

Mahoning, Ashtabula, Geauga, & Trumbull Counties

Judge Theresa Dellick, Judge Albert S. Campese, Judge Timothy J. Grendell, & Judge Pamela Rintala

Program Name

Northeastern Ohio Regional RECLAIM (NEORR) Collaborative Project

Program Intervention

Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) and High Fidelity Wraparound

Primary Service Location

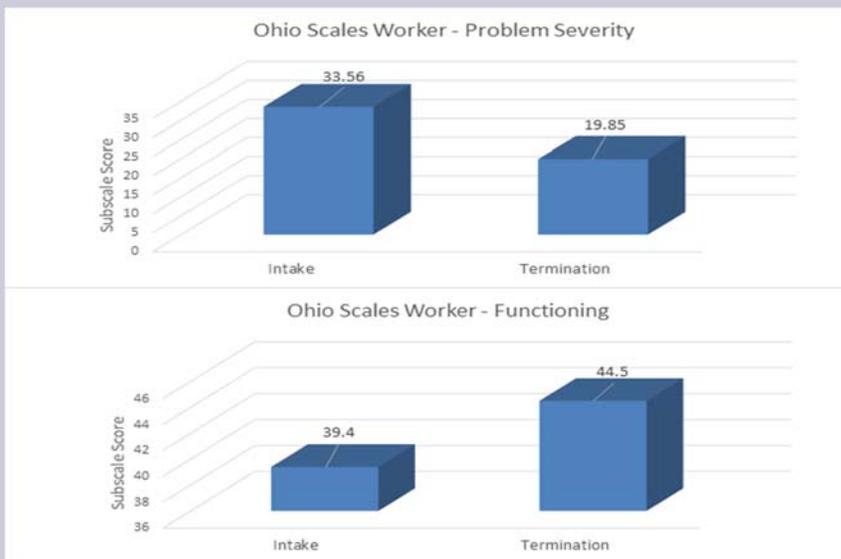
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Program Description

The programs primary purpose is to meet the treatment needs of youth who are juvenile offenders diagnosed SED and their families by implementing two evidence practices, MST and High Fidelity Wraparound, by creating a regional approach that provides for the introduction, expansion and enhancement of MST in a fiscally prudent approach. The model provides for the sharing of a MST provider and inclusion of Hi-Fidelity Wraparound support after MST. The target population is moderate to high risk, male and female youth ages 12-17, at risk for or returning from out of home placement or incarceration. The program's five-month developmental emphasis is on building the adolescents ability to get along with peers, acquire academic and vocational skills and promote a successful transition to adulthood. MST teaches parents and caregivers skills to address behaviors and develop constructive ways for the youth to interact with family, teachers, community and peers. MST looks to empower parents and caregivers to improve family functioning and cohesiveness.

Outcomes

One of the main goals of the program is to improve behavioral health outcomes for participating youth, as measured by the Ohio Scales. Lower scores on Problem Severity indicate fewer problems, while higher scores on Functioning indicates better functioning. Significant and positive improvements for both Problem Severity (Figure 1) and Functioning (Figure 2) were observed.



Program Snapshot

(As of June 30, 2016)

Gender:

Male 67%, Female 33%

Race/Ethnicity:

White 53%, Black 37%, Other 10%

Age Range:

12-17

Offense Level:

Felonies & Misdemeanors

Youth Re-offense Risk Level:

Moderate-High

Other Screens and Assessments:

OYAS Disposition Tool, & Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS)

Program Start Date:

June 1, 2015

Received Services:

49 Youth & Families

Program Completion Successes:

19 Youth & Families

11 Youth & Families Continuing into FY 2017

Average # of Service Units:

56.3 Direct Service Hours Per Successful Youth & Family

Program Partners:

- NEORR Partners include:
- Homes for Kids (MST Provider)
- Ashtabula County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board
- Children's Protective Services Division of Job and family Services in Geauga County
- Children Services Boards of Mahoning County
- Children Services Board of Trumbull County
- Geauga County Mental Health and Recovery Board
- Family and Children First Councils in Mahoning, Trumbull and Geauga Counties
- Case Western Reserve University

