Focus: Family Advocacy

Purpose: A new family advocacy program has begun to help families of youth committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) navigate through the juvenile justice system.

DYS Partner: The Urban Minority Alcoholism & Drug Abuse Outreach Programs (UMADAOP)

The Program:
♦ A representative from UMADAOP will initiate contact with the youth and their family thirty days prior to the youth’s release from a DYS facility.

♦ To those interested, UMADAOP will work as a liaison between service providers, DYS, and the families.

♦ Through UMADAOP, the families will be connected to a comprehensive array of services including employment, education, health care, violence prevention and family counseling.

♦ Working with the Ohio Benefit Bank, UMADAOP will also help families check eligibility for work support benefits such as health care coverage, home energy assistance, child care subsidies and food stamps.

UMADAOP offices are located in Cincinnati, Akron, Dayton, Cleveland, Columbus, Lima, Mansfield, Lorain, Toledo, Warren and Youngstown.