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# JUVENILE OFFENDERS AND CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

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## OHIO RESOURCE GUIDE

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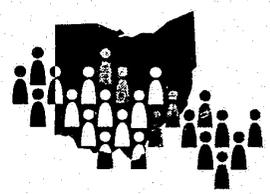
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OHIO COMMISSION ON DISPUTE RESOLUTION  
AND CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

*Research indicates that adolescent conflict which leads to behavior such as fighting results in hundreds of homicides and an uncounted number of non-fatal injuries among adolescents each year. There is an obvious need in our state and across the country to teach conflict resolution skills to adolescents to decrease the risks of homicide victimization and perpetration. If adolescents can be taught appropriate ways to deal with conflict, non-violent patterns of behavior might be carried through life.*

Geno Natalucci-Persichetti, Director  
Ohio Department of Youth Services

## **Introduction**

The purpose of this guide is to help Ohio's juvenile courts and dispute resolution providers to work together to meet the goals of the RECLAIM OHIO Program. The primary goal of RECLAIM OHIO is to reduce commitments of juvenile offenders to the Ohio Department of Youth Services by assisting juvenile court and probation staff in increasing the use of community-based alternatives to incarceration.

**Several juvenile courts in Ohio are already benefiting from using mediation and other conflict management services to help young offenders.**

The Ohio Commission on Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management and the Supreme Court of Ohio prepared this guide to:

- provide an overview of the benefits of mediation and conflict management training/education for young offenders
- describe the variety of conflict management (CM) programs
- illustrate how CM programs are used by Ohio juvenile courts
- make recommendations for how courts can best use CM services
- list current Ohio CM programs linked with juvenile courts

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# Section 1. Conflict Management and Reclaim Ohio

Conflict Management is a specifically eligible program area for the Reclaim Ohio initiative. It can be used in a "stand-alone" fashion or as part of other programs.

The Reclaim Ohio Manual - Section G, Item 27 lists "Conflict Management " as an eligible activity. Other program areas can include mediation or other conflict management skills. The most likely program areas for incorporating conflict management are:

<u>Standard Program Number</u>	<u>Standard Program Areas</u>
10	Wrap Around Services
11	Home Based Services
14	Life Skills Training
22	Restitution/Community Service
26	Physical Stress
27	Conflict Management
30	Violence Reduction Programs

For more information about the Reclaim Ohio program, contact:

Linda Modry  
Subsidies Section  
Ohio Department of Youth Services  
51 North High Street, 8th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215  
(614) 752-8131

## Section 2. Youth Conflict Management in General

Teaching children and youth skills for problem-solving, handling anger, mediating disputes and effective communication are important elements for reducing violence, maintaining families and preparing youngsters to be peaceful and productive adults.

In Ohio, youth peer-to-peer mediation is rapidly growing in schools. In April 1993 the Commission on Dispute Resolution listed 200 schools which had mediation or other conflict management programs. As of September 1994, there were at least 450.

People working in parenting and divorce programs are increasingly helping adults understand and control how their conflicts affect children. Domestic Relations Courts are including parent education programs and voluntary mediation options to settle disputes over custody and visitation.

Community-based dispute resolution programs have worked with youth gang problems. They have sought to provide both immediate relief from violence and long-term resolution of the forces that lead young men and women to gangs and violence.

Because the purpose of the guide is to select Ohio programs of greatest relevance to juvenile courts and RECLAIM OHIO, it does not focus on school mediation, gang intervention or divorce/parenting applications of youth conflict management.

However, it is useful for judges and court administrators to be aware of other efforts that can complement their work and even provide direct services to juvenile courts.

The table of "Applications of Mediation and Conflict Resolution for Children, Youth and Families" from the New Mexico Center for Dispute Resolutions is a useful summary of the related areas affecting children and youth.

