



STATEWIDE SYSTEM REFORM PROGRAM OHIO

LEAD AGENCY

Supreme Court of Ohio

TOTAL NUMBER OF FTCs:

16

TOTAL NUMBER OF ADULTS SERVED IN 2013

Numbers pending report

STATE DEMOGRAPHICS¹

Population: 11,570,808

Children under 18:
2,649,715

**Persons below poverty
level:** 1,828,187

CHILD WELFARE NUMBERS²

**Children who received a
CPS response for an
allegation of
maltreatment:** 160,293

**Child Maltreatment
victims:** 29,250

**Number of Children
Entering Foster Care:**
9,561

**Number of children of
substance abusers (60%
estimate):** 5,737

BACKGROUND AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

For many years, local Family Dependency Treatment Courts (FDTCs) have modeled effective collaboration with the child welfare, treatment, and court systems to provide services to families and children affected by substance use disorders.

There are 16 FDTCs in Ohio's eighty-eight counties. The Ohio Statewide System Reform Program (SSRP) seeks to expand and enhance Ohio's efforts to implement effective FDTCs in local communities and institutionalize their use in the larger state-level child welfare, substance abuse treatment, and court systems. The SSRP will also address current efforts to improve the scale and scope of these programs, scale being defined as the penetration rate of families from the child welfare system and scope being the range of services available to families.

Ohio recognizes FDTCs as a best practice model and through SSRP plans to identify the families not reaching FDTC, determine their needs, and develop systems to address this population.

Ohio has provided long-standing support for the expansion of both specialized dockets in general and the FDTC specifically throughout the State. Since the establishment of the Hamilton County Drug Court in 1995, Ohio has been recognized as a national leader in the implementation of specialized dockets. In 2001, the Supreme Court created the Specialized Dockets Section in order to facilitate the institutionalization of this effective practice model on a larger statewide scale. The Specialized Docket section was specifically created to assist and support local courts in developing specialized programs uniquely tailored to helping specific populations.

¹ United States Census Bureau. (2013). State and County Quick Facts. Retrieved from <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/36000.html>

² Children's Bureau. (2012). Child Welfare Outcomes Report Data. Retrieved from [http://cwoutcomes.acf.hhs.gov/data/tables/demo_stats?year=2012&viz=table&states\[\]=33&state=®ion=](http://cwoutcomes.acf.hhs.gov/data/tables/demo_stats?year=2012&viz=table&states[]=33&state=®ion=)

OHIO

Beginning in 2010, the Specialized Dockets and the Children and Families sections of the Supreme Court of Ohio utilized Court Improvement Program (CIP) grant funds to support external independent research through NPC Research in Portland, Oregon. Ohio's statewide evaluation of its FDTC system has focused on examining how key program components influence family and child outcomes, and how courts can enhance their ability to successfully meet the needs of children with substance abusing parents who are involved with the child welfare system. The evaluation included a multi-county, web-based survey, process evaluations at seven sites, outcome evaluation at four sites, and a cost benefit analysis at those four sites. The information and results produced from this evaluation will be used to inform the Supreme Court of Ohio, Commission on Specialized Dockets, Court Improvement Program, and other key state stakeholders for future rule, process, and policy development and could be helpful as the SSRP begins its work in the State.

PROGRAM GOALS

The primary goals of Ohio's Statewide System Reform Program are to:

1. Expand the scale of the family drug courts in Ohio's existing Family Dependency Treatment Court counties and increase the number of additional court programs that will serve families statewide.
2. Expand the scope of the family drug courts in Ohio, enhancing their provision of services to children and their parents.

During the planning phase, Ohio SSRP will specifically identify and implement strategies that will ensure that all systems have a unified vision and clear understanding of how effective FDTC practices can be utilized to improve overall child, parent, family, and system outcomes and maximize utilization and leveraging of statewide resources.

