

OHIO CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES PLAN
ANNUAL PROGRESS AND SERVICES REPORT – FY 2014
FINAL REPORT – CFSP FOR 2010-2014



Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
Office of Families and Children
June 2014

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION AND OHIO HIGHLIGHTS.....1

TITLE IV-B, SUBPART 1 - Ohio Child Welfare Training Program.....15

TITLE IV-B, SUBPART 2 - Promoting Safe & Stable Families.....28

APSR SERVICES AND PROGRAMS – 2014 FINAL REPORT.....30

- A. Goal 1 – Safety
- B. Goal 2 – Permanency
- C. Goal 3 – Service Intervention
- D. Goal 4 – Community Collaboration
- E. Goal 5 – Licensing

SYSTEMIC FACTORS: Service Array and Resource Development.....102

COLLABORATION.....106

PROGRAM SUPPORT.....112

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION WITH TRIBES.....115

FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT RECRUITMENT.....129

- A. Services For Children Under The Age of Five (FY2010-2014)

ADOPTION INCENTIVE PAYMENTS.....137

CHILD WELFARE WAIVER DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.....140

CHILD ABUSE AND PREVENTION ACT STATE PLAN REQUIREMENTS142

STATISTICAL AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION.....142

- A. Child Protection Workforce
- B. Education and Training Vouchers
- C. Inter-country Adoptions
- D. Monthly Caseworker Visit Data
- E. Services for Children Under 5
- F. Identification of At-Risk of Maltreatment Population

DISASTER PLAN UPDATE.....154

ADDITIONAL STATISTICAL INFORMATION.....156
 A. SACWIS
 B. AFCARS

ATTACHMENTS:

PASSS FINANCIAL REPORT

PROTECT*OHIO* SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

CAPTA

INTRODUCTION:

Ohio's FY 2014 Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR) and the 2010-2014 Child and Family Services Review (CFSP) Final Report are developed in conjunction with the requirements of the Social Security Act. Ohio's APSR is created, supervised and monitored by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS). The Office of Families and Children (OFC) is the administrative office responsible for all phases of child welfare in the state. Having completed Ohio's Program Improvement Plan in September of 2012 the department continues to partner with its' stakeholders from throughout the state of Ohio. Building on this rich base of information, the 2010-2014 CFSP incorporated into a single plan Ohio's requirements and activities for the following:

Title IV-B Part 1, The Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services Program

Title IV-B Part 2, Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program

Training Activities and Costs to be funded through Titles IV-B and IV-E

Child Abuse and Prevention and Treatment Act State Grant Program

Chafee Foster Care Independence Program

Education and Training Voucher Program

Protect Ohio Child Welfare Waiver Demonstration

Provisions of PL 110-351 The Fostering Connections to Success Legislation

State of Ohio Child Welfare Administrative Structure

ODJFS is the state agency with responsibility for administering Title IV-B programs in Ohio. The ODJFS Director serves as a member of the Governor's Cabinet. The Deputy Director of the OFC has programmatic responsibility for the development and supervision of service programs to meet the needs of Ohio's children and families at risk of abuse/neglect or in need of protective services and/or adult protective services. OFC also oversees The Safe and Timely Interstate Placement of Foster Children Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-239); The Child and Family Services Improvement Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-299); Title IV-B, subparts 1 and 2, Sections 421-425, 428, 430-438, and Title IV-E, Section 477 of the Social Security Act; Section 106 CAPTA, as amended (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.); the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (P.L. 95-608); Chafee Foster Care Independence Program, and the Educational and Training Voucher programs for older youth; CFS-101, Parts I, II, & III, Annual Budget Request (See CFSP 2010-2014) and the Annual Summary of Child and Family Services; Title XX; and Title XIX, in part.

Child welfare services in Ohio are delivered in a state supervised county administered environment. ODJFS is the designated state agency responsible for overseeing the operation of 88 public children services agencies (PCSAs), each having responsibility for:

- Receiving and investigating reports involving any child alleged to be abused, neglected or dependent.
- Providing protective services and emergency supportive services to allow children to remain in their own homes.
- Accepting temporary or permanent custody of children from the court.
- Providing out-of-home care for children who cannot remain at home, while providing services to the family directed at reunification.
- Recruiting and maintaining foster and adoptive parents.
- Placing children for adoption or other permanent living arrangements.
- Providing independent living services to assist children as they transition from being in agency custody to independence.

The achievement of successful child welfare outcomes in Ohio is influenced by the following basic facts:

- Ohio's 88 PCSAs serve varied population sizes, demographics, community values and norms.
- Fiscal and human resources are established at the state and local levels.
- The majority of the services are planned, provided and funded at the local, not state level.

Support services needed by families and children involved with PCSAs may be provided and controlled by other agencies. As such, support for systems change must be obtained from a variety of agencies at the state and county level such as mental health, alcohol and drug addiction, developmental disabilities, and education services providers.

- Courts may be structured differently in different counties (e.g., combined juvenile and probate courts, separate juvenile courts) and may have varying procedures for handling PCSA and private child placing agency (PCPA) legal actions.

LOOK-BACKS AT OHIO'S HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2010-2014

Partners for Ohio's Families

Statement of need:

Partners for Ohio's Families was conceptualized in late 2009 as Ohio was completing its differential response¹ pilot and evaluation. With a commitment to statewide implementation, the state would be on the brink of a significant system reform and resource investment. It was

¹ Ohio's current Differential Response System, consisting of two pathways, the traditional and the alternative responses, initially was piloted as the Alternative Response System. The name change resulted from a pilot recommendation and was made to better reflect several foundational values inherent within Ohio's system design. It was instituted post-pilot.

clear, however, that simply “being a good idea,” was not sufficient to sustain differential response or the other worthwhile initiatives and practices being undertaken by the state in response to CFSR findings.

Ohio established Partners for Ohio’s Families to anchor its work with the science of implementation and to address various factors that clearly presented barriers to Ohio’s capacity to implement evidence-informed and promising child welfare interventions:

- County-state distrust
- Over regulatory and compliance-driven environment
- State-level organizational characteristics that are linked to lower outcomes for families and children.

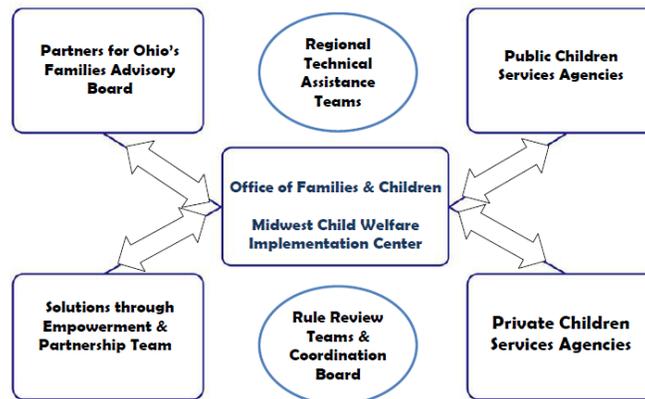
Project structure:

This project was initiated as a federally funded and competitively-selected implementation project through the Administration for Children and Families’ (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services) Training and Technical Assistance Network. Project leadership teams with full-time project managers were established within the Office of Families and Children (OFC) and within the Midwest Child Welfare Implementation Center (MCWIC).

Structure was driven by the initiative’s core principles of engagement and inclusion. In addition to the dedicated OFC-MCWIC project management team, various mechanisms for active participation of OFC and stakeholders were established. These organizational entities were integral to the oversight of the project, providing ongoing guidance and direction:

- Partners for Ohio’s Families Advisory Board: The board serves as a forum to promote a sustainable and collaborative partnership aimed at improving the Ohio child welfare system. The Board identifies challenges, opportunities, and solutions related to child welfare service delivery and public policy. It functions as a clearinghouse of information and a venue for collaboration and discussion. It is comprised of no more than twenty members that include a mixture of specified stakeholder; fifty-one percent of the board is comprised of a balanced mixture of public and private children services agencies.
- Solutions through Empowerment and Partnership (STEP) Team: This OFC-comprised group was established to implement the office’s new technical assistance model and to address issues of organizational culture and climate that impact the office’s ability to sustain innovation and adhere to its vision, mission and principles. It is comprised of no more than twenty members representative of all program areas and job levels throughout the office. STEP has established various workgroups to carry out its activities.
- The Rule Review Coordination Board was chartered by the Partners for Ohio’s Families Advisory Board as an ongoing mechanism for coordinating and integrating rule review among OFC program areas and in collaboration with other agencies. Eight sub-teams

were developed, each assigned review of one of the eight substantive groupings of Ohio Administrative Code rules pertaining to child welfare and adult protection.



Project objectives:

This project continues to be an integral piece of OFC’s systemic effort to improve child welfare outcome, with a focus on materially altering how the state works with the public and private child welfare agencies that directly intervene, support and provide services to Ohio’s families.

The new technical assistance model developed through project activities targets both external and internal operations in order to:

- Transform the way OFC works with public and private agencies.
- Create an environment that encourages and sustains innovation.

Design of intervention/activities:

The initiative has several distinct stages:

- *Data Collection*

The Partnership for Ohio’s Families Leadership Team² (PFOF) conducted a range of information-gathering activities to effectively target interventions to issues and to respond to shifting dynamics:

- Regional Forums and surveys to understand stakeholder concerns and “likes” in their interactions with OFC.
- Organizational Social Context Assessment to measure areas of OFC culture and climate that are linked to client outcome.

² This term is used to refer to the consortium of OFC and MCWIC administrative leaders, project managers, as well as the wide range of OFC staff and public and private agency representatives that participated in various components of ongoing project design.

- Readiness Assessment to analyze the level of preparedness of the conditions, attitudes and resources needed at all levels in a system for change to happen successfully.
- New vision, mission and principles, developed in collaboration with stakeholders, to identify and delineate shared purpose and values.
- *Design*
 - Organizational Interventions
Using data collected during the informing phase, PFOF, through various OFC-Stakeholder short- and long-term workgroups, developed a menu of organizational interventions in three broad categories:
 - Interventions impacting human processes, such as:
 - Participatory decision-making
 - Training on partnership principles and competency
 - Using enhanced transparency and openness in internal organizational communications
 - Team building training
 - Regularly scheduled “all staff” meetings, manager roundtables for peer-to-peer support, cross-program meetings.
 - Interventions focused on organizational structure and function, such as:
 - Cross-functional regional technical assistance teams
 - Standing committee to focus on organizational issues of culture and climate
 - Searchable database to document technical assistance
 - Collaborative structure for comprehensive rule review
 - Interventions focused on work environment, such as:
 - Clear communication vehicles (e.g. bureau chief bulletin boards, front-entry monitor to broadcast agency news, staff desk aids)
 - Shared organizational calendar
 - Prominently displayed vision, mission and principles

Functional Interventions

A comprehensive approach, OFC’s technical assistance model, was established through a series of progressive work groups comprised of OFC representatives and stakeholders. The model has five components based on data collected in the project’s initial phase:

- Building a team approach to address concerns regarding disconnected response to the needs of the public and private agencies (example of activities: cross functional regional technical assistance teams)
- Building institutional behavior to address concerns regarding behaviors, expectations and attitudes (example of activities: establishing team frameworks, protocols for setting external meetings and responding to inquiries, Six Principles of Partnership training)
- Establishing structured communication to address concerns regarding transparency, preparedness and inconsistency (example of activities: First Friday monthly update, Deputy Director communications)

- Building a knowledge base to address concerns regarding inconsistency in response (examples of activities: establishment of a database to record technical assistance responses)
- Supporting agencies to self-assess to address concerns regarding lack of available data, identification of the need for support and appropriateness of support (example of activities: development of data reports and repositories more accessible to public and private agencies)

Environmental Interventions

To address concerns regarding an over-regulatory child welfare and adult protection framework, PFOF instituted a comprehensive review of the office's (approximately) 273 rule promulgated through the Ohio Administrative Code.

Standard review criteria were established through a series of collaborative workgroups, and an external website was established to encourage stakeholder comment beyond the eight workgroups.

- *Implementation*
Throughout the final implementation phase, which had overlapping and concurrent aspects to design, OFC implemented all components of the work plan and logic model.
- *Reassessment*
Ongoing and scheduled reexamination of the appropriateness and effectiveness of activities is an integral component. This is accomplished through a range of approaches, including survey, group review, focus groups, and stakeholder comment.

