

SFSC Program Success & Feedback
compiled from
Ashtabula, Columbiana, Stark, Portage, Wayne/Holmes and Tuscarawas/Carroll Counties

Columbiana County

Dominic was a 9 year old boy that had awful self-control including anger, impulsivity, and inability to properly express his emotions. His mother was in between homes and they lived with her parents who tried to help but made things worse. His mother worked 12 hour days and with three kids in the home making it work was very stressful. Wraparound was able to find the strengths in each family member and build positive communication as well as pulling in other community resources. With these services, open minds from everyone at the table, and many meetings at home and school, we were able to adjust and modify our methods to better fit Dominic and the other children in the home. The family completed the wraparound program successfully, with no issues at school or at home the following year.

When this young man started the process, he was failing out of high school. We had a lot of ups and Downs throughout the process. Kevin was put in a foster care system in a different state ended up in Columbiana County due to a family placement. The family placement did not work out and when I met this young man he was bouncing around sleeping on different people's couches. When I first met him, his only plan was to go back with his mother and give up on graduating cause he did not feel that he had the tools to do so. Before he could go back to his mother in Kentucky he found out his girlfriend was pregnant and decided that he needed to stay here. The team worked diligently with the school to come up with a plan for Kevin to graduate. He worked really hard with a team to have a plan for him to graduate and for him to get prepared for fatherhood. Kevin graduated from the Shale Academy and Southern Local High School in the Spring of 2018. His daughter was also born in Spring 2018. A teacher that was a part of his team took Kevin under his wing and helped get him into an apprenticeship program through a local union. Kevin is currently working and going to school through the program. He is living independently with his girlfriend and daughter. This case closed in Summer of 2018; however, Kevin keeps in touch and is working hard on parenting his little girl. Kevin had many ups and downs during this process but I am extremely proud of this young man. (Kevin gave me permission to share the attached photos.)



Portage County

Having at risk monies has enabled CA to establish a presence with at risk kids in the schools. The staff serve as a proactive liaison between home and a school as well as provide a voice for these troubled youth that are already stigmatized and a struggling to reintegrate into the traditional school based system and propagate a sense of belonging within their community. One of our therapists has a 9th grader preparing for reintegration into his original home school system and has made a complete turnaround in both behaviors and academic performance in his current alternative classrooms. This was nourished by positive praise, encouragement, and a safe environment that facilitated developing healthy coping skills as well as improved communication skills.

Another staff works in an at risk classroom providing group lessons on good mental health. Her lessons and presence have a positive impact on all the children involved with her services. She not only provides them with another trusted adult that the students can count on and know is rooting for them to succeed but teaches them important life skills that will be beneficial in their future successes. In some cases, these students have little to no support outside of the classroom making it difficult for them to want anything better for themselves. Youth thrive when equipped with the right tools and support to navigate every stage of their lives.

While discussing a lesson on embracing failure, a student expressed how he felt he had failed at everything he attempted during his middle school years. He felt that nobody, including himself, cared if he passed or failed. When asked what changed his mindset, he explained that finally realizing there are people who believed in him and knew he could do whatever he put his mind to encouraged him to start taking things serious. Making good choices became less of a hassle when equipped with positive ways to handle any issue that came his way. The lessons that are teach, regarding social skills, give these students a number of ways to deal with whatever life throws at them. This student, a freshman now, is succeeding; he is putting in the effort and work expected which has given him a more positive outlook on his future. He appears happier, excited, and hopeful for the future and what he can accomplish.

Stark County

In SFY18, Crisis Intervention and Recovery Center was still the funded provider agency of Stark County's Mobile Response Youth Program. Stark County experienced a suicide cluster during 2017-2018 school year. Mobile Response Youth Program (MRYP) was invaluable during this time due to the increased need for this service in the community. Dr. Chris Morano was engaged for the MRYP to have access to a consultant for ongoing learning and quality improvement enhancements.

From January through June 2018, 264 youth were seen.

- 78% remaining in the community
- 56% of the referrals came from a local school district
- 79% of the referrals were for suicide risk

Wayne/Holmes Counties

The Strong Families/Safe Communities Program in Wayne & Holmes Counties has been operating since the initial funding of the project in 2013. Catholic Charities was awarded the funding and deciding to not use the funds to add to existing programs. In collaboration with the Mental Health and Recovery Board of Wayne and Holmes Counties and the Board of Developmental Disabilities in both Holmes and Wayne County, a committee was formed to break down the silos of mental health and developmental disabilities. This committee has explored how the two "worlds" can work together to eliminate barriers and address the holistic needs of those individuals dually diagnosed with the mental health disorder and a developmental disability.

