

Recovery Starts Here



March 5, 2015

RE: Community Connectors Program

To Whom It May Concern:

The County of Summit Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services Board (ADM Board) is excited to join the iCARE Mentoring partnership to support our common goal of helping our youth to become successful adults academically and socially.

Last year the Summit County ADM Board and Summit County Public Health partnered to provide the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) to more than 19,000 Summit County 6th-12th grade students during the 2013-2014 school year. The goal was to identify critical clusters of risk or protective factors that we may programmatically address with a targeted investment of prevention funds in 2015. Some examples of key YRBS findings:

Mental Health Risk Factors:

- 29.4% of High School students report experiencing depressive sadness in the last year
- 16.9% of students have seriously considered suicide
- 10.4% have made a suicide attempt

Substance Use Risk Factors:

- 21.8% of high school students have been to a party where parents permitted teen drinking
- 16.2% of high school students report drinking alcohol prior to age 13
- Nearly 16% of high school students have used a prescription pain medication without a prescription

General Risk/Protective Factors:

- 20% of students reported having no supportive adults, other than parents in their lives, from whom they would feel comfortable seeking help.
- 11% of students reported having no friends with whom they could trust to give advice about problems affecting their life.

The iCARE partnership's proposed program contains evidence-based activities that strengthen protective factors and address risk factors associated with mental wellness and avoidance of substance abuse. Building resilient and successful youth is a community endeavor. **To support community investment, the County of Summit ADM Board is committing up to \$100,000 per year in matching funds to leverage private investment in this initiative, and to assist in program sustainability.**

Communities that tackle challenging issues collaboratively are more likely to experience success. I am confident that the iCARE Mentoring Partnership will have a measurable impact on those who are able to participate in the program. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gerald A. Craig, Executive Director

ADM Board Contract Provider Agencies

ADM Crisis Center • Akron General-Edwin Shaw Rehabilitation Institute • Akron-UMADAO • Asian Services in Action • Blick Clinic • Child Guidance & Family Solutions • CHOICES Social Center • Coleman Behavioral Health • Community Health Center • Community Partnership of Summit County • Community Support Services • IBH Addiction Recovery Center • Mature Services • Mental Health America of Summit County • Minority Behavioral Health Group • North Coast Community Homes • Oriana House • Portage Path Behavioral Health • Psycho-Diagnostic Clinic • Shelter Care • Summa Health System • Summit County Public Health • Summit County Sheriff's D.A.R.E. Program • Summit Psychological Associates • Tarry House