Initiative: Improvement of Mental Health and Substance Abuse services

Strategy: Ohio has been selected as one of four states to participate in the national Models for Change Mental Health / Juvenile Justice Action Network Grant

Focus of the Initiative: System reform in mental health and substance abuse services for youth involved in the juvenile justice system, including DYS

Support for the Initiative: The MacArthur Foundation with coordination by the National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice

State Partners: Ohio Departments of Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, Ohio Supreme Court, Summit County Juvenile Court, Voices for Children, and the Ohio Federation for Children’s Mental Health

Purpose of the Initiative: To assist Ohio’s juvenile justice system in developing and implementing improved policies and practices based on the best available research and techniques for mental health and substance abuse services

Through the Juvenile Justice Action Network Grant Ohio will:
♦ Have access to leading experts in the field and the latest resources and information

♦ Participate in an annual meeting where critical issues and new strategies will be highlighted, and a rich array of networking opportunities will take place

♦ Engage in a new change process – Strategic Innovation Groups – that will assist participating states in tackling complex issues with the advice and guidance of peers in other states and expert consultants

♦ Serve in a leadership capacity for other states and counties across the nation