Spread and Sustainability Story

The Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) originally selected STAR-SI participants from the northern area of the state. It was not until Year 3, which began in July 2008 that providers and boards from the other four areas of the state joined STAR-SI. Three of the five Year 3 providers were Year 2 voluntary participants. Voluntary participants receive no funding from ODADAS. The other two providers were selected from the Adopting Changes to Improve Outcomes Now (ACTION) Campaign memberships. Due to scheduling conflicts, orientation was conducted at each of the five sites, rather than one meeting of all new participants.

To date, the Ohio STAR-SI project includes 16 funded providers, 13 funded boards, five voluntary providers and three voluntary boards. The department has learned that providers and boards take three to five months to fully engage and grasp the NIATx model, tools and techniques, including the establishment of performance management within their existing data structures. Using Year 1 carryover funds, Year 3 providers came on board in July rather than October 2008, to allow for additional learning time.

Recognizing the importance of peer mentoring and other learning opportunities. ODADAS held the Year 2 third quarter learning session shortly after the Year 3 orientations. Year 1 and Year 2 providers presented storyboards about their efforts and accomplishments at this meeting. This gave Year 3 participants excellent exposure to the model, how to implement it, and what results to anticipate.

ODADAS has several plans for spread and sustainability beyond the funding period. The Web Based Behavioral Health System for data collection will be in full implementation July 2009. This system will give all providers access to their own data. The standardized reports also provide all programs with access and retention information at no cost, even for providers who download data into the system.

ODADAS also created a STAR-SI web site, which will keep the Ohio STAR-SI network up-to date on process improvement activities and NIATx after the funding period ends. The department's CQI updates can be posted to this page.

The department also sent three staff to the NIATx Coach Academy held in January 2009 in Charleston, South Carolina. These three coaches have been assigned as state coaches. One of the coaches is from Prevention, as we would like to extend the NIATx model to that department as well, with adaptations to the aims and measures We have selected two voluntary STAR-SI providers, Consolidated Care (Logan/Campaign Board) and The Counseling Service (Adams, Lawrence and Scioto Board) to work with the coaches. These two providers were also selected to attend the 2009 NIATx Summit/SAAS National Conference.

To support our STAR-SI spread and sustainability efforts, ODADAS is offering two NIATx Change Leader Academy sessions for Ohio providers in September 2009. The first session is in partnership with The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati, which operates in eight Ohio counties (Adams, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton, Highland and Warren), as well as in several counties in Kentucky and Indiana. This session should serve the southern half of the

state. The second session will be at Mohican State Park in north central Ohio, targeting the northern half of the state.

Based on the availability of funding, the department would like to establish a cadre of peer mentors consisting of provider and board staff who would provide peer mentoring services throughout the state, much like the ODADAS Outcome Framework trainers. The department recognizes that the best approach for providers and boards to adopt process improvement practices is to demonstrate the benefits of using "peer" support. The cadre of peer mentors can also promote the Framework, since PTO results play an intimate role with CQI.

ODADAS will continue to use a variety of media, such as the electronic newsletter, to keep the field updated on latest events and accomplishments. We will host events related to process improvement and CQI at annual meetings such as the Directors' Conference.