addiction. Without the support of family and/or friends, recovery is not possible.”

## OACBHA Recovery Conference 2018

### START FAMILY PEER MENTORS

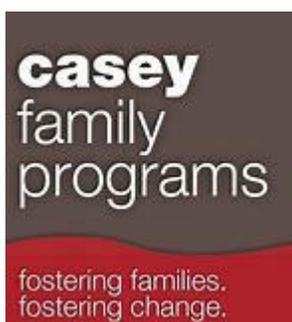
The Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities held their annual Recovery Conference on October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. The conference focused on supporting and strengthening recovery and featured a variety of speakers and health and wellness breakout sessions. Breakout sessions included mindfulness and yoga sessions, as well as sessions on peer recovery support. A job fair was also hosted by employers looking to hire individuals in recovery.

START Family Peer Mentors from Hocking, Vinton, Jackson, Gallia, Franklin and Athens Counties attended the conference!

## 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:

- 10/24: Screening and Intervention for Substance Use Disorders (Ross County)
- 10/31-11/1: OhioSTART Foundations: Creating a Collaborative Governance Structure (Ross County)
- 11/7: Supporting a Recovery Lifestyle (Ross County)
- 11/30: Child Trauma Screening (Ross County)



## Why do you support Ohio START?

Ohio's struggles with opioid and other drugs has severely impacted many families and communities. START - Sobriety, Treatment and Reducing Trauma - is all about healing families within their own community so children can safely grow there. Child welfare START agencies have embraced their responsibility for early identification of caregiver substance use when it is impacting child safety; as well as assessing trauma for the child and caregiver.

The START communities have built strong partnerships for cross system treatment and service provision based upon the child welfare involved family's targeted treatment need. The inclusion of Peer Recovery Mentors assists with early treatment engagement and ongoing connection to the Recovery community. While the opioid crisis has had a big impact on child welfare, START really allows a community team effort, building on the resources of each community. Casey Family Programs is dedicated to supporting this promising practice, as well as working with Ohio State University and Ohio University to build evidence as to its impact on key child outcomes - such as recurrent maltreatment and foster care re-entry.

-Crystal Ward Allen, Casey Family Programs