



Ohio Summit on Children


ACTION UPDATE ■ JUNE 2009

NEWS & NOTES

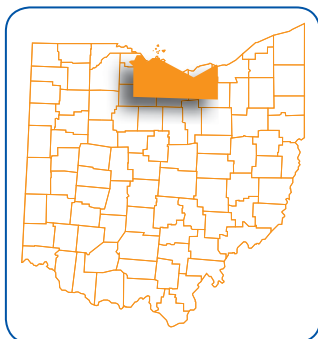
OHIO THROUGH CFSR ROUND 2

The findings of the Child and Family Services Review for the state of Ohio are now available. Visit the Summit Web site for details.

2009 REGISTRATION

Registration materials for the 2009 Ohio Summit on Children, scheduled for Nov. 12 & 13, will be available online in August. Visit the Web site for more information. 

COUNTY PROFILE | Erie



With the impetus of the 2008 Ohio Summit on Children behind them, Erie County children services partners coordinated an integrated program of services for children requiring residential or extended treatment.

Developed by the Erie County Department of Job and Family Services, the ASAP program, launched in January, addresses the treatment needs of children entering custody. The Erie County Family Court, Erie County Department of Job and Family Services Department, Family and Children First Council and Erie County Wraparound are integral to the program's success.

Straying from the original action plan developed by the Erie County team during the 2008 Summit, the program nevertheless strongly followed the paradigm shift "through the eyes of a child" introduced by Judge William Byars Jr. of South Carolina.

The ASAP acronym, widely recognized as meaning "as soon as possible," clarifies the mission of the program: To obtain and expedite effective treatment, returning children as quickly as possible to less-restrictive environments using evidence-based practice by skilled practitioners.

The program is designed to balance the need for intensive therapeutic intervention against the effects of removing a child from all that is familiar.

An integral part of the ASAP program is family involvement in all aspects of child placement, with parents empowered to make decisions for their children. To ensure family involvement continues through placement and to assist with community reintegration, the Erie County Family and Children First Council and Erie County Wraparound engage the family early in the placement process. The program makes supportive services available after a child's return to the family to ensure continued success in the home for both the child and family.

The ability to move children more efficiently through treatment is brought about by in-depth testing and neurological evaluations, resulting in more appropriate initial placement for treatment. The highly detailed individual child studies are completed by the ASAP team, giving treatment providers an in-depth history of current and past needs; placements; mental health assessments; recommendations; independent living; and the child's strengths and growth areas. Securing better treatment matches for the child expedites appropriate treatment and minimizes the number of placement changes required for appropriate care.

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The ASAP program provides a high level of oversight for children in external treatment facilities. Master's-prepared, licensed and/or licensed-eligible children-services staff regularly monitor a child's progress with the goal of returning the child to a less-restrictive environment as quickly as possible. Oversight by a five-member unit with more than 42 years combined experience in child welfare and clinical practice includes a clinical records review and consultations with the child's clinical team and other experts.

Any child demonstrating a lack of progress within a reasonable period of time will have the appropriateness of his or her current treatment and/or facility reassessed.

Recommendations regarding a child's treatment are made to the court for appropriate action with ASAP cases heard directly by Judge Robert DeLamatre of the Erie County Family Court, a member of the Erie County 2008 Summit team.


Since its inception, the ASAP program has made a significant impact on the placement practices of Erie County. From Jan. 1, to May 1, 2009, five children completed residential treatment and were returned to their families. An additional four children were moved into less-restrictive treatment settings. Two children will complete treatment placement in a group-home setting, returning home when the school year ends.

A secondary benefit of the ASAP program is the nearly \$53,983 monthly savings realized in pursuing the more timely and needs-appropriate treatment for the children of Erie County.

Judge DeLamatre says of the ASAP program's initial success, "The ASAP project has shown our county several things. First, we can be even more

responsible to the public and the families we serve by identifying clear goals and case plans and holding everyone accountable to achieve those objectives.

"Second, that family-involved planning and service provision result in better engagement by all involved. And, third, that you can always improve the way you do business no matter what resources you have (or don't) and regardless of how well you think you already have things set up."

For more information, contact Judith Englehart, Erie County Department of Job and Family Services, at englej@odjfs.state.oh.us or 419.624.6401. 

Family-involved planning and service provision result in better engagement by all involved.

—Judge Robert DeLamatre
Erie County Family Court

ERIE COUNTY ASAP Program *at a glance*

- 5** Number of service providers participating: Erie County Family Court, Erie County Department of Job and Family Services Department, Family and Children First Council and Erie County Wraparound.
- 5** Number of children who completed residential treatment and returned to their families since January.
- 4** Number of children moved to less restrictive treatment settings since January.
- 2** Number of children who will complete treatment in group homes and return home by end of school year.

\$53,983 Monthly savings realized by pursuing more timely and needs-appropriate treatment for Erie County Children.