



News Release

For Immediate Release

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ADAMH and OhioGuidestone use SOR grant to reach rural areas and expecting women and new mothers

LANCASTER, Ohio, May 12 — In January 2021, the Fairfield County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health (ADAMH) Board received an Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services State Opiate Response (SOR) grant. Federal Fiscal Year 2021 SOR dollars will be used to partner with OhioGuidestone, an ADAMH Network of Care Agency, and other community organizations to expand outreach to rural areas and provide substance use disorder treatment and support to pregnant women and new moms.

Hometown Help, OhioGuidestone's program to reach more rural clients, will engage 50 persons in need of treatment for opioid and stimulant use disorder in outlying rural areas annually. The program will also decrease stigma by its presence in smaller communities.

"Hometown Help is a new program that will allow OhioGuidestone to bring treatment and support to the residents in the villages of Fairfield County," says OhioGuidestone's Central Ohio Regional Director Amanda Wattenberg. "OhioGuidestone will have a therapist available in a building familiar to the members of the community to meet with those struggling with substance use, family members, friends and concerned citizens with the hope to increase knowledge of available services in Fairfield County and to provide treatment and support services in their hometowns."

"Fairfield ADAMH and Project F.O.R.T (Fairfield County Overdose Response Team) have contacted the mayors of the villages as part of the Opiate Task Force, and there has been interest in events designed to decrease stigma and provide information about services in particular villages," comments ADAMH Associate Director Marcy Fields, LISW-S. "This program will reach underserved populations in the more remote areas and will develop and enhance relationships with mayors and officials in small cities and villages in Fairfield County."

Annually, OhioGuidestone's program for pregnant and new mothers will serve 30 low-income at-risk pregnant and new moms with opioid or stimulant use disorder and provide outreach and engagement, coordination, and treatment and recovery support to result in healthy and safe babies and moms.

"The CARE Program (Coordination And Resources for Expecting Moms) utilizes a program coordinator through OhioGuidestone to connect, engage and provide wraparound support to pregnant women and new moms impacted by substance use disorders," states Wattenberg. "In addition to building a trusting and supportive relationship with the women, the program coordinator collaborates with community partners to strengthen the network of support for pregnant women and new moms by linking them to community resources and treatment."

Fairfield County Family, Adult and Children First Council (FACFC) Executive Director Donna Fox-Moore adds, “The Fairfield County Perinatal Leadership Group, a dedicated team of providers representing multiple systems, has long been working on strategies and processes to better serve pregnant and new mothers struggling with addiction, as well as other challenges, that can affect birth outcomes. The ADAMH Board’s support for a prenatal program through the SOR grant meets an important need — support that is aligned with thoughtful planning on the part of many.”

ADAMH Associate Director Marcy Fields, LISW-S, explains, “OhioGuidestone and the ADAMH Board are currently involved in the Perinatal Cluster and Perinatal Leadership Teams in Fairfield County, which include relationships with Fairfield Medical Center, FACFC, Lutheran Social Services, Child Protective Services, Community Action, WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) program, courts, and other behavioral health agencies.”

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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