

Engaging the New Generation to Achieve their Goals through Empowerment (ENGAGE)

Ohio's System of Care Expansion Planning Project

What:

- A one year, cross-system strategic planning process to improve outcomes for Youth and Young Adults in Transition (Y/YAT, aka Transition-Age Youth) through expansion of Ohio's System of Care.
- Purpose: To develop the state and local infrastructure needed to support a comprehensive system of care for youth and young adults in transition (ages 14-21) with serious mental health conditions, and their families.
- Will benefit youth, young adults and their families involved in multiple systems, including: child welfare, education, juvenile justice, and Y/YAT who need behavioral health services.

Why:

- Investments in youth and young adults with multiple challenges are needed to reduce long-term costs associated with unmet integrated health care needs, homelessness, untapped education and job training opportunities, and inaccessibility to social benefits.
- Current intersystem policies and programming are fragmented.
- This population has difficulty accessing needed services due to multiple eligibility requirements.
- Ohio lacks data to inform public policy and investment strategies.
- Youth involvement in program design has been limited to date.

Objectives:

- To identify best practices in serving Y/YAT with behavioral health needs;
- To develop core competencies for cross-system providers;
- To develop and enact state level policies that incentivize system coordination;
- To build bridges between youth and adult services;
- To streamline services, build local capacity, align resources, expand systems of care; and
- To increase youth involvement in program design and service delivery.

How Funded:

- This project is funded by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).
- Ohio Department of Mental Health serves as the project's administrative agent and lead agency.
- The award= \$772,095.00
- Ohio was one of 24 awardees; the project was selected under a competitive review process.

How Implemented/Planning Process:

- System of Care planning is led by the ENGAGE Management Team comprised of: Y/YAT and Family Engagement Coordinators; the Principal Investigator for the grant, a Project Director, a State-Local Cross-System Liaison, a Researcher, the Principal Evaluator, a Social Marketer, and a Strategic Planning Consultant.
- An ENGAGE Leadership Team will be formed to review and approve the strategic plan. Members of the leadership team consist of:
 - Deputy Directors or Senior Staff of the following state departments: Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services; Developmental Disabilities; Education; Health; Job and Family Services; Mental Health; Rehabilitation and Correction; Rehabilitation Services Commission; Youth Services; and Budget and Management.
 - Current or previously funded System of Care Communities (Cuyahoga, Clermont, Hamilton, Stark, and SE Ohio Boards).
- Throughout the one year planning process, multiple stakeholders will be participating in Thought Leader Interviews, Focus Groups, and workgroups to develop the strategic plan. Stakeholders include, but are not limited to:
 - youth/young adults,
 - family members,
 - adult consumers,
 - cultural and linguistic competence representatives,
 - current and previously funded Systems of Care communities,
 - state agency representatives from behavioral health, child welfare, juvenile justice, public health, education, developmental disabilities, rehabilitation services, housing, employment/vocational services,
 - local representatives from multiple systems, and
 - statewide advocacy organizations
- The following organizations will provide technical assistance to the planning workgroups, assist with thought leader interviews, and/or facilitate planning workgroups:
 - Center for Innovative Practice, Case Western Reserve
 - Center for School-Based Mental Health Programs, Miami University,
 - Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio,
 - Mayerson Center, Cincinnati Children's Hospital,
 - Multi-Ethnic Advocates for Cultural Competence,
 - NAMI-Ohio,
 - Ohio Federation for Children's Mental Health,
 - Supported Employment Coordinating Center of Excellence, Case Western Reserve,

Time Line: October 1, 2010- September 30, 2012

Activities: Weekly Management Team meetings; state and local thought leader interviews; youth, young adult, and family focus groups; online survey inquiries; workgroups meetings; regional stakeholder forums; Leadership Team quarterly meetings; and OHT/HHS Cabinet Director briefings at appropriate intervals.