



# Building a PEER TA Network State by State



Office of Family Assistance  
Welfare Peer Technical Assistance Network  
An Overview of Programs Providing Services to Low-Income Teen Parents – Webinar  
Moderator: Lisa Washington-Thomas  
August 2, 2012  
1:00 p.m. EST  
Questions and Answers

**Presenters:**

- Jennifer Johnson and Kara Wente; Ohio Learning, Earning and Parenting Program (Ohio LEAP)
- Danette Lawrence and Henry Jones; D.C. Parent Assessment Program

Question: **Are homeless teens eligible, such as those living in shelters or transitional housing?**

Ohio LEAP: Yes.

Question: **What is the proportion of teen moms and teen dads in your caseload?**

Ohio LEAP: We don't – we have a general number. We wouldn't have that breakdown. If there's someone who would like a little more information on our caseload, we can see if we can possibly get that for them, if they want to send us an e-mail. Our contact information is on the next slide.

Question: **Do the parents participate in a parenting education program? And if so, what curriculum do you use?**

Ohio LEAP: Yes, the parenting education piece would really depend on the specific county. I know some counties do have some specific programs, but at the state we don't have any mandatory curriculum.

Question: **What supports are provided beyond meeting once a year?**

Ohio LEAP: If transportation was an issue, we may deal with assistance with that, whether it be a bus pass or reimbursement for gas to and from school.

Question: **What financial literacy curricula do you use? Is it available to others?**



## Building a PEER TA Network State by State

D.C.:

Well, actually it's – it's called the Reality Store. And what – we actually were able to get it offline. We – there are various school systems, and actually it started, I believe, in Texas, where someone had developed what they call – it's called – it's actually called the Reality Store.

And the way that it's structured is that it actually stems from banking, just general banking. And what we did – we pulled pieces together from off the Internet. You can actually go on the Internet and type in "Reality Store."

And what we did – we developed a financial literacy piece based on the current population that we were working with, because we found that the overall Reality Store that they had online did not meet some of the realistic needs that we thought that would be able to aid our kids in basically getting a really good view of what it is to actually be able to maintain a household.

And what we did is we incorporated pieces as it relates to being a teen parent. So we talk about how much it costs to buy diapers, how much it costs to get formula. So what we did is we just took bits and pieces of Reality Store that we found online, and we compiled – complete – completed one for our program specifically.

Question:

**How many teen parents do you serve? How many fathers do you actually serve?**

D.C.:

Well, as of right now we have one father on our caseload. We have 188 individuals that we work with, and out of that it's just one father.

What we've discovered is that it's kind of difficult to pull the fathers in unless they are parenting the children themselves. So – and that's on an ongoing basis. So some of those young people have been with us since they were 14. I have a case manager now who has two young ladies that have – he's worked with since they were 14. One is in the 11th grade and one is in the 12th grade. So as I see expanding to be inclusive of 21-year-olds, I see that our caseload will probably grow.

D.C.:

And that's only one, I guess, formal case. Personally, I work with the teen parents and the fathers in particular through other agencies with the Mayor's fatherhood initiative. So there are various



## Building a PEER TA Network State by State

organizations that have services for teen fathers, and I've collaborated with them in order to make referrals and provide services. I would say overall – probably numbering 100 or more of services that we provide indirectly.

Question:

**In terms of mental health counseling or referrals, do you provide those to the teen parent?**

D.C.:

Oh, absolutely. You know, especially younger persons who are going through relationship issues. Of course, they're playing house, for lack of a better term, and all that comes with that, which is domestic violence and, you know, teens just being teens. So we found out that there's a lot of loss, a lot of grief, and there needs to be a lot of healing. So one of our big partners is the Wendt – W-e-n-d-t – Center for Loss, Grief and Healing. And we make referrals there. And we actually had our presenter come in from Wendt Center this past week for the summer youth employee programs that we're monitoring. As a matter of fact, tomorrow is the last day. Yay.

