

Fall / Winter 2016

# COMMUNITY TRANSITION PROGRAM

Housing resources, vocational  
services, drug and alcohol  
counseling, peer support and  
other recovery services for  
citizens with histories of  
substance abuse disorders who  
are re-entering the community  
from Ohio prisons







# meet Amber

By the time she was 19, Amber was a single mother raising three daughters. With no direction and no support system, Amber felt helpless. She said, "I was never taught the right way to grow up. My life was set up for failure. I felt alone and didn't have anyone." She found it impossible to work and became dependent on opiates. To support her addiction, she stole money from neighbors and cashed fake payroll checks. She pleaded guilty to nine felonies and spent five years in prison without seeing her children.

While in prison, Amber had time to reflect on her life. She realized that a life of crime wasn't for her and that she wanted to provide a better life for her children. She focused her energy on her future and even received a landscaping degree while she was incarcerated.

Now Amber is out of prison and she's working with CareSource to get back on her feet. Her case

worker immediately connected her to a crisis center for women. She is part of a nine-month program designed to help smooth her transition to mainstream society. The program helped her obtain her state ID, birth certificate, a primary care doctor and clothing. While these are critical achievements, her biggest victory is that she has been reunited with two of her daughters, now ages 7 and 10. She is determined to give them the stability and security she never received and she continues to make strides to be reconnected with her third daughter, now 13.

Amber feels like doors are opening. She says her case worker is "truly amazing." She feels fortunate to have someone walk with her every step of the way – someone who is connecting her with resources, counseling and support services to help ease her into life after incarceration and equip her with tools she needs to get and keep a job.

Even with her progress, she experiences frustrations with the re-entry process. She is ready to work, but because of the policies at the crisis center she must wait nine months before she can seek employment. Her case worker is working with the crisis center to find alternate paths that help her reach her goals to support her children and herself independently. She said,

**"I won't fail. I truly believe in myself and I see a clear path for what's next."**



CareSource is committed to working with *providers, stakeholders, state agencies* and *other partners* to positively impact the lives of CTP members, their families, and the Ohio communities to which they are returning.

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

CareSource, a Dayton-based nonprofit health plan, has been awarded a statewide contract for the **Community Transition Program (CTP)** by Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS). CTP will provide improved access to housing resources, vocational services, drug and alcohol counseling, peer support and other recovery services for citizens with histories of substance abuse disorders who are re-entering the community from Ohio prisons.

As many as 6,000 individuals will be eligible for the program as they leave Ohio prisons. The program will support the successful re-entry and coordination of care for those who voluntarily enroll by partnering with other Medicaid Managed Care Organizations to holistically treat substance abuse disorders and behavioral health problems. The Community Transitions Program is the first of its kind in Ohio and will provide improved continuity of care, and new services to an underserved population.

CareSource was chosen to oversee the program because of its plan which includes scalable tools, processes, and infrastructure to promote the successful reintegration of citizens into communities. A process to evaluate and improve the program after implementation is also in place. Members will have access to enhanced care coordination, innovative benefits and a quality provider network.

The contract for the first year of CTP runs from July 2016 through June 2017. The first CTP members were referred in mid-July, and hundreds of individuals have joined the program prior to their release.

## RE-ENTRY PROCESS:

### Enhanced care coordination ensures a supportive experience for returning citizens

The CTP program is designed to improve the re-entry experience for its members. All 28 institutions provide Community Linkage staff with a list of individuals who meet criteria for the program (SUD diagnosis and at least one day of Recovery Services programming). Each eligible individual is engaged by OhioMHAS Community Linkage workers 30 to 60 days prior to release. Community Linkage staff provides information about the CTP program and process as well as opportunities for individuals to participate.

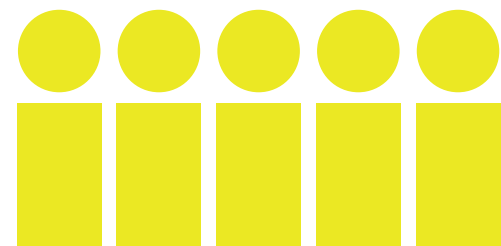
If the individual opts into the program, a completed assessment is provided to CareSource CTP staff. That information assists with the placement of the individual with a community-based CTP provider before their expected release. The CTP provider confirms a date of intake no more than 7 days after the release date and the CTP staff relays this information, along with a copy of the CTP member card, to the Community Linkage worker.

