

Ohio's FUTURE

**BUDGET OF THE STATE OF OHIO****FISCAL YEARS 2020 - 2021**

Support for Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health

The connection between the behavioral health and criminal justice systems is significant. The increased involvement of people with mental illness and/or substance use disorders in the criminal justice system is a serious problem. Treatment providers, law enforcement, courts, jails and prisons have joined with private businesses, people in recovery from mental illness and addiction, and family members in addressing this troublesome situation. By connecting people with clinical treatment and/or pre-release care coordination services they are more likely to make positive life changes.

Behavioral health interventions, treatment and supports can be delivered along the continuum of criminal justice involvement ranging from officers knowing how to deescalate a situation when they encounter a person experiencing a mental health crisis, to connecting people to treatment and recovery supports through courts, during incarceration, or upon returning to the community from jail or prison.

Expand Specialty Docket Courts

Right at the start of his administration, Governor Mike DeWine set a specific goal to expand access to specialty docket courts for criminal justice involved individuals struggling with mental illness and/or addiction. **OhioMHAS will target an additional \$7.5 million, for a total of \$17.5 million in FY 20-21, towards maintaining current court supports and expanding specialty docket access to more communities.**

The Supreme Court and local courts are leaders in establishing specialized dockets to deal with addiction, mental illness and other issues. OhioMHAS created the Specialized Dockets Subsidy Project and Legacy Drug Court program to assist drug courts and other specialized dockets with funding to effectively manage their high-risk, high-need, addicted adult and juvenile offenders in the community, thereby reducing commitments to the state prison system. Specialized dockets that target high-risk, high-need addicted parents charged with abuse/neglect/dependency of their minor children were also eligible for funding. These programs increase the number of children who can remain in their homes, with protective supervision provided by child protective service agencies, as well as reunify children who were removed from their homes with their parents.

Services provided by specialty docket courts include funding to establish these dockets, administrative costs for case management services, helping people to obtain Medicaid coverage, assistance with paying for treatment, such as medication-assisted treatment, and providing recovery services for court-involved individuals and their families.

Specialty Dockets Yield Positive Results.

- In FY 18, over 6,300 adult offenders, adults and children were served through specialized dockets involved in OhioMHAS' subsidy program. Ninety-seven percent of adults successfully completed the program, meaning that only 87 of the 2,900 adults discharged from these programs were committed to the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. Through the drug court programs, 50 children were reunified with 62 participants discharged from family drug courts.

- OhioMHAS helps to fund 19 family drug courts across the state. In 2018, family specialty docket courts served 521 parents, and reunified 215 children with their families.
- Ohio's four juvenile drug courts served 150 youth. Of the 64 juveniles discharged from these courts, only one youth was committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services.
- There are 21 specialty dockets in Ohio that are operated by juvenile courts. These courts served 553 youth, and of the 338 juveniles discharged by these courts, only 10 were committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services.

Unfortunately, specialty dockets are not currently available in every Ohio community. The Governor challenged his administration to address the gap in access to specialty docket services and establish at least 60 new specialized docket courts during his administration. For more information about Ohio's specialized dockets, including a map of existing courts, please visit: <http://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/JCS/specDockets>.

Support for Local Law Enforcement

As part of a larger effort to reduce stigma and expand the number of Ohioans equipped to respond to a mental health emergency, OhioMHAS will direct a portion of \$5 million in the FY 20-21 budget towards offsetting the cost of Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT), or similar training, to local police and sheriff's departments.

Ten percent of police calls involve a person with a mental illness. Surveys of law enforcement officers suggest that they do not feel adequately trained to effectively respond to mental health crises, that mental health calls are very time-consuming and divert officers from other crime-fighting activities, and that it is difficult to access mental health and addiction services when needed. Often officers perceive mental health-related calls as very unpredictable and dangerous, which without adequate training in de-escalation, could inadvertently cause them to approach in a manner that may escalate the situation.

The Crisis Intervention Team program is a community partnership of law enforcement, mental health and addiction professionals, people who live with mental illness and/or addiction disorders, their families and other advocates. It is an innovative first-responder model of police-based crisis intervention training to help people with mental illness and/or addictions access medical treatment and psychiatric care rather than place them in the criminal justice system due to illness related behaviors. It also promotes officer safety and the safety of the individual in crisis. For more information about CIT, please visit: <http://www.citinternational.org/Learn-About-CIT>.

CIT, and similar de-escalation training, is a significant time and financial commitment that many local law enforcement departments are not be able to shoulder. OhioMHAS will invest in expanding the number of Ohio's officers trained in targeted interventions for people in mental health crisis.

Protect Current Investments

Collaboration between treatment and recovery support providers, law enforcement, courts, jails, prisons, private businesses, people recovering from mental illness and addiction and family members improve outcomes for people and communities. Directing behavioral health resources towards people who are criminal justice involved fosters public safety, reduces recidivism, encourages family reunification, and promotes sustained recovery. OhioMHAS, the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, the Ohio Department of Public Safety, and the Ohio Department of Medicaid will continue ongoing investments to uphold collaborative supports for criminal justice-involved Ohioans.

Trauma-informed Care. OhioMHAS has been heavily involved in promoting a particularly compelling evidence-based approach to treatment – Trauma-informed care. Traumatic events are so powerful that they can negatively affect people mentally, physically, socially, emotionally and spiritually over a long period, sometimes a lifetime. OhioMHAS and the Ohio Department of Public Safety, along with the Ohio Attorney

General, collaborate on an initiative to expand Ohio's law enforcement awareness of trauma-informed practices by offering a trauma-responsive curriculum through the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy. Since 2017, all sworn and commissioned law enforcement officers (more than 30,000) must complete the six-hour trauma-informed care training. In addition, OhioMHAS has created a First Responder Liaison position to provide technical assistance, training and support to communities wanting to assist first responders experiencing secondary trauma.

Treatment in Prison. In previous biennial budgets, OhioMHAS made significant investments in launching and supporting a partnership with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. This partnership has allowed OhioMHAS to assume responsibility for provision of recovery services in Ohio's prisons providing addiction services to Ohio's inmates. This is an important step in breaking the cycle of recidivism and OhioMHAS is pleased to be able to continue support for this program in the FY 20-21 budget.

Treatment and Recovery Supports After Prison. After prison, OhioMHAS also supports citizens returning to the community after incarceration in state prisons through programming designed to help people achieve their recovery goals in prison and continue that success as they transition back into the community. This programming connects people who have received addiction treatment in prison with a transitional benefit for drug and alcohol treatment and assistance with recovery support services such as housing, transportation, work and education upon their release. The goal is to help individuals avoid relapse upon release, which is often a stressful time of transition. The Investing in Ohio's Future Budget provides funding in the amount of \$6 million per year to support these services. For more information about the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and our programs, please visit: <https://mha.ohio.gov/News/Annual-Reports>.