You know, but we know that kids will be kids, basically. And they're going through a lot of anxiety, and a lot of times adults don't realize or don't want to remember how they were as adolescents and teens. It's a very precarious time in your life, with your body developing differently, and of course, you finding out where you fit in society, or if you fit in at all, and questioning your skills and talents and abilities.

So, yes, mental health well-being is very definitely the key.

Question:

**Where does the funding come from for Ohio LEAP?**

Ohio LEAP:

It actually comes from our TANF allocation. Since they're TANF recipients, the bonuses are issued through that program. We also have a – it's – I believe the way it works is similar to our Prevention, Retention and Contingency program, so it – you know, those are – that program is for short-term needs.

So it's similarly done in that manner, where in our eligibility system the worker can go in, and the funds go directly from our TANF allocation.

Question:

**Is there any help with childcare during classes?**

Ohio LEAP:

Yes. The question came up earlier regarding supportive services. We do help with childcare, transportation. Some of the counties have classes such as parenting classes or family planning, stress management, substance abuse. They also will help with housing assistance and paternity establishment, if necessary. These are just examples of things that we've had come up in the past.

And then there's also nutrition information that's provided in some of the counties. So it does vary based on the county. And obviously the involvement varies based on the county, because we put the program out there, and it's up to the county to utilize it. And we would, of course, love to see more people participating, because we do believe that the bonuses do help the participants involved. But unfortunately, we can't mandate that. So this is just another option available to them.

Question:

**What ongoing case management services do you provide? And how do you also address barriers to attending school?**

Ohio LEAP:

So we only certify them once a year. That's – our certification periods are generally 12 months. A county could decide – you know, they have the option to do 4, 5, or 6 months, but generally they do 12 months.

However, since we do monitor the attendance bonuses monthly – we get monthly reports of that – when we see someone that's – when a county sees someone that's failing or has multiple failures where they're going to be penalized, they should be following up with them at that point to see (1) if there's an issue with the placement, then is it because there's a barrier of transportation or child care, or is this just not a good fit and you need a different assignment?

So although we only force that conversation once a year, generally for certification they do have monthly or bi-monthly, depending on how the attendance comes in. But generally, that's monthly – monthly review of if they're meeting it. And if they're not, they should be contacting them.

Question:

**Are the grandparents required to participate in your program?**

Ohio LEAP:

Regarding the grandparents, somebody in the household composition of a teen parent and his or her child are in the household with the grandparents, it's the grandparents' option to be included if we call them in need – if they want to be included in the grant – but they do not have to.

If the grandparents choose to be in the grant amount with the teen parent, they are required to participate in work activities.

Question:

**In terms of tracking outcomes working with the sets of teen parents and also with the fathers, what kind of outcomes do you track? And also, what kind of outcomes have you seen in terms of improvement or progression to giving them services?**

Ohio LEAP:

This is Ohio and we can start. Unfortunately we don't have a great answer to that, because our tracking for this program is basically back from the time when it was created back in 1988, it feels like. We do get reports on the number of bonuses issued, and we have another report that gives us the number of people that were assigned and assessed for the program. But as far as, like, an evidence base, like the graduation rate or – we, we don't have a report that compiles all of that.

We would have to go the county agencies. You know, we could do a little bit based on how many \$500 bonuses, graduation bonuses, were issued. But we don't have a great repository, I guess, for that information readily available.

D.C.:

Okay. Our measurable outcomes are measured by the number of graduates from high school or GED programs as well as those that go on to post-secondary education, those who get jobs, those who do not have a repeat pregnancy. That's huge. Because certainly, you know, we don't want them to have two children at 16 years of age because – that's just doubly hard.

Also, by the lack of domestic violence in situations, you know that – they finally have come to a place of peace in their mind, because they realize that the child needs to be the emphasis, and not the emotional relationship that they were in. That's probably it.

D.C.:

But if someone was looking for a more specific number – I've been with the program for going on three years, and over the last



## Building a PEER TA Network State by State

two they've been working on pulling together a system where we can compile that information and pull it out.

