

THE OHIO WOMEN'S NETWORK OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG PROGRAMS

The Ohio Women's Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Programs (OWN) is a group of gender competent and trauma informed care programs founded in 19 . and originally funded by the Federal Block Grant Set Aside for women's programs and the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services. .

Traditionally, women received little specific attention in research, public policy and program planning for alcohol and drug abuse problems. Specialized substance abuse programming for women and their children was first funded in 1986. We have learned a great deal since then and Ohio has been a recognized leader in development of gender competent and trauma informed care.

This document is meant to look at the past and current state of the women's treatment needs, build on accomplishments, create a blue print for change and make recommendations that will improve and expand services to addicted women and their families.

Over the past several years OWN has seen the over utilization of mental health services, primary health care and the economic impact on other publicly funded human service system such as the over burdened child welfare and prison systems. The cost of untreated addiction will remain a burden on many other systems of care and devastate families.

We have seen that to be effective, programs must address women's specific needs for specialized medical care, child care, housing, domestic violence services, sexual and physical abuse, along with legal and child welfare concerns. We need to develop an infrastructure to ensure coordination of care. Cross system collaborations will reduce costs, increase resources and provide a much more significant range of services and improve outcomes for family preservations.

This document is meant to look at the past and current state of woman's treatment and prevention in Ohio build on accomplishments and make recommendations.

The following areas will be examined.

ENHANCEMENT AND EXPANSION

While women female abusers comprise nearly half the potential treatment population, only ____%

Of the ODMHAS funded admissions are women. There is a critical need for awareness regarding the barriers to treatment for women and pregnant women.

HOUSING

As managed care shortens length of treatment stays and discourages residential placements, housing becomes one of the most critical issues for stabilizing recovery. New collaborations and partnerships with federal, state and local agencies, as well as businesses and community leaders, should develop new and affordable drug free housing.

COLLABORATION WITH CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Substance abuse treatment can successfully improve outcomes and break the cycle of addiction in the next generation.

MANAGED CARE

Special attention must be paid to gender specific and trauma informed services must be increased and access improved.

EVALUATION/OUTCOMES

The cost effectiveness of alcohol and other drug treatment has been significant and the current opiate epidemic is a crisis in Ohio that must be solved if we are to have productive, employable population.

While OWN has made significant impact on treatment for women and their families by recognizing the need for programming blended with gender competent and trauma informed care, the need for new domestic violence services, legal and child welfare concerns and the growing number of pregnant substance abusing women.

Experience has taught us that the most consistent predictions of a successful treatment outcome among women are: a) easy and timely access to gender specific treatment, b) integrated care with access to primary health care, mental health services, childcare and family treatment.

Substance abuse left untreated could begin with an estimated \$140 billion in medical bills, lost productivity in the workplace, a staggering cost of incarceration and the unmeasurable damage done to our families and our communities.