# **APPLICATIONS OF MEDIATION AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES**

## **SCHOOL**

- CONFLICT RESOLUTION CURRICULUM
- MEDIATION PROGRAM

## **HOME**

- PARENT/CHILD MEDIATION
- CONFLICT RESOLUTION TRAINING  
FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN

## **COMMUNITY**

- MEDIATION OF YOUTH DISPUTES
- GANG MEDIATION

## **JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM**

- VICTIM OFFENDER MEDIATION
- PARENT/CHILD MEDIATION
- CONFLICT RESOLUTION TRAINING  
FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS

## **DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURTS**

- DIVORCING PARENTS EDUCATION PROGRAMS
- DIVORCE MEDIATION

## **JUVENILE CORRECTIONS**

- CONFLICT RESOLUTION
- MEDIATION PROGRAM

Melinda Smith, Executive Director  
New Mexico Center for Dispute Resolution

## Section 3. Benefits of Youth Conflict Management Programs

As with all social programs, beneficial outcomes from youth conflict management initiatives depend on many factors. However, several general benefits of conflict management programs for youth have been noted in Ohio:

- Mediation conferences involving parents, school officials and children have become a new way to address **truancy**
- Mediation can reach the underlying problems that may result in **delinquency** actions including juvenile-juvenile assault, criminal damaging and theft
- Enhancing non-violent choices for handling conflict can support **family preservation**
- Bringing property offenders face-to-face with their victims to take responsibility for their actions and arrange for restitution
- Speedy, low-cost or no-cost resolution of charges for low income citizens
- Modeling and development of practical skills for offenders to better handle anger and future conflicts and to consciously choose non-violent responses
- Reduce official filings of truancy referrals from schools
- More involvement by those affected by the offense to hold the juvenile and parents accountable
- Opportunities to work with offenders and parents together on underlying causes of violence and effective referrals for counseling or educational programs

*The benefits for each court will depend on the specific offenses where conflict management is applied and how the conflict management program is designed and implemented.*

## Section 4. Kinds of Offenses Amenable for Youth Conflict Management Programs

Programs in Ohio provide dispute resolution options for a wide range of offenses and with a number of different models for dispute resolution services.

### Offenses where Conflict Management has been used

- unruly/delinquent
- assault (first offense)
- vandalism
- shoplifting
- domestic violence (adult assault of juvenile)
- DSOs (deinstitutionalized status offenders)
- truancy
- menacing
- burglary

### How Conflict Management fits with the overall system of Diversion-Treatment-Punishment

- Voluntary victim-offender mediation can include reaching an agreement for restitution or community service
- Pre-filing mediation of truancy, involving the student, parents and school official
- Mediation of shoplifting which can include restitution or community service
- Parent-child mediation for unruly and delinquent charges
- Felony probation - a component of a summer program for employment skills and academic enhancement

## Section 5. Design of Conflict Management Programs

There are two basic models for how youth conflict management programs operate in relation to a juvenile court. Either the program is operated directly by the court, or the court refers and/or contracts with an external conflict management provider.

### Court operated

Some courts use existing personnel for conflict management services as part of their diversion and probation programs. The possible advantages of this model are closer monitoring and easier processing of cases and minimizing costs through utilizing current court resources. Potential disadvantages include overburdening court staff, arranging for quality training to prepare staff to operate a mediation/conflict management option, and potential duplication of other community programs serving youth.

*[See examples of using existing court staff: Lucas and Clermont counties in Section 6, and Cuyahoga County in Section 8]*

### Court referred

Other juvenile courts use community volunteers coordinated by a court employee, or establish a relationship with a local government or community organization which provides youth conflict management services.

In addition to the opposite advantages and disadvantages of the court-operated design above, external providers can often provide more detailed monitoring and follow-up. They may also involve other parties that are not legally involved, but are practically a part of the problem(s) leading to a court referral and thus are essential for reaching a lasting resolution.

*[Examples of using existing court staff to coordinate community volunteer mediators: Fayette County in Section 6, and Butler County in Section 8]*

*[Examples of referral without further court staff involvement: Perry County-Main Street Mediation Service and Montgomery County-Dayton Mediation Center in Section 8]*

## Section 6. Four Illustrations of Ohio Youth Conflict Management Programs

To provide a clearer idea of how courts have used and benefited from youth conflict management programs, four representative illustrations are described. There are several other effective programs linked with juvenile courts (*see Section 8*). These four programs were not necessarily selected as being the best or most effective, but are useful examples.

