



Begun Center for Violence Prevention
Research and Education

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Case Western Reserve University's Center for Innovative Practices Chosen to Coordinate New Statewide Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health "Center of Excellence"

(COLUMBUS, OH) – Ohio is another step closer to achieving its goal of transforming the state's approach to serving children, youth, and families who require support from multiple state systems after the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) today announced that the Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) Center for Innovative Practices at the Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education, a part of the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences (CIP/Begun/MSASS), has been awarded a two-year, \$3.6 million contract to coordinate a new statewide Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Center of Excellence (COE). The Ohio Controlling Board voted to approve funding for this fiscal year, enabling the project to move forward.

"Ohio has a long-standing history of embracing innovation and enacting practice changes to better serve children and families throughout the state," said OhioMHAS Director Lori Criss, whose department led the competitive bid process to select a vendor. "Case Western Reserve University's Center for Innovative Practices has decades of experience and is highly-qualified to develop, manage and oversee the work of the new Center. We look forward to growing this new partnership, which I am confident will yield positive results for Ohio's children and families for years to come."

OhioMHAS partnered with other state agencies, which include Job and Family Services, Medicaid, Youth Services, Developmental Disabilities, Health and Ohio Family and Children First, to develop and issue the [RFP](#). Among its primary responsibilities, the COE will be responsible for building and sustaining a standardized assessment process, evaluating the effectiveness of services, and expanding service and care coordination capacity for children with complex behavioral health needs and their families. The Center will also provide orientation, training, coaching, mentoring, and other functions/supports as needed to support Ohio's statewide child caring provider network.

The COE also will work with state partner agencies to support the addition and/or expansion, implementation, sustainability, and/or monitoring and evaluation of the following services/processes, including expansion of access through use of telehealth:

- [High Fidelity Wraparound](#)
- [Functional Family Therapy](#)
- [Multi-Systemic Therapy](#)
- [Healthy Families America](#)
- [Parents as Teachers](#)
- [OhioSTART](#)
- [Mobile Response and Stabilization Service](#)
- [Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment](#)

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“The Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Center of Excellence will play a vital role in the new OhioRISE program, which will support children in Medicaid with the most complex behavioral health challenges,” said Maureen Corcoran, director of Ohio Medicaid. “Today, children frequently fall through gaps in care, and parents too often have had to endure the pain of custody relinquishment. The COE will support OhioRISE efforts to create new access to in-home and community-based services that will keep Ohio families together.”

The new COE will bolster Ohio’s ongoing system transformation and improvement efforts, which to date, have included: expanding the behavioral health continuum of care to better serve youth and families; implementation of the [Family First Prevention Services Act](#) (Family First), which includes the development of a tiered treatment foster care model and statewide foster and adoptive parent recruitment efforts; and development of [OhioRISE](#) (Resilience through Integrated Systems and Excellence) -- a specialized managed care organization with expertise in providing services for the most complex multi-system youth.

“The Center for Innovative Practices at the Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education is honored to be selected to coordinate Ohio’s Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Center of Excellence,” said Richard Shepler, Ph.D., director of for the Center for Innovative Practices. “In collaboration with the Ohio Children’s Alliance (OCA), the Public Children’s Services Agencies of Ohio (PCSAO), the Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association (OCCRRA), the Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers (The Ohio Council), Clermont County Family and Children First (Clermont FCFC), and other expert consultants, CIP looks forward to providing support for Ohio’s transformative children’s initiatives and workforce. As a center, we are successful when youth and families are successful. We look forward to celebrating in their success.”

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) is dedicating up to \$10 million in Family First Transition Act funds to build capacity and provide evidence-based prevention services to alleviate the need to place children in foster care and support children and families in community-based settings.

“Our agency’s involvement with the Center of Excellence will go a long way toward ensuring statewide access to behavioral health services for children and families, identifying gaps in service, and recruiting providers to meet the needs,” said ODJFS Interim Director Matt Damschroder. “Through this partnership, families will be able to access the help they need.”

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About the CWRU Center for Innovative Practices

The Case Western Reserve University Center for Innovative Practices (CIP) is a training and technical assistance center housed within the [Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education](#). For 20 years, CIP has provided support to community-based behavioral health providers in the implementation of evidence-based and evidence-supported treatments for youth and families. For more information visit: <https://case.edu/socialwork/begun/center-innovative-practices-cip>.

