



It's hard to believe that 2018 is coming to an end, but I am proud of all the hard work Ohio START has accomplished this year. These accomplishments include: cohort 1 counties serving well over 100 families; partnering with I.H.S. to create a stellar training program; bringing on 17 new counties to implement the program; partnering with Children and Family Futures to align Ohio START with the national START model; and partnering with our evaluation team to ensure Ohio START is achieving our anticipated outcomes.

In 2019, we look forward to continuing to bring Ohio START to more Ohio families, building a core team of START professionals at the county and state level and working as a team to build Ohio START as a national model for working with child welfare involved families with substance use disorders. I hope everyone has a great holiday season and a happy new year!

- Fawn Gadel

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Franklin County START team has been officially assigned two cases. The START team is also looking to develop a partnership with an agency for child trauma assessments and treatment as there could be barriers down the road in quickly linking children with this service.

CARROLL COUNTY

Carroll County has been planning implementation for Ohio START almost since the expansion was announced. They have identified their behavioral health partner; the FPM has been hired and the START caseworker is ready to begin.

MEIGS COUNTY

Two new families were enrolled this month bringing the total to seven families. Almost half of the adults in treatment are doing MAT services. The FPM was able to provide immediate recovery support to a father after going through severe mental stress caused by a parent-teacher conference.

HELPING OHIO PARENT EFFECTIVELY (HOPE) CELEBRATES GOOD WORK

H.O.P.E. held the second annual Parent Partner Appreciation banquet on Nov. 6. There were a variety of people in attendance, including parents serving in a variety of programs such as mentors and advocates. START FPM's Kitty Matson and Susan Jago are also HOPE parent advocates and were awarded for their hard work and leadership in the parent peer support movement.

DRIVERS LICENCE REINSTATEMENT FEE AMNESTY INITIATIVE

Beginning January 31st, the Ohio BMV will implement a six-month driver's license reinstatement fee debt reduction and waiver program for offenders whose driver's licenses have been suspended for specific violations. For more information, visit: <https://www.bmv.ohio.gov/susp-fees-amnesty.aspx>

Greetings from a Family Peer Mentor,

“Hello Everyone, my name is Virginia Taynor, I am a Family Peer Mentor, part of the Ohio START Program. I started working in January of this year, through Integrated Services; in connection with SCOJFS of Ross County. The recovery process can be a difficult and long road. I am humbled that I can share my own experiences to help others overcome the similar obstacles in their own lives. So often many feel that they are alone or afraid. To be able to share your story, to offer encouragement and hope, sometimes, it’s all that someone needs for strength, to make a change. In saying this, there is so much more to be said about experience and being an overcomer. Seeing the eyes of a client fill with hope, when they hear they are not alone is rewarding and priceless. Watching families begin to heal, knowing they can do this, that they can make a change, and make positive changes in their lives, is just amazing. This job is not for the faint of heart, being able to work hand in hand with children services is rewarding. As a Family Peer Mentor, we are a bridge that connects one side to the other, so be a good bridge.”

Topical calls with CFF

2019

Beginning in January, Children and Family Futures (CFF) will hold hour long topical calls each month for Ohio START PCSAs and their partners. These calls are scheduled for the 3rd Thursday of each month from 9:00am-10:00am. Call-in information will be provided prior to the call. During these calls, CFF will discuss a relevant and important topic surrounding START.

The first call will be held on January 17th. CFF will be discussing the integration of START with Family Drug Treatment Courts.

Throughout the year, other topics that may be discussed include: collaborative values inventory; ASAM level of care; community mapping; relapse prevention planning; drug testing policies - integrating the 3 systems, and; reasonable efforts and courts. If you have ideas for other topics, please share with the START team.

Training & TA

The trainings scheduled to be held in southern Ohio are up on the website now, and the schedule for trainings for other locations will be listed very soon. You can find training descriptions and dates here:

<https://tinyurl.com/ohiostart1819>.

Here are a few of the upcoming trainings:

- 12/7: *Engagement Skills - Motivational Interviewing* (Ross County)
- 12/13: *Foundations #2: Family Peer Mentors* (Delaware Board of Elections) Mandatory for Cohort 2
- 12/14: *Foundations #2: Family Peer Mentors* (Lorain Community College) Mandatory for Cohort 2



THE OHIO STATE
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Why do you support Ohio START?

Thanks to the generosity of the College of Social Work at The Ohio State University, the START program has a great team of evaluators to examine and analyze the program in order to continue moving forward

“We believe in the power effective solutions and strong collaboration across systems for helping families thrive. We choose to support Ohio START because of the potential to support Ohio families struggling with addiction by bringing together resources from the child welfare and behavioral health systems.”

-Bridget Freisthler, OSU