

# New Directions: Peerfinity – UMB Partnership

## Parent-to-Parent Family Peer Support

- Juvenile justice-involved youth
  - Parent with lived experience of youth in JJ
  - Engage, educate, and empower parents to work with JJ
  - Linkage to services and resources
- iKinnect app for teenagers engaging in substance abuse (SA) and/or conduct problems
  - Parents with lived experience of a youth with CPS
    - Substantive support of parents in use of the app
  - Transitional-age youth (16-24) with lived experience
    - Support to teen surrounding MH, SA, or family distress

# Research Support for Peer Support Services

## Populations studied

- Veterans
- Persons in recovery for substance abuse
- Persons exiting MH inpatient treatment

## Client-reported outcomes

- Increased hope and sense of self-efficacy
- Increased connectedness
- Improved relationships with providers
- Improved relationships with social support network
- Reduced rates of relapse

## Systems-level outcomes

- Increased treatment participation, retention, and completion
- Reduced re-hospitalization
- Increased use of digital therapeutics among adults

# PSS Service Delivery: Best Practices

- Supervision by peers (rather than professionals in other disciplines)
- Well-defined roles
- Focus on wellness
- Opportunities for career development and advancement