Evaluation:

Through the support of MCWIC, this initiative had continuous evaluation activities applied throughout all phases of activity. Examples include:

- Pre- and post-intervention comparative assessments for stakeholders (Regional Forums), OFC staff (Organizational Social Context Assessment), Partners for Ohio's Families Advisory Board
- Training evaluations (e.g. Six Principles of Partnership)
- Surveys (readiness assessment, regional technical assistance teams, rule review teams)
- Focus groups (readiness assessment, rule review team leaders, OFC management, stakeholders)
- Process data (rule review website)

The evaluation design demonstrated ample evidence that the proposed system impacts were achieved. Specifically:³

- An improved working relationship exists between OFC and public and private agencies, as indicated by a variety of stakeholder surveys, focus groups and interviews. Overall, the percentage of stakeholders rating their relationship with OFC as a "strong collaborative partnership" increased from 17% (2010) to 41% (2013).

³ Reprinted from Final Implementation Project Report (February 28, 2014), MCWIC

- State practice has shifted to a more stakeholder-focused perspective. Data from stakeholder surveys, focus groups and interviews indicate that OFC is seen as more helpful and responsive, and stakeholders are more likely to approach OFC for assistance after implementation of the new technical assistance approach.
- The organizational culture and climate of OFC improved dramatically, as indicated by statistically significant changes in dimensions of the Organizational Social Context measure. The agency now boasts levels of engagement and proficiency that are substantively higher than a national sample of child welfare agencies. While there is room for continued improvement in other areas of organizational culture and climate, the agency made remarkable progress over the course of the implementation project.

Sustainability⁴

OFC has instituted a wide range of supports to ensure sustainability of the project outcomes achieved by the end of the implementation phase. Examples include:

- “First Friday” – this monthly communication from the state child welfare director communicates to internal and external stakeholders OFC’s continued commitment to its vision, mission and principles; the principles of Partners for Ohio’s Families; and the Six Principles of Partnership.
- Culture and Climate workgroup – This OFC team is charged with overseeing interventions that address organizational measures of culture and climate that link to outcomes for clients.
- Champions – These specially trained OFC volunteers are committed to supporting integration of the Six Principles of Partnership throughout the office.
- Consistent and regularly attention to technical assistance - Regional technical assistance teams meet monthly, with a manager “coach” to provide facilitative support. Coaches also meet monthly to ensure that important information is shared across regions, and that teams develop some sense of consistency in approach.
- Rule review - A formalized rule review institutionalization plan was approved by the Partners for Ohio’s Families Advisory Board in August 2013. OFC has developed an external rule review website that allows stakeholder comment as rules are scheduled for revision or five-year review.
- Shared technical assistance response - An internally searchable knowledge base has been established.
- Bureau of Federal/State Initiatives – This bureau was established to work on the multiple projects that cross program areas, including continuous quality improvement. One of the bureau’s most important roles is to provide data to OFC’s state and local partners so that they can better strategize, measure their progress, and link practice with outcomes.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The evolution of this initiative clearly demonstrated accepted elements of change management theory as essential to progress:

- Leadership
Leadership must be committed and visible:

⁴ Adapted from Final Implementation Project Report (February 28, 2014), MCWIC

- Providing strong messages of conviction from the top.
- Demonstrating support through actions and words.
- Leading from within to make this happen.
- Conveying that the project *is* pushing forward.
- Allowing mistakes and self-correction.
- Communication
 - Communication must:
 - Employ a variety of methods.
 - Occur frequently and on a basis that can be anticipated.
 - Be transparent.
 - Create a picture of the “other side;” all change is individual.
- Time

Governments are constructed for stability, and do not change quickly. In addition to an adequate allocation of time, there needs to be visible acknowledgement of the small achievements (signs of success) and breakthrough that occur throughout the process of change.

Lessons Learned through OFC’s process:

- Make the case. Early assessment and diagnostic activities establish a rationale for action, motivate users, and create a benchmark to measure relevance of interventions.
- Acknowledge history. There is a natural inclination to redefine the problem, and to be stuck in history. It is important to find a way to acknowledge the past and let participants use it to establish rationale for action. Without recognition, history continuously will self-interject.
- Allocate staff; change requires continual attention and does not happen as “other duties.”
- Allow time for processing. Individuals need the opportunity to walk through and understand what change will look like and how it will affect them as individuals.
- Don’t overlook middle managers; they are a critical resource that can facilitate or impede implementation.

Differential Response

Statement of need:

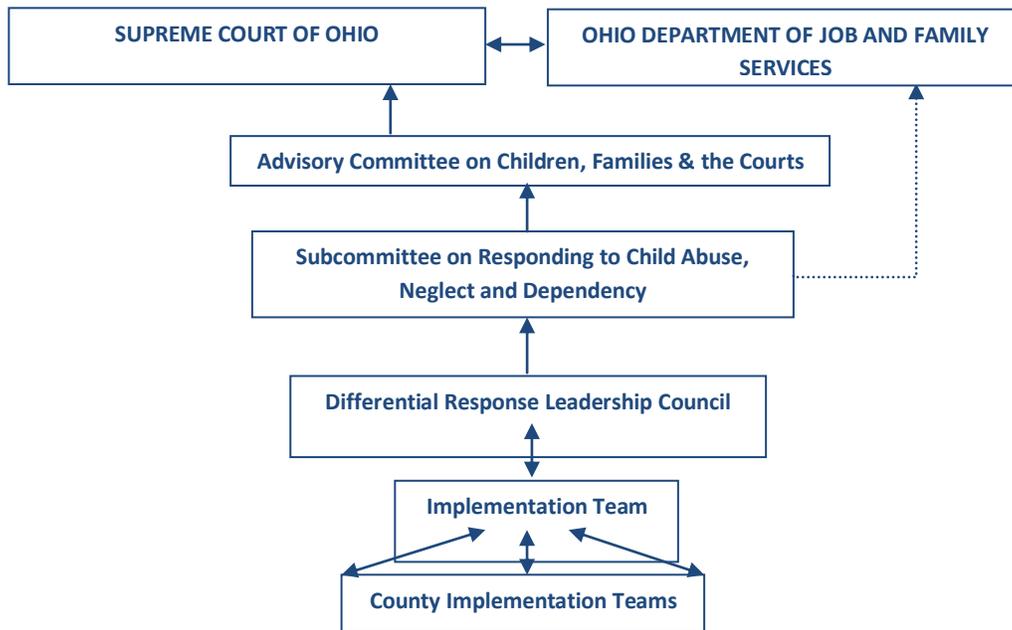
Ohio received two reports that were critical of inconsistencies in the application of our statutory definitions for child abuse, neglect and dependency and the resulting outcomes for children and families served. In an effort to address these concerns, the Supreme Court of Ohio formed a Subcommittee on Responding to Child Abuse, Neglect and Dependency in 2004. Ohio's Differential Response child protection system was developed out of the work of this Subcommittee, who partnered with several other community stakeholders to form a strong partnership across educational, mental health, substance abuse, legal/ law enforcement, parental and youth advocacy systems. This continued partnership has resulted in improved outcomes for those families that become involved with Ohio's child protection system.

Project infrastructure:

The initial Differential Response design workgroup was developed through a competitively selected process of counties expressing interest in participating in a research study to improve outcomes for families by improving engagement techniques. In 2006, Ohio received statutory authorization to pilot and evaluate an alternative approach of child protection engagement. The initial 10 counties that were selected for the pilot were provided with specialized training by American Humane Association consultants on the eight core elements of a Differential Response system and the fundamental tenants of engagement, transparency, partnership and community collaboration. County representatives of these pilot counties joined with leaders of the Supreme Court of Ohio, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, and the original design workgroup to later become the Differential Response Leadership Council and Implementation Team. Ohio has a state-supervised, county-administered child protection structure. Development of the Differential Response Leadership Council has effectively encouraged improved county, state and community partnerships, along with our Partners for Ohio's Families (PFOF) initiative.

- **Creation.** The Leadership Council functions as a workgroup of the Advisory Committee on Children, Families, & the Courts' Subcommittee on Responding to Child Abuse, Neglect, & Dependency (Subcommittee).
- **Purpose of Leadership Council.** The purpose of the Leadership Council is two-fold:
 1. To provide advice to the Subcommittee, staff of the Supreme Court (the Court), and staff of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) regarding the statewide implementation of a differential response approach to accepted reports of child maltreatment.
 2. To function as an ongoing leadership forum for guidance and support, as well as, monitoring, problem solving, and mentoring for the Ohio Differential Response System. The Leadership Council brings together the experiences of individual public children services agencies to develop a statewide approach to differential response.

A graphic representation of key relationships for the Leadership Council is shown below.



After the initial pilot rolled out their DR implementation in 2008, Ohio underwent a phased, gradual expansion of DR which included six to ten counties being trained and prepared for implementation every four to six months. Ohio has made significant progress towards completion of our statewide implementation of a Differential Response child protection system. We are in the final leg of our six-year gradual expansion and will have all 88 counties adequately trained and prepared for implementation by June 2014.

Project objectives:

Ohio's Differential Response child protection system provides child protection agencies with two options for responding to accepted reports of child abuse and neglect: the Traditional Response and an Alternative Response. A Traditional Response investigation is required for reports that include acts that have resulted in serious injury and/or imminent safety risk of a child. The Traditional Response investigation process results in a determination, finding or disposition regarding the allegations that were reported, and may possibly involve intervention of the court.

For many other less serious reports, an alternative engagement approach may be more appropriate. This Alternative Response pathway can be applied when reports of child abuse or neglect do not allege serious or imminent harm. Initiation techniques and engagement approaches are less threatening and more family focused and strengths-based. Assessments are conducted with the family and will not result in a formal determination, finding or disposition. These strengths-based engagement approaches

encourage safety-focused partnerships with families, and services are "front-loaded" early in the assessment process.

Both Differential Response pathways (alternative and traditional) require completion of a "Safety, Risk and Comprehensive Family Assessment," and both maintain a focus of ensuring child safety and overall well-being.

Design of intervention/activities:

Differential Response gives agencies the choice to use an alternative approach when investigating some reports of child abuse and neglect. Instead of automatically beginning a traditional investigation, caseworkers can choose to assess the needs of the child or family—in a non-threatening, non-adversarial manner—and offer services to meet those needs. With this method, the caseworker focuses more on the family's overall needs and underlying concerns.

An alternative response is neither better than, nor a replacement for, a traditional response. It merely acknowledges that families have different circumstances that vary in severity and require different responses. In many cases, a traditional response is the only way to protect children from harm. In other cases, an alternative approach can resolve issues faster, more easily and with less disruption to children's lives. In both pathways, the primary goal is child safety. As our child protection umbrella encompasses both the traditional and alternative response intake pathways, we have also aligned their statutory timelines in rule.

In an effort to better identify and define the desired casework practice for both pathways, Ohio's DR Implementation Team and Leadership Council worked with the experts from the National Implementation Research Network (NIRN) to develop the DR Practice Profiles guide. These profiles identify 10 key casework skills that are the core practice components needed to support Ohio's DR best practice model. The casework practice skills are: Engaging, Assessing, Partnering, Planning, Implementing, Evaluating, Advocating, Communicating, Demonstrating Cultural and Diversity Competence and Collaborating. The profiles provide a foundation for supervisors to train and coach behaviorally specific casework skills and to assist management in identifying individual training gaps, as well as potential systemic issues or barriers that may be preventing practitioners from demonstrating ideal practice. A one-day training workshop, entitled *Coaching in Child Welfare Supervision*, is offered to supervisors to provide coaching tools and demonstrate skills that can be utilized with their child protection staff.

Evaluation:

Over the past six months, we have received final reports and findings from both of our Alternative Response Evaluations. Dr. Tony Loman and the Institute for Applied Research completed the original pilot and an extended evaluation that followed the outcomes for Alternative Response families that were part of the original pilot research study. The National Quality Improvement Center on Differential Response in Child Protective Services (QIC-DR)

completed the second evaluation of Alternative Response in Ohio. Independent evaluators with Human Services Research Institute (HSRI) completed a five-year federal cross-evaluation in three sites: Colorado, Illinois and Ohio. A consortium of Six Ohio Alternative Response counties (SOAR) participated in the QIC research study using a Randomized Control Trial design for families that had been similarly screened in for low- to moderate-risk reports of child abuse or neglect.

The final outcomes and findings for both evaluations were positive and highlighted the following:

- Safety – Children in the AR track were found to be just as safe as those in the TR track.
- Re-reports – Significantly fewer newly accepted (screened-in) reports of child maltreatment.
- Parenting – Families reported that they were better parents as a result of their AR experience. Many families reported that this benefitted from improved engagement techniques, increased caseworker contact, and increased concrete goods and services.
- Placement – Removals and out-of-home placements of children in AR were statistically lower.
- Cost Effectiveness – Overall costs were slightly lower, indicating modest cost savings.

Sustainability:

Ohio continues to invest resources in developing the necessary tools and supports to strengthen model fidelity, promote continued development of best practice skills and increase our focus on sustainability of our Differential Response system.

