



Mental Health and Recovery Services Board

1200 North State Route 53 • Tiffin, Ohio 44883-9799 • Tel.: 419-448-0640 • Fax: 419-448-8743

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Mircea Handru

Phone: 419-448-0640

Investment in Children Behavioral Health

written by Mircea Handru, MBA

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services has selected sixteen counties across the state for an opportunity to improve and implement mobile response and stabilization services for children ages 0 to 21 with severe emotional disturbances and their families. We are fortunate to have Seneca, Sandusky and Wyandot counties be part of the sixteen counties selected! We envision this opportunity to allow us to offer mobile response and stabilization teams to provide 24/7 hotline, on-site mobile response triage, clinical assessments, referrals and follow-up services.

This is a four-year, \$3 million award among the sixteen counties. Additional community organizations participating and assisting with the implementation of services will include Family and Children First Councils, Juvenile Courts, Developmental Disabilities Boards, local schools and other children's services agencies.

These additional services are much needed for our communities. We are experiencing an increase in children and youth with serious emotional disturbances. Often, families are left with little support and no place to turn. We are also seeing an increase in suicides and suicides attempts among youth compared with the previous five years. Challenges of accessing children and impatient mental health services could continue to be a major barrier, but our approach is to make sure our rural communities are taking full advantage of state and federal funding available and to continue to sustain a high level of collaboration across local systems.

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