SSRP DESCRIPTION



The Statewide System Reform Program (SSRP) helps states infuse effective and collaborative local-level practices into a systemic, statewide initiative. SSRP is designed to increase effective service to all families in the child welfare system affected by parental substance use disorders. The project enhances and expands successful local-level programs and increases cooperation between state-level court, child welfare, and substance abuse treatment agencies. SSRP is funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

The Children and Families and the Specialized Docket sections and Court Services of the Supreme Court of Ohio (SCO) are taking the lead on planning. The SCO will ensure that the appropriate consultation with all affected agencies will occur with the appropriate coordination. The SCO will form a Joint Subcommittee made up of members from the Advisory Committee on Children and Families, the Commission on Specialized Dockets and others.

The first stage of the SSRP will focus specifically on planning and conducting a statewide assessment on Ohio's capacity to expand and enhance the size and scope of the FDTC into wider state-level child welfare, substance abuse treatment, and court systems. After 12 months, a strategic plan will be developed, based on results obtained through the planning process.

Existing and new teams will develop plans to address scale and scope during a symposium that is anticipated to be held within the first fourteen months of the program. The symposium will provide additional input for the ongoing development of the strategic plan.

After the symposium, efforts will be made to identify and develop the necessary framework to link up with the established peer network. The peer network will include in-person meetings of family dependency treatment court teams.

During the program-planning phase, Ohio will implement the identified statewide system reforms through collaborative development of a systems plan that will incorporate training and technical assistance with a statewide multi-disciplinary team. Additionally, Ohio will further disseminate the results of its FDTC process, outcomes, and cost-benefit evaluation. Infrastructure needed to further support existing information-sharing systems or the creation of additional systems to best track client progress and cost savings across state systems/agencies will be explored.

KEY PARTNERS & AGENCIES

Ohio has a productive history of state-level stakeholders engaging in highly collaborative work across systems.

For more than 20 years, SCO has been working with the state and local Ohio Department of Job and Family Services teams to ensure that safety, well-being, and permanency outcomes are achieved for abuse, neglect, and dependency cases through the Ohio CIP and other state sponsored initiatives.

The statewide implementation of Ohio's Differential Response was a coordinated effort between the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and the Supreme Court. The SCO has established extensive relationships, cooperation, and collaboration with the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) and its predecessors, the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) and the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH).

The SCO is a partner with the OhioMHAS Addiction Treatment Pilot Program (ATPP). This program is a legislatively mandated project to provide medication-assisted treatment to persons who are offenders within the criminal justice system, eligible to participate in a certified drug court program, and dependent on opioids. This program includes two family dependency treatment courts.

The Supreme Court also has a rich history of collaboration with the ODJFS demonstrated through the State's last Program Improvement Plan and 2010-2014 Child and Family Services Plan. The SCO has an inter-branch agreement with ODJFS concerning the courts, children, and families. The SCO has signed a memorandum of understanding with MHAS, and ODJFS to collaborate. The SCO serves on the Governor's Cabinet Opiate Action Team (GCOAT) and has supported the team's efforts including co-sponsorship with OhioMHAS, Ohio County Behavioral Health Authorities, Ohio Attorney General's Office, the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, and the Ohio Department of Public Safety.

The Joint Subcommittee will also have representation from ODJFS, OhioMHAS, Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities, Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Service Providers, Public Children Service Association of Ohio, and local courts.

Ohio FDTC teams are collaboratively comprised of the juvenile judge, experts from the child welfare system, the substance abuse treatment system, and others--all partners working together to support and monitor the parent.

OhioMHAS, ODJFS and the SCO work together to support building local collaboration and strategic planning, as well as provide needed training opportunities.

STATE COURT SYSTEM

Ohio is a non-unified state court system with an Administrative Office of Courts (AOC) housed within the Supreme Court of Ohio (SCO). Ohio has 88 counties with 88 juvenile courts that are governed by home rule. The nearly 19,000 filings in 2013, up from 16,456 cases in 2009, represent a 15-percent increase in incoming cases.

The significant volume of abuse, neglect, and dependency cases in Ohio presents a case management challenge to local courts. Efforts to effectively manage this high-volume caseload is further complicated by 110 judgeships in 88 different courts in Ohio with decreasing funding. Particularly challenging are the 62 counties in which judges preside over both juvenile and probate cases because of the volume and wide-range of case types: delinquency, child welfare, custody, decedent's estates, guardianships, and various others.