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Child & Adolescent Behavioral Health Center of Excellence (COE)



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The State of Ohio is transforming its approach to children, youth, and families who require support from multiple state systems, to achieve a widespread and sustainable system of care across Ohio.

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS), in conjunction with the Departments of: Job and Family Services, Medicaid, Youth Services, Developmental Disabilities, and Health and the Ohio Family and Children First, issued an RFP to develop and implement a Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Center of Excellence (CABH COE).

The role of the CABH COE will be to assist the State in system transformation efforts by providing technical assistance, training, professional development, coaching, consultation, evaluation, fidelity monitoring, and continuous quality improvement to build and sustain capacity in delivering evidence-based practices to fidelity within a system of care framework.

OhioMHAS is pleased to announce that Case Western Reserve University's Center for Innovative Practices at the Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education, at the Jack, Joseph, Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, have been selected to implement the CABH COE.

The Center for Innovative Practices has decades of experience and is highly qualified to develop, manage, and oversee the work of Ohio's CABH COE.

CABH COE Scope of Work (Six Objectives):

1. Service and workforce capacity building
 - Training and technical assistance
 - Learning communities
 - Coaching and consultation
2. Technology and administrative supports
 - Strategic business processes support
 - Health information technology support
 - Development of telehealth capacity
3. Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) support
 - Provide regionally focused trainings and targeted technical assistance efforts to expand capacity and support the development of an adequate network of CANS assessors.
4. Provide support for other behavioral health programs, providers, and managed care
 - Work with the State to further development and strengthen the early childhood system.
 - Work with the Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO) and the state to support the implementation

of OhioSTART.

- Work in collaboration with ODM and the OhioRISE vendor to implement OhioRISE.

5. Develop and implement an accountability structure for quality improvement

- Quality assurance
- Evaluation
- Fidelity monitoring
- Service and cost utilization
- Data collection
- Measuring program effectiveness

6. Family First Prevention Services Support (FFPSA)

- Assess statewide need for Multisystemic Therapy (MST) and Functional Family Therapy (FFT) in order to assure statewide access to these needs.
- Build capacity by leveraging the existing provider network and contracts across systems and departments; identify gaps in access/availability of these services.
- Assist ODJFS in leveraging payor sources for MST, FFT, Healthy Families America (HFA) and Parents as Teachers (PAT). This includes assuring that providers are accessing Medicaid, IV-E and GRF funding as appropriate.
- Responsible for making the payments for MST and FFT when those services are provided under the FFPSA and other funding (e.g., Medicaid, IV-E) is not available.

Awardee: Case Western Reserve University's Center for Innovative Practices and Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education (CWRU CIP/BEGUN)

- CWRU CIP/BEGUN has over 20 years of experience as the Coordinating Center of Excellence (CCOE) for children's mental health for OhioMHAS.
- CWRU CIP/BEGUN provides training, coaching, consultation and technical assistance at the local, state and national levels on evidence-based practices, program implementation, fidelity evaluation, and system of care policies and practices.
- CWRU CIP/BEGUN will utilize a subgrantee, the Ohio Children's Alliance, to coordinate the Family First Prevention Services payment support.
- CWRU CIP/BEGUN will collaborate with the Ohio Children's Alliance (OCA), the Public Children's Services Agencies of Ohio (PCSAO), the Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA), the Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers (The Ohio Council), Clermont County Family and Children First (Clermont FCFC), and other expert consultants to expand capacity to best serve the children and families of Ohio.

State Investment

- Total contract amount per fiscal year
 - SFY 21: \$395,618
 - SFY 22: \$3,209,074
- Up to \$10,000,000 for payments to be made to providers for prevention services under the Family First Prevention Services Act.

Important Links

OhioMHAS Resources for Youth: <https://mha.ohio.gov/Families-Children-and-Adults/For-Children>

OhioRISE: <https://managedcare.medicaid.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/manc/managed-care/ohiorise/ohiorise>

Family First Prevention Services Act: <https://jfs.ohio.gov/ocf/Family-First.stm>

Center for Innovative Practices and related initiative:

- <https://case.edu/socialwork/begun/center-innovative-practices-cip>
- <https://wraparoundohio.org>
- <https://ihbtohoio.org>