With the guidance of our contracted consultants, we will continue to provide follow-up technical assistance, individual coaching and intervention to those counties that have already implemented a DR system within their county agencies. Counties can complete a Sustainability Self-Assessment tool and receive an in-person sustainability consultation visit. This consultation allows a county agency to gain insight as to what is most important to maintain/sustain and what aspects of their system reform are no longer relevant to preserve. Sustainability planning will provide the opportunity to identify benchmarks to measure progress, determine who is responsible for ensuring sustainability components, consider short and long term needs, develop strategies for long-term success and demonstrate the value of Differential Response Child Protection Systems.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

Upon completion of our statewide implementation of Differential Response, ODJFS will assume responsibility of Ohio's DR Leadership Council and Statewide Implementation Team. We will continue to meet quarterly and plan to focus our future efforts on enhancing overall casework practices with more utilization training of the DR Practice Profiles skill sets and encouragement of primary parent participation at all levels within child protection. Additionally, we will continue with providing opportunities to strengthening our child protection system by encouraging agencies to partner with our exceptional DR Consultants for individual coaching and sustainability planning. We will also continue to offer individual technical assistance and participation in community forums, monthly statewide

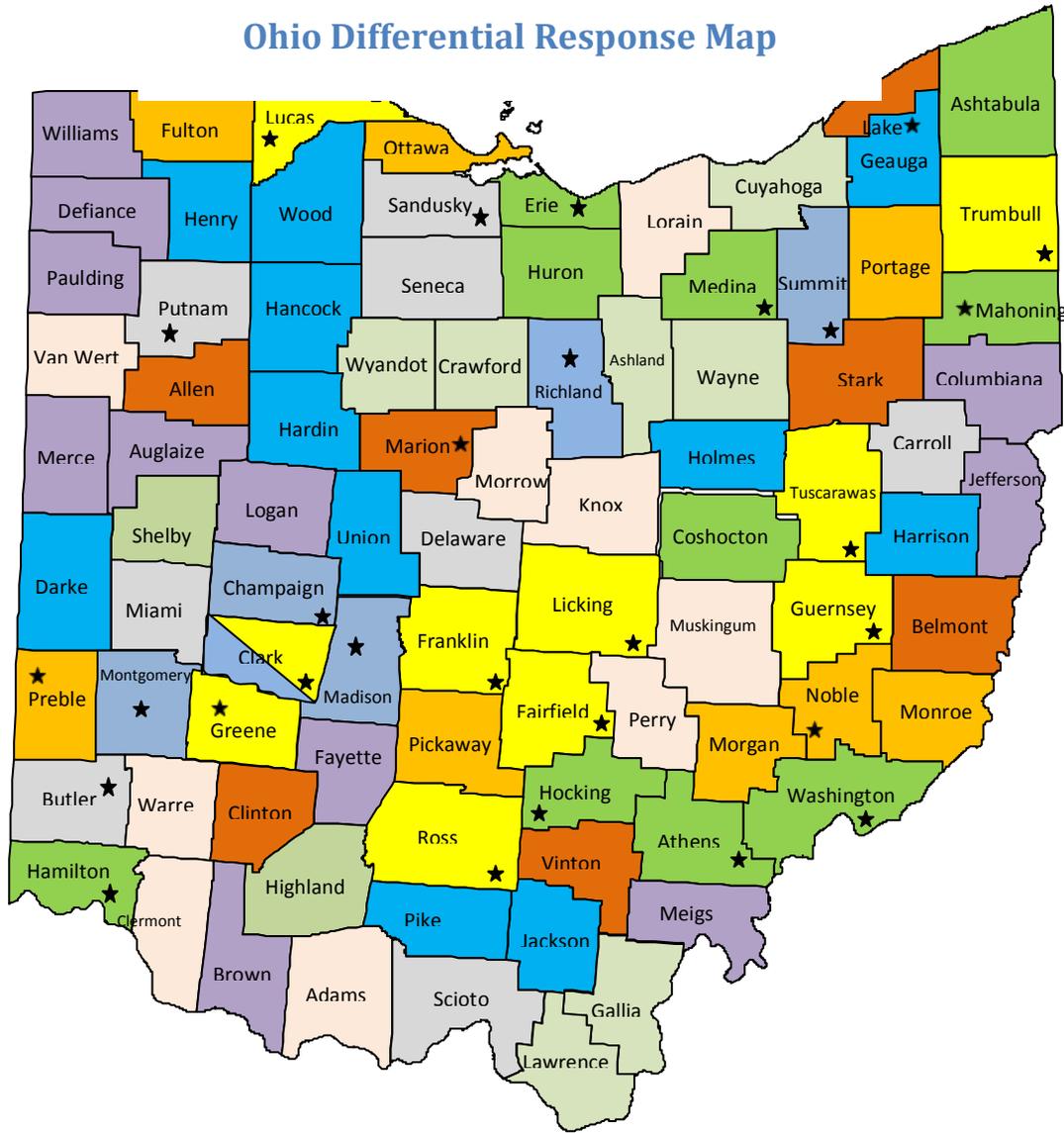
calls, quarterly DR newsletters, and quarterly in-person meetings in each region to encourage peer to peer consultation.

Most importantly, Ohio's Differential Response child protection system has resulted in stronger family engagement, increased service provision, and positive outcomes that promote child safety. We have improved our partnerships with families which allow us to build and strengthen safety-nets for the children that we serve. We have expanded our view of community service providers and have developed both formal and informal partnerships that support flexible services that benefit our families. Lastly, we have enhanced our communication with community stakeholders which continues to improve our screening and pathway assignment efforts.

Lessons Learned:

- Dichotomy of pathway approaches posed a barrier to many child protection caseworkers who performed "traditional investigations" versus "alternative response assessments". Alternative Response caseworkers received specialized training and additional funding to provide (hard) goods to resolve a family's immediate needs, but traditional intake cases were not provided the same.
- Alternative Response Supervisors were not provided with additional training to teach them how to effectively manage caseloads, support the family-driven approach, or develop the coaching skills to reinforce the preferred engagement practices.
- Statutory timelines for initiation, face-to-face contact, completion of the safety assessment and completion of the family assessment in SACWIS were different between the two pathways until recent alignment of rule that occurred in March 2014.
- Administrative internal buy-in and support is crucial for successful implementation of a two pathway child protection system. Without the administrative support to build the foundation upon, the county's efforts to change how they will effectively engage and partner with families will be difficult to achieve. It requires an agency paradigm shift in moving from a system-driven approach to a family-driven approach of achieving safety for children.

Ohio Differential Response Map



***IPV Trained Counties**

- Round 1, July 2008** (*Clark*, Fairfield*, Franklin*, Greene*, Guernsey*, Licking*, Lucas*, Ross*, Trumbull*, Tuscarawas**)
- Round 2/QIC, September 2010** (*Champaign*, Clark*, Madison* , Montgomery*, Richland*, Summit**)
- Round 3, November 2010** (*Ashtabula*, Athens*, Coshocton*, Erie*, Hamilton*, Hocking*, Huron, Mahoning*, Medina*, Washington**)
- Round 4, August 2011** (*Butler*, Carroll, Delaware*, Miami*, Putnam*, Sandusky*, Scioto, Seneca*)
- Round 5, April 2012** (*Allen, Belmont*, Clinton, Lake*, Marion*, Stark, Vinton*)
- Round 6, August 2012** (*Fulton, Monroe, Morgan, Noble*, Ottawa, Pickaway, Portage*, Preble**)
- Round 7, January 2013** (*Auglaize, Brown, Columbiana, Defiance, Fayette, Jefferson, Logan, Meigs, Mercer, Paulding, Williams*)
- Round 8, July 2013** (*Darke, Geauga, Hancock, Hardin, Harrison, Henry, Holmes, Jackson, Pike, Union, Wood*)
- Round 9, January 2014** (*Ashland, Crawford, Cuyahoga, Gallia, Highland, Lawrence, Shelby, Wayne, Wyandot*)
- Round 10, June 2014** (*Adams, Clermont, Knox, Lorain, Morrow, Muskingum, Perry, Van Wert, Warren*)

Updated 3.20.14

Title IV-B, Subpart 1 Child Welfare Services Ohio Child Welfare Training Program

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) views training as an important support for effective child welfare practice, and continues its leadership role in providing training to public child welfare agency staff. Recognizing the critical need for consistent, high quality, standardized training for child welfare professionals, ODJFS and Ohio's public children services, executive directors continue to support the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program (OCWTP).

The mission of the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program (OCWTP) is to:

- Promote best child welfare practice through comprehensive skill development, strategic partnerships and effective advocacy.
- Provide competency-based training to public agency child welfare professionals, caregivers, and adoptive parents;
- Collaborate with other service providers to promote the delivery of competency-based training; and
- Advocate for practice standards for the public agencies to reflect the best child welfare practice.

The OCWTP is governed by a **Steering Committee** comprised of members from ODJFS, the Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO), each of the eight Regional Training Centers (RTCs), the State Training Coordinator, IHS (the Institute for Human Services), representatives from public and private agencies and two foster caregivers. Priorities and focus are set each year during an implementation and strategic planning retreat.

CQI-OCWTP Steering Committee Ad Hoc Data Committee

Spring, 2013, the Steering Committee adopted a list of tasks and responsibilities. As one component of a CQI system, the Steering Committee appointed a smaller group to form the Ad Hoc Data Committee, charged with prioritizing the tasks and responsibilities and determine, through the use of data, if the Steering Committee is meeting its tasks and responsibilities. The Steering Committee Ad Hoc Data Committee determined that the four prioritized tasks and responsibilities to focus on initially are:

- ODJFS: Integration and coordination with ODJFS
- Input and Feedback: Stakeholders, customer satisfaction, relevance of training content
- Needs Assessment: Unique needs, needs assessment data, address high priority learning needs
- Trainer, coaches: Ensure adequate OCWTP trainers, coaches; trainers' and coaches' performance maintain program standards

The OCWTP offers over 4,000 workshops to approximately 70,000 training participants each year. The number of participants is a duplicative count. Workshops are either three or six hours of training credits.

CY YEAR	# of Workshops	# of Training Days	# of Participants
2013	4,591	4,458	77,660
2012	4,569	3,710	67,550
2011	4,763	3,759	65,615
2010	4,687	3,803	69,487
2009	4,895	3,889	77,064
2008	5,190	4,273	78,166
2007	4,707	3,986	70,054
2006	4,699	4,120	70,588

Travel restrictions continue to impact Ohio public children service agency staff's ability to attend OCWTP workshops. Even with these restrictions, the program continues to provide the needed workshops for staff to meet the legislative training mandates outlined for child welfare professionals. Whenever possible, RTC staff has attempted to reduce travel for staff in their respective regions by bringing training to trainees. The OCWTP has also begun to provide more online training to help meet the needs of county agency child welfare professionals.

The OCWTP is a model program with seven essential elements:

Universe of Competencies

A comprehensive listing of all the knowledge and skills required for staff to do their jobs drives the OCWTP competency-based training system. This list of competencies is the criteria used to assess individual training needs, and also guides the development of all training courses and curriculum content. The universe of competencies guides' curricula development, ensuring course content areas represent the content staff need to do their jobs, and includes only training essential to job performance.

Cultural Competence

The OCWTP develops and provides culturally responsive curricula, maintains a pool of trainers that is culturally diverse, and values the importance of integrating cultural concepts into all training opportunities. The OCWTP defines cultural competence as, "... the understanding of how values, beliefs, attitudes, and traditions influence one's own and other people's behaviors; and the understanding of the content and dynamics of specific cultures, and the ability to use this knowledge to work productively with persons."

Individual Training Needs Assessment (ITNA) Instrument

The Individual Training Needs Assessment (ITNA) instrument identifies each worker's training needs. Completed jointly with one's supervisor, the training needs assessment is performed at least every two years and provides the RTCs with the information needed to schedule training that meets each worker's highest priority training needs in that Region. The OCWTP is currently piloting the collection of Individual Training Needs Assessments (ITNAs) and the construction of Individual Development

Plans (IDPs) for PCSA staff through E-Track. The ITNA process helps narrow the universe of competencies to prioritized skill sets and competencies that are important to the worker's own job, and that need skill development.

Certification of Competent Trainers

OCWTP trainers are carefully screened, trained, and certified. They must have the appropriate course content knowledge, the necessary adult training skills, and the ability to promote culturally-competent practice. Trainers must maintain a minimum average performance score to continue training for the OCWTP.

Statewide System for the Delivery of Training

The eight Regional Training Centers assess regional training needs, and provide training to meet the highest priority needs of managers and staff in their region. Training is developed and delivered based upon ongoing ITNA data and other assessments of staff in the region. Quarterly training calendars publicize training activities throughout the region. All quarterly training calendars for child welfare workers and foster parents can be accessed online through the OCWTP website at www.OCWTP.net.

