



JEFFERSON COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

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OhioRISE spreads the word at Red Ribbon Walk

STEUBENVILLE – OhioRISE was right at home with first responders and service providers during the Red Ribbon Walk at Jim Woods Park Oct. 19. The program has become a key component in helping county agencies find resources for children and families.

Care coordinator Anita Keenan joined the Red Ribbon Walk's drug use awareness, treatment and prevention campaign. She took the opportunity to introduce OhioRISE to families and service providers and strengthen ties with community partners.

Jefferson County Educational Service Center (JCESC) OhioRISE (Resilience through Integrated Systems and Excellence) is a Medicaid managed care program for children and youth with complex behavioral health and multisystem needs in Jefferson, Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Harrison, Monroe, Stark and Tuscarawas Counties and operated by the Jefferson County Educational Service Center. OhioRISE was formed to coordinate resources and put families in touch with what is available.

OhioRISE acts as a liaison between families of children who need assistance and service providers. OhioRISE plays an important role in forming individualized education plans.

"A lot of families have difficulty conveying to the school what they need on the IEP," Keenan said.

OhioRISE often finds resources others had not known were available.

"It's been rewarding helping the children to become somebody that they might not have otherwise been able to," she said. "I've had youth that turned 18 and still connect with us because they find our assistance beneficial. This gives them a stepping stone into a more positive direction."

OhioRISE's participation was fruitful, with many connections that care coordinators can follow up with later. Interested parents who might need services took referral information. Many attendees were familiar with OhioRISE, including those in the fields of mental health resources and law enforcement.

Juvenile Court Administrator Joe Colabella said OhioRISE has proven invaluable.

"Juvenile Court's experience with the OhioRISE program has been nothing but positive. The OhioRISE program has come in and helped us facilitate the work with the juveniles that are in need of services. They help coordinate with the juvenile court with services in the community," he said. "It's just another resource in the county that's well-needed."

He said OhioRISE has the tools to navigate available resources.

"The care coordinators do a wonderful job. They show up for meetings. They show up for court. They keep us informed and they do a nice job."

Director Marci Snyder Crawford of the Steubenville YMCA said OhioRISE has paid for gym memberships for young people using flex funds available to families through Medicaid.

"OhioRISE uses the Y as a platform to let them learn how to be healthier when they can't afford it or are struggling," Snyder Crawford said, adding with OhioRISE's help, young people are receiving the benefit of physical activity and socialization.

Guardian staff member and case manager Sean Young with Coleman Health Services said the mobile response stabilization service program for youth works with OhioRISE to coordinate services and assist with finding

residential treatment for children.

“It’s a good partnership, especially bringing together difference agencies, because a lot of times children and families need help from various groups at one time, and OhioRISE is great at helping coordinate that.”

Family advocate Amalia Ehler of St. Anthony’s Head Start through the Community Action Agency of Columbiana County, serving Columbiana and Jefferson Counties, said they have had good experiences with OhioRISE.

“Some of our families who need a lot more resources and stuff like that do get referred to OhioRISE and OhioRISE has been able to help them, so we’re really grateful to have them as a partner to help our families,” he said. “I think it’s good to have some people who are trained specifically for children, because it’s a little different than working with adults. It’s a good program.”

Educator of prevention Diane Sogan with the Family Recovery Center, part of the United Prevention Partnership Coalition of Jefferson County, said OhioRISE offers valuable coordination between schools and parents.

“So that everybody’s on the same page and everybody’s working for the welfare of the child. To be successful in school, sometimes you need a third party to come in and communicate different needs to each other.”

Peer services navigator Kayla Straight with National Alliance on Mental Illness Greater Wheeling said the staff works closely with OhioRISE.

“They’re definitely an asset within the community, especially for youth and getting them connected to the resources that they need.”

CEO Kimberly Ford of Lighthouse Counseling is another community partner.

“A lot of the OhioRISE kids qualify for our program, and the ones who are in our program and not yet on OhioRISE, we refer them to OhioRISE,” she said. “They put all the pieces together. Families connect so it’s a piece here and a piece there, they help complete the puzzle.”

Ford said OhioRISE has helped families that are dealing with multiple sensitive issues.

“There were a lot of difficulties that OhioRISE was able to help work with.”

Associate Director Dan Obertance with the Jefferson County Prevention and Recovery Board said they often refer cases to OhioRISE for the extensive connections the program brings.

“It’s definitely the access to the treatment, especially the more intense in-patient residential-type settings that are needed,” Obertance said. “I know several families that are already involved.”

Laura Trifonoff, coordinator with the Phoenix Program that organized the Red Ribbon Walk, said close to 200 people attended and had a chance to learn about a variety of services. She welcomed OhioRISE.

“We wanted to make sure they were involved, because we wanted to reach out to the children and their families.” To learn more about OhioRISE, call 740-792-4011, email ohiorise.info@jcsc.org or visit OhioRISE online at <https://www.jcsc.k12.oh.us/CareManagementEntity.aspx>

Photo outline:

OhioRISE care coordinator Anita Keenan, left, makes some connections with service providers during the Red Ribbon Walk at Jim Woods Park in Steubenville. OhioRISE is pursuing its mission of connecting children and families with needed resources.