The approach that Catholic Charities took with the funds was to provide Wraparound services to individuals and their families ages 8 – 24. This could include counseling, case management and

Wraparound meetings in which all participants “come to the table” to address the needs and strengths of an individual. Local funds help to provide flexible “family support” dollars that enable the teams to strategize on how to help wrap services around the family to help maintain a person in the home.

Over the course of program, the SFSC therapists and case managers have worked with 73 individuals. 65 people from Wayne County and 8 from Holmes County. Below is a table detailing the breakdown of clients over the fiscal years:

SFSC	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18	FY 19 YTD
WAYNE	14	24	33	33	36	36
HOLMES	1	4	5	1	4	1
TOTAL	15	28	38	34	40	37

What is significant with this number is that only 3 of the 73 individuals served have been placed outside of the home for behavioral reasons. Often these are the most difficult individuals to maintain in the home, community, and school. Below are some recent success stories regarding individuals who have been served through the SFSC program:

- A first grade student at Wooster City Schools was experiencing significant emotional outbursts that interfered with his ability to stay in the classroom. Through the collected efforts of a therapist meeting with the student at school, case management support in the home, and the use of family support dollars to help meet basic needs; the teacher’s report was one of dramatic improvement during the school year.
- A student in one of the county schools, who prior to SFSC involvement, was recommended to go to a Residential Treatment Center by the school district. At the end of the school year, the student’s Wraparound meeting was canceled, as the school didn’t think it was needed as the student was doing so well in the classroom.
- A Strong Families/Safe Communities client “BG” had been struggling in school all last year and the school was recommending him to be sent to a different school that would fit his disabilities. BG could not tolerate being in the classroom, would have severe behavioral outbursts, hit staff which resulted in a significant confrontations between the school and parents. With the implementation of Wraparound services, the team was able to help his parents be confident in advocating that BG not leave his current district. With brainstorming alternate solutions, the school decided to hire an intervention specialist specifically for BG. This was an incredible development! He was going to have someone trained appropriately and devote individual one on one time to him! This year he has had control in determining what community trips he goes on (has requested to not go to two so far) and has been able to regulate himself with his intervention specialist to maintain appropriate behavior while at the other community trips. He has been able to be in the classroom with his fellow peers and asks to

take his headphones so that he could laugh and be a part of the group. There have been minimal reports of behaviors and the behaviors he has demonstrated are not lasting as long and are not as severe.

A significant challenge with the implementation of the program has been identifying appropriate and competent therapists and case managers to work with the individuals. It requires workers who think “outside the box”, can collaborate very well with others, and are able to adapt therapeutic skills. Additional challenges are finding those care providers in the community who are able to assist high risk individuals.

Continued funding with this project will enable us to expand what is offered and continue to build on what has been created.

Tuscarawas/Carroll Counties

See letters beginning on next page.

To whom this may Concern,

I am writing this letter to let you know how much my family and I have appreciated and are so thankful for everything Josh has done for us. He has been there for my daughter during some really bad times over the last several months. The services that he provides are so incredibly selfless and that of a person that truly loves his job. He takes time away from his own family to answer a phone call, a text, or whatever needs done to help a kid or family out. I'm not sure were we would be without him and the team we put together to help my daughter. I am forever grateful to him and staff for your help!

Thank you once felt hopeless mom,

Kylee Flinn's mom

Heather Flinner

Thanks
so much
for part as
well!

FAIRLESS LOCAL SCHOOLS



October 15, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Joshawa Jones, Dual Diagnosis Community Interventionist for the Tuscarawas County Family and Children First Council. Josh is a valued member of the team that works with one particular family at Fairless Middle School. This family has three students, one in each grade level, 6-8. All three students have multiple diagnoses that present challenges. Josh has worked with aides, bus drivers, intervention specialists, teachers and administration to assist us in serving their educational and emotional needs. His expertise and gentle nature have been assets in bridging the gap between school and home. A potentially contentious relationship is instead a productive one, as he offers skills to be able to communicate effectively with parents and support personnel.

It is clear that Josh has an impact on the girls. He has taught them coping mechanisms to help them identify and manage their feelings and behaviors. They look forward to seeing him and now Dart, his service dog. Josh is available to consult when needed and has arrived onsite at our request to help us handle situations with the girls. We are lucky to have him as a part of our team.

I unconditionally endorse Joshawa Jones. Please feel free to contact me directly for additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cindy Class".