Transfer of Learning

"Transfer of learning" refers to the utilization of knowledge and skills learned by trainees in training and used back on their jobs. Research suggests that without system-wide strategies that promote transfer, much of what is learned in training will never be used in the work place. Strategies to promote transfer are incorporated into activities that prepare the worker to attend training; that occur during the training itself, and that support the worker in utilizing new skills on their jobs after training. The continued development of county agency supervisors through in-county coaching on leadership development will help workers and supervisors in the area of transfer.

Computerized System for Administration, Monitoring, and Quality Control

The OCWTP'S online learning management system, E-Track, serves several primary functions including training registration, trainer and trainee record maintenance, evaluation and online learning delivery and tracking.

E-Track functionality was released to RTC and Adoption Subcontract staff members between January and May 2011 (several per month). This allowed RTC staff members and adoption subcontract staff to back-enter 2009-2011 training data, schedule current and future training sessions, and review and update mass-population data within their regions in preparation for end-user rollout.

E-Track functionality was released to contract trainers in December 2011. This allowed trainers time to familiarize themselves with E-Track functionality and review and update their personal trainer-related data six months prior to the E-Track release to training participants.

E-Track functionality was released to county training liaisons in May 2012. This allowed training liaisons time to familiarize themselves with E-Track functionality and their county data prior to E-Track being released to training participants.

E-Track functionality was released to PCSA staff, assessors, adoptive parents, and publicly licensed caregivers in June 2012. These users were provided the ability to review their training transcripts, search and enroll in available learning interventions, complete digital post-training feedback surveys, and receive digital training certificates.

E-Track currently maintains records for 15,241 active users (and an additional 6,291 inactive users).

The E-Track learning catalog currently consists of 1,863 active learnings (courses). An additional 544 learnings have been deactivated since the fall of 2009. Of the 1,863 active learnings, 852 are foster/adoptive/kinship courses.

The OCWTP has tracked 21,194 learning sessions in E-Track since the fall of 2009. An additional 2,397 sessions are scheduled in E-Track for future occurrence.

The OCWTP is currently launching distance and blended learning interventions through E-Track, in addition to traditional classroom-based training. Examples of distance learning include fully asynchronous (just-in-time) online modules and synchronous (real-time instructor led) virtual classroom sessions. Blended learning interventions combine distance learning interventions with classroom training interventions to maximize on the unique potential of each delivery method to enhance learning.

Process to Ensure Training is Current and Relevant:

- During 2013-2014 there were 25 scoping reviews in 20 topics areas to inform revisions to standardized curricula and ensure content reflects most current and best available child welfare research.
- During 2013, the OCWTP reviewed 74 proposed specialized and related workshops to determine content was child welfare focused, reflected best available research, and training designs incorporated transfer-of-learning strategies.
- The collection of input involved focus groups, site visits and evaluation surveys conducted with workshop attendees, trainers, PCSA supervisors, adoption assessors and ODJFS licensing specialists.
- OCWTP's listing of trainings continues to expand as the training program increases responsiveness to state, county, and unit-specific training needs. Increasingly, the program offers one-time or limited offerings of training tailored to address isolated knowledge and skill.

*For a complete listing of newly added curricula developed over the past year please refer to the **OCWTP Training Update** attachment included with this report.

Updated Information on the OCWTP

The OCWTP has many new and/or expanded program initiatives and has taken steps to greatly

enhance the technology and other supports for the statewide training system. The changes are summarized below under:

- New and/or Expanded Program Initiatives
- Technology and Other Training System Supports

Also included in this report is an update of OCWTP activities that support Ohio's Program Improvement Plan, and areas where the OCWTP could be of further assistance to children services agencies.

New and/or Expanded Program Initiatives

1. Family Search and Engagement (FSE): Creating Family Connections-Pursuing Permanence

OCWTP has worked to develop Ohio's capacity to enhance permanency for children in care through a process called Family Search and Engagement (FSE). FSE strategies focus on building emotional permanency for youth – positive connections that support the youth and contribute to a youth's feelings of security, continuity, and belonging. The ultimate goal of FSE is legal permanency – either through reunification, kinship placement, or adoption.

This work has several components:

- A self-directed online overview of FSE with a number of resources and tools is attached for caseworkers to use immediately with youth, families, and potential permanency connections with whom they current work. To access the website below, right click your mouse and open the hyperlink. <http://www.ocwtp.net/Family%20Search%20and%20Engagement/player.html>
- An Executive Summary that outlines steps to implement FSE strategies in Public Child Welfare Agencies (PCSA's).
- Prepared trainers and coaches to implement FSE training and support the application of FSE skills in the field.
- Promote the offering of five additional classroom trainings on FSE developed for caseworkers.

2. Trauma-Informed Practice

- Two series of trainings on trauma, developed by the NCTSN, were incorporated into the OCWTP menu of offerings in 2010. The first series, *Child Welfare Trauma Training Toolkit*, for caseworkers was updated in 2013 and has been offered eight times (full series). The second series, *Providing Care for Children Who Have Experienced Trauma: A Training for Resource Families*, for caregivers has been offered 47 times since 2010 (9 times in 2013).
- The OCWTP developed a joint standardized training for caseworkers and mental health therapists entitled, *Building Partnerships: Providing TF-CBT to Youth in Care*. It is co-trained by a mental health expert, a child welfare expert, and an alumnus of the foster care system. It has been offered 8 times since its development in 2010.
- The OCWTP has 48 caregiver trainings and 65 caseworker trainings on the topic of trauma.

- The OCWTP is in the process of revising the 36-hour Pre-service training for prospective foster and kinship caregivers and adoptive parents to incorporate information about trauma and its effects.
- Under the leadership of two OCWTP trainers, several counties have come together to form a trauma consortium, to identify high priority training needs within the broader topic of trauma.
- These same two trainers have developed a series of training that help caregivers provide trauma-competent care, and help workers assess and support trauma-competent caregivers.
- Secondary trauma was a focus of supervisory training in 2013. The topic was addressed in a special edition of *The Forum*, Ohio's newsletter for child welfare supervisors, and was the theme of the first annual PCSAO pre-conference training for supervisors.

3. Orientation and Readiness

The OCWTP has developed competencies and content outlines for new employee orientation and new caseworker, supervisor, and manager readiness training. *Orientation* is designed to help orient new staff to the field of child welfare and to their agency. The readiness courses are designed to help orient new caseworkers, supervisors, and managers to their new jobs. Effective orientation and readiness training is one means to assure new caseworkers and new supervisors acquire pre-requisite awareness and knowledge they can build on when they attend Core training. OCWTP continues to posted newly developed content, worksheets and activities for both caseworker and supervisor readiness. Counties can use these materials on their own, or they can request a coach to work one-on-one with employees and their supervisor to facilitate a self-directed on-site learning process.

4. CAPMIS Training

Focus groups around the state were conducted to determine additional CAPMIS training needs beyond the initial two-day workshop. Supervisors and workers asked for a variety of learning opportunities based on specific needs. In 2013, ODJFS issued a Request for Proposal for the OCWTP which included the incorporation of CAPMIS training into the OCWTP Caseworker Core curriculum. The inclusion of CAPMIS into caseworker core will have the tenets, philosophy and constructs of CAPMIS throughout core. This will ensure the inclusion of engagement, interviewing techniques, safety factors and child vulnerability as well as assessment of safety, and SACWIS Documentation of safety assessments. It is hoped that the innovative approach will not only address learning needs but also bring training opportunities to staff without their incurring extensive travel and expense. Completion of the integration of CAPMIS into the core curriculum is scheduled for be June of 2015.

5. Foster Care Alumni

- The OCWTP recruited, screened and trained eight Foster Care Alumni to be OCWTP trainers..
- Three Foster Care Alumni serve on the Pre-service Advisory Committee, which reviews and provides feedback on the Pre-service Module revisions.
- One foster care alumna co-authored *Building Partnerships: Providing TF-CBT to Youth In Care*. Three additional foster care alumni are approved to train this workshop.
- Several foster care alumni are approved to co-train a series of trainings developed by the national Resource Center for Youth Development and incorporated into the OCWTP menu of

offerings. This three-module series has been offered at least 16 times (7 rounds in 2013)

- Several foster care alumni served as consultants during the development of a standardized training, *Roots and Wings*, part of a series of 12 trainings for newer caregivers called *Fundamentals of Fostering*.

6. Foster and Adoptive Parent Training

In 2010, a page on the OCWTP website called “Caregiver’s Corner” was developed and dedicated specifically to the needs of foster, adoptive and kinship parents. The page is filled with valuable information and resources for foster caregivers and adoptive parents regarding available training, helping youth emancipate and providing links to local and national resources.

- Three additional six-hour trainings were developed in the Fundamentals of Fostering series for a total of 13 trainings:
 - 2010 -*Healthy Sexual Development of Children and Teens; Fostering Self-Reliance in Children and Youth: Roots and Wings*
 - 2012- *The Caregiver’s Voice: Being Part of an Effective Child Welfare Team*
- OCWTP is currently assessing current trainer and training capacity in high priority training areas as identified by RTCs.
- Data from E-Track and key informants is being reviewed to determine if there are any barriers to training based on location, time of day, time of year, etc.
- Staff is gathering data on the best way to market trainings and resources to caregivers and adoptive parents.

7. Engaging Families in Planned and Purposeful Visitation

- Section three of the learning lab for Supervisor Core Module One: *Casework Supervision* is designed to develop supervisor skills specific to helping caseworkers conduct quality home visits. Using cases from their own units as well as cases presented in a Frontline DVD entitled, *Failure to Protect*, supervisors develop criteria for home visits, develop strategies for preparing caseworkers for home visits, and determine measures for ensuring that quality home visits are occurring. To date, 22 labs have been held with 117 supervisors in attendance.
- To enhance supervisor’s ability to effectively monitor visitation, the OCWTP distributes a checklist for supervisory case conferencing that is organized in line with key decision points in Ohio’s Comprehensive Assessment and Planning Model - Interim Solution (CAPMIS.) The check list is used as a standard resource in the first module of Ohio’s Supervisor Core training required for every new supervisor within the first two years of their position and made available to all supervisors via the OCWTP resource web page. This checklist is also used as a resource in the Learning Lab noted above and used as two CAPMIS toolkit activities for supervisors: *Guiding the CAPMIS Process* and *CAPMIS Refresher for Supervisors*.
- *Effective Use of Home Visits* is a three-session blended course for caseworkers. Each session includes three components:
 - A self-guided on-line learning component
 - A field assignment asking participants to apply concepts learned in the on-line learning component

- A Guided Application and Practice (GAP) session.
- This course has been replicated three times since the pilot. Implementation has been slower than anticipated as the OCWTP RTCs, caseworkers and supervisors get acclimated to distance learning to implementing and participating in distance learning. To facilitate increased usage, the OCWTP has developed an online course on facilitating distance learning for trainers and an online course for participants on getting the most from distance learning.
- A *Supervisory Companion Guide* accompanies the blended course, *Effective use of Home Visits*. This guide provides supervisors:
 - Key learning points from each of the three sessions
 - Ways supervisors can support staff as they prepare, conduct, document and debrief home visits
 - Things to watch for that might indicate a caseworker would need additional support or supervision regarding home visits

Supervisors can use the guide with individual staff or whole units; identify specific areas that staff need to strengthen (such as documentation) and focus on specific skills; or plan to have staff complete the entire program and use unit meetings to process content and share results of the field application assignments.
- In 2012, two OCWTP staff participated in the Meaningful Visitation/Safety in Out-of-Home Placement Workgroup which helped develop the child exit interview to gather data to better inform ways to improve our system.

8. Human Trafficking

OCWTP developed three products to assist caseworkers, supervisors and caregivers respond and care for youth who have been trafficked:

- *Human Trafficking: An Overview for Child Welfare Professionals*: An online training to help child welfare staff learn about human trafficking and fulfill the mandated rule requiring human trafficking training within the first two years of employment. The course provides an overview of definitions, dynamics, and laws related to human trafficking. Furthermore, it identifies factors that increase risk, introduces a rapid screening tool, and outlines strategies for early intervention.
- *What Caregivers Need to Know About Human Trafficking*: an one-hour online training that helps caregivers be aware of the scope of human trafficking, understand the dynamics of human trafficking, know factors that increase a youth's vulnerability to human trafficking, recognize indicators that a child has been trafficked, and know strategies to help prevent youth from being trafficked.
- *Human Trafficking Webpage*: A curated webpage that houses specific information for caregivers and staff working with caregivers on the impact of human trafficking on children and youth, strategies for caring for children who have been trafficked, how to manage secondary trauma, and additional selected resources.