Program Information Contact

Linda McNally
Grants Coordinator and Mahoning
Juvenile Court
200 East Scott Street
Youngstown, Oh 44505
330-740-2240 ET. 6409
lmcnally@mahoningcountyoh.gov

Lessons Learned

Communication between all involved community partners is central to making regional implementation of an evidence based program successful. The main stakeholders from each community (Juvenile Courts, FCFC's, ADAMH Boards, QA Provider, and Service Provider) meet together quarterly to review implementation progress at a higher level. These quarterly meetings led us to believe that more regular meetings between probation and MST Staff would lead to better outcomes, more engaged youth and families, and a greater number of referrals for service. Early indicators show staffing meetings are laying the groundwork for positive outcomes in the future, assuring that youth receive the right service at the right time.

County systems of care for court involved youth vary in resources from county to county. Some counties are resource rich with programming and interventions, while others struggle to meet the needs of deeper end youth. Our impressions over the initial year of Competitive Reclaim 3 work indicates that youth and families who enter MST services after already receiving multiple intensive services often struggle with "burnout" and are more difficult to engage. MST Team members have received booster trainings in the area of client engagement.

MST Programming is showing better outcomes with youth who have co-occurring mental health and substance abuse diagnoses than youth with solely highly criminogenic behaviors. Youth involved in multiple systems have benefitted from this programming across all 4 counties.

Mahoning County Early Successes – NEORR

“Multi-Systemic Therapy provides the Court with a viable option that has been shown to have more positive outcomes than out-of-home placement. By collaborating with Ashtabula, Geauga and Trumbull Counties to create a regionalized model program, we have collectively created a system to extend MST as an option to counties, who alone could not financially sustain the program, while minimizing the cost by sharing a service provider. MST is costly to train, staff and implement. By coordinating services, MST can be efficiently and effectively provided to many.”

Theresa Dellick

“We are fortunate to have provided MST Services to fifteen Mahoning County youth through Competitive RECLAIM. The MST services divert youth from out-of-home placement into an intensive care treatment and involve the entire family in the process. This system benefits the youth, families and community without any cost to the county.”

Carol Rimedio-Righetti
Mahoning County Board of Commissioners

“As the MST Clinical Program Supervisor at Homes for Kids, I have seen how the probation officers and court administration have been instrumental in the collaborative process of achieving positive treatment outcomes. Monthly MST staffings with the court staff and MST therapists have proven to increase referrals to the program, determine appropriate referrals for treatment and provide regular updates on case progress. I have witnessed this collaborative relationship with the courts solidify the regional approach that our grant has intended to achieve.”

Jessica O’Dea, LPCC-S, LICDC-CS
Homes for Kids

“As a result of MST, what we are seeing is many parents becoming less reliant on probation and the juvenile court, and is better prepared to provide more appropriate supervision on their own. MST assists parents in developing the necessary tools to help manage multiple problems in the home, increase accountability, and minimize the ongoing turmoil.”

Robert Rowland
Supervisor of Probation Services

Youth Success Story – A seventeen-year-old student living with an adoptive parent was charged with domestic violence and served time in juvenile detention. The family was referred to MST treatment with the following behaviors: physical and verbal aggression towards parent, and declining school performance. The family and the MST therapist set three goals;

- 1). Eliminate physical aggression in the home as evidenced by no new assault charges in a period of 3-4 weeks;
- 2) Reduce verbal aggression at home as evidenced by parent report of no verbal aggression at home for a period of 3-4 weeks; and
- 3) Attend school daily and demonstrate school success as evidenced by, no unexcused absences and receive passing grades for a period of 3-4 weeks.

In MST, a goal is achieved if the youth can sustain the positive behavior for 3-4 weeks prior to discharge. A behavior plan was developed which included clear expectations and effective rewards and consequences to motivate student to utilize coping skills in order to eliminate physical aggression. The parent learned how to set limits without engaging in argumentative behavior skills, and to set limits and boundaries utilizing exit strategies to reduce verbal aggression skills. Together they worked with the school to monitor school assignments and participation. Four months later, the student and family successfully met all three treatment goals, completed treatment and has improved her grades and passed all classes.

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