



As we close out 2020, I am extremely proud of the Ohio START accomplishments during this difficult and challenging year. Despite a pandemic, your programs have managed to continue serving families and engaging with them in meaningful ways, resulting in many successful graduations. In addition, cohort 3 counties have found a way to build their teams and begin serving families. During the first three quarters of the year, 176 families were served through START! Thank you once again for your commitment to START and the families you serve. I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish in 2021.

*Fawn*

#### FRANKLIN COUNTY

Franklin County has two cases that are nearing successful case closure! One case has successfully reunified and the other is on its way to reunification.

#### MERCER COUNTY

Mercer County successfully closed 2 cases in October! One case was in the home the entire time and the second case the child was with kin for a period and went back with the parent.

#### STARK COUNTY

Stark County added 2 new cases since last month and had a face-to-face graduation during a Family Team Meeting planned for November!

### Cohort 4 Application Now Live!

The Ohio START program will add 14 more counties to the program in early 2021. PCSAs interested in joining Ohio START should complete the cohort 4 application [here](#). The link to the application can also be found on the [Ohio START website](#). Applications are due Jan. 8, and PCSAs will be notified of acceptance by Jan. 15. PCSAO will hold two informational webinars on implementation of the Ohio START program, the application process, and any questions PCSAs have. Counties interested in applying for the program are encouraged, but not required, to attend one webinar. The webinars will be held [Dec. 1 from 1-2 p.m.](#) and [Dec. 4 from 9-10 a.m.](#) Links for registration can also be found on the application. [Contact Fawn Gadel](#) with questions.

## REDUCING HOLIDAY STRESS

The Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County is offering tips on reducing extra stresses in its [Coping with the Holidays and a Pandemic](#) booklet. The publication offers suggestions on things like how to reduce stress, deal with loss or change and enjoy the holidays safely and on a budget. In addition, resource numbers are listed for those who find the stress of this holiday season and/or the pandemic, too much to handle. The booklet is available on the ADAMHS Board website at [www.adamhsc.org](http://www.adamhsc.org).

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The START team at PCSAO wants to hear more from our counties about successes with your families! Whether it be a child reunification, a graduation from the START program, or simply positively engaging with a family - we want to hear about it!

Send your success stories so we can share them with the START community!

Email your stories to [Karalyn@pcsao.org](mailto:Karalyn@pcsao.org)

## STORIES OF HOPE: HAMILTON COUNTY HIGHLIGHT

The following is a personal account of a mother after engaging with CPS and the START program and being reunified with her child:

“I was in an institution, a psych ward detoxing from my latest relapse, when I got the call. You know, the call that changes your life. CPS said that due to my recent relapse, the child I loved so much wasn’t considered safe in my care and was being put on a safety plan. It was humbling realizing that people thought that, even more so realizing it was the truth. At least for the moment.

I needed help. I needed SUPPORT. And I still do. CPS became EXACTLY what I needed...support and accountability.

Within the first thirty days of my safety plan I was referred to the START program/ This program provided the additional support I needed to be successful in my sobriety. My caseworker met with me weekly to make sure all my needs were met...from vouchers to program referrals, my caseworker cared about what was best for my child and my family.

But my support didn’t end there. I was also able to meet weekly with my peer support specialist. This was a woman just like me, who has been on my end of a CPS case and had been successfully reunified with her children.

All I had to do was breathe and listen. Take the next right steps. Work with CPS instead of against them. And my life has been better because of it.”

## 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/>

- Trauma & Resilience: Identifying Children, Parents, and Families at Risk: 12/07/2020 9:00-4:00
  - o Register [Here](#)
- Understanding the Culture of Poverty: 12/11/2020 9:00-4:00
  - o Register [Here](#)