

# THE CLFC FAMILY REUNION NEWS

THE *CREATING LASTING FAMILY CONNECTIONS*®  
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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## Ohio Selects CLFC Curriculum Series for Statewide Rollout in 2016

Over the last few years, a growing national movement has advocated for criminal justice reform with an emphasis on post-incarceration services for returning citizens (former inmates) and their families. The state of Ohio is at the forefront of this movement. The Buckeye State has a long history of commitment to promoting healthy individuals, families and communities. Under the leadership of Ohio Governor, John Kasich, Officials from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS), Office of Prevention and Wellness, consulted with Ted N. Strader of COPEs, Inc. and the Resilient Futures Network, LLC. (RFN) to develop two OhioMHAS Requests for Proposals. These RFPs were designed to develop a statewide rollout of the award-winning *Creating Lasting Family Connections*® (*CLFC*) *Curriculum Series*. RFN is the national training and publishing company that holds the license for materials sales and training in the entire *CLFC Curriculum Series*.

Both RFPs were titled “Prevention for Children of Incarcerated Parents” and shared the overarching goal of mobilizing service systems to build resiliency, develop resistance skills for substance use and address trauma in children of incarcerated parents and their families. One RFP focused on statewide implementation of the *CLFC Curriculum Series* and the other focused on evaluation of the statewide project.

The implementation RFP outlined an 18-month statewide project involving intensive training, implementation and evaluation of the *CLFC Curriculum Series*. As many of our readers may know, the *CLFC Curriculum Series* consists of three programs (the *Original CLFC Program*, the *CLFC Fatherhood Program: Family Reintegration*, and the *CLFC Marriage Enhancement Program*). All three programs are each separately listed on the National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices (NREPP).

After reviewing submitted grant applications, OhioMHAS awarded the implementation grant to the Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program (UMADAOP), a federation of 12 agencies across Ohio distinctively poised to fulfill the ambitious goals of the project. The Federation, through its existing prevention, treatment and Circle of Recovery Ohio programs, will bring together 12 UMADAOP programs, the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (ORDC) and other State and Regional partners to fulfill the goals of the statewide project.

The Federation's collective mission is to create healthy, productive and drug-free communities in partnership with a wide array of service providers, businesses, schools and other organizations. All twelve agencies are certified prevention providers and are expanding substance use disorder treatment and

related recovery and reentry services for adult offenders who are returning to their families and communities.

The UMADAOPs are uniquely qualified to serve the reentry population because of their existing capacity to provide re-entry services throughout Ohio and their successful partnership with the Ohio Bureau of Correctional Recovery Services. All UMADAOPs aim to provide wraparound alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) prevention services using evidence-based, culturally specific and age appropriate strategies for the African American reentry community. The entire *CLFC Curriculum Series* has a documented history of published success and effectiveness with minority populations. The *CLFC Fatherhood Program* was specifically developed for minority reentry populations and multiple research studies have demonstrated positive results as evidenced by the listing on NREPP.

The statewide project will initiate within the correctional institutions by training ODRC and OhioMHAS staff in the three *Creating Lasting Family Connections*® evidence-based programs. In addition to initiating the program within correctional institutions, the UMADAOP federation and their partner, SheRay's & Associates, will team up to recruit potential intervention facilitators from various correctional and justice system staff including behavioral health staff, probation and parole staff, and local community behavioral health providers including the faith community. This comprehensive approach will combine existing reentry services and local community service providers to work seamlessly with the *CLFC Series*' evidence-based programming to promote and support intergenerational prevention, long-term recovery for substance use disorders, healing for trauma and reduction in the state recidivism rate.

The evaluation grant was awarded to the University of Ohio, which brings its extensive professional evaluation experience and expertise, along with an impressive list of evaluators to the project. University of Ohio evaluators from the esteemed Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs will collaborate with the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE) to conduct rigorous, multi-layered research.

Ohio University's proposed comprehensive evaluation of the integration of all three *Creating Lasting Family Connections*® (CLFC) programs into Ohio's re-entry system includes developmental, process and outcome approaches. This multifaceted approach will help ensure that the project meets the goals of Ohio, and supports the needs of Ohioan families who engage with the re-entry system. The evaluation team will be led by Dr. Holly Raffle of Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs, and will be supported by the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE). To ensure that the evaluation is responsive both to the needs of the state and implementing sites, the evaluation team will work in partnership with the statewide coordinating committee and key stakeholders. Key evaluation activities include: (a) working with project partners and the implementing agency to support a high-quality rollout that draws from best practices in implementation science; (b) conducting process evaluations both of intervention implementation and of statewide coordination of CLFC and integration into re-entry systems; (c) designing and implementing an outcome evaluation that tracks key program-level and state outcomes over time; (d) cycling process and outcome data back to implementation sites and the statewide coordinating committee to improve implementation; and (e) working in partnership with implementation sites and the statewide coordinating committee to integrate sustainability into the implementation and evaluation processes.

OhioMHAS, UMADAOP, SheRay's, Ohio University, PIRE, COPES and RFN are currently finalizing plans for sharing and fulfilling all stated grant activities. COPES and RFN are focused on developing a comprehensive training plan to prepare individuals and agencies in each region of Ohio for the statewide rollout of the *CLFC Curriculum Series*. The planned process for preparing CLFC implementation teams across the state includes initial orientation, training and certification in the *CLFC Curriculum Series* and

booster sessions for ongoing quality assurance and support. For long-term sustainability of project activities, in year 2, several certified CLFC Implementation Trainers across Ohio will be selected to receive training and certification as CLFC Master Trainers. These CLFC Masters Trainers will then be able to train and certify other individuals in their own agencies as CLFC Implementation Trainers, thus replicating the training process and multiplying certified CLFC trainers statewide.

