

Integrated Services for Behavioral Health

Behavioral Health Respite Expansion in Southeast Ohio



“An individual in Athens County wanted to become a respite care provider for a friend who was struggling to find available providers through a respite program. She volunteered after her friend's case worker suggested the option of a natural support respite provider. The process, however, proved more complex than anticipated. She began by getting first aid/CPR training and signing up online, but then encountered difficulties with finding information about required background checks and additional training, especially de-escalation and trauma-informed care courses. Many online courses were expensive, and it was unclear if she met the specific requirements.

After reaching out to Aetna directly, she attended a helpful online information session, but it seemed more geared towards those already in the care field. Ultimately, the time commitment, cost of training and background checks, and general lack of clear guidance led her to feel overwhelmed and stall the process. By chance, she came upon information in a Facebook group where someone posted about ISBH training sessions for respite providers. While she missed the initial training, she was able to quickly get information for the next one. As a result, she now has all the necessary information and is ready to submit her application, feeling as though she's received a "fast pass" to becoming a provider. She acknowledged that she likely wouldn't have completed the process independently without the training session offered by ISBH.”

– ISBH Respite Team