### Rural: Fayette and Van Wert Counties

#### Fayette County Juvenile Court

The Fayette County Juvenile Court began a voluntary mediation program for school truancy referrals, unruly/delinquent charges, and problems between juveniles and their parents in April 1993. The Court worked in conjunction with the Ohio Commission on Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management to develop this program. The goal of the program was to divert court filings and reduce the expense of court costs.

Ten volunteers received 27 hours of mediation training in March 1993 from instructors Martha Fruth and Beth Alfman from Main Street Mediation Service of Perry County. The training was financed through a grant by the Commission on Dispute Resolution and assistance from the Supreme Court of Ohio. The training and mediation focused on juvenile conflict and conflict management, with an emphasis on child-parent and child-school relations.

In addition, a probation staff member was designated as mediation coordinator to develop brochures, inform schools and parents, schedule mediations and track cases.

Through July 1994, 135 juvenile cases have gone to mediation, with approximately 130 reaching agreement. The great majority of the participants felt the mediation was conducted fairly and believed the original problem was settled. For many, mediation provided an

alternative to litigation. Furthermore, many low income parents found the program attractive as there is no filing charge for mediation.

This program is used as a positive way to deal with the negative words and actions of juveniles within the school system as well as at home.

Juvenile Judge Nancy Drake Hammond is very pleased with the results. "The schools have reported a drastic drop in fights (juvenile-juvenile assaults)," she said. "I have had one of these types of assault cases in my courtroom in the last ten months. In addition, the number of unruly charges filed by parents against their children have been reduced. From my experience with mediation, it is an effective and inexpensive way for children and parents to avoid the court system and yet settle their differences."

### Van Wert County Juvenile Court

Van Wert County Juvenile Court began its voluntary mediation program for juvenile-juvenile and juvenile-parent problems in late 1993. This type of mediation is also available for other kinds of juvenile problems. The program was requested by Juvenile Court Judge Rex D. Fortney to provide an alternative to litigation.

Currently, two volunteer mediators have been trained and are conducting mediations. This husband and wife team--Kent and Janice McMillen--received 40 hours of training in September and October 1993 from Mark Umbreit and Melinda Smith. The Supreme Court of Ohio paid for the Umbreit-Smith training, which included staff from other courts in Ohio to help trainees develop programs in other courts.

The program is still becoming known in the community. Careful screening of cases sometimes finds situations that are not appropriate for mediation. Mediation seems very useful in situations where a juvenile offender has been goaded into an assault or other crime as a result of peer pressure. The negotiation and problem-solving skills a juvenile observes in mediation can help him/her deal with future pressures and confrontation more effectively.

## Suburban: Clermont County

### Clermont County Juvenile Court

A wide variety of problems are mediated as part of the diversion efforts of the juvenile court. Through 1993 and 1994, one diversion staff person devoted about 40% of her time to mediation. The court is expanding the use of mediation in fall 1994.

Mediation begins with the juvenile court intake officer who determines whether the offense is best suited for criminal diversion, mediation or adjudication. There is a formal filing, but mediation occurs in the pre-adjudication stage.

Mediations are held for assault, criminal trespassing, criminal menacing, criminal damaging, and disorderly conduct. Theft charges can also be mediated if the charge is filed by a private citizen that wants the item returned.

The Clermont County Juvenile Court mediation program was initiated in 1993, and 120 cases were referred to mediation. Through the first half of 1994, about 10 cases/month have been referred.

Of the 120 cases mediated in 1993, 86% were settled and only 3% were referred to the court for adjudication. The remaining 11% were either dismissed or resulted in no further action. Assaults were the largest category of charges mediated, constituting 52% of the cases. Another third were cases involving criminal trespassing or disorderly conduct.

Both girls and boys, as well as young men and women were participants in mediation. In 1993, 56% of the victims were female. There were, however, more male defendants than female; 58% to 42% respectively.

This fall, the court will be greatly expanding the use of mediation. All schools in the county have been notified that mediation will be the first choice for first-time trancies. After the standard 10-day notice, mediation sessions will be scheduled. In order to provide mediation with existing staff, the mediation coordinator received additional training during the summer of 1994 and will provide training to probation officers with truancy responsibilities.