9. Permanency Round Tables (PRTs)

PRTs are structured meetings intended to expedite legal permanency for youth by involving internal and external experts and encouraging thinking “outside the box”. PRTs include oral case presentation, rating of the child’s current permanency status, discussion and brainstorming of current barriers to permanency, and development of a specific action plan that includes permanency goals, strategies and action steps. The corresponding curriculum for trainers is a product of Casey Family Programs.

In 2013, ODJFS convened a group of stakeholders to form a state advisory council for the pilot of PRTs. The OCWTP is actively involved in the training, implementation and evaluation efforts of the pilot project.

10. SACWIS Training

In 2012, the OCWTP offered the first training integrating practice content with SACWIS technology by incorporating SACWIS screenshots into the CAPMIS Refresher training. The six hour training linked OCWTP practice training, ODJFS Blue Book guidance and SACWIS screens to create a seamless learning and application experience for agency staff to help improve the documentation of CAPMIS factors in SACWIS. An important concept reinforced during this training is that “best practice” has two components: 1) use the practice knowledge and skills learned in training and 2) thorough documentation in SACWIS to guide decision making.

In 2013 the OCWTP offered the second training that integrated practice training and SACWIS. This three hour training called, *Managing for Outcomes: Using SACWIS Data to Improve Performance*, focused on helping supervisors manage their units by using reports generated through SACWIS, BIC and ROM. This training was piloted 6 times with 33 supervisors in three areas of the state – Cincinnati, Dayton and Akron.

Technology and Other Training System Supports

Updated OCWTP Website

In 2007, the OCWTP website was extensively revamped to be more user-friendly and to:

- Provide more information to trainers (their roles and responsibilities, trainer policies and procedures, resources, important web links, all issues of Common Ground, etc.).
- Provide more information to trainees (staff training requirements, overview of training Modules, PDF versions of skill building materials, checklists, tool kits, etc., used in training workshops, and links to all eight RTC training calendars).
- Allow each of the eight RTCs to update their sections of the website.
- In 2010 – 2011 the website was revamped to a more attractive, user friendly format. Additional workshop handouts, papers, and other information for trainers and participants were made available via the website; web links on a variety of topics related to child welfare were added for staff at PCSAs. Three of the eight Regional Training Center web pages on the OCWTP website were updated and improved.

The website is also used to provide updates on the development and implementation of the new Learning Management System, discussed below.

The OCWTP website is www.ocwtp.net.

OCWTP Evaluation

Evaluation data is collected for many activities paid for by the OCWTP, but most evaluation data is collected through online surveys through E-Track. There are currently over 40 different evaluation surveys launched through E-Track, including 35 evaluation surveys linked to specific workshops and learning labs. Surveys tailored to Caseworker Core, Supervisor Core, Adoption Assessor, and associated learning labs.

Eighteen (18%) of all training hours captured in E-Track in 2013 were Pre-service training hours. Pre-service evaluation data is not collected in E-Track, but is collected paper-and-pencil after three of the 12 Pre-service sessions (sessions 4, 8 and 12). Each of the Regional Training Centers collects and reviews the evaluation data to identify potential problems, changing trends, assess trainer performance, etc.

Staff, caregiver and executive director coaching evaluation processes and forms developed by work teams is collected by IHS and reported back to work teams.

Began extensive use of E-Track reports to determine evaluation survey response rates, analyze participant's comments about trainings and trainers, and identify the trainers who train the most hours in OCWTP.

Measuring Transfer of Learning

The OCWTP will measure the transfer of learning from specific standardized workshops to the agency using a three-step process that establishes a chain of evidence. The standardized workshops are the eight Caseworker Core workshops, the six Supervisor Core workshops, and the 10 Adoption Assessor workshops.

The first step in establishing the chain of evidence will be collecting trainees' perceptions of their own learning as a result of attending the workshop. This will require 24 different E-Track evaluation surveys, each including specific content questions tailored to individual Core and Assessor workshops. During 2007 – 2009, we completed the development of content specific questions for these evaluations.

The second step will be to implement objective measures of learning that occurred through pre and post workshop testing. In 2007 – 2011, the OCWTP began piloting the use of an online survey data collection program, SurveyGizmo, to collect pre-post test data from trainees.

Trainer Development

The OCWTP maintains an active trainer pool of over 260 trainers. After a rigorous interview and approval process, trainers are required to attend *Training of Trainers – Presentation Skills* and *Training of Trainers – Culture and Diversity*. Additionally, *Training of Trainers – Transfer of Learning* and *Training of Trainers – Curriculum Development* are offered three times a year for

trainers to attend at their discretion. State Coordinator and Regional Training Center Staff provide trainers with consultation and technical assistance as needed.

Trainers and Coaches – Contract Workforce is Knowledgeable and Skilled

- OCWTP maintains a rigorous trainer and coach approval process and ongoing field experience requirements
- In the past year, the OCWTP has established an ongoing process to observe trainers of standardized, specialized and related supervisor trainings.
- ODJFS, OCWTP and PCSAO work together to identify ways PCSA staff can train on SACWIS for the OCWTP
- Two new trainers were added to the Supervisor Core training pool and several DR trainers have been recruited to train the revised Caseworker Core modules.
- Currently there are 74 coaches who have been trained to provide on-the-job coaching of prioritized skills.
- A statewide Orientation and Readiness coach position was developed to facilitate the process of “on-boarding” new staff. This coach served 48 caseworkers in 14 counties, through six RTCs.

Implementation research indicates that coaching is a worthwhile investment for PCSAs wanting to ensure that staff use the skills learned in training when they return to the field. OCWTP has seen an increase in coaching hours from 600 hours in 2010 to 947 hours in 2013. To date, the OCWTP has 62 staff and caregiver coaches and 8 executive coaches.

Supervisor Training, Preparation and Ongoing Development:

- In 2010, the OCWTP completed a major revision to Supervisor Core. Since the revisions, Core Modules have been offered 196 times to 1607 participants.
- A learning lab for Supervisor Core, *Promoting Critical Thinking in Casework Practice* was developed and later revised to include supervising effective home visits to meet Ohio’s PIP requirement. This lab was offered 22 times with 117 participants.
- In 2011, the OCWTP began distributing a quarterly newsletter, *The Forum*, which provides information, resources, and tools to support Ohio’s child welfare supervisors. There have been 11 editions to date.
- In 2010, the Supervisor Advisory Team was created. Representing supervisors from across the state, this team provides recommendations and feedback on the development of OCWTP supervisor activities and resources. Based on their recommendation, the OCWTP has offered four different distance learnings to supervisors on secondary trauma, critical incident stress debriefing, learning environments, and managing difficult staff.
- OCWTP vendor, Institute for Human Services (IHS), facilitate collaboration between the Supervisor Advisory Team and ODJFS SACWIS staff regarding SACWIS reports. For example, using input from the Supervisor Advisory Team, ODJFS SACWIS staff created two reports in SACWIS, the Comprehensive Visitation report, and the SAR/Case Review Due Date report.
- In 2012, the OCWTP collaborated with PCSAO to offer a supervisor-focused (pre-conference) day at the annual PCSAO Conference and are in the process of planning the second event.

- The OCWTP launched the Supervisor Station web page on the OCWTP website to provide Ohio child welfare supervisors easy access to needed resources.
- HIS staff shadowed ten supervisors during 2013-2014, to keep current in supervisory practice issues.

New Technologies

Enhanced Learning Methodologies to Assist in Skill Development

- The OCWTP developed a variety of training methods to assist in developing the skill of PCSA staff including learning labs, guided application and practice sessions, self-directed online courses, blended courses that combine online technology with field-based practice, and coaching activities implemented in a number of formats.

1. Distance Learning Methodologies

- Staff and caregivers have access to a library of online, just-in-time trainings available via vendor contracts (Essential Learning and Foster Parent College). In 2013, caregivers completed 1782 distance learning courses through a partnership with Foster Parent College and 104 caseworkers and supervisors accessed
- OCWTP has developed over thirteen self-directed online courses available for credit via an online learning management System or just-in-time via the OCWTP web page.
- Currently, OCWTP has three blended courses that can be scheduled based on training needs assessments.
- The *E-Track Training Homepage* of the OCWTP website provides E-Track users with over 190 self-directed trainings on how to access, enter, and perform specific functions in the OCWTP's online E-Track Learning Management System. Self-directed learning tools are specific for various users – trainers, RTC administrators, county staff, caregivers, and county training liaisons.

2. Guided Application and Practice Sessions (GAPs)

- Sharing and problem-solving with colleagues frequently provides resourceful solutions to complex issues. Recognizing that developing these “communities of practice” are a valuable component of a training program, the OCWTP has made a concerted effort to develop trainers to facilitate these sessions and have increased GAP offerings over the course of the past two years.
- To date, there have been over 50 GAPs that addressed topics including:
 - ✓ Assessment skills
 - ✓ Case planning
 - ✓ Working with birth families
 - ✓ Investigating child sexual abuse
 - ✓ Managing conflict
 - ✓ Documentation
 - ✓ Transfer of learning

3. Learning Labs

- The OCWTP embedded learning labs to the 2008 revision of Caseworker Core and the 2010 revision of Supervisor Core.

4. In-agency Team Training

- CAPMIS/SACWIS training is offered in a PCSA for a unit and their supervisor. This approach allows everyone in a unit to learn and practice the same skills together, building unit cohesion. Agency supervisors are also offered the opportunity to co-train parts of the workshop with the OCWTP trainer to articulate the agency's expectations and standards regarding child welfare practice.

RTC Technology

- In preparation for increased use of technology in the training room, RTCs have either bought or are in the process of purchasing IPADS, notebooks, etc. This has become increasingly necessary as the OCWTP integrates SACWIS into standardized trainings.
- Virtual training platforms that allow participants to view the screen of a presenter have been piloted in many RTCs either using one of the sites managed by OCWTP's state coordinator or through their own contracts for online vendors.
- RTCs have also field tested various ways for participants to access SACWIS and ROM/BIC systems during trainings and learning labs. One RTC ran agency connections to training rooms, others have coordinated with county departments to make use of computer labs.

Title IV-B, Subpart 2 Child Welfare Services Promoting Safe & Stable Families

Family Preservation

Ohio continues its effort to safely reduce the number of children in foster care. Policies and practice that impact the number of children in care continue to be the following:

- Kinship Initiatives: The continuation of a statewide Kinship Permanency Incentive program, Ohio's Title IV-E Waiver utilizing kinship as a strategy to reduce out-of-home placements has yielded positive results. Flexible funding associated with that waiver program has provided added support to frontload service and assist in preserving families. Please refer to the attached *ProtectOHIO* annual report for more comprehensive information.
- Family Engagement/Differential Response: Agencies have been promoting family engagement through family team meetings, group decision making, community based collaboration and services. In addition the statewide implementation of a Differential Response child protection system has resulted in an increased emphasis on engagement as well.

Ohio's DR Practice Model was developed with several foundational tenets that encourage family engagement and partnership. Child protective services casework practice is based on safety-focused engagement of and partnership with families and communities, rather than an expectation of compliance. Transparency in purpose and process is of utmost importance in engaging and partnering with families. Interventions collaboratively created by both the social worker and the family are more likely to succeed and result in better outcomes for families. Partners-including families, community, service providers and colleagues-share power. The strengths-based practice of facilitating family team meetings will focus on the solutions, not the problems. All families have strengths and resources; it is the job of child protective services to identify the family's strengths and help the family apply them to keep their children safe. Families' values and cultural traditions must be identified, understood and respected.

Families are the experts of their situations, so we need to honor their wisdom about their circumstances, strengths and needs and include them as equal partners in the group decision making process. Most families want to address threats of safety and can be effective partners in building up safety supports for their children. Families are more than the presenting concerns that brought them to the attention of the child protection agency. Families are best served when they are helped through connections with their natural support networks and with community services and beneficial resources that they have identified a need.

Service plans should be developed in partnership with the family and written in a language that the family understands. Services are family-driven and family requests are honored, unless the child's safety is compromised. Child protective services should be concluded when they are no longer necessary to address identified safety and risk concerns.

Family Support

Kinship Summary

ODJFS continues to collaborate with the Statewide Kinship Care Advisory Board and the Ohio Grandparent Kinship Coalition (OGKC). The Board, comprised of representatives from ODJFS, public and private child care agencies, ODJFS, Area Agencies on Aging, Ohio Family and Children First, Legal Aid, and kinship caregivers, meets quarterly to discuss and evaluate Ohio's kinship resources and provide recommendations and feedback to ODJFS. OGKC brings ODJFS in contact with kinship caregivers and agencies every other month for the purpose of sharing information and resources. ODJFS works with both organizations by providing regular updates and technical assistance on Ohio's services for kinship caregivers.

