

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Ohio's "Access to Recovery" Addiction Treatment Program Expands** *ATR now includes the Ohio National Guard*

**(Columbus, OH, January 14, 2010)** – The Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services' (ODADAS) three-year, \$13.9 million "Access to Recovery" (ATR) grant now includes Ohio National Guard service members returning from deployment in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) who live in Cuyahoga, Mahoning, Stark and Summit Counties, and who do not currently have health insurance coverage.

Funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the ATR grant's original focus was to provide community and faith-based treatment and recovery support service choices for adults residing in the four-county territory who suffer from a substance abuse disorder, have undergone an alcohol and other drug assessment within the past year, have a household income of 200 percent or less of the federal poverty level and have had recent criminal justice involvement. However, SAMHSA awarded Ohio an additional \$500,000 performance incentive at the start of its final year of implementation to be used at the discretion of ODADAS, the cabinet level state agency that applied for and administers the grant.

"The decision to focus the ATR expansion incentive on the needs of Ohio's returning military personnel was a logical one. ODADAS serves as a member of OHIOCARES, a collaboration of state and local agencies dedicated to enhancing the safety net of community-based alcohol and other drug addiction and mental health services for military personnel and their families. ODADAS recognizes the demands of combat and the stress associated with separation from one's family which make this population especially vulnerable to substance abuse and addiction. And the stigma that surrounds these disorders often causes its sufferers, especially in the military, to avoid seeking help. As a state, we owe this service to our returning veterans," said ODADAS Director Angela Cornelius Dawson

The Veterans' Expansion ATR grant has waived the income guidelines contained in the original ATR grant and does not require its participants to have had criminal justice involvement. The cost of alcohol and other drug assessments, which are required for participation, will be covered by ATR for clients who are referred by from the Ohio National Guard Prevention and Treatment Outreach Coordinator or a Benefits Coordinator which are listed below.

To obtain alcohol and other drug treatment and recovery support services – including but not limited to outpatient and intensive outpatient treatment, counseling, parenting classes, employment training, transportation assistance, transitional housing, childcare and support groups – military personnel may do one of three things: 1) Make an appointment with Ohio National Guard Prevention and Treatment Outreach Coordinator Sergeant Cheryl Danielson (614-336-6444); 2) Make an appointment with Ohio National Guard Director of Psychological

Health Jeremy Kaufman, Psy.D. (614-336-7246); 3) Contact an ATR Benefits Coordination site in their county of residence (see list below).

**Cuyahoga County**

Oriana House 216-881-7882

Hispanic Urban Minority Alcohol & Drug Addiction Outreach Program, 216-459-1222

**Mahoning County**

Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC), 330-743-2192

**Stark County**

Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC), 330-479-1912

**Summit County**

Oriana House, 330-996-7730

Urban Ounce of Prevention, 330-867-5400

Community Health Center, 330-434-4141

For more information on the ATR grant, visit: {HYPERLINK "http://www.atr.samhsa.gov/"} or the ATR link on the ODADAS website: {HYPERLINK "http://www.ada.ohio.gov/"}. **Media Contacts:** Amanda Conn Starner, ODADAS chief of communications (614-644-8456) {HYPERLINK "mailto:connstarner@ada.ohio.gov"}

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