

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Ohio Wins Federal Recovery Supports for Behavioral Health Grant

(COLUMBUS, July 24, 2012) Ohio will receive a \$50,000 grant to grow the state's Peer Support/Recovery Coaching services, as well as to receive technical assistance through participation at a 2012 Policy Academy. The grant is a Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale Technical Assistance Center Strategy (BRSS TACS) award from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) of the federal government with the goal of promoting the implementation of recovery-oriented supports, services, and systems. The Ohio Departments of Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services collaborated with Ohio Citizen Advocates, Ohio Empowerment Coalition, Ohio Medicaid, and Rehabilitation Services Commission on the grant, with Ohio being one of only eight states to receive the award.

"We are more than pleased that our combined efforts have resulted in an Ohio grant to enhance recovery supports for our citizens," said Tracy Plouck, director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health. "Recovery takes a community, and this grant will help to ensure that our communities fully support people in achieving a lasting recovery."

Orman Hall, director of the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, commented, "Recovery from mental illness or an addiction is always a challenge, but the inclusion of culturally competent recovery coaching gives Ohioans a boost in providing a holistic continuum of care from identifying the problem to recovering in the community."

For Ohioans engaged in the behavioral health system of care, this means that they will have an awareness of and access to recovery supports that include peer coaching, housing, employment training, education, and other supportive services necessary to maintain recovery. The agreed upon principle for this project is that Ohio's recovery supports will be integrated, consumer-determined, statewide, sustainable, culturally responsive and will incorporate a philosophy of hope.

The grant will allow the two departments to work collaboratively through a Policy Academy to develop and implement strategies to improve the accessibility, quality, and cost-effectiveness of Peer/Recovery Services within the behavioral health system. The Policy Academy will include the consumer advocacy organizations, County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Boards, treatment provider agencies, Ohio Medicaid, the Governor's Office of Health Transformation, and the Rehabilitation Services Commission. Plans are underway to engage other stakeholders from the behavioral health service system to take part in the Policy Academy. The project will address peer and recovery services in an integrated manner for individuals in recovery from mental illness and addiction, while respecting the unique experiences and differences of each population.

Ohio's proposal will also address inclusion of Peer Services in Health Homes that are projected to serve 612,000 Medicaid recipients with multiple chronic health conditions including 177,000 persons with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness who often have co-occurring addiction to alcohol and other drugs.

To learn more or get involved, contact Project Manager, Liz Gitter at ODMH, 614-466-9963, Liz.Gitter@mh.ohio.gov.

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