Because Mr. Jones has been with the program since it started, he can speak to a lot of the process as well as the numbers. I mean, we've been in existence for 14 years and we've had a total of three repeat pregnancies.

D.C.: That we know of.

D.C.: That we know of, based on the fact that we do a lot of follow-up. Most of our girls will keep in touch with us. But we're trying to work on developing something that's tangible, where we can be able to go in and actually pull out information.

D.C.: And of course – a stable living environment. When we get them, they're usually pillar to post, you know, living anywhere, taking the baby with them or not. So we try to let them see that being stable, having a roof over your head, just those basic things that they had taken for granted, they now don't have, and they need to have that as a prerequisite to success.

Question: **How are both of you working with Child Welfare to engage pregnant and parenting teens in foster care, or are you?**

D.C.: Well, with DPAP we – if you are identified as being in the custody of Child and Family Services, we don't work with you, because it's two government agencies performing the same process. So...

D.C.: We won't open a case only, but we will...

D.C.: Yes, we cannot open a case but we can collaborate. Say that there's – that they need assistance with referrals for parenting programs or the teen parent needs assistance. But as it relates, we can't officially open a case if they are in the custody of the State.

Ohio LEAP: For LEAP – in our program, the individual – if the child is in foster care, and they were no longer a custodial parent, LEAP wouldn't be an avenue we would pursue for them. However, if they were a custodial parent, you know, needing help with some information on foster care, adoption, anything of that nature, we would go over that with them in their interview or their assessment and help them. That's all under our agency. So we would get them to the

appropriate contact in the county agency and move their assessment forward from there.

Question:

**In terms of both of your programs, were they both locally developed, or did you use any type of evidence or literature or examples of other programs to help inform your program development?**

D.C.:

Yes, for DPAP ours was very definitely locally developed. Of course, over the years it's morphed into, you know, something that has become a monster, really, because we're having a lot of persons who have been on TANF now for close to those five years. Some have been on beyond the five years, but they haven't been sanctioned because we didn't have mechanisms in place, you know, for their transition and to meet their needs after TANF. So it was locally developed, and we've been more – I would say lenient than other states traditionally and historically over the years with that five-year moratorium. But as I said when I first started, there is a new sheriff in town, and people are transitioning off. And the truth of the matter is, we're really not ill – we're really not equipped to deal with those persons who lack education and lack job skills. So that's the conundrum we're in right now.

Ohio LEAP:

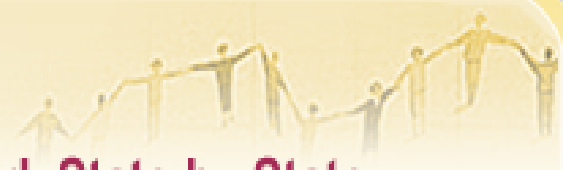
Although our program was locally based and established, we did do it in phases. From 1988 to '96 we – during that period, we only gave attendance bonuses – the \$62. And we also had the \$62 penalty.

And then in '96 we decided that – we saw an increase in attendance among those in the program, so we wondered if giving additional bonuses would be effective. So that's when we added the graduation bonus and the grade completion bonus, the \$100 and the \$500.

So we did do that in phases because we did see some positive results. Unfortunately, we haven't done a full assessment to see if the graduation and the grade completion have made the effect that we were hoping for back then. But obviously that's where we've ended. Just to throw out how we established where we are today.

Question:

**How often do you meet with the students, and then also the Reality Stores for D.C. – how often are those held? Can you both give us some more clarity?**



## Building a PEER TA Network State by State

D.C.: The Reality Stores are basically based on – what we do is that we go out and we meet with different schools, programs, community agencies. We could do two or three Reality Stores a month, one or two Reality Stores a week.

It's based on whether or not the schools have the space, and – if we are available for them to conduct them. Because we had summer youth workers here, we do it with them as well for the last two summers.

And what was the other question?

D.C.: About how often we meet.

D.C.: Oh, yes.

D.C.: We meet on an as-needed basis, but...

D.C.: Majority of the time it is weekly. So – it depends on the individual and the intensity of the case.