ODJFS makes available to Ohio kin families the *Ohio Resource Guide for Relatives Caring for Children* and the *Kinship Permanency Incentive Program* for information sharing purposes. ODJFS also supports the OGKC in their *Bi-Annual Statewide Kinship Conference*, which provides additional resources to Ohio's kinship caregivers.

The Ohio Resource Guide: For Relatives Caring for Children - ODJFS publishes a statewide resource guide for kinship families. The *Ohio Resource Guide: For Relatives Caring for Children* provides information about the availability of programs for kinship providers through local agencies. This resource guide was last updated by ODJFS in October of 2013 and available online to agencies and the general public.

Statewide Conference on Kinship Care- The fourth biennial statewide kinship conference was held on September 13, 2013. The theme for this conference was "*Kinship Care Healing Hearts: Supporting Those Who Raise Our Children*". Participants at the conference included kinship caregivers throughout the state of Ohio, as well as professionals working in the field of kinship care. Workshop topics included Bullying, Human Trafficking, Caregiver Stress Management, and Child Sexual Abuse Prevention. In addition, a panel comprised of an Ohio Lawmaker, a Kinship Caregiver, and Kinship Professionals addressed Ohio's response to kinship care. It is expected that ODJFS will continue to support future conference by assisting with funding and facilitation.

Kinship Permanency Incentive (KPI) Program – Over the past five years, ODJFS has continually administered the Kinship Permanency Incentive (KPI) program, as authorized by state law. KPI helps to support custodial commitments made by kinship caregivers of minor children who are unable to safely remain in their own homes. The KPI program provides time-limited incentive payments to eligible caregivers who accept legal custody or legal guardianship of kin children on or after July 1, 2005. The maximum incentive amount does not exceed six payments per child, per placement or per kinship caregiver. The incentives are provided to the caregiver up to a total of thirty-six cumulative months.

APSR Services and Programs – 2014 Final Report

The Biennial Budget for State Fiscal Years (SFY) 2014 – 2015 allotted an additional \$500,000 for the KPI program which increased the funding level to \$5.2 million per SFY. Consequently, the level of ODJFS' commitment per child has increased, raising the initial payment from \$450 to \$525. As of the date of this report, kinship caregivers receive \$300 per child at six-month intervals, to support the stability of the child's placement in the home. This is a \$50 increase from incentive payments allocated in SFY 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012.

Children Receiving KPI funding in FFY 2013*

Children approved for initial funding	2,217
Children approved for redetermination funding	4,538
Total Children Approved	6,755

*This table illustrates a duplicative number in redeterminations as applications can be accepted for funding every six months.

*Noteworthy to mention is the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program's (OCWTP) training to support kin caregivers. Although state law prohibits OCWTP from training kinship providers they do train the workers who support kin caregivers. In 2012 the OCWTP developed the standardized training, *Understanding and Supporting Kinship Caregivers*. This training was provided to all kinship workers in Protect OHIO counties. The OCWTP also led the development of a six-hour standardized training based on the Protect OHIO Kinship Manual. There are currently nine specialized workshops on providing kinship services. In addition, kinship specific materials are routinely posted on the Caregivers' Corner on the OCWTP website.

Time-Limited Reunification

Ohio continues to support action steps to achieve an increase in reunification:

Parental rights brochures are available to the counties to provide to parents at the time of initial agency contact to educate them about the child welfare process and their rights. OCWTP supports the development of learning competencies within the training program to help caseworkers identify, assess, and involve kinship caregivers in the case planning and placement process. Technical assistance to counties continues to be available particularly in the area of management reports available on the Business Intelligence Channel (BIC) and the Supreme Court of Ohio website.

Timely reunification will continue to be a focus of ongoing improvement in Ohio.

Examination of State Data Over Time

An analysis of AFCARs data sets for 2010AB, 2011AB, 2012AB and 2013AB was conducted to determine what measures were impacting Permanency Composite 1. The following Table presents the Permanency Composite 1 State Scores.

Time Period	State Score	Measure C1-1	Measure C1-2	Measure C 1-3	Measure C1-4
2010AB	123.6	71.4% +	Median= 6.2 months	49.5% +	13.1% -
2011AB	119.8	73.1%	Median= 6.5 months	50.5%	14.9%
2012AB	119.7	72.0%	Median=7.0 months	48.1%	14.0%
2013AB	117.7	72.2%	Median= 6.7 months	47.3%	15.3%

NS=122.6 goal=75.2% + goal=5.4mths less 48.4% or higher 9.9% or lower

From 2010 through 2013 there was improvement in the performance of children being reunified in less than 12 months from the date of the latest removal from home (C1-1). The National Standard is 122.6 or higher and you can see we have not achieved this since 2011. While we are improving in C1-1 we are seeing more children re-entering care following reunification.

Adoption Promotion and Support Services

General Foster Care and Adoption Recruitment Update

In 2013, ODJFS updated the “Ohio Adoption Guide” and the “Adoption Subsidies Guide” and made both further available online with other manuals.

Local Agency Recruitment Efforts

As previously noted, Ohio agencies employed several strategies to recruit families for waiting children during this past year. Some of these included:

- Registering children with NCALP and the U.S. Health and Human Services’ AdoptUSKids Website;
- Placing the children on the local agency’s website;
- Distributing child specific recruitment flyers at adoption events;
- Partnering with faith-based organizations to recruit families;
- Conducting searches for significant adults noted in the child’s case file;

- Sponsoring “Foster and Adoption Parties” designed to provide information to potential families about foster care and adoption programs and the need for resource homes;
- Hosting foster and adoptive parent recognition banquets and other honorary events;
- Participating in adoption fairs;
- Profiling waiting children in newspapers, and on television and radio spots;
- Publishing agency calendars which feature harder to place youth who are available for adoption;
- Collaborating with community partners (e.g., schools, churches, service organizations) to promote recruitment events; and
- Working with foster parent associations to identify recruitment strategies and ensure retention of existing resource families.

Foster Care and Adoption Proclamation Months

Whereas Ohio has over 13,000 children residing in foster homes or other out-of-home placement settings. Of them, nearly 3,000 children, or over twenty-two percent, are waiting to be adopted. The approximate 1,100 young adults who aged out-of-care each year are without permanent connections, though many are placed in relative care or in one of the 12,000 foster homes certified by ODJFS. The data is significant in that it demonstrates the need to continually raise the public’s awareness, to recruit additional foster homes for the state of Ohio, and to support existing resource families, particularly those willing to care for foster youth on a permanent basis if needed.

For the past five years, Ohio has annually recognized May as National Foster Care Month and November as Adoption Month. The purpose of the recognition is to acknowledge the efforts of child welfare practitioners and caregivers across the state responsible for providing care to children that have been abused, neglected or dependent. Public service announcements were prepared to recognize and celebrate both months. PCSA, PCPA, and PNAs are encouraged to continue to support their resource families. The Governor acknowledged foster families and kinship families for the work and service provided. Across the state, events were held to honor foster and adoptive parents for their dedication to vulnerable children, including the statewide advocacy day, held in Columbus, Ohio, on November 13, 2013.

In addition to special recognition during the months of May and November, agencies implement strategic recruitment plans aimed at promoting public awareness and/or foster and adoptive parent recruitment. Pursuant to OAC 5101:2-5-13, 5101:2-48-05, each foster care and adoption agency is required to develop and implement a comprehensive recruitment plan that describes diligent recruitment of families which reflects the diversity of the children for whom homes are needed. These

recruitment plans are submitted and reviewed by ODJFS upon receipt to ensure compliance with the Multiethnic Placement Act, 42 U.S.C.A. 1996 (B), as amended by Section 1808 of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996 (MEPA), and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI) to ensure that Race, Color, or National Origin does not interfere with foster care and adoption processes. In addition, ODJFS requires that agencies conduct child-specific recruitment efforts in other counties when prospective adoptive families cannot be identified locally.

In circumstances of non-compliance, ODJFS provides technical assistance to the agency which includes, but is not limited to: the issue of noncompliance and needed revision(s), discussions about the basis of the regulation, and sharing information about other agencies' successful recruitment efforts. ODJFS also monitors MEPA compliance via announced and unannounced onsite agency visits and recruitment plan implementation reviews. During these visits, ODJFS staff compares and discuss the agency's data profiles with state level data to determine whether changes are needed in the recruitment plan's design or implementation.

CHAFEE FOSTER CARE INDEPENDENCE AND EDUCATION AND TRAINING VOUCHERS (ETV) PROGRAMS

Chafee Foster Care Independence Program Update

ODJFS continues to ensure the tenants of the Chafee Foster Independence Program (CFCIP) are operative in Ohio. The initiatives directly related to Ohio's older foster care youth population with great impact over recent years are "*Connecting the Dots*" and the Education and Training Voucher Program.

"*Connecting the Dots* (CTD) from Foster Care to Employment and Independent Living" is a partnership between child welfare, workforce investment and Big Brothers Big Sisters. CTD joins programs best equipped to assist older youth transition from foster care to self-sustainment. The objectives of CTD are to:

- dramatically improve educational, employment and earnings outcomes;
- better support foster youths' transition to adulthood;
- prevent and reduce the incidence of early pregnancy; and
- break down program and funding silos so cross-system strategies are effective.

The initiative is rolling out in 3 tiers. The 1st tier involved training for Independent Living coordinators, caseworkers, Workforce Investment Act (WIA) youth program staff, and foster parents and youth. Over 1300 people registered for the 13 webinars conducted. The pilot site part of the initiative began in 2013.

Tier II will have ODJFS evaluating content and information to be placed on OhioHeretohelp.com, an existing resource site managed by ODJFS.

Tier III, nearing closure at the beginning of 2015 will involve the compiling of best practices to share with all counties along with suggested policy changes to formulate a model for expansion.

To date, 430 youth have been enrolled and 39 youth matched with mentors in the five chosen sites of Cuyahoga, Hamilton, Lake, Montgomery/Greene, and Summit. Each site serves current and former foster youth 16-21, and programming at each site is guided by their operational plan.

While every site contains the main components of CTD, each site's implementation differs. The foundational principles are:

- Integrated system design
- Blended funding streams
- Synchronized policies
- Strategic case practice
- Meaningful youth engagement, voice, and input
- Collaborative planning
- Program components include:
 - Work experience
 - Educational supports
 - Pregnancy Prevention
 - Mentoring

Each site provides workforce services at either at the OhioMeansJobs centers or has contracted providers. The intent of CTD is to connect many of the existing services and streamline service delivery in these often previously disconnected programs.

Research shows that building relationships is critical so more focus has been placed on the development of these relationships and how they relate to coordinated service delivery.

Mentoring has been a component that has experienced the most growth throughout the initiative. CTD partnered with Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) to provide mentoring. This population had previously never been served directly by BBBS; consequently it was important to modify current practices while still implementing their evidence-based methods. This has been quite successful and has resulted in an increased awareness across all agencies to the mentoring needs of this population.

The sites have experienced their own individual barriers as the project has continued some of which are:

- Marked low educational performance in relation to their peers and those in other workforce programs (TANF)
- All staff being aware of youth educational needs
- Maintaining contact after work experience

- Unaddressed mental health needs during work experience
- Referral processes between providers

These barriers are not without success. The sites have stated that the interconnected infrastructure CTD seeks to build at each site is allowing them to build important new partnerships. In one site, they have already begun reevaluating all their policies for aging out youth and are working with their local youth advisory board to establish policies that are more youth driven. Youth in one site even developed a coloring book for K-3 youth to begin to understand the development of soft skills for employment.

Conference

For the past two years CTD has put on a statewide youth conference that has been successful. This conference is open to all youth across the state and has been attended by approximately 300 youth from many Ohio counties. Over 3,000 garments were donated for a program called “Suits For Success” that allows youth at the conference to obtain professional attire. The conference will continue this year and will partner with Ohio Reach, an organization with the mission to improve foster youth outcomes for higher education enrollment and retention. The conference will focus on both employment and education tracks, including apprenticeships and certificate programs that do not require a degree.

