

Scioto County

Judge Alan Lemons

Program Name

Scioto County Diversion Program

Program Intervention

Effective Practices in Community Supervision for Influencers (EPICS- I)

Primary Service Location

In Home, Community, and/or Court

Program Description

- The purpose of the Scioto County Diversion Program is to improve Behavioral Health and Healthy Adolescent Development through Effective Practices in Community Supervision for Influencers (EPICS-I), in order to reduce School Truancy and / or School Removal. The EPICS-I incorporates the components of EPICS for use with support members (influencers) of those involved in the criminal justice system. It emphasizes the need for cognitive change and reinforces the treatment efforts of other court funded programs and services.
- EPICS-I enables probation staff, in face-to-face interactions, to stay focused on criminogenic needs, especially the thought-behavior link. This social learning and cognitive behavioral approach are not only being used by youth and court staff, but has also been taught and used by our Service Partners assisting with implementing the program. This approach allows our staff and service partners to be agents of change.

Outcome

- 95% of youth participating in the program did not incur any new charges while involved in the program.
- All nine youth that have been terminated from the program successfully completed the program.

Lessons Learned

The amount of time required to spend with each the youth in the program is a challenge while still maintaining a regular caseload.

Implementing the program requires a significant amount of training for staff and scheduling the time to complete the training can be difficult.

Staff must remain focused on the goals for the juveniles in the program. These may include skill building, problem solving, and behavior change.

Program Snapshot

(As of June 30, 2016)

Gender:

Male 51.3%, Female 48.7%

Race/Ethnicity:

White 92.3%, Black 7.7%

Age Range:

14-17

Offense Level:

Misdemeanors, Status & At-Risk

Youth Re-offense Risk Level:

Low & Moderate

Screens and Assessments:

OYAS, CSSM, Pre and Post Testing

Program Start Date:

August 19, 2015

Received Services:

39 Youth

Program Completion Successes:

9 Youth

30 Youth Continuing into FY 2017

Average # of Service Units:

20.67 Hours Per Successful Youth

Program Partners:

- Principals
- Law Enforcement
- Guidance Counselors
- Teachers
- University of Cincinnati
- ODJFS
- Community Action
- SOMC Hospice
- Mahajan Therapeutics
- Shawnee Family Health Center
- SOLACE
- The Counseling Center
- Southern Ohio Medical Center
- Hopesource Treatment
- The Workman Center
- Scioto County Sheriff's Department
- Juvenile Court Probation Staff

Program Information Contact

Dawn Keller, Court Administrator
Scioto County Common Pleas Court
Probate and Juvenile Division
602 Seventh Street, Room 202
Portsmouth, OH 45662
740-355-8306
dgkeller@sciotocounty.net

Scioto County Early Successes – EPICS for Influencers

“I have been fortunate enough to partner with the University of Cincinnati to provide training to over 90 community leaders in Core Correctional Practices. I am extremely proud of our service partners and the efforts they are putting forth in working with me and my staff in helping the youth of our community to make better choices.”

Judge Alan Lemons

“The thing that I really like about the EPICS model is that it helps make my visits with the youth I serve more structured, which in turn makes them feel more productive. The youth seem to be getting more out of them as well because the skills that we work on developing and practicing are for the most part basic things that they have never been taught or took the time to learn. I’ve also been able to incorporate portions of the EPICS model into a boys group that I run for our Alternative to Detention program. I found that tools like the behavioral chain work excellent in a group setting and allow the youth to see and process what I am trying to convey to them in a manner for them to understand as well as letting them come up with the answers on their own.”

**Scot Isaac
Probation Officer**

“The Courts are helping youth gain self-worth, self-pride because finally, they know what it feels like to have someone believe in them. Yes, sometimes consequences have to happen to those that refuse to embrace change, but even then, I believe they will never forget that change can happen, and that they were offered hope.”

**Renee Dunkin
Counselor, Solace**

Youth Success Story – March 1st was the date I first got put on probation. I was also put in children services and around that time was when I realized I needed to make changes. Scot Isaac my probation officer was a big influence to me. He helped me become a better person and make better choices. Scot Isaac has amazing talent with kids that need help. But, I’m glad he took his time to help me.

Thank you so much.
Shawn Lane



Program Success Story – The utilization of EPICS has fostered success with regard to focused, individualized student conferencing and student behavior. This program has allowed me to work closely with students who have demonstrated negative behavior and making poor choices which negatively impacts their education and academic success. This program supports and encourages student conferencing, targets misbehaviors and their root causes, and allows students to think about their futures while setting short-term and long-term goals. This process occurs through scheduled, individualized, and targeted conferences identifying these root causes of behaviors and allows student to think about their possible successful futures. This encourages students to diligently work toward meeting their goals and reflect upon their decision-making as well as the positive and negative consequences for those good and poor decisions. This also allows students to identify those behaviors that encourage positive outcomes and lead them closer to achieving their goals, as well as, the behaviors they choose that lead to negative outcomes and take them further away from considering their choices and behavior before negative actions occur. This creates a community of individuals who positively respond to daily obstacles or frustrations instead of negatively reacting to frustrations resulting in negative outcomes and consequences.

Program Information Contact –

**Dawn Keller, Court Administrator
Scioto County Common Pleas Court
Probate and Juvenile Division
602 Seventh Street, Room 202
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662
(740) 355-8306
dgkeller@sciotocounty.net**

**Thank you,
Foresta Shope
K-8 Principal
Sciotoville Community Schools**

