



As we move into February, Ohio START continues to work towards providing targeted technical assistance to PCSAs and their partners through individualized and cluster phone conferences and topic calls for all our partners. This month each PCSA should participate in their first cluster telephone call with their CFF and Ohio START technical assistance liaisons; the second round of calls will be scheduled in April. In addition, at the end of the month we will hold our second topic call which will be dedicated to partnering with local behavioral health agencies. If your agency needs additional assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out. Stay warm everyone!

-Fawn Gadel

ERIE COUNTY

Erie County is part of cohort 2 and has begun to introduce the START program in different meetings. They have had preliminary discussions with the Family Court Judge and Mental Health Board on implementing a Drug Court, which they feel could eventually provide support to each other in future cases.

JACKSON COUNTY

Jackson County has helped two participants obtain stable housing! In one instance, the Safety Plan was ended, and dad was able to have his children with him full-time. Another mother progressed to overnight and weekend visitation with her children in her new home and is another step closer to reunification!

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Although this month has been challenging, as a team they have identified barriers to full participation in community resources and developed strategies to overcome those barriers. They have also had more case management team meetings with clients and have picked up the pace on re-engaging clients if the need arises.

Criminal Justice Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Training Symposium Series

OMHAS, through the 21st Century CURES Act, is sponsoring MAT trainings throughout the state for the criminal justice system. While it is not the child welfare system, the agenda seems very applicable to START work or the work of your partners. For more information visit the [registration page](#).

The countdown has begun for Wear Blue 2019!

The annual event, always on the second Wednesday of Child Abuse Prevention Month, will be April 10. Logos, county materials, and an updated campaign toolkit are now available on the [PCSAO Wear Blue page](#), and the statewide [Facebook page](#) is open for posts. Remember to use the hashtag [#OhioWearsBlue](#) when promoting Wear Blue locally.

State Opioid Response (SOR) Housing for Person in Recovery Initiative

OhioMHAS seeks partners to provide housing for persons in recovery from opiate use disorder and their families in a setting that meets the [OhioMHAS Quality Housing Criteria](#). This initiative encompasses [all housing settings supported by OhioMHAS](#). The RFA seeks to increase the availability of housing for persons in recovery from OUD and their families, including recovery housing that accepts all forms of medication assisted treatment for OUD. Applications will be accepted from any ADAMHS county board. Funding may be used for housing expenses related to assisting individuals and their families with their duration in the housing environment and Housing Supports provided on site.

OhioMHAS has scheduled a call for [February 8th at 2pm](#) to provide information to PCSA's about the Initiative and about how they may partner with their local ADAMH Boards. Please call 614-230-0229. Enter Meeting ID number 68193 when prompted. Additional information and RFA applications can be found on the [OhioMHAS funding webpage](#).

2019 Peer Recovery Supporter Symposiums

THE P.E.E.R. CENTER

In a series of symposiums, recovery supporters help each other and share ideas on how to be more effective when advocating for individuals -- and for the joint cause to reduce stigma. The goal is to work together to educate audiences about peer recovery supports, rather than instigate an argument.

Attendees will learn some tips on how not to take criticism personally, the most effective way to share your personal story, and more. The most common criticisms and questions will be discussed, and possible answers explored.

There will be multiple symposiums throughout Ohio to ensure peer recovery supporters from across the state have a chance to attend. The next symposium is taking place in Hamilton County on Wednesday, February 20, 2019. For more information about future symposiums, visit the [registration page](#).

Training & TA

All of the currently scheduled trainings with descriptions, dates and locations are listed on The Ohio START Training and TA website that may be found here:

<https://tinyurl.com/ohiostart1819>

Here are a few of the upcoming trainings:

- 2/7: Child Trauma Screening - *Erie County JFS*
- 2/13: Screening and Intervention for Substance Use Disorders (UNCOPE and ACE) - *Lorain County - Spitzer Conference Center*
- 2/21: Child Trauma Screening - Stark County, Ohio Means Jobs Center
- 2/27: Child Trauma Screening - Morrow County JFS
- 3/5: Child Welfare 101 - Stark County, Ohio Means Jobs Center

Medication Assisted Treatment and Stigma in Child Welfare

Many parents who suffer from Opioid Use Disorder may use medication assisted treatment to help them into recovery. However, not everyone believes MAT is a solution, and others believe an abstinence-based treatment is the only way to recover from OUD. This misconception about the benefits of MAT can be problematic for parents with OUD who are also involved in the child welfare system. To read more about the intersection of MAT and child welfare, Health and Human Services published a helpful [research brief](#) outlining challenges and opportunities to the use of MAT.