This process allows for both the member and the provider to have a set date for intake prior to release. Members can feel secure that there is support awaiting them to assist with housing, treatment, transportation and other needs. Providers can proactively do in-reach to assess further needs of the CTP member and assist with identifying resources.

The goal of this process is to ensure citizens receive the most efficient and supportive re-entry experience by enhancing care coordination between the institution, providers, parole and managed care.

BY THE NUMBERS:

MEMBERS



323 ACTIVE MEMBERS

Average referrals per working day:  
2.2 referrals in July  
2.7 referrals in August  
4.4 referrals in September  
6.1 referrals in October

Referrals received from  
all 28 adult institutions

DEMOGRAPHICS

17% FEMALE 83% MALE

**Reported Substance Abuse**  
54% Marijuana  
45% Alcohol  
39% Cocaine  
34% Opiates  
20% Other Drugs

**40%** have co-morbid Behavioral Health Diagnosis

**Average Age 37**

**Race**  
60% Caucasian  
35% Black/African American  
2% Hispanic  
2% Not provided  
1% Other Race of Ethnicity

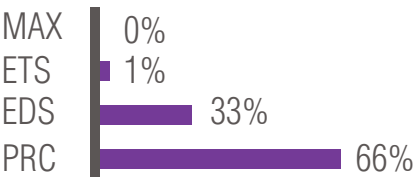
GEOGRAPHIC

Franklin Co 15% | Cuyahoga 12% |  
Summit 7% | Hamilton 6% |  
Montgomery 5% | Butler 4% |  
Stark 4% | All Others 47%



CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Release Type



88% of referrals received prior to release  
12% received post release  
7% convicted of sex offenses  
1% convicted of arson

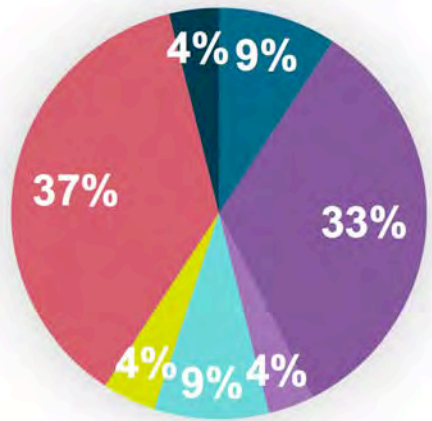
PROVIDER NETWORK

38 contracted providers  
248 locations in 46 Counties



Additional 36 providers pending,  
with 50+ new locations extending  
coverage to 75 counties

MEDICAID SATURATION



United  
Paramount  
Molina  
Buckeye  
Uninsured  
Ohio Medicaid  
CareSource

CARE COORDINATION

8 providers have participated in in-reach for 19 members

19 providers have completed on-boarding training with Health Partners; only 3 have billed claims

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Focus groups with CTP staff and Community Linkage begin this quarter

TBD date of Steering Committee meeting in January

Webinars continue to be available 1st and 3rd Friday in Q2

## BENEFIT UPDATE:

### Strategic partnerships will connect ex-offenders with housing support

A major challenge for those coming home from prison is finding stable housing that supports recovery. Many barriers exist for ex-offenders searching for housing, including affordability, safe housing stock and criminal records. For those who do obtain housing, many need assistance and support to maintain housing stability during their transition to the community. CTP is working in partnership with Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) to develop and administer a housing benefit that provides access and supportive services to improve the re-entry experience.

CTP staff will be working closely with CSH, providers, and OhioMHAS to educate members on available housing options. CTP supports a broad range of housing options, including emergency placements, Recovery Housing, Rapid Rehousing, and Permanent Supportive Housing. Focusing resources on those members facing imminent homelessness will support recovery and promote stability. The CTP program looks forward to partnering with housing providers across the state to develop a quality housing model for its members.

Providers and partners will soon receive detailed information on the housing benefit and the training on how to access housing needs through the CTP Program.