D.C.: Right.

D.C.: I have one case manager who has three young ladies that he meets with twice a week, and he talks to them daily. So it depends on where they are as it relates to their individual responsibilities plan.

D.C.: Okay.

D.C.: We do have young ladies that we touch base with them on a weekly basis, because the way our program works – all of our interactions either happen in the home or the school, and we try to get away from the phone because it doesn't afford us the opportunity to actually see what's going on.

We do keep contact by phone, but we do school visits, and we do home visits. We also go to the shelters if they're in the shelters. So we try to meet them where they're at so that coming to see us is not another barrier.

Question: **In terms of – for D.C., somebody wants to know, is it really just three workers who do all the individual cases in the...?**



((Laughter))

D.C.: That's what we've been trying to tell them. We need help.

((Crosstalk))

D.C.: Amazing, isn't it?

D.C.: Because I'm really new to the program, I believe they had – there were more workers involved, but we are down to three. And because of the support from our community partners we are able to do this.

It takes – I believe it takes a village, and we get through it on a daily basis, as I say – I keep going back to that one case manager. I don't know if I keep assigning him a specific type of case, but at times I will assist him as well, because some of his young ladies need more attention than others.

We've just been fortunate that a good percentage of our girls, because they develop their own IRPs, they stick with them, and we can actually walk them through the process. Because the goal is to help them understand what self-sufficiency means to them.

So – I take it on that positive spin. We make it work.

D.C.: Yes. You know, it's interesting because I've put in 30 years last month on the job. And I went out on this one case, and it was a young lady. She had two children. She was 16. And she was sucking her thumb as she was listening to what I had to say. And I put my head down. And she said, "Are you tired, Mr. Jones?" And I looked up and it hit me: I'm talking to a child who has had children. And I told her, I said, you have no idea. You know – we do as much as we can. We work smarter, not harder, and that's why we involve a lot of the other community agencies to help us in this task. Because we certainly can't do it all.

Question: **In terms of domestic violence, when you award the bonus for nonviolence, is that bonus awarded to the victim or the alleged perpetrator for nonviolent behavior?**

Ohio LEAP: We don't – we don't have the measurement for domestic violence. I think that was the D.C. program. Our bonuses are strictly based



## Building a PEER TA Network State by State

on school attendance, grade completion, graduation – accomplishments.

D.C.: No, we never said we had any money for that.

D.C.: I don't understand the question, because we don't do any cash rewards. So I don't – maybe I misunderstood the question.

Facilitator: Okay, so I guess – so what I'm hearing here, for clarification for the person that asked the question, is that there is no bonus awarded around nonviolence.

D.C.: Yes.

Question: **In terms of the time clock issue, I think Henry you mentioned that potentially for youth to start under the age of 18, that their time starts on TANF and counts towards the total 60 months. Is that really true that they could actually be off of TANF even before they turn 21?**

D.C.: Well, see, at this point that's where we're at. And because they're in the process of redesigning it, I know there's been some discussion about looking at if they're in school that the clock would actually stop.

But I can't – that's not something that actually has happened as of yet. As of right now, based on the TANF redesign, that is a strong possibility. And being that, you know, it could happen – we've always done individual responsibility plans.

The goal has always been self-sufficiency, but now it's intensified. Because now, because of the changes in the District, the girls actually see it as something that could happen. It's been a discussion, but now it's getting pretty close to a reality.

D.C.: Yes.

D.C.: So I do know that there has been discussion about looking at the 18-year olds and under. But at this point in time I don't know where that is at. But I know that it's something that has come up. Because when you think about it, the clock starts when you apply. And, you know, I don't know if when you think about TANF you think about teenagers. But...