Educational Training Vouchers

The Ohio State Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program has been administered by Foster Care to Success (FC2S) since academic year 2003-2004. The program goes beyond simply awarding financial grants to college driven youth. Relationships are forged with students and assistance is provided to help them further their dreams of education. FC2S offers moral support, mentors, care packages, and employment readiness coaching. The primary mission of ETV in Ohio is to help youth who were in foster care attain post-secondary learning opportunities. To be eligible for ETV in Ohio, applicants must be a current or former foster student who was in foster care on his/her 18th birthday and aged out at that time, or was adopted from foster care with the adoption finalized after his/her 16th birthday. Other applicants are eligible if their foster care case closed between the ages of 18 and 21. Other criteria include U.S. citizen or qualified non-citizen, personal assets (bank account, car, home, etc.) worth less than \$10,000, and within the ages of 18 and 21 to apply for the first time. Applicants may reapply for ETV funds up to the age of 23. In order to receive additional support, the ETV recipient must be accepted into or be enrolled in a degree, certificate or other accredited program at a college, university, technical, vocational school. To remain eligible for ETV funding, applicants must demonstrate progress toward a degree or certificate.

Up to \$5,000 per year, per youth, is available to help cover the cost of participation in post-secondary education. ETV funds may cover tuition and fees, room and board, rental or purchase of required equipment, materials or supplies, including a computer, allowance for books, supplies, and transportation; required residential training, and special student projects. Funding is limited and

available on a first-come, first-served basis to eligible students. Applicants must complete the ETV application which includes documentation each semester that is sent directly from the school to ETV confirming enrollment, the cost of attendance (COA) and unmet need(s). Aside from the traditional colleges and universities, these funds may also be used for post-secondary vocational and proprietary schools.

As of March, 2014, the following numbers of youth received funding to support the higher education needs through this program in:

- SFY 2009 482 students - Paid \$1,849,403
- SFY 2010 548 students - Paid \$1,917,508.75
- SFY2011 543 students - Paid \$2,030,283.73
- SFY2012 532 students - Paid \$2,030,284
- SFY2013 442 students - paid \$1,627,008 (our federal grant was reduced this year)

It is estimated the numbers will continue to rise as ODJFS continues to raise awareness regarding the availability of ETV funds, and support post-secondary educational options for foster youth through OhioReach. By the start of academic year 2014, ODJFS expects 350 new students will enroll in the ETV program, bringing the total to be served to 600.

Ohio National Youth in Transition Database Update

The Ohio National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) stores demographic and outcome data from a series of surveys that are given to randomly selected youth who have received independent living services. Those selected to participate were asked to complete the first survey within 45 days of their 17th birthday, and then subsequent surveys at ages 19 and 21. The first surveys for Ohio Cohort Group 1 were conducted in federal fiscal year (FFY) 2011 and 2013. A final follow-up survey for Cohort Group 1, due in FFY 2015, will be completed when the former foster youth reaches age 21. Baseline and follow-up surveys for the first cohort group showed the following outcomes:

	17 year olds	19 year olds
Employed full-time	0.00%	12.37%
Employed part-time	16.67%	24.74%
Participating in an apprenticeship	29.17%	29.90%
Receiving Supplemental Security Income benefits	12.50%	9.28%
Receiving educational aid	5.21%	16.49%
Receiving financial assistance	15.63%	16.49%
Completed high school	8.33% (86.46 remain in school)	47.42% (high school diploma or GED)
Receiving adult support	89.58%	85.57%
Homeless	22.92% (ever homeless)	26.80% (within last two years)
Incarcerated	56.25% (ever incarcerated)	36.08% (within last two years)
Had a child	16.67%	14.43% (within last two years)
Medicaid*	83.33%	73.20%

* Note: Medicaid eligibility was extended in October, 2013 to former foster care youth up to age 26.

Preliminary results indicate Ohio has met the participation rate for Ohio Cohort Group 1. However, the participation rate for Ohio Cohort Group 2, which began October 1, 2013 continues to hover around sixty percent, warranting concern. Ongoing meetings with the Ohio Youth Advisory Board and the Ohio Independent Living Coordinators indicate agencies were incentivizing survey responses, but often lacked demographic and contact information for cohorts, and/or struggled to adequately meet NYTD expectations. For these reasons, a SACWIS tickler was for each applicable youth in agency custody, to notify county staff that a NYTD survey should be completed (i.e., Ohio Cohort Group 1 and 2). ODJFS also hosted regional forums in 2012 and 2013, and provided training on the subject of NYTD for IL workers. In addition, ODJFS provided technical assistance in 2013 as suggested by the National Resource Center – Youth Development (NRC-YD). Moving forward, PCSAs are asked to survey all 17 year olds within 45 days following their 17th birthday regardless of whether the youth is receiving IL services and/or in the sample cohort population. ODJFS will continue offer statistical reports to counties for the 19 and 21 year old populations. This creates a rhythm that will not be lost by staff re-assignments, staff turnover and the break between surveys.

(Refer to the following Data Snapshot: Youth Outcomes, for additional information of Ohio NYTD.)

Follow-up Population Highlights

Includes demographic and outcomes information on young people in the State's follow-up population sample who turned age 19 during 2013.

Youth in age 19 follow-up population cohort

Total in cohort in FY 2013: 361

Total reported in FY 2013: 361

Number of youth in foster care:

18

Foster care participation rate:

55.56%

Number of discharged youth:

343

Discharged participation rate:

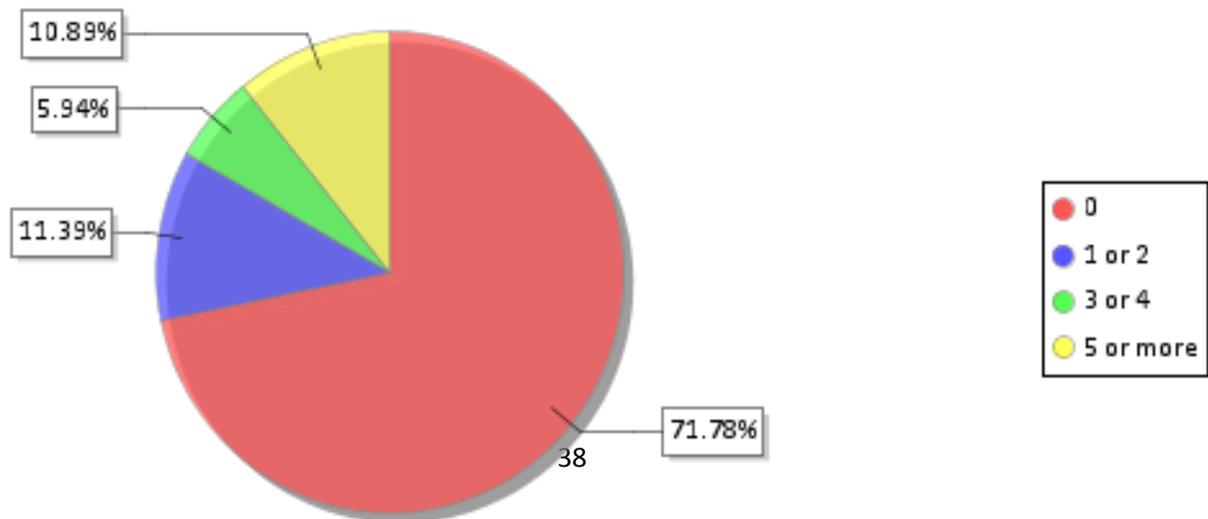
52.48%

Youth in age 19 follow-up sample

Total youth in sample in FY 2013: 202

Total reported in FY 2013: 202

Number of services youth received:



Reasons for Non-participation:	Youth in Foster Care	Youth Discharged from Foster Care
Youth declined	11.11%	30.57%
Parent declined	00.00%	00.00%
Incapacitated	00.00%	00.00%
Incarcerated	00.00%	00.00%
Runaway or missing	00.00%	00.00%
Unable to locate/invite	00.00%	00.00%
Death	00.00%	00.00%
Not in sample	00.00%	00.00%

Characteristics of Survey Participants:	Youth in Foster Care	Youth Discharged from Foster Care
Sex		
Male	50.00%	54.48%
Female	50.00%	45.52%
Race/Ethnicity		
American Indian or Alaska Native	00.00%	00.00%
Asian	00.00%	00.00%
Black or African American	50.00%	44.03%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	00.00%	00.00%
White	50.00%	60.45%
Unknown or Declined	00.00%	00.00%
Hispanic or Latino ethnicity*	00.00%	00.75%
Receiving Services	62.50%	03.73%
*Hispanic or Latino ethnicity is reported separately from race.		

Outcomes Reported by Survey Participants:	Youth in Foster Care	Youth Discharged from Foster Care
<i>Financial self-sufficiency</i>		
Reported current part-time or full-time employment	12.50%	38.81%
Reported receiving employment-related training in the past year	50.00%	28.36%
Reported receiving social security payments	12.50%	13.43%
Reported receiving financial aid for educational expenses	12.50%	14.93%
Reported receiving financial support from another source	25.00%	13.43%
Reported receiving public financial assistance*	00.00%	05.97%
Reported receiving public food assistance*	25.00%	35.08%
Reported receiving public housing assistance*	00.00%	05.97%
<i>Educational attainment</i>		
Reported being enrolled in and attending school	87.50%	47.02%
Reported having completed high school or GED	25.00%	52.24%
Reported receiving a vocational license or certificate	00.00%	02.24%
Reported receiving a college degree (e.g., Associate, Bachelor, or higher degree)	00.00%	00.00%
<i>High-risk behaviors (in prior two years)</i>		
Reported a substance abuse referral	25.00%	11.94%
Reported having been incarcerated	37.50%	31.34%
Reported having children	00.00%	11.19%
<i>Homelessness (in prior two years)</i>		
Reported having been homeless	00.00%	27.61%
<i>Connection to adults</i>		
Reported having a current positive connection to an adult	100.00%	85.82%
<i>Access to health insurance</i>		
Reported having Medicaid	100.00%	65.67%
Reported having some other type of health insurance	00.00%	10.45%

*Survey questions related to public assistance are only required to be asked of youth discharged from foster care.

This data snapshot was generated using active data files submitted by the State for the report period(s) indicated above as of 12/02/2013

ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE

Goal 1 of the 2010-2014 Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP)

Children are safe in their homes and while placed in substitute care settings.

2014 Update: ODJFS policy staff updated the *Child Protective Services Worker Manual* to include all of the previously developed materials including but not limited to the Practice Guidance Articles, Guidance Documents, and Field Guides. The manual content was converted into a .pdf format and uploaded onto the SACWIS Knowledge Base in March 2014.

Ongoing collaboration between CPS policy staff and the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program (OCWTP) have resulted in the provision of updated CAPMIS training. The series of CAPMIS curricula outlined below was developed by CPS policy staff for direct service caseworkers and supervisors. A Training on Content (TOC) session was held for the Safety Response and Planning curriculum on May 12, 2014. Additional TOCs will be scheduled for the remaining curricula. The training series includes the following:

- Safety Assessment (3 hours)
In addition to addressing the assessment of safety from report initiation through case closure, this training focuses on the importance of continually assessing adult protective capacities and child vulnerabilities. Participants will leave the session with an increased awareness of how these factors, as part of the ongoing re-assessment of safety, influence every case decision and impact service planning, case reviews, and permanency planning.
- Safety Response and Planning (3 hours)
This workshop identifies the key criteria that must be assessed to determine when to implement a Safety Plan with a family (voluntary in-home, voluntary out-of-home or legally authorized out-of-home placement); provides strategies to “control” an active safety threat; provides information on identifying a “responsible person” to complete action steps in a Safety Plan; and reviews the purpose of and requirements for monitoring active Safety Plans.
- Strengths and Needs Assessment (6 hours)
This workshop highlights the foundational tenets of the CAPMIS protocol that: 1.) risk assessment is critical in the development of a case plan and in the ongoing provision of services for a family; and 2.) thorough and detailed risk assessment supports quality decision making for cases throughout the continuum of child welfare, including case plan services. The curriculum content focuses on the inter-relationship between risk elements and identification of services. The workshop provides training on identifying risk contributors and non-risk contributors of a family, and service planning.

Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rules that were reviewed and revised as part of the Partners for Ohio’s Families initiative were finalized. The rules for assessment/investigation (Chapters 36 and 37) became effective on March 14, 2014. The case planning and case review rules (Chapters 38 and 39) have been filed and have an anticipated effective date of July, 2014.

In 2008, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (HHS, ACF) determined Ohio to be in substantial nonconformity on three Safety items of the

Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). This included Item 1: *Timeliness of Investigations*, Item 3: *Services to prevent removal* and Item 4: *Risk Assessment and Safety Management*.

To address these deficiencies, Ohio developed a comprehensive Child and Family Services (CFSR) Program Improvement Plan (PIP) by engaging its 88 county public children's services agencies (PCSAs), state/county stakeholders, and the Supreme Court of Ohio. Upon PIP approval the Child and Family Services Plan for 2010-2014 was modified to replace prior Goals and Objectives of its 5 year plan with those established in the CFSR PIP. Multiple strategies were used to address Goal 1 throughout the 5 years. These included:

- Advancing statewide training and technical assistance to support practice improvement. Based upon analysis of county monitoring results, ODJFS collaborated with the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program (OCWTP) to develop a variety of new training options and tools to improve the application of Ohio's child welfare assessment model (CAPMIS) and improve the assessment of safety and risk throughout the life of the case. New classroom workshops, distance learning modules, and the CAPMIS Tool Kit, combined with targeted technical assistance, were implemented to improve the quality of assessments, safety and case plans, and case reviews.