Family Dependency Treatment Courts in Ohio are characterized as a problem-solving court modeled after the adult drug court approach, and have become increasingly popular. Ohio's FDTC docket is a specialized docket, involving cases of dependency, abuse, or neglect, where the parents are subject to child welfare court proceedings to establish permanency for the family, through either reunification or alternate permanent plans for children as a result of parental substance use disorder.

In Ohio, to become operational, a FDTC must apply for certification, meet the 12 specialized-docket standards, and receive initial certification. The 12 standards have been aligned with the 10 Key Components and encompass the basis for the problem-solving court model including frequent status review hearings, assessment, and prompt placement in appropriate treatment, substance monitoring, and a system of incentives and sanctions.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

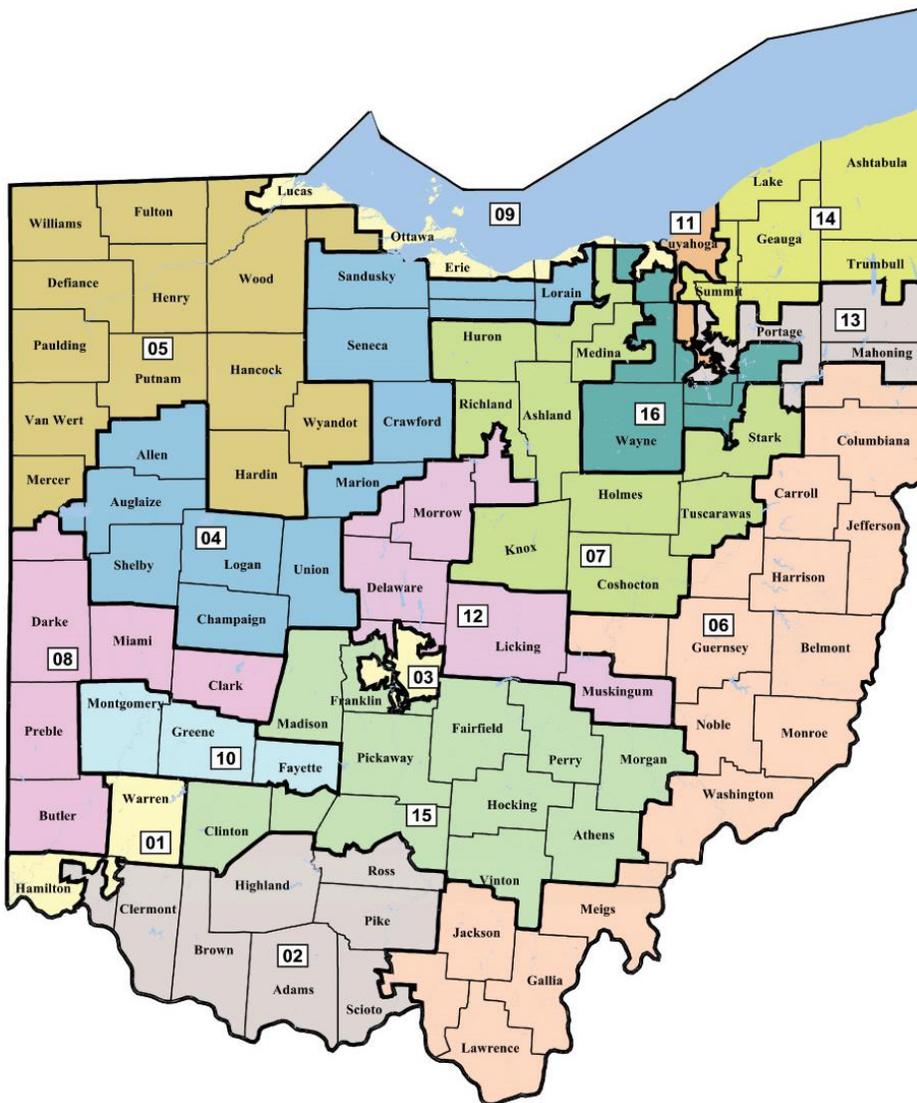
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Christine Raffaele

Supreme Court of Ohio
65 South Front Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Email: Christine.Raffaele@sc.ohio.gov

Phone: (614)387-9428



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