- D.C.: You're subject to them.
- D.C.: Yes, so... Yes.
- D.C.: And if they start receiving TANF at 14, at 19, five years later, that's it.
- D.C.: 19, 20 – yes.
- D.C.: You can't get it anymore.
- D.C.: Yes.
- D.C.: So five months – five years, 60 months – that's the deal.
- Question: **For the D.C. program, are there supports for teen parents living with their parents through your program?**
- D.C.: No. Through our – the way it works is that if a child is not – a teen parent is not living with their parent – they are afforded the opportunity to get their own grant. If they're living with their parent, then the assistance would come through the parent's grant. So the young – the majority of the young ladies that we serve, they are classified as head of household because they are not living with their legal parent or guardian. But if they were living with their legal parent or guardian, and their parent was eligible, then the assistance would come through their parent's grant.
- D.C.: Now when you said support, were you referring to financial support or just support in general?
- Facilitator: Support in general.
- D.C.: Yes. Yes, certainly.
- D.C.: Oh, yes.
- D.C.: Yes, as I said earlier, we turn no one down. We're trying to help everybody help themselves. So whatever their need is, we look into trying to make that referral to the appropriate agency to get them that help.

D.C.: For example, we have a family where we work with the mother. Actually we work with the mother because the daughter was identified. We were able to get the mother in the same GED program as the daughter.

So if we go in and we recognize that, you know, part of the child's individual responsibility plan is also to stabilize her overall family, then we do extend our services to the parent. Because that's where – or the individual identified as a responsible adult – we will work with them.

Because we've discovered that if we can stabilize everyone...

D.C.: That's right.

D.C.: ...or make an attempt to do that, then we get a better outcome. And so that has worked in our favor. Because when the individuals that these young women live with, and young men live with, see that – we're helping one person, we extend services.

Like the young man who is the only teen parent in our program, we realized that the family needed some assistance. And so we extended some services through other agencies within our agencies that were able to support them with some financial help. So, yes, we, look at – it's a holistic approach. We help the entire unit.

Question: **For D.C., do you actually assist in other States for...**

D.C.: No, just the District. You have to be a District resident in order to apply for TANF in the District. So – but if someone called from another state and said they needed information, we could make – we could provide you with basic referrals. But to provide any kind of services, no.

Question: **For the 60 months, for those who may be experiencing domestic violence or partner violence or sexual assault, are they given any type of family violence waiver?**

D.C.: Yes, yes. The way it works – the TANF redesign has worked in this way. What they're starting to do is like it's a holistic approach. An individual will come in. They will get an assessment. They're now using the term called individual responsibility plan.

If a person has any of those issues present at the time, they will get a referral to a domestic violence program. If they come in exhibiting mental health issues, they'll be referred to DMH. And if I'm not mistaken, if there's some issues with domestic violence, I believe that the requirement, as it relates to employment as well as the 60 months, is waived, based on the fact that a person who is in a domestic violence situation may not be able to work based on the fact that they are in a situation where they can't be out working because of the threats of violence that have occurred.

So there are things in place based on the TANF redesign. They're looking at the whole picture. So in order for people to move towards self-sufficiency, we have to address all the issues. And that is the unique thing that has happened with this new 60 months. We're beginning to look at individuals who are coming in the door in a different way, affording them the opportunity to not only get assistance with job-readiness and employment or education, but if there are other issues that are occurring, we can provide them with the support. So that when we get to the place of doing job-readiness or referring them for a job, they're stabilized.

Question:

**What reasons do you see about why teens are getting pregnant or need your services? Why are – how are they getting there? Is it lack of education – that type of thing?**

D.C.:

And how long is this webinar now? Wow, that's a loaded question. But what I've seen – this is the DPAP program – from what I've seen, there are some commonalities. I hate to say it, but it's the truth – lack of a father in the household seems to be one of the big ones.

There's young ladies going out looking for love, of course, in all the wrong places. And they hear those three words, and they've never heard "I love you" before. Well, you know, they're all in then.

You know, sometimes they're looking for somebody else to love, looking – thinking that baby will be the object of their affection, but not realizing that baby has needs of its own. You know, I've seen that if there's not a father in the home, a young lady really doesn't know how to relate to a young man.

You know, and by the same token, – how a young man treats his mother is usually how he’s going to treat that young lady, you know. Of course, there are extenuating circumstances and exceptions to every rule. But those are the things that I see.

