



News Release

For Immediate Release

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ADAMH-awarded SOR grant funds peer support through Lancaster Recovery Services

LANCASTER, Ohio, June 16 — In January 2021, the Fairfield County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health (ADAMH) Board accepted an Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services State Opiate Response (SOR) grant to be used to expand the continuum of care for persons with an opioid and/or stimulant use disorder or history of such a disorder. Federal Fiscal Year 2021 SOR dollars will be used to expand community peer support through Lancaster Recovery Services (LRS), an ADAMH contract agency.

During the program’s first year, LRS Peer Support will serve 69 low-income, homeless, and court-involved individuals in peer support with the goals to overcome obstacles to recovery and remain sober.

LRS Site Manager/Counselor Kathy Henderson, LCDC III, says, “The grant funding being provided to Lancaster Recovery Services from the Fairfield County ADAMH Board will open an opportunity to employ two individuals as certified as Peer Recovery Specialists. These individuals will be able to model a pathway through the challenges of substance use based on their own successful accomplishments through personal experience. These individuals will enhance treatment by modeling effective strategies, advocating for client needs, and connecting them with community resources to enhance positive changes. We are grateful to the Fairfield County ADAMH Board for their support in making this opportunity a reality.”

“The primary outcome goals are to support and facilitate success to overcome the many complex areas often obstructing one’s road to initial sobriety and one’s ability to maintain long-term sobriety,” said ADAMH Associate Director Marcy Fields, LISW-S.

To meet the complicated set of needs, peer support in conjunction with the evidence-based treatment model will assist with: application and acquisition of supportive housing; vocational/occupational training for sustained employment; employment applications; transportation and attendance as needed to appointments, court hearings, medically necessary appointments, and sober support meetings; obtaining identifying documents; transitioning between detox programs, residential, partial hospitalization, and outpatient services; and other needs. When Lancaster Recovery Services launches its Electronic Tablets Lending Service, peer supporters will provide training for clients identified to partake in telehealth services who would otherwise be underserved due to gaps in hardware and technology knowledge. Because sustainable employment helps transition clients maintaining sobriety into managing their complex needs more independently, peer supporters will identify vocational programs, contacts, processes, and top work-force initiatives to understand and assist clients seeking employment.

The budget also covers supervision and tracking of professional development needs for each participating peer supporter.

After initial program development, LRS will maintain peer support services through internal funding and annual budgets.

The Fairfield County ADAMH Board is responsible for the planning, funding and monitoring of mental health, addiction and recovery services in Fairfield County. ADAMH promotes wellness and recovery from mental health and substance use disorders by providing a continuum of care consisting of prevention, recovery and community support services for those affected by substance use disorders and/or mental health disorders in Fairfield County. For more information, visit www.fairfieldadamh.org.

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