



I hope everyone is enjoying summer and staying healthy during this time. I am thrilled to see all the hard work continuing on behalf our START families and so many successes! Next, month we will hold our annual Summit, this year virtually. Please remember to register for the Summit on the training page of the Ohio START website. We have many fabulous sessions planned for the day, please plan to join us!

Fawn

MEIGS COUNTY

Meigs County has celebrated two START graduations since the beginning of the pandemic! They have also begun virtual cross-agency meetings with a local treatment provider.

TRUMBULL COUNTY

Trumbull County was able to re-engage a family who relapsed and had been non-responsive for a month. Both adults are now back in substance use treatment.

UNION COUNTY

Union County is a Cohort 3 county and they have recently accepted their first START case. Congratulations!



**NATIONAL MINORITY
MENTAL HEALTH
AWARENESS MONTH**

July was named Minority Mental Health Awareness Month in 2008 to draw attention to the unique mental health challenges affecting underrepresented groups.

To read more about Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, visit <https://www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh/content.aspx?ID=9447>

To view additional information and resources, visit Mental Health America's BIPOC Mental Health Resource Hub <https://mhanational.org/bipoc-mental-health>

IMPROVING CULTURAL COMPETENCY FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

The Department of Health and Human Services is offering a free, four-part training series on cultural competency for behavioral health professionals. The training will cover an introduction to cultural and linguistic competency, self-awareness, and culturally appropriate interventions and services. The training is approved for contact hours for social workers, counselors, nurses, psychologists, and psychiatrists.

For more information, visit

<https://thinkculturalhealth.hhs.gov/education/behavioral-health>

RURAL COMMUNITY TOOLBOX: FUNDING AND TOOLS TO BUILD HEALTHY, DRUG-FREE RURAL COMMUNITIES

The Office of National Drug Control Policy and the U.S. Department of Agriculture recently released the Rural Community Toolbox, which aims to connect rural communities with resources to address substance use disorder.

To access the toolbox, visit

<https://www.ruralcommunitytoolbox.org/>

OHIO START SPOTLIGHT

Natashia Rapp is the START Lead and IOP Coordinator for Integrated Services for Behavioral Health – serving Fairfield, Gallia, Hocking, Jackson, Pickaway, Ross, and Vinton Counties. She is also an IOP Provider for Pickaway County.

Rapp became a behavioral health professional because of her own lived experience with substance use and mental health. Even though her job can be heartbreaking, she chooses to stay because she gets to “see people turn their life around, change their history, and decide their future.”

Throughout her career, she has advocated for the importance of peer services, which led a supervisor to recommend her for the Ohio START program.

“In previous years, addiction has been such a stigmatized issue.” Finding peer mentors who can “share their lived experiences to help people break cycles in their own families; you can’t put a value on that.”

Since joining the Ohio START program, Rapp has also seen changes in her agency and the relationship between behavioral health and children services.

“In Pickaway, our START group has become a family. I know how our caseworker will react before she even hears something. It’s given me a deeper appreciation for child welfare because I know the hearts of the people in it.”

Ohio START has “changed my views on how every case should work. We have started to replicate what we’ve learned in other [non-START] cases.”

Training & TA

All trainings have moved to a virtual platform due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Scheduled trainings are listed on the Ohio START website on the Upcoming Trainings page that may be found here:

<https://ohiostart.org/training-assistance/>

07/24 & 09/11: Break the Cycle: Understanding and Treating Generational Trauma

07/20: Screening and Intervention of Substance Use Disorders (UNCOPE)

07/28, 08/26, & 09/28: Nurturing Parenting

08/12: Ohio START Summit