

List of Recent Evaluation Projects – Rodney Thomas, MA

| Project Name | Description | Location |
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| Cuyahoga County Child Support Enforcement Agency Section 1115 Demonstration Grant (2009-2011) | The Cuyahoga County Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) proposed a Section 1115 Demonstration Grant project that address non-custodial parents (NCP's) in default with their child support orders. Evaluation activities focused on the completion of key informant interviews with agency staff, analysis of CSEA administrative data, project meetings, and review of program documentation. CSEA administrative data was obtained, cleaned, and merged for all clients in the intervention and delayed intervention groups. Semi-structured agency interviews were conducted with program directors and case managers during the project period. Agency representatives were asked about perceived barriers and possible solutions to overcoming barriers. A thorough review of the child support research literature was constructed. | Northcoast Evaluation Services, LLC |
| Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services Asset Building Project (2011-2014) | The completed evaluation work include activities designed to assist the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), Office of Child Support (OCS) in assessing the implementation and efficacy of the Asset Building Project (ABP). The Evaluator worked closely with OCS staff and project partners to design and execute a multi-method evaluation that was closely tied to ABP goals and objectives. The Evaluator scope of service included developing ABP evaluation tools, monitoring referral activity between CSEAS and AFI grantees, conducting ongoing participant interviews, merging and analyzing CSEA data, measuring and reporting on changes in client financial stability levels, and providing ongoing feedback to inform data-driven decision-making and best practices by OCS project staff, CSEAs, and AFI grantees. | Northcoast Evaluation Services, LLC |
| Franklin County CSEA Pathfinder Prisoner Reentry Initiative (2011-2013) | The overarching goal of Pathfinder was to remove barriers that parents who were leaving incarceration face related to child support and employment, while also providing referrals to community-based and faith-based organizations. The Evaluator scope of service included managing and analyzing secondary datasets related to child support information as well as pre/post surveys of client attitudes and knowledge. | Northcoast Evaluation Services, LLC |
| United Way Holmes and Wayne Counties – FINRA Grant (2014-present) | This ongoing evaluation focuses on the financial education outcomes for a subset of obligors in Wayne and Holmes County. Analyses are focusing on child support obligation and payment data and client-level assessments of skills and knowledge gained in multiple Healthy Finances Program classes. | Northcoast Evaluation Services, LLC |

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| <p>Adult Treatment Drug Court (2011-2014)</p> | <p>The Felony Drug Court was a collaborative effort among Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, County Prosecutor, and Cuyahoga County agencies to address problems of recurring substance abuse and recidivism in non-violent, substance-abusing adult offenders by providing intervention, access to a continuum of alcohol and AOD treatment and rehabilitation services, and close judicial supervision. The purpose of the project was to improve outcomes for 18-40 year old cannabis and opioid users by breaking the cycle of criminal behavior. This was accomplished by addressing the missing gap in the treatment continuum. Existing services were enhanced through the provision of culturally competent, evidence-based, case management and age-appropriate substance specific AOD treatment.</p> | <p>CWRU – Begun Center for Violence Prevention, Research and Education</p> |
| <p>FCFC Evaluation Services (2013-present)</p> | <p>The Begun Center collaborates with the Family and Children First Council to conduct an evaluation of its internal programs seeking to measure program outcomes. These programs include Out-of-School Time (OST), Youth Employment (YE), Service Coordination (SC), Youth Council, Parent Advocates, Ohio Children’s Trust Fund (OCTF), including Parents and Teachers and Families and School Together (FAST).</p> | <p>CWRU – Begun Center for Violence Prevention, Research and Education</p> |
| <p>ORP-J (2011-2014)</p> | <p>The purpose of the ORP-J project was to improve outcomes of returning Cuyahoga youth referred from two institutions during the grant period. The focus was on breaking the cycle of criminal behavior, substance abuse and improving education and employment success. This was accomplished by closing a gap in the treatment continuum. Existing services were enhanced through the administration of a comprehensive needs assessment via the Global Appraisal of Individual Needs - Intake (GAIN-I) and the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS), and delivery of a culturally competent, evidence-based case management and age appropriate, culturally specific, substance specific Alcohol and other Drugs of addiction (AoD) treatment (Motivational Enhancement Therapy/Cognitive Behavioral Treatment - MET/CBT-5) designed to be most effective with urban African American male youth.</p> | <p>CWRU – Begun Center for Violence Prevention, Research and Education</p> |
| <p>MyCom (2007-present)</p> | <p>MyCOM is a long-term initiative that coordinates activities amongst six lead agencies and multiple community-based agencies to provide programs and services to Cuyahoga County youth. The six components of MyCOM include youth advocacy, neighborhood mobilization, youth engagement, key transitions, employment/job readiness and out-of school time (OST). The long-term goals of MyCOM are that young people have greater access to supports and opportunities, are raised in safe environments, and ultimately have a positive transition to young adulthood.</p> | <p>CWRU – Begun Center for Violence Prevention, Research and Education</p> |
| <p>Tapestry (2013-present)</p> | <p>Tapestry coordinates access to services via child-serving public agency referrals, like Child Welfare, Juvenile Court, and</p> | <p>CWRU – Begun Center</p> |

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| | <p>community referrals. CWRU Begun Center roles and responsibilities included facilitation of community capacity building and coordinating systems and services with data for decision making, quality assessments, and outcomes. CWRU Begun staff provided significant technical support and analysis to build and populate a quarterly reporting and continuous quality improvement format with benchmarks.</p> | <p>for Violence Prevention, Research and Education</p> |
| <p>Ohio's Campaign for Hope Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative (2013-2014)</p> | <p>Ohio's Campaign for Hope Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative is a 3 year youth suicide prevention campaign funded by SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration). The campaign focuses on youth age 15 to 24 statewide and aims to expand suicide prevention awareness and education. The targets of the campaign include: educators, youth, mental health providers and others working with high risk youth populations, including youth in foster care and youth in the juvenile justice system, as well as military families. The campaign mobilizes the Ohio Suicide Prevention Network of 75 suicide prevention coalitions to promote and implement programming in the 26 highest risk Ohio counties, counties with suicide rates above the national average.</p> | <p>CWRU – Begun Center for Violence Prevention, Research and Education</p> |