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Targeted RECLAIM Helps Youth Change through Programming Close to Home



Probation Officer John Conley Facilitates Aggression Replacement Training, which is part of Montgomery County Juvenile Court's JCARE Program

At eighteen years old, Youth S was struggling with an opiate addiction, falling behind in school, and complex family dynamics. The Montgomery County Juvenile Court accepted the young man into its drug court program and immediately began providing addiction services for Youth S. Moving from one family member's home to another several times, the youth relapsed in treatment and found himself in trouble once again.

Judge Capizzi assigned the young man to complete the local residential program known as "JCARE," which stands for Juvenile Cognitive Alternative Rehabilitation Effort.

The changes for Youth S have been remarkable. He has been drug-free for nearly one year and is completing high school where he also works as an office aide. Week nights and weekends, he works at a local home improvement store. His future is bright!

Youth S is one of 342 youth who have completed JCARE since its inception in Fiscal Year 2010, thanks to Targeted RECLAIM. The program uses Aggression Replacement Training (ART), which follows the principles of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, to help youth master a variety of skills including navigating relationships, managing anger, extending forgiveness, expressing gratitude, making a request, and finding healthy ways to express themselves. Youth spend 3 to 6 months completing the programming based on individual needs. While in the program, Youth S continued substance abuse treatment to overcome his opiate addiction.

Juvenile probation officers facilitate ART “skill streaming groups” and continue to work with youth in the community after they have completed the program. The 24-bed program serves felony-level male youth in two living pods and one dayroom designated solely for JCARE at the local juvenile detention center. Youth Specialists are trained in ART, participate in groups, and continue helping youth practice skills during evenings and weekends.

“JCARE gives us a clear alternative to sending a youth to DYS because we’re able to provide quality treatment in a short amount of time while maintaining public safety,” said Eric Shafer, Assistant Court Administrator for Montgomery County Juvenile Court. “Therapy is happening in our own community. Parents are involved and learning skills, helping to reinforce skills when kids return home.”

The program is one of 30 in a total of 15 counties funded by Targeted RECLAIM this Fiscal Year (FY). The initiative positions youth to succeed by matching the intensity of treatment and community supervision with a youth’s risk to reoffend. Targeted RECLAIM is provided to courts that historically have committed the most youth to the department and that commit to reduce and then maintain DYS admissions. Initially, this included Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Lucas, Montgomery and Summit Counties. The initiative expanded to eight additional counties (Allen, Ashtabula, Licking, Lorain, Mahoning, Medina, Stark and Trumbull) in FY 2012, and Butler County was added in FY 2013.

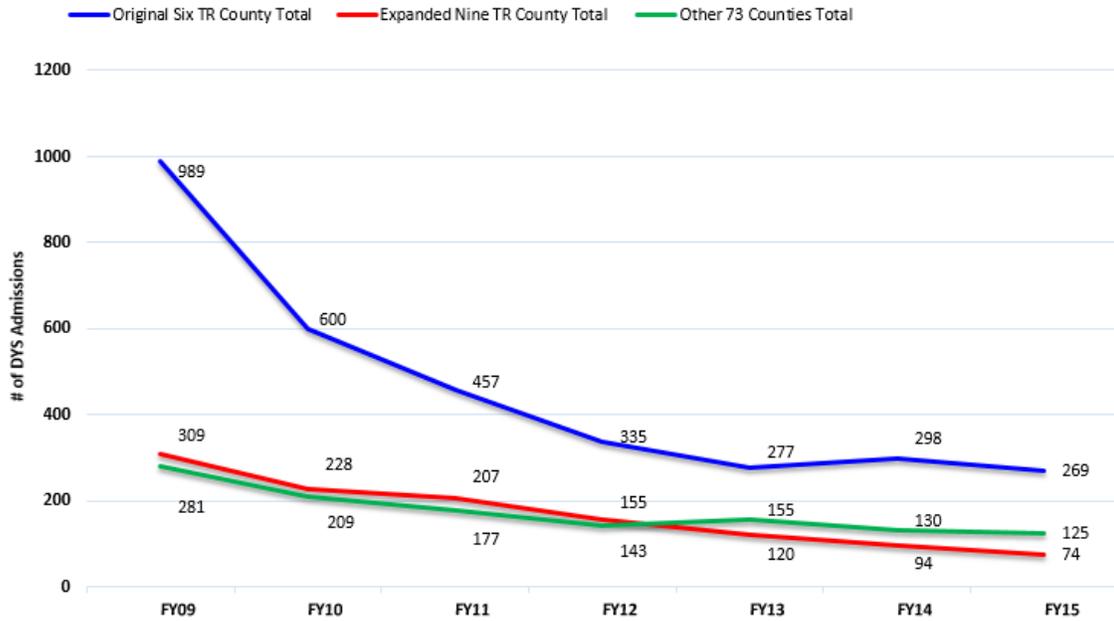
Evidence-based interventions focus on youths’ risks and needs. This is important because providing an appropriate level of community supervision and high-fidelity treatment services prevents a youth from falling deeper into the juvenile justice system. Programming used in Targeted RECLAIM includes Cognitive Behavioral Therapies, Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS), Family EPICS, Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) and High Fidelity Wraparound.

[RECLAIM](#) (Reasoned and Equitable Community and Local Alternatives to the Incarceration of Minors) is a funding program that encourages juvenile courts to implement community-based programs in order to provide alternatives to incarceration of youth. Since its inception 21 years ago, RECLAIM has served as a launching pad for expanded reform that focuses on supporting communities in research-backed programs. Targeted RECLAIM, one of the expansions of RECLAIM, has contributed to a reduction in the DYS facility population while investing in community alternatives to intervene with youth and preserve public safety. The results are notable:

- The DYS average daily facility population has decreased from an average of 1,430 youth in FY 2009 to 470 in FY 2015.
- Admissions to DYS have declined from 1,579 in FY 2009 to 468 in FY 2015.
- Through FY 2015, participating Targeted RECLAIM counties have reduced their admissions in the aggregate by 848 compared to the year prior to entering the initiative.
- An outcome study conducted by the University of Cincinnati this year found that youth served in Targeted RECLAIM programming in 2013 were incarcerated less often than similarly matched DYS youth and that all services (residential, community-based Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and family interventions like MST) showed reductions in rates of incarceration across all risk levels.
- The following graph includes DYS admissions by year from the original Targeted RECLAIM counties, those that were part of the expansion, and the remaining counties in

Ohio. Noted below the graph is the decline in total admissions that has resulted from the strategic reduction in DYS population. As depicted in blue, the six original Targeted RECLAIM counties outpaced the reductions in other counties, and now represent 57%, rather than 63%, of the significantly lower number of total admissions.

Targeted RECLAIM Admissions Compared to Other Counties



For more information or to read the University of Cincinnati outcome study, please click [here](#).