Based on their experience, the biggest recommendation from Clermont County for other courts considering mediation is to plan for high quality, basic training and be able to support new mediators in practicing and improving their skills. The mediation coordinator was initially asked to mediate with very little mediation background. She realizes she could have been more effective, and been able to assist other staff with the skills, if she had received 15-20 hours of training from the beginning.

## Urban: Lucas County (Toledo)

### Lucas County Juvenile Court

In response to a significant increase in formal filings of unruly charges between 1977 and 1991, the Lucas County Juvenile Court began a pilot project for mediation of status offenses in the fall of 1991. Between October 1991 and April 1992 one staff mediator and five volunteer mediators mediated 216 cases with a success rate of over 90%. The program has continued to grow. By April 1993 the program had mediated over 500 cases. The number of unruly adjudications have been reduced by more than 50%. During the mediation, the mediator works with parents and the child to strengthen communication and to help them develop and design their own settlement agreement.

The mediation process also provides a good model for implementing effective problem solving skills that the parties use when they deal with disputes on their own at home. Mediation offers parents, children and school officials an opportunity to address the issues underlying the problems of truancy, runaways and unruliness in a confidential, non-threatening and non-punitive atmosphere. It can provide significant benefits to at-risk youth and their families through mediation, as well as timely referrals to other necessary services for the family.

The mediation program has expanded since the fall of 1993 to involve both court staff and law students as mediators. With assistance from the Supreme Court of Ohio, basic and advanced mediation training was provided to a diverse group of court staff and individuals working with the court system. This group included representatives of the Lucas County Public Schools, Children's Services Board, Legal Aid Society, Child Support Enforcement Agency and Referees in the Juvenile Court. Over

the last two years, referees and judges have become more comfortable with the mediation program and the program now handles referrals from the delinquency; parentage; and abuse, dependency and neglect dockets of the court. For the first six months of 1994 approximately 180-200 cases were mediated and official adjudications continue to decrease.

## Section 7. Recommendations for Implementing a Youth Conflict Management Program

- **Before beginning a court-operated program, assess your community's conflict management resources.** Schools, mental health agencies, bar associations, adult mediation programs and other groups may have programs or other expertise to assist in your efforts to establish a program and to avoid duplication of services. If you are seeking information about conflict management resources in your area, see Section 9: Additional Resources. If local resources appear to be unavailable, consult with the Supreme Court or the Commission on Dispute Resolution (*Section 9*).
- Seek input and support from important players in youth services and behavior -- e.g., schools, law enforcement, children and family service agencies, prosecutors, attorneys and conflict management providers. Early consultation can build a cooperative, integrated approach.
- **Be clear about goals for the program.** Not all benefits listed in Section 3 can be attained at once.
- **Attain quality training specific to juvenile-juvenile or juvenile-adult disputes.** Mediators trained and experienced in mediating other kinds of disputes usually need additional training or supervision to work with family and youth disputes.
- **Design the CM project to include a test period to work out the kinks.** A six- to twelve-month period is useful for implementing new procedures and adjusting the operations to problems or new opportunities.
- **Monitor and evaluate the results** -- even after the test period is completed.

## Section 8. List of Ohio Youth Conflict Management Programs related to Juvenile Courts

### Juvenile-juvenile assault

- **Montgomery County Juvenile Court**

Montgomery County Juvenile Court works in cooperation with the Dayton Mediation Center to provide mediation for simple assault cases. Children involved in first time assault cases are referred, along with their parents and/or guardians, to the Dayton Mediation Center for Saturday morning mediations.

The large number of volunteer mediators with an interest in working with children and families is being utilized by the Juvenile Court to expand the mediation program to handle other kinds of delinquency referrals. Program staff point to both the increased amount of time and the greater likelihood of victim involvement in the mediation process as significant factors for expanding the program.

For more information contact:

Tom Wahrab, Executive Director  
Dayton Mediation Center  
2160 E. Fifth Street  
Dayton, OH 45402 (513) 253-0454

- **Clermont County Juvenile Court**

Described in Section 6. Also mediates criminal trespassing, criminal menacing, criminal damaging, disorderly conduct, and theft charges.

