Initiative Update: Expansion of the Behavioral Health / Juvenile Justice (BH/JJ)

Initiative Focus: Alternatives for DYS placement ~ Pre-entry

Goal of the BH/JJ programs: To enhance the community’s ability to locally serve juvenile offenders with serious behavioral health needs by transforming the community’s capacity to identify, assess, evaluate, and treat multi-need, multi-system youth and their family.

New County program:
Butler County: An estimated forty female juvenile offenders will receive Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), designed specifically to address the needs of youths displaying symptoms to traumatic life experiences.
- Youth and their primary caregivers will participate in a 12 to 16 week program with 20 hours per week of therapeutic services designed to develop skills related to understanding and processing the trauma; coping with distressing thoughts, feelings, and behaviors; maintaining safety; enhancing parenting skills, and improving communication.

Expansion of County programs:
Montgomery County Expansion: The program will be expanded to now serve the male population. Approximately sixty male juvenile offenders between the ages of 12 - 17 and their caregivers will be targeted.
- Evidence-Based Model, Functional Family Therapy (FFT)
- Clinical and family-driven home-based services such as behavioral health screenings, home-based interventions/treatments, and individual/family mentoring

Cuyahoga County Expansion: The expansion will provide additional services to juvenile justice-involved girls, ages 12 - 18.
- Additional residential mental health and substance abuse services
- Transitional Youth Employment programming to include job-readiness training and six months in a subsidized paid transitional job