



## May is Mental Health Awareness Month

There is no better time to increase awareness of mental health and make a difference in our communities. In this spirit, we would like to share with you information from Project AWARE Cuyahoga County.

### Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness And Resilience in Education)

Cuyahoga County was one of three counties in the State of Ohio to receive the Project AWARE grant in October 2014. Project AWARE is the result of President Obama's "Now is the Time" initiative to reduce school violence. One of the goals of this initiative is to improve access to mental health services and treatment outcomes.

**Mission** – Cuyahoga Community Management Team (CMT) works across systems to improve physical, mental, and educational needs and increase access to appropriate resources and services for youth in Cuyahoga County.

**Vision** – Cuyahoga County children and families will be socially, emotionally, behaviorally and academically resilient and productive citizens.

Project AWARE Cuyahoga County is working on multiple systematic initiatives to enhance access to mental health services and treatment outcomes, current level of Positive Behavioral and intervention Supports (PBIS) training and implementation, current status of School and Community Partners intervening with youth and families and implementation of an Early Warning System.

#### Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS)

PBIS is a general education initiative, supporting all children and youth. The Office of Special Education Programs Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports defines PBIS as a decision making framework that guides selection, integration, and implementation of the best evidence-based academic and behavioral practices for improving important academic and behavior outcomes for all students. In Cuyahoga County we are supporting 4 priority districts efforts to implement PBIS with fidelity through assessments, professional development (PD) and action planning. To register for PBIS training go to: [www.esc-cc.org](http://www.esc-cc.org); Calendar of Events or contact **Mary Wise @ 216-901-4201** or [mary.wise@esc-cc.org](mailto:mary.wise@esc-cc.org).

For more information on Ohio PBIS <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/School-Safety/Building-Better-Learning-Environments/PBIS-Resources/Ohio-Positive-Behavior-Interventions-Network-1>

#### Service Coordination Team Process

The Cuyahoga County Service Coordination model is a navigation process designed to direct parents with children, prenatal through graduation, to appropriate services. It directs parents to a full scale of quality services for their children, particularly kids who are having a tough time and are having difficulties with the traditional service system. It focuses on developing a coordinated and cooperative public system infrastructure that promotes cross-system collaboration—at the policy, programmatic, and case levels. Through Project AWARE and its partnerships, FCFC and the ESC-CC will implement and develop an **Early Warning System**, a cross-county data platform to be shared by youth development agencies, school districts and community-based organizations to support youth by implementing effective prevention and intervention services that will better serve schools, youth and families and their communities. For more information on SCP, contact **Denise Pietrzak, LISW-S** at [dpietrzak@cuyahogacounty.us](mailto:dpietrzak@cuyahogacounty.us) or 216-443-6115.

#### Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

**FACT: 1 in 5 children ages 13-18 have, or will have a serious mental illness. Twenty percent of youth ages 13-18 live with a mental health condition. ([www.NAMI.org](http://www.NAMI.org))**

Since Project AWARE began in October 2014, Cuyahoga County has trained over 450 school staff and community members. Youth Mental Health First Aid is designed to teach parents, family members, caregivers, teachers, school staff, peers, neighbors, health and human services workers, and other caring citizens how to help an adolescent (age 12-18) who is experiencing a mental health or addiction challenge or is in crisis. To sign-up for a training at the ESC-CC, please visit [www.esc-cc.org](http://www.esc-cc.org); Calendar of Events, or to schedule a training in your district/community, please contact **Mary Wise @ 216-901-4201** or [mary.wise@esc-cc.org](mailto:mary.wise@esc-cc.org).