



**For Immediate Release: July 2, 2013**

**State Awards “Strong Families, Safe Communities” Grants  
Communities Collaborate to Create Coordinated Care Plans to Help At-Risk Youth**

COLUMBUS -- The Ohio Departments of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and Mental Health & Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) today announced awards of nearly \$3 million out of a \$5 million grant to seven community partnerships to implement the Strong Families, Safe Communities project and to provide care coordination and crisis intervention services for youth at risk of harming themselves or others due to a mental illness or developmental disability. In addition to the grant awards, the project will also provide statewide training on crisis intervention for mental health and developmental disabilities services professionals. Strong Families Safe Communities is funded by Governor Kasich’s initiative to commit money from Ohio’s Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) awards to develop targeted strategies to stabilize youth in crisis, ages 8-24, and develop long-term treatment plans that help children and their families live happy and healthy lives.

“Children at risk—those struggling and teetering on the edge of self-harm or aggression and violence—often aren’t yet in treatment programs and therefore not yet known to us as someone in need of care and support,” said Tracy Plouck, director of OhioMHAS. “Our focus was to engage our local systems and encourage community-driven solutions that combine knowledge and leadership across agencies. We’re very pleased with the comprehensive treatment models in these counties’ plans.”

DODD and OhioMHAS recruited 38 proposals from Ohio’s communities, all representing collaboration among mental health and developmental services providers, and many involving multi-county partnerships. The seven partnerships selected (\*see attached fact sheet) together service families in twenty counties and represent collaboration among public and private providers in both the mental health and developmental disabilities service systems. The selected projects include intensive care coordination, rapid response team efforts, family mentoring and support, screening for high-risk children, and therapeutic services.

“We’re very pleased that so many Ohio communities were ready and able to submit viable projects and coordinated care models for this project,” said John Martin, director of Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. “From the submissions we have received we have learned what types of service supports and training are most widely needed. We anticipate the selected projects will also identify best practices and models of care than can be duplicated to benefit all counties and all Ohioans.”

Directors Plouck and Martin plan to visit each of the community partnerships in July to officially award the grants and share more details about each project with local communities. Dates and locations of these announcement events will be released soon. More details about statewide training will also be released when schedules are developed.

OhioMHAS, formed by the consolidation of the Ohio Departments of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services and Mental Health, oversees six regional psychiatric hospitals and a statewide network of more than 400 community-based mental health service providers and 460 alcohol, drug and problem gambling addiction prevention, treatment and recovery service providers.

DODD is responsible for overseeing a statewide system of supports and services for people with developmental disabilities. The department’s mission is continuous improvement of the quality of life for Ohio’s citizens with developmental disabilities and their families.

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## Helping Ohio's Children and Youth in Crisis

### Overview of Recommended Proposals

The RFA generated 38 proposals. The proposals were scored by a committee of staff members from DODD and ODMH, as well as a family advocate. The recommendation is to fund the seven proposals summarized, in addition to providing statewide training. This utilizes the first-year funds, with an anticipated \$1 million for further distribution in the second year. In addition, there will be an evaluation process to analyze data and results as they occur, to determine which of the proposals have potential for statewide implementation.

#### **Licking/Knox Counties**

Proposal submitted by Knox County Board of DD, Licking County Board of DD, Mental Health and Recovery for Licking and Knox Counties, Behavioral Healthcare Partners of Central Ohio, Inc., Pathways of Central Ohio, Inc. and The Village Network, Inc.