For more information contact:

Julie Bullock, Mediation Coordinator  
Clermont County Juvenile Court  
2339 Clermont Center Dr.  
Batavia, OH 45103 (513) 732-7673

## Victim-offender

### • **Butler County Juvenile Court**

Started in 1992 with the assistance of a grant from the Office of Criminal Justice Services, community volunteers provide mediation of victim-offender problems. All mediations are voluntary. With over 100 mediations to date, there is extensive assessment, follow-up and referrals for other services.

For more information contact:

Wilma Cress, Program Coordinator  
Victim-Offender Mediation Program  
Butler County Juvenile Justice Center  
280 N. Fair Ave.  
Hamilton, OH 45011 (513) 887-3830

### • **Van Wert County Juvenile Court**

Described in Section 6.

For more information, contact:

Kent McMillen, Director  
Van Wert County Victims Services, Inc.  
118 E. Main Street - County Annex  
Van Wert, OH 45891 (419) 238-9800

### • **Holmes County Juvenile Court**

Begun in August 1994, victim-offender mediation is used after adjudication for partial disposition. Final disposition is contingent on the outcome of the mediation. Trained community volunteers are mediators, and Juvenile Court Judge Robert B. Hines serves on the Holmes County Victim-Offender Reconciliation Program Board of Trustees.

For more information, contact:

The Hon. Robert B. Hines  
Holmes County Probate/Juvenile Court  
1 E. Jackson - Suite 201  
Millersburg, OH 44654 (216) 674-5841

Mediation with schools, parents, other juveniles

• **Perry County Juvenile Court**

Main Street Mediation Service, (MSMS) a non-profit group that mediates youth and adult disputes, receives referrals from the Juvenile Court. Unruly complaints by parents, situations involving violence and non-violent problems have benefited from mediation.

MSMS also receives referrals concerning problems involving juveniles before they reach the juvenile court. Schools have referred truancy problems and the Sheriff's office has referred situations involving modest property damage stemming from an on-going relationship problem.

For more information, contact:

Kathie Alloway-Priddy, Director  
Main Street Mediation Service  
P.O. Box 154 131 1/2 W. Main St.,  
Somerset, OH 43783 (614) 743-1131

• **Fayette County Juvenile Court**

Described in Section 6.

For more information, contact:

Sandy Fackler, Coordinator  
Fayette County Mediation  
110 E. Court Street  
Washington C.H., OH 43160 (614) 333-3501

• **Lucas County Juvenile Court**

Described in Section 6.

For more information contact:

Tammy Martin, Coordinator  
Juvenile Mediation Services  
Lucas County Juvenile Court  
429 Michigan Street  
Toledo, OH 43624 (419) 249-6678

- **Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court**

Court staff has provided in-house mediation since 1980, with additional training in 1984 and 1994. Training was provided by the Supreme Court of Ohio and the Cleveland Mediation Center (see "Training" below). Intake staff determine suitability for mediation.

For more information, contact:

Brain Sexton, Director  
Intake and Mediation Division  
Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court  
2173 East 22nd Street  
Cleveland, OH 44115 (216) 443-3455

- **Franklin County Juvenile Court**

As part of its work with juvenile felons on probation through the YEAR Program (Youth Employment and Academic Recovery), the Court utilized the Interfaith Center for Peace to provide conflict management experience for the YEAR participants. In classes of 4-6 youth, Interfaith Center staff explored ways to enhance non-violent problem-solving and improve communication skills of juveniles in the program.

The conflict management component of the YEAR program was introduced in summer 1994. There are possibilities for more conflict management opportunities through the recreation centers where probationers are assigned in the evenings.

Juveniles in the YEAR program are adjudicated felons, (e.g. carry a concealed weapon, receiving stolen property, auto theft, burglary) and are on intense probation.