You know, they think they can get a child and get out on their own, get their own money, get their own apartment, and be happily ever after. And of course, you know, reality sets in, and they realize – wow – this is not what I thought.

But out of spite, I’m not going back home. Not that they can’t go back home, but because of those egos involved, they choose not to go back home. Now in some cases I’ve seen, they really don’t need to be in that home.

Because I went out on a case 14 years ago, and I’m thinking it’s just a wayward child disrespecting her mother. Until she showed me that she was actually the one running the household, because her mother was a substance abuser.

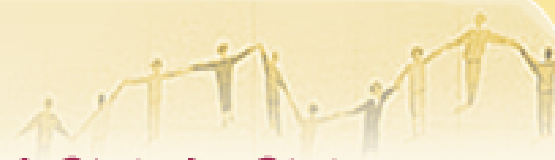
And that opened my eyes. That these children or young persons are growing up much quicker than my generation did. So we certainly – have to help them help themselves.

D.C.:

And, I would just summarize that by saying the other issue is self-esteem on both sides. Just not the young women, but the young men as well. And trying to figure out who they are, and where they fit in.

And having access to prevention methods such as birth control, condoms, and all that other information is helpful. But I think that what we find as we talk is each of these young ladies – just trying to get them to a place where they’re comfortable within their own skin.

And having a child for some of them brings that back around, because they realize that they have to be responsible for someone else. And so I think the component of the program that I appreciate the most is the workshops that we do where we go out and we talk about self-esteem. And we go out and talk about what defines a positive relationship.



## Building a PEER TA Network State by State

And I also think that if you look at some of the literature, one of the things that a lot of our teens say is that they need that, they need that authoritative person. They need somebody – to talk to, somebody that they can go to in times of confusion.

And I think that having the support of a positive, responsible adult is a very – positive factor in turning the tide in some of the behaviors that we may see.

D.C.:

I would also say this – that the male is usually that forgotten part of that equation of teen pregnancy and teen pregnancy prevention. So it's imperative that we reach them as early as possible – you know, junior high school – high school is too late, really.

They are being inundated with media images and suggestions, – I mean, you know what it is out there that glamorizes sex, drugs, the fast life – you know, the women, the cars.

Some even I would say, probably elementary school nowadays, because their IQs are really higher than ours. I stopped playing video games with Pac Man. And of course these kids now they're mastering all kind of levels with the video games.

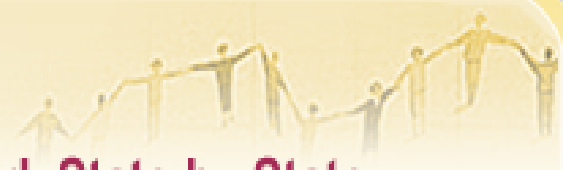
So don't think they're too young to understand. They're part of the solution at an early age nowadays. And we need to think of it that way and design curriculums to address them.

Question:

**This is actually from somebody who is in a State that actually doesn't have this type of program that works with teen parents specifically. And do you have kind of lessons learned in terms of things that they could possibly go to, to take advantage of some of the resources around working with teen parents, even if their States or counties don't actually have those programs?**

D.C.:

Well, yes, just one. And that is that – well, maybe two. We can't solve all problems, but they have the resources within themselves to see how they can help themselves. And they don't care how much you know until they know how much you care, as I read somewhere. So you got to establish that one-on-one rapport with them to motivate them to help themselves. And those are where the answers will come from.



## Building a PEER TA Network State by State

Ohio LEAP:

I think our biggest suggestion would be to definitely look at your community resources. I know that our counties often feel like they don't have the support in their communities. But then when they go out and look for it, and make – and build those relationships with their community link centers and the groups that are already working on similar topics in their area, they definitely are welcomed with open arms when they want to try to partner with each other.