## PROVIDER NETWORK:

### Weekly webinars provide updates for providers, partners and stakeholders

One of the many challenges of a new program is providing up-to-date information, receiving feedback and answering questions. CTP providers, partners and stakeholders have been given the opportunity to participate in an hour-long webinar every Friday during the months of September and October.

The goal of these webinars is to develop a baseline of knowledge across the CTP network and to discuss various, in-depth aspects of the program.

The first webinar occurred September 9 and was well attended. The presentation began with an overview of the program followed by a more detailed discussion of provider in-reach. Each webinar also ends with a Q&A.

Additional training and informational opportunities will be made available to CTP providers and stakeholders throughout the year. To date, OhioMHAS staff and CTP staff have collaborated to provide education, or have scheduled sessions to complete education about the CTP program, including the following:

- Recovery Services Staff at all 28 Prisons
- Adult Parole Authority in all 6 Regions
- Ohio Community Corrections Association (OCCA)
- OACBHA
- Ohio Department of Corrections Wardens
- Northeast Regional Support Team
- Managed Care Plans
- Community Linkage and CDS Staff
- Ohio Recovery Housing Network
- OACBHA

Future training will focus on the specific needs of offenders with heightened criminogenic risks and how treatment providers, partners, communities and families can assist with reducing recidivism. Specific training will also be provided to partners as the program rolls out new services, processes and opportunities. Training will be made available soon and will include information on how to access the range of housing support for members and how to improve in-reach effectiveness to improve re-entry linkage and support services.



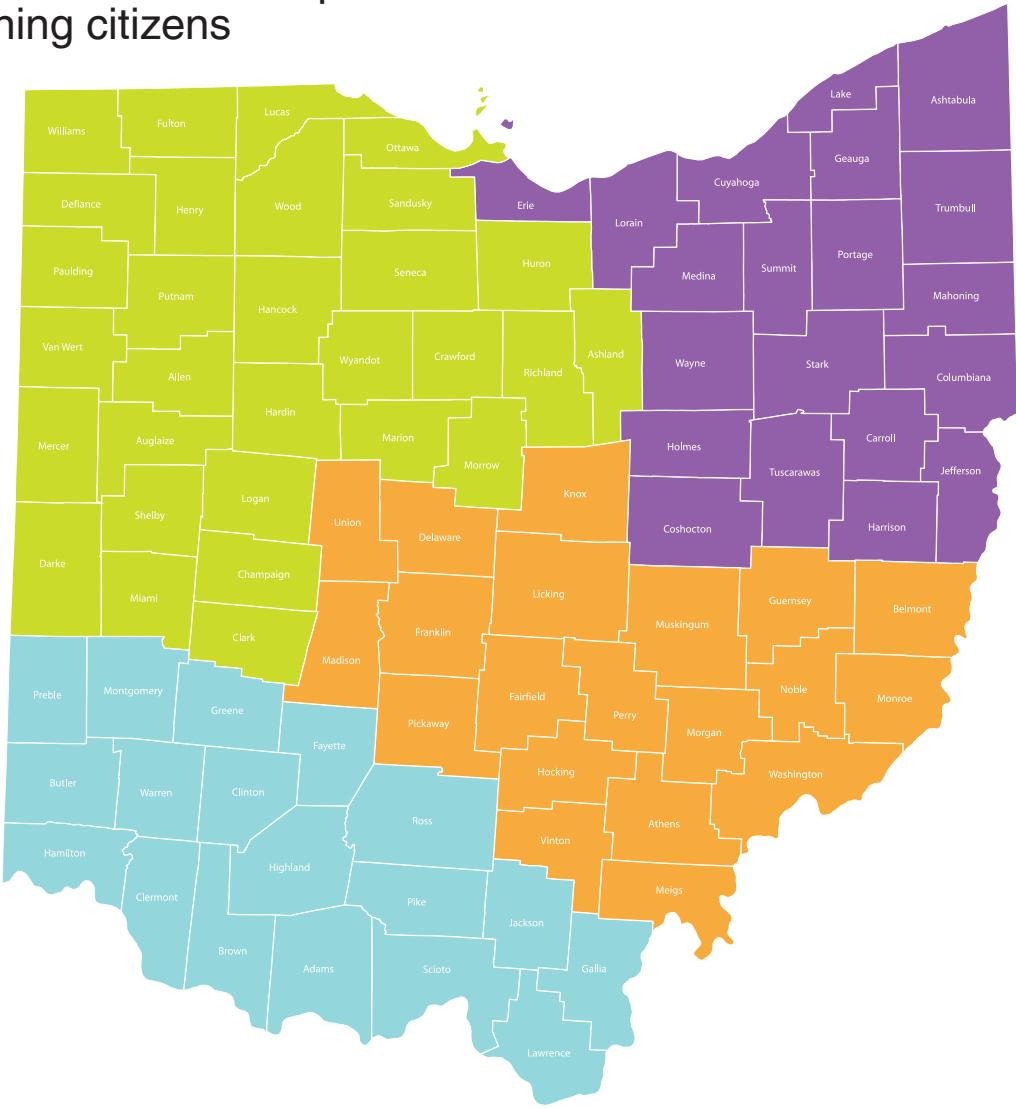
# Enhanced Care Coordination:

## Meet the Regional Coordinators responsible for seamless transitions for returning citizens

The regional coordinators are the CTP experts for their region. They build relationships between all of the systems operating in their area to ensure a seamless transition for returning citizens. These relationships include, but are not limited to:

- Prison
- Adult Parole Authority
- CTP Providers
- Local Re-entry Coalitions
- Other community groups who pay a vital role in this transition

Because community resources may look different in each community, CTP regional coordinators also identify support gaps for these individuals and leverage resources to meet their needs. We are also looking for opportunities to further connect providers with each other so they can forge their own ways of working together to support their community.



- Northwest, Deborah Dornbusch-Nagel
- Southwest, Daniel Domizio
- Northeast, Bradie Williams
- Southeast, Candice Simpson

**DEBORAH DORNBUSCH NAGEL** spent the majority of her thirty-year career in the Community Mental Health setting. She started as a case manager, and after completing her Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology, began practicing as a therapist and is a Licensed Social Worker. Her primary focus has been treating adults with mental health and/or substance use disorders. Other past experiences include management of an Adult Day Treatment program, where she helped to develop and implement a dual-diagnosis (mental health/substance abuse) program and became a Health Officer which allowed her to conduct crisis evaluations in the community. She has also spent the last two years with CareSource as a Care4U community care liaison.

**DANIEL DOMIZIO** has been in the public mental health field for over 20 years working with adults who have a SMI (Severe Mental Illness) diagnosis. He helped establish a state mental hospital release program which focused on the release of long-term patients and transitioning them back to the community. He brings over ten years of experience working on a Forensic ACT (Assertive Community Treatment) team transitioning inmates with SMI from prison back to the community. His background in utilizing strong coordination with the Adult Parole Authority and community corrections providers is an asset in his role with CTP.

**BRADIE WILLIAMS** has worked as a licensed social worker for six years, with a focus on criminal justice and substance use disorders. Her career began at a nonprofit agency, engaging in community mental health service delivery then transitioned to government/public sector work. She was a service provider engaged in Specialized Dockets specifically Drug Courts and has experience with TASC, as well as other evidence-based practice models.

**CANDICE SIMPSON** has more than ten years of experience providing treatment to incarcerated offenders. She is a Licensed Independent Chemical Dependency Counselor, with a preliminary gambling disorder endorsement. She obtained a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Forensic Psychology and Justice Administration. Her expertise is in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy specifically related to substance use. Her knowledge of the prison system and state agencies is beneficial to the entire CTP team.

**KEVIN JONES** and **DONALD CHRISTIAN** oversee activities and delivery of the state-wide Community Transition Program (CTP). They provide strategic planning oversight and formulate strategies to improve processes.

Kevin and Don also assist local communities with process improvement opportunities between the interface of criminal justice and behavioral health

systems. They attend steering committee meetings, offer technical support, identify local priorities and leverage in-kind state resources to offer process improvement approaches.

**JENNIFER ROACH** serves as state-wide administrator for the OhioMHAS Community Linkage Program which is the referral mechanism for the CTP. Community Linkage ensures continuity of care for behavioral health criminal justice clients in transition from the criminal justice system to the community. Jennifer and her staff coordinate services between State, CTP stakeholders, local criminal justice systems and community providers.

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