Cindy Class

Principal

Fairless Middle School

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cindy.class@fairless.sparcc.org

Building the Future One Child at a Time!

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www.fairlesslocalschools.org

October 18, 2018

Dr. Mark Hurst, Executive Director

Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

30 East Broad Street 8th Floor

Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: Letter of Support for FY 20-21 Strong Families, Safe Communities Grant

Dear Dr. Hurst,

As the Director of the ADAMHS Board of Tuscarawas and Carroll Counties, I am writing in support of the efforts of our local Strong Families, Safe Communities Grant funded program, Dual Diagnosis Community Interventionist (DDCI). This program targets families with dually diagnosed (mental health and developmental disability) youth that are struggling to maintain success at school and/or home. The DDCI provides school, community and home-based support to the student and his or her family in the attempt to maintain the child in both environments. In addition to working at the micro level, the DDCI provides school-based support to work with educators to help both identify and rectify issues that are impacting disruptive, at times physical, behavior in classrooms and support ongoing communication between schools and parents.

This program originally began as a strong collaborative between the ADAMHS Board and the Tuscarawas and Carroll County Boards of Developmental Disabilities and has grown to have the support of the local school systems who see the program as a tremendous benefit. The DDCI has recently been trained by Canine Companions for Independence and two months ago incorporated a facility dog into his work. DDCI has grown in success and referrals over the years to the point where our local collaborative is considering whether and how we can develop another position.

I urge the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities to continue to fund and consider expanding financial resources to support this much needed and beneficial collaborative program.

Sincerely,



Natalie Bollon, LPCC-S

Executive Director



October 15, 2018

Dr. Mark Hurst, Executive Director
Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
30 East Broad Street, 8th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Letter of Support for FY20-21 Strong Families, Safe Communities Grant

Dr. Hurst,

As Superintendent of Tuscarawas County Board of Developmental Disabilities, I would like to express my full support for continued funding of the Strong Families, Safe Communities grant. The grant has provided an opportunity for collaboration among three partners: the Tuscarawas County Board of DD, the Carroll County Board of DD, and the ADAMHS Board of Tuscarawas and Carroll Counties. This collaboration has a goal to provide crisis stabilization to dually diagnosed youth and their families at home, school, or work in order to reduce harm and decrease out of home placements. This is made possible through the Dual Diagnosis Community Interventionist (DDCI) position which provides this direct service through mentoring, education, skill development, and risk reduction. The DDCI currently has 15 active cases and is working with Tuscarawas and Carroll County youth in seven different school districts. Recently, the DDCI also became a certified Facility Dog Handler through Canine Companions for Independence, which has been an added benefit to the youth being served.

The funding from the Strong Families, Safe Communities grant has allowed each of the three partnering agencies to leverage the additional funds needed in order to make the DDCI position possible. The partners have a long and successful history of innovative, forward-thinking collaboration and have demonstrated experience and success creating and managing programs that address the needs of children and their families. We urge the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to give the continued funding of this important grant serious consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nate Kamban".

Nate Kamban
Superintendent

NK:ls

Carroll County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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Mathual J. Campbell, Superintendent



carrollhills.com

October 10, 2018

Dr. Mark Hurst
Executive Director. Ohio MHAS
30 E. Broad Street 8th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: DRAFT BIENNIUM BUDGET for FY20-21 Strong Families, Safe Communities

Director Hurst,

As Superintendent of Carroll County Board of Developmental Disabilities, I would like to express my full support of the Stark, Ashtabula, Columbiana, Portage, Tuscarawas/Carroll, Wayne/Holmes regional grant that provides services and support to families with children in crisis because of mental illness and/or other intellectual or developmental disability. This funding allows Tuscarawas and Carroll Counties the ability to share a Dual Diagnosis Community Interventionist. The partnering counties in offering care coordination and crisis intervention services has reduced harm and decreased out of home placements. The DDCI position has been instrumental in the success of achieving and implementing two grants from DODD the multisystem youth respite and residential grants. Carroll County Board of Developmental Disabilities is dedicated to supporting initiatives that coordinate and align with best practices and evidence-based models.

The ADAMHS Board of Tuscarawas and Carroll Counties and Carroll and Tuscarawas County Boards of Developmental Disabilities have a long and successful history of innovative, forward-thinking collaboration and have demonstrated success in managing said programs. We urge the Ohio Departments of Mental Health & Addiction Services to continue funding this proposal.

Sincerely,

Matt Campbell
Superintendent
Carroll County Board of Developmental Disabilities