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First Step Home received state officials including Tracy Plouck, Director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addictions Services (ODMHAS), John McCarthy, Director of Ohio Medicaid, Dr. Mark Hurst, Medical ODMHAS and Dr. Mary Applegate, Medical Director of Ohio Medicaid. The purpose of the visit was to announce the awarding of one of four state MOMS grants. First Step Home will receive \$298,877 from the state to support its Maternal Addictions Program. The MOMS grants target pregnant and opiate addicted women in the state. Its purpose is to establish a pilot, holistic treatment program that can be re-introduced throughout the state. The number of pregnant and opiate addicted women has risen by over 300% since 2011. First Step Home currently operates the Maternal Addictions Program at its locations on Fulton Avenue in the Cincinnati community of Walnut Hills. This program has served over 137 women in the first sixteen months of operations. It is projected to serve over 300 women during the grant project period. Women enrolled in this program will receive specialized addictions treatment, mental health services, pre-natal care, family medical care, access to medicated assisted therapy, vocational and job placement services, pediatric mental health, supportive outreach and housing. The program utilizes the services of core partners in the community such as Good Samaritan Hospital's HOPE Program, Center for Chemical Addictions Treatment, GLAD House, Dress for Success, Crossroad Health Center, Healthy Moms and Babes. The program provides maternal services to women in Hamilton, Butler, Clermont and Warren counties.

For further information or interviews:

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