For more information, contact:

Tom Warner, Probation Officer  
YEAR Program  
1486 Watkins Road  
Columbus, OH 43207 (614) 491-1867

## Training

- **Cleveland Mediation Center**

The Cleveland Mediation Center (CMC) is a community-based mediation and conflict resolution program serving a near-west side neighborhood of Cleveland. They provide training to a variety of organizations interested in youth disputes, and have trained two juvenile courts in basic and advanced mediation skills. CMC has also consulted on ethical issues of court personnel acting as mediators.

In 1984, CMC provided mediation training for the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court. At that time, the aim was to help probation staff adapt their informal hearings into mediations when appropriate. In September 1994, CMC provided advanced mediation training focusing on victim-offender and intra-family conflicts including curfew, truancy, or unrealistic parental expectations. Included in the training were staff from Stark and Geauga Juvenile Courts.

For more information, contact:

Jo Ann Ezzo, Director of Training  
Cleveland Mediation Center  
3000 Bridge Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44113                      (216) 771-7297

- **Main Street Mediation Service -- see page 14**

*For other potential trainers for court staff -- contact the  
Supreme Court or Commission for details.*

## Section 9. Additional Resources

### ASSESSING LOCAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION RESOURCES

#### 1. Program Directory

The Commission maintains a directory of non-profit programs for interpersonal, neighborhood and minor criminal disputes. The "Directory of Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management Programs in Ohio" lists programs by geographic region. This directory is free of charge from the Commission (see address below).

#### 2. Dispute Resolution Organizations

For identifying individuals with experience or interest in dispute resolution, there are three primary organizations in Ohio:

##### OCMN - Ohio Conflict Management Network

Anderson Dudley (513) 324-7696 or  
Cathleen Kreiner (513) 763-5130, Co-chairs  
c/o 3060 Fremont St.  
Columbus, OH 43204

OCMN is a forum for community, court-based and business dispute resolution programs. Its mission is to "[s]upport the growth and development of conflict management efforts through the sharing of information and expertise." OCMN supports volunteers and staff mediators to enhance their skills and learn about new dispute resolution opportunities. Informal assistance to new community, local government and court dispute resolution initiatives is available.

##### OMA - Ohio Mediation Association

Evelyn Wallace (513) 281-8419  
P.O. Box 14141  
Columbus, OH 43214-4141

OMA is principally made of individual and organizational providers of mediation services in Ohio. OMA's mission is to promote the use and excellence of mediation services throughout Ohio. Many members provide family and divorce mediation. A statewide membership directory listing available mediation services is available.

SPIDR - Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution  
SW Ohio Chapter

William Clark (614) 459-1012  
c/o Wright State University - CLMC  
140 E. Monument Avenue  
Dayton, OH 45402-1267

SPIDR is comprised of professionals in dispute resolution, both lawyers and non-lawyers. Meetings rotate every other month between the cities of Dayton, Columbus and Cincinnati.

### **3. State Government Clearinghouses**

For additional information or consultation, contact:

John B. Stephens  
Research Director  
**Ohio Commission on  
Dispute Resolution and  
Conflict Management**  
77 S. High Street, 24th floor  
Columbus, OH 43266-0124  
(614) 752-4700

C. Eileen Pruett  
Coordinator, Dispute  
Resolution Programs  
**The Supreme Court of Ohio**  
30 E. Broad Street  
Columbus, OH 43266-0419  
(800) 826-9010

#### **Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) - Title V**

Tim Stubbins, Grants Management Supervisor  
400 East Town Street, Suite 120  
Columbus, OH 43215 (614) 466-7782

Title V funds are a possible resource for funding conflict management programs that incorporate comprehensive juvenile delinquency prevention plans. The U.S. Congress created Title V - Incentive Grants or Local Delinquency Prevention Programs in 1992, by amendment to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP). OCJS is the state agency designated to administer the JJDP Act.

Title V is premised on the belief that once the factors that increase the risk of delinquent behavior are identified, delinquent behavior in children may be prevented. The goal of Title V funding is to decrease delinquency and youth violence through community and family support, as well as subgrants from the State of Ohio.

