

ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE UPDATE

A core value of Alternative Response is community partnership. If you are considering becoming an Alternative Response Pilot site, you should be encouraging your community stakeholders to accompany you to your regional forum. Here are four good resources to help prepare you to initiate this conversation:

1) **Ohio Children, Families and the Court: Ohio Bulletin, Spring 2007**

2) <http://www.iarstl.org/>

The Institute for Applied Research is the nation's (and soon-to-be-Ohio's) leading evaluator of Alternative Response programs. Its website has several excellent papers on Alternative Response, including the research findings on Minnesota's program. Minnesota has special interest to Ohio for three reasons: it's a state-supervised/county administered system like Ohio; the structure of Ohio's program will be built upon Minnesota's framework; and, Minnesota staff will be helping develop and training Ohio's pilot sites.

3) ohiochildlaw.com

Ohio's Alternative Response Pilot Program is one of two components under an umbrella child protection reform initiative. This website is an excellence source for a wide range of information on both Alternative Response and the initiative's proposed statutory change to Ohio's child abuse and neglect definitions. Ohiochildlaw.com fact sheets for specific disciplines, as well as a history of the project. While the fact sheets spend a great deal of their substance on the proposed change in definitions, each also does include Q & A about Alternative Response.

4) **Protecting Children Journal, Differential Response in Child Welfare**

Articles include:

- o Differential Response: A Common Sense Reform in Child Welfare
- o The Emergence of Differential Response
- o Potential Policy Implications of Alternative Response
- o Integrating Domestic Violence Intervention into Child Welfare Practice

A free copy is available through the Child Welfare Information Gateway website. Click on "Publications Search," then type in "differential" in the Keyword prompt and hit enter. You can also e-mail info@childwelfare.gov, or call (800) 394-3366.

The regional forum will give potential applicants the opportunity to meet selected members of the design team, hear a conceptual explanation of Alternative Response, and better understand the expectations of a pilot site. Plan to attend one of these sessions if you are mulling over the possibility of applying to become a pilot site.

June 25	Findlay	10:00 am – 1:00 pm
June 26	Akron	9:00 am – 12:00 pm
July 11	Lebanon	9:00 am – 12:00 pm
July 12	Athens	9:00 am – 12:00 pm
July 13	Columbus	9:00 am – 12:00 pm

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