So I think that definitely just looking at the resources already available and seeing how you can utilize them. The biggest problem we have in Ohio is that each year – we have a biennial budget process, and although this program is not a high-dollar program by any means –unfortunately, we don't have the numbers big enough and enough evidence-based research to defend the people who say, "Well, could we take this money elsewhere with all the budget cuts we have?"

So we fight every two years to keep this program, because we do feel it's important, especially for those that are enrolled and involved. We'd love to build that. Unfortunately, at some point – when we're not so focused on work participation for the TANF program, hopefully that will be something we can focus on again.

Question:

**Are there any challenges with reaching males?**

D.C.:

Yes.

D.C.:

Absolutely!

D.C.:

What we've found is that – when we go out to do an assessment, one of the things that are part of our initial assessment is that we'll ask if you are aware of – know the whereabouts of the father. Depending on whether the father is present or not, or the relationship has soured or not, the factor that comes into play is that "I don't want to get him in trouble with child support." So we try to get past that piece by just basically saying, you know, if we help you, we can help him – that way you wouldn't have to worry about the piece of child support. Maybe we could assist him in getting into school so that he too can get employment or vice versa.



But we find it difficult to pull them in, because when most people talk about teen parents, it's – unless you say teen fathers, it's not – from what we can see, it's not part of the equation. And pulling them in for us is sometimes problematic because unless they are physically there with the teen parent at the time that we go to the home, when we make our visit – a good percentage of the girls won't even divulge that they're in existence.

D.C.:

And, often, quite often, more than not, the teen fathers get a bad rap of being deadbeats, but they're just dead broke. So we try to connect them with resources, with programs that take advantage of their interests, so that they can become more involved in that child's life.

One of the things that we're dealing with, though, and I've spoken to the chief of police here in the District about it, is older males and the younger girls. Because in the District, if it's four years or more age difference, that's statutory rape.

So if you're talking about a 20-year old and a 16-year old – well, on the books it's statutory rape. But the reality is, if they were to get together and have a child, nobody's going to do anything about it because "it's consensual."

So that's the catch-22. If it's on the books, it's supposed to be enforced as statutory rape. But if there are no charges brought, there's nothing we can do about it. So theoretically, you could have a 50-year old – okay? – and a teenager, you know, having sex. And nobody does anything about it because no charges are brought.

But what that's doing is – is kind of like condoning a pedophile situation, in my mind. So, we're really trying to get that out there, to make them more aware that this is not right, and something needs to be done.

So we're supposed to have that dialogue with the police department to see what we can do about it, as well as with Child Welfare.

Ohio LEAP:

You know, I think it's a little different for us because we – we probably have the same success rate, because our counties – for

males and females – they’ve come in to apply, they want the benefits, now we’re determining if they’re also eligible for LEAP. So they’re there. They’re ready to participate. And they know they’re going to be assigned to something. So I don’t think we have the same issues. But we probably would see that we have more females than males on the program just because – they can come in and apply for Medicaid and food assistance once they’re in that sixth month of pregnancy, and also get LEAP at the same time.

So I think we do have a little bit of a different circumstance – the two.

Question: **What was the name of the loss, grief, and healing program in D.C.?**

D.C.: No, it’s actually a center that provides that service, called The Wendt, W-E-N-D-T, Wendt Center for Loss, Grief and Healing. And actually they have satellite offices that they’ve opened up in the District, which is kind of like a sad commentary in itself, because of all the killings that we’ve had on, you know, teens-on-teen crime.

But it is what it is. So, you know, we have probably about three or four offices now through Wendt that we make referrals to.

Question: **Is every State required to have this type of program? New York State, being a home rule State, it is up to the counties if they want to participate. Is there any accountability for places that don’t take advantage of these resources?**

OFA: No, every State is not required by TANF to have this type of program. Since TANF is a block grant, States have the flexibility to design programs that best meet their needs and the four purposes of TANF.

Question: **Do you collaborate with any home visiting programs, such as Nurse Family Partnership?**

Ohio LEAP As a State we do not currently have any type of collaborations such as this for counties to utilize. It will depend on each individual county to create such a partnership within their community based on their teen parent population and need.