



## JEFFERSON COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

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OhioRISE joins in Cedar Community Cares

CANTON – OhioRISE is strengthening its presence in Stark County and participated at the Cedar Community Cares health and wellness gathering at Cedar Elementary Sept. 19. Families and children got an introduction to OhioRISE and learned about the resources on offer.

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 Stark, Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Harrison, Jefferson, Monroe 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.

There were many smiling faces around OhioRISE's table. Care coordinator Vicky Filtz was cheerful as she spoke with children about their activities this school year and answered parents' questions, including questions from a woman with a grandchild who has autism, and parents of a child with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Filtz said there are many school districts in Stark County, and she was happy for the opportunity to make more connections at the Canton City School District.

"I'm just excited to be here and meet the folks with the school and meet the different providers in this area. You always can run into somebody new at every event you go to," she said. "It's going to be nice to see who comes out tonight to support the schools, support the students and the families."

She looks forward to more conversations with school personnel.

"I know that we have students within the district that are enrolled with OhioRISE."

Filtz said the Community Cares event was productive.

"The families were really excited to hear about the services they were not familiar with," she said. "A lot of families have been interested to learn more about the program. I've had a lot of folks who left their information for our staff to reach out to them and connect a little bit more about what's going on, how we might be able to benefit them specifically, so that we can potentially get them enrolled and start providing services."

She said these introductions often result in more interest later.

"I've had several grandparents that are here with their grandkids, that have taken the information back to give to the parents."

Filtz also spoke with some service providers.

She said OhioRISE often works with Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health, which provides mental health services, and the agencies often refer children to each other. Filtz recounted a recent meeting with the OhioRISE staff to educate care coordinators about the resource and what it can offer families.

"They're a good partner in the community," she said.

Dan Mucci, mission advancement director with Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health, spoke with Filtz. "From our perspective, I think we're forming a good community partnership."

Tabitha Brunner, school community worker with Cedar Elementary, said she knew of OhioRISE.

“I do know that it helps students, and I would love to engage some of our families and students with it here,” she said. “It’s great to have them here so we know who our community partners are.”

Carla Aboud, family service specialist with Stark County Head Start, had also heard of OhioRISE.

“They do a lot of things that help the children, and they really need it, and they also help parents who can’t afford things so that their children can get other services,” she said. “I think that’s wonderful.”

Maggie Bradford, community resource connector for Stark County THRIVE out of the Canton City Public Health Department, providing services throughout Stark County, has made referrals to OhioRISE.

“I’ve never had any of my clients I’ve referred out say they had a hard time getting a hold of OhioRISE or working with OhioRISE,” she said. “That’s a positive.”

She said additional resources are welcome.

“Some of my clients do have children who have had court issues and things like that, so OhioRISE is one of the resources that I refer out when they do have behavioral problems.”

Lamar Sharpe, founder and president of the Be A Better Me Foundation in Canton, said he has worked with OhioRISE in the past, when they participated in an event in downtown Canton.

“We’ll keep our eyes out so maybe we can do something with them again.”

Anyone interested in becoming a Care Coordinator, please apply at <https://jcescvla.bamboohr.com/careers/23>. To learn more about OhioRISE, call 740-792-4011, email [ohiorise.info@jcesc.org](mailto:ohiorise.info@jcesc.org) or visit OhioRISE online at <https://www.jcesc.k12.oh.us/CareManagementEntity.aspx>

#### Photo Outline:

OhioRISE care coordinator Vicky Filtz speaks about the program during OhioRISE’s participation in the Cedar Community Cares health and wellness gathering at Cedar Elementary. OhioRISE is a Medicaid managed care program that brings children with mental health or behavioral needs together with the resources to help them.