The following chart illustrates, in general, the major types of training events outlined in the RFP and their associated time commitments:

<b>Training Event</b>	<b>Time Commitments</b>
Regional Program Overview Trainings	3 Days of Training each
CLFC Fatherhood Program: Family Reintegration Implementation Training	8-9 Days of Training
Original CLFC Program (for adults and youth) Implementation Training	5-10 Days of training
CLFC Marriage Enhancement Program Implementation Training	3 Days of Training
Booster (refresher) Training	Typically, 3 Days of Training
CLFC Fatherhood Program: Family Reintegration Master Training	Three 3-Day training events (total of 9 days)
Original CLFC Program (for adults and youth) Master Training	Three 3-Day training events (total of 9 days)
CLFC Marriage Enhancement Program Master Training	3-5 Days of Training

All parties interested in implementing any components of the *CLFC Curriculum Series* will first be invited to participate in 3-Day CLFC Program Overview training events to be held across all regions of Ohio. Secondly, RFN will provide regional CLFC Program Implementation Trainings for selected agencies and individuals to prepare for implementing one or more of the CLFC programs for specific populations. Some organizations may implement all three *CLFC Programs*, while other organizations may select to implement only one or two. Finally, all organizations trained may also benefit from booster sessions prior to, during or after implementation of any one (or all) of the three programs in the *CLFC Curriculum Series*.

All agencies involved with this statewide rollout share a common passion to build resiliency in Ohio families, to promote well-being and to stem the tide of intergenerational trauma, substance use disorders, criminal justice involvement, incarceration and prison recidivism. The national bipartisan movement called for reform. OhioMHAS, UMADAOP, SheRay's, Ohio University, PIRE, COPES and RFN stand ready and are poised to translate this nationwide call into statewide action across Ohio. This statewide partnership is focused on "Creating Lasting Family Connections" in order to accomplish smooth and successful reentry for parents and intergenerational prevention for their children.

## COPES Awarded New CSAP Grant

In a previous CLFC Newsletter, we reported that COPES had submitted proposals for new grant funding opportunities. We are proud to announce that our application to the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) has been awarded.

This new CSAP project, *Enhancing Community Connections (ECC)*, is a collaborative community-based effort to reduce the risk of substance abuse and HIV among Black/African American youth and young adults ages 13-24 in Louisville, Kentucky. The project will implement a combination of evidence-based community level (environmental) and individual level preventive interventions including the evidence-based (NREPP-listed) *Creating Lasting Family Connections® (CLFC)* Curriculum. We expect to provide individual level programming to up to 450 participants across five years.

COPES has been following the prevalence of substance abuse and HIV transmission rates for decades. The Louisville area has experienced recent upsurges in IV drug use involving both heroin and Opana and in both HIV and hepatitis infection rates. African American minority youth and young adult populations experience extensive disparities that impact substance use and HIV. These disparities apply at the individual level and in predominantly Black/African American neighborhoods within the metro area. The proposed project is informed by an ongoing needs assessment that has previously identified this population as experiencing significant issues including substance use and HIV related health disparities.

For example, as COPES staff were preparing the grant application for this project in 2015, an alarming HIV epidemic driven by IV use of the prescription drug Opana drew national media attention to Scott County, Indiana, just thirty miles north of Louisville. On March 25, 2015, local television station, WHAS, reported: “The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention set up operations in Southern Indiana Tuesday to combat the growing HIV threat.” This upsurge in HIV is the worst in the state’s 200-year history. The Indiana Opana/HIV outbreak and Kentucky heroin epidemics appear poised to intermix. Therefore, the CDC invited both COPES Executive Director, Ted N. Strader, and ECC Project Coordinator, Brooke Arnold, to Scott County (along with other passionate individuals and agencies) to examine communitywide and regional strategies for addressing this epidemic. COPES staff lent experience and expertise to our neighbors to the North in Indiana and gained valuable insights into the factors involved in the local outbreak. This information has been incorporated into our local efforts.

The ECC Project’s primary goal is to increase local capacity to plan, coordinate and provide evidence-based substance abuse, HIV and viral hepatitis outreach and prevention services through interagency planning, coordination, and implementation of community-level evidence-based services and strategies for 13 to 24-year-old Black/African American youth and young adults.

The Project’s secondary goal is to increase, at the individual level, the ability of 13-17 year old Black/African American youth specifically identified and referred by PAG member agencies to make healthy decisions regarding substance abuse and healthy sexual behavior by implementing the evidence-based (NREPP-listed) curriculum, *Creating Lasting Family Connections® (CLFC)*.

The goals and objectives of the ECC Project directly align with the National HIV/AIDS Strategy which includes: 1) reducing new HIV infections, 2) increasing access to care and improving health outcomes for

people living with HIV, 3) reducing HIV-related disparities and health inequities, and 4) achieving a coordinated national response to the HIV epidemic. COPES has a long history of successful program development in substance abuse HIV and Viral Hepatitis prevention and in conducting related CSAP Minority AIDS Initiative projects.

A second proposal to the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) received a score of 95 from grant reviewers. Competition for this grant was very high and, despite our great score, we were not awarded the ACF grant. The COPES Board of Directors, however, is raising funds to continue the *CLFC Fatherhood Program* independent of federal grants.

While the Board focuses on fundraising, the new CSAP project and the Ohio statewide rollout of CLFC will keep us busy both locally and nationally. We look forward to sharing this dual journey with you, our CLFC Family, over the coming months and years.

### **Ted N. Strader**



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