Project includes:

- Creation of a Mobile Urgent Treatment Team (MUTT) model (based on successful models in other states) to provide 24-hour crisis intervention services
- 211 Suicide Follow-Up Call services
- On-call Service and Support Administrators, Health Officers and Crisis Intervention Officers after business hours and weekends
- Short-term crisis stabilization/treatment/respice through The Village Network
- Intensive care coordination/risk assessment/safety planning
- Family mentoring and support/parenting programs

#### **Athens/Hocking/Vinton/Jackson Counties**

Proposal submitted by Tri-County Mental Health and Counseling Services, Inc. with partners from the DD and MH Boards, Juvenile Courts, DJFS Children's Services, Family and Children's First Council and Sojourner's Foster/Respice Network

Project includes:

- Develop Rapid Response Teams in each county to include Tri-County MH staff, representatives from social services, law enforcement, juvenile probation, respice providers, DD and MH Boards and Family and Children First Councils.
- Receive calls through local crisis lines and mobilize teams to the site to provide crisis stabilization and safety planning/assessment/referral
- Foster/respice bed to be shared by all counties
- Crisis stabilization bed for ages 18-24
- Intensive Care Coordination

- Training for respite providers, first responders/law enforcement, community members

### **Belmont/Harrison/Noble/Monroe Counties**

Proposal submitted by BHN Alliance (DD Boards in Belmont/Harrison/Noble) and Belmont-Harrison-Monroe Mental Health and Recovery Board

Project includes:

- Develop treatment teams to include behavior consultant, therapeutic support staff and mobile therapists
- Crisis and planned respite
- Family-centered therapy and intensive service coordination
- Collaborate with DJFS Children Services to develop therapeutic crisis foster care
- Therapeutic Mentoring program

### **Stark/Columbiana/Wayne/Holmes/Portage Counties**

Proposal submitted by Mental Health and Recovery Services Boards and DD Boards from these 5 counties

Project includes:

- Wrap Around Services and training for facilitators
- Crisis on-call services
- Respite services in specialized foster homes/emergency respite sites
- Telepsychiatry services/equipment
- Crisis Intervention Training for first responders
- Screening for high risk children
- Family support through Strengthening Families training
- Coordination of step-down services focused on returning children to family homes from out-of-home placement

### **Clark/Green/Madison Counties**

Proposal submitted by Family and Children First Councils of Clark, Greene and Madison Counties with support from their Mental Health and Recovery Board

Proposal includes:

- Creation of a crisis respite center for all 3 counties on the campus of Osterlen Services for Youth with consultation from Shannon House, Inc.
- Intensive service coordination and Wrap Around services provided by existing FCFC entities at no cost to the grant

## **Hamilton County**

Proposal submitted by Hamilton County DD Services, Hamilton County Mental Health Recovery and Services Board, Resident Home Corporation, Lighthouse Youth Services, LifePoint Solutions, Finding Hope Consulting and HOPE for Children and Families.

Project includes:

- Respite services to include 3 levels:
  - In-home respite developed by HOPE for Children and Families (multi-system collaboration between county MHR/DD/DJFS/Juvenile Court)
  - Therapeutic respite in foster family homes through Pressley Ridge
  - Therapeutic respite in a center-based setting through Resident Home Corporation's Children's Retreat
- Wrap Around services for high risk youth coordinated by DD Board and Lighthouse Youth Services
- 24-hour crisis response, referral and linkage services/expansion of existing collaborative services
- Expansion of Dialectical Behavior Therapy with focus on those with co-occurring mental illness and developmental disabilities
- Development of trauma-informed assessment, planning and training tools
- Implementation of the Sanctuary Model in five MH and DD organizations to create trauma-informed agencies with increased capacity to serve those with complex needs

## **Butler County**

Proposal submitted by Butler County Family and Children First Council in collaboration with DD Board and MH Board

Project includes:

- Family Connections Program to support families, decrease isolation, improve family relationships and reduce out-of-home placement
- Respite care to include community based respite and therapeutic crisis respite through Butler County START (Systemic, Therapeutic, Assessment, Respite and Treatment) program
- Training Coordinator to enhance the skills of professionals, families and community members in: risk identification, Dialectical Behavior Therapy, trauma awareness, suicide prevention, system of care values and specialized needs of people affected by mental illness and developmental disabilities

## **Statewide Trainings** (to begin Fall 2013)

- Mental Health First Aid
- Trauma-Informed Practices