## PROGRAMS COMPLEMENTARY TO CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

### Parenting

- **Training Ohio's Parents for Success (TOPS)**

Barbara J. Dorsey, Consultant  
Division of Educational Services  
Ohio Department of Education  
65 S. Front Street, Room 719  
Columbus, OH 43266-0308 (614) 466-6830

TOPS seeks to increase parents' involvement in the education of their children and to enhance parenting skills. TOPS compiled a resource guide and has trained parenting skills trainers in about 80 of Ohio's 88 counties. Individual school districts determine how to adapt and present the information in their localities.

- **United Services for Effective Parenting of Ohio (USEP)**

Cynthia McKay, Executive Director  
4245 Donlyn Court  
Columbus, OH 43232 (614) 868-8600 and (800) 262-4KID

USEP-Ohio serves as a statewide clearinghouse and referral source for:

- parents (parent skills programs, family resource calendars)
- schools (partnership projects, classroom resources, after-school programs)
- professionals (parenting roundtable, Family Resources Coalition of Ohio)
- corporations (lunchtime workshops, parent newsletters)

USEP has been involved in school peer mediation and operates a variety of parenting programs including a speakers bureau, referrals for play and support groups, a "WARM line" (1-800-262-4KID) which operates during business hours with staff providing information to parents and family service professionals. A Resource Center is available for ordering a wide variety of videotapes and printed materials.

One program, "Discover Parenting," reaches high schools and middle schools statewide and offers curriculum, data collection and recognition of teens' views of parents and how they plan to be good parents themselves. There is a statewide photo contest held annually, ending with a display and reception in Columbus.

- **Parenting for Peaceful Families Program**  
Ohio Department of Health  
Division of Maternal and Child Health  
Debbie Stokes, Coordinator  
P.O. Box 118      246 N. High Street  
Columbus, OH 43266-0588      (614) 466-8932

Referral source for parenting consultants and trainers throughout Ohio.

### *Victim-Offender*

- **Victim-Offender Mediation Association**  
c/o St. Vincent DePaul Center for Community Reconciliation  
777 South Main St., Suite 200  
Orange, CA 92668      (714) 836-8100

The Victim-Offender Mediation Association (VOMA) was created to develop and implement programs to educate and inform the public about victim-offender mediation and reconciliation programs. VOMA provides training materials, encourages networking, and assists members with new programs relating to victim-offender mediation.

### *Youth Violence*

- **Alternatives to Violence**  
John Looney and Danene Bender, Coordinators  
Peace Grows  
513 W. Exchange Street  
Akron, OH 44302      (216) 864-5442

A twenty-lesson curriculum helps youth understand the sources and forms of violence, raises their awareness of creative non-violent alternatives, and helps develop interpersonal skills in conflict resolution (e.g. handling anger, active listening, group problem-solving). Trainers are available in several regions of the state and the curriculum is appropriate for adults and teens. Evening or weekend schedules are available.

- **Ohio Violence Prevention Process**  
Kathryn Williams Palmer, Prevention Coordinator  
ODADAS  
Two Nationwide Plaza  
280 N. High Street, 12th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215-2537 (614) 466-6379

The Ohio Violence Prevention Project (OVPP) is an innovative strategy to address the pervasive problem of violence as it relates to alcohol and drugs. Sponsored by the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS), OVPP is designed to meet the needs of the requesting organization and participants. Training designs range from one-hour workshops to 2-, 3-, or 4-day trainings. Training components include:

- the roots of male violence
- men as allies
- violence against women
- violence and society (racism, sexism, adultism, heterosexism and classism)

The actual agenda is designed by OVPP trainers and the requesting organization.

Each training includes a multi-cultural, cross-gender and cross-racial team of OVPP specialists. The number of trainers provided depends on the length of the training and the number of participants, which also determine the training costs. Basic awareness and informational presentation are available at no charge.

- **Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS)**  
**Governor's Task Force on Gun Violence**  
Dr. Mark S. Davis, Chief of Policy  
400 East Town Street, Suite 120  
Columbus, OH 43215 (614) 466-7782

OCJS served as secretariat of a diverse task force on firearm violence in Ohio. The Task Force report and recommendations are available from OCJS. Several of the recommendations focused on ways to prevent problems from escalating to violence in general and firearm misuse in particular. OCJS can provide referrals to members of the Task Force involved in violence prevention around Ohio.