OCWTP trainers conducted workshops from October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011. CPS policy staff provided presentations on *Safety Focused Intake and Screening* on November 29, 2011, and December 14, 2011. The CPS policy staff also held seven regional forums on the assessment of safety throughout the life of a case over a period of several months in 2012.

- Developing and distribution of Guidance Articles and other written information on: Intake and Screening, Assignment of a Response Priority, Initiating a Report, Safety Assessment Factors and Child Vulnerability Checklist, and Protective Capacity Checklist. The articles and tools are easily accessible on the SACWIS knowledge base.

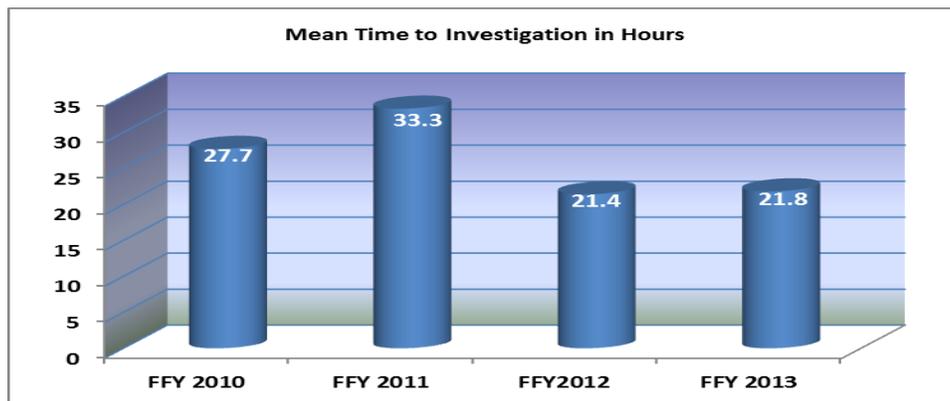
Best practice guidance articles were finalized and posted to the SACWIS Knowledge Base (<http://jfskb.com/sacwis/>) in June 2012. CPS policy staff developed two (2) additional training curricula in the spring of 2012 and provided training sessions across the state using the above listed curricula on 6/11/12, 6/12/12, 6/18/12, and 6/19/12. Additional resources developed by CPS staff for casework and supervisory staff were presented during the training presentations in 2012, and provided electronically to agencies following the workshops.

- Disseminating data reports which included: Event History Reports entitled *How Long Does it take Investigations to be Initiated?*; Statistical Forecasting Reports on Investigations; and an Analytic Tool which contained information on the number of reports each year by reporting source and by report disposition. As PCSAs and other stakeholders were introduced to data reports there was increased awareness in the need to use data as a source to understand how to impact practice.
- Conducting multiple analyses of recurrence data to identify factors affecting recurrence data and disseminating county specific findings to PCSAs in order for each PCSA to analyze and monitor its data. PCSA examination of its own data has resulted in a greater understanding of factors impacting recurrence as well as identifying data entry errors in SACWIS.

- Expanded Ohio’s Differential Response (DR) System for responding to reports of child abuse and neglect. This significant restructuring of the “front door” of Ohio’s child welfare system has resulted in stronger family engagement, increased service provision, and positive outcomes for child safety
- Developing and disseminating a visitation guide on improving the quality of visits with children in substitute care to assure ongoing safety. As a result of work in this area, ODJFS now mandates PCSAs and private child placing agencies (PCPA) that hold custody of a child to conduct a face to face **exit** interview with every child age five and older, as developmentally appropriate, within seven days after the child's **exit** from each foster care placement. The interviewer's observations and any information to explain the child's responses are recorded on the JFS 01678 *Foster Care Exit Interview*. If the child alleges abuse, neglect or any maltreatment during the **exit** interview, the interviewer shall make a report in accordance with section 2151.421 of the Revised Code. When a recommending agency receives a copy of the form the agency must discuss any concerns with the foster parent and, if necessary, develop a plan to provide more intense supervision, support, or training for the caregiver.

Item 1: Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment

To determine if there had been improvement in initiating of investigations of reports of child maltreatment an analysis of data on the mean time to investigation in hours as reported in the *Ohio Child and Family Services Review Profile* was examined. The latest reporting period FFY 2013 reveals that there has been a reduction in the meantime to investigation. The following table presents mean time to investigation in hours for the period covering FFY 2010-2013.



During CPOE Stage 8 and CPOE Stage 9 an assessment was conducted to determine whether responses to all accepted child maltreatment reports received during the period under review were initiated and face-to-face contact with the child was made within the timeframes established by agency policies or State statute. During CPOE Stage 8, 265 applicable cases were reviewed. Of the 265 applicable cases reviewed, 85% of the cases were rated as a Strength.

As of the writing of this report, 56 PCSAs have been monitored during CPOE Stage 9. Results indicate that of the 268 applicable cases reviewed, 84% of the cases were rated as a Strength. Cases rated as an Area Needing Improvement were a result one or more of the following findings:

- The alleged child victim was not seen within the required time frame to assess safety.
- There was lack of coordination between the caseworker’s initiation time of a referral and when the decision maker screens the case in. Thus, delaying initiation of the assessment/investigation.

It should be noted that during the CFSR PIP Franklin County Children Services (FCCS) was responsible for engaging in specific activities to address timeliness of initiation of non-emergency reports of alleged child abuse/neglect. As previously reported, due to the seasonal fluctuations in the number of initiations that are conducted, comparing quarter –to–quarter across years provides an opportunity to look for changes that are not related to seasonality. Comparing the first quarter in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014 shows that timeliness has improved and maintained – from 82% in 2010 to 86% in 2011 to 96% in 2012 to 95% in 2013 and 95% in 2014. Comparing the second quarter in 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013 also shows that timeliness has improved and maintained from 84% in 2010 to 91% in 2011 to 96% in 2012 and 96% in 2013. Comparing quarters 3 and 4 from 2010 to those same quarters in 2011, 2012, and 2013 also reveals improvements and maintenance of timeliness of initiations.

FCCS’ Intake & Assessment/Investigation Department (I&A/I) has focused on ensuring that documentation of timeliness reflects the actual practice – that the times and codes entered into SACWIS are accurate representations of initiations. These efforts are ensuring that the agency actually knows how quickly initiations are occurring and that the agency can accurately report the timeliness rate.

FCCS will continue to track timeliness rates quarterly, with the goal being to maintain a consistently high rate of timeliness. The tables below allow comparisons in FCCS’ timeliness of initiations during 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and through the first quarter of 2014. The data also demonstrates that FCCS is consistently maintaining a high rate of timeliness, at rates of 95% or above since Q3 2011.

	Calendar Year 2010							
	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Timely Initiation	2157	82%	2597	84%	2221	85%	2173	83%
Initiation Prior to Screening	72	3%	87	3%	60	2%	79	3%
No Initiation on Record	28	1%	70	2%	48	2%	22	1%
Untimely Initiation	372	14%	330	11%	275	11%	334	13%
Totals	2629	100%	3084	100%	2604	100%	2608	100%

	Calendar Year 2011							
	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Timely Initiation	2455	86%	2723	91%	2,787	96%	2557	95%
Initiation Prior to Screening	78	3%	50	2%	4	0%	5	0%
No Initiation on Record	23	1%	22	1%	1	0%	1	0%
Untimely Initiation	292	10%	208	7%	113	4%	124	5%
Totals	2629	100%	3084	100%	2604	100%	2608	100%

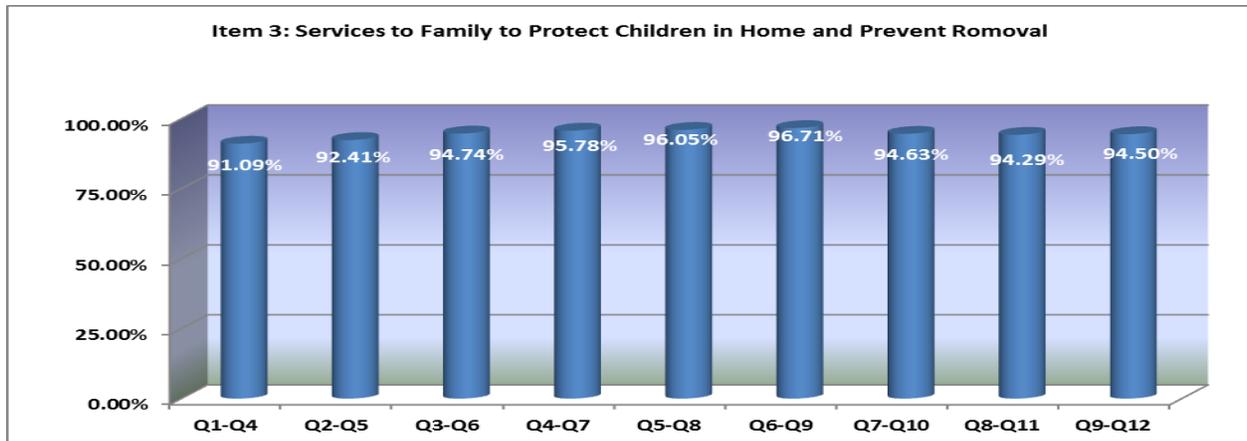
	Calendar Year 2012							
	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Timely Initiation	2768	96%	2641	96%	2,234	96%	2,370	96%
Initiation Prior to Screening	6	0%	2	0%	-	0%	-	0%
No Initiation on Record	0	0%	2	0%	2	0%	2	0%
Untimely Initiation	119	4%	118	4%	89	4%	99	4%
Totals	2893	100%	2763	100%	2,325	100%	2,471	100%
Untimely Initiation	292	10%	208	7%	113	4%	124	5%
Totals	2848	100%	3003	100%	2905	100%	2687	100%

	Calendar Year 2013							
	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Timely Initiation	2,562	95%	2,865	96%	2,720	95%	2,631	95%
Initiation Prior to Screening	1	0%	-	0%	-	0%	-	0%
No Initiation on Record	16	0%	4	0%	13	0%	17	1%
Untimely Initiation	130	4%	129	4%	129	5%	129	5%
Totals	2,709	100%	2,998	100%	2,862	100%	2,777	100%

	Calendar Year 2014							
	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Timely Initiation	2,735	95%						
Initiation Prior to Screening	-	0%						
No Initiation on Record	8	0%						
Untimely Initiation	135	5%						
Totals	2,878	100%						

Item 3: Services to prevent removal

CPOE Stage 8 and partial data from CPOE Stage 9 was examined to determine if the State has continued to achieve or exceed the CFSR PIP Improvement Goal of 92.4%. Since achievement of the Improvement Goal during Roll-up Q2-5 the PCSAs have continued to exceed the Improvement Goal into CPOE Stage 9. The following graph depicts the results from roll-up Q1-Q4 to Q9-Q12.



When examining CPOE Stage 8 data at the conclusion of the Stage it was found that of the applicable cases reviewed, 94% of the cases were rated as a Strength. Further examination of in-home and substitute care cases revealed that 93% of the in-home cases were rated as a Strength and 94% of the substitute care cases were rated as a Strength.

Examination of partial CPOE Stage 9 data indicated that of the 56 PCSAs reviewed thus far Ohio was at a 93% compliance level for making concerted efforts to provide services to the family to prevent children’s entry into foster care or re-entry after a reunification. In-home case compliance was 94% and Substitute Care case compliance was 92%.

Thus, during the 5 year period Ohio continued to meet or exceed its CFSR Improvement Goal of 92.4% as a result of continued strategies employed to address improved performance for Item 3.

Item 4: Risk Assessment and Safety Management

Monitoring of compliance with Item 4 was done through CPOE Stage 8 and partial data from CPOE Stage 9 was examined to determine if the State has continued to achieve or exceed the CFSR PIP Improvement Goal of 79.6%. Achievement of the Improvement Goal occurred during Roll-up Q2-Q5 at a compliance level of 80.83%. Since achievement of the Improvement Goal Ohio did not achieve the Improvement Goal during Q3-Q6 but then continued to exceed the Improvement Goal until Roll-up Q 9-12 where the compliance level was 79.00%. The graph below presents information on the compliance level for each roll-up quarter.



When examining CPOE Stage 8 data at the conclusion of the Stage it was found that of the applicable cases reviewed, 81% of the cases were rated as a Strength. Further examination of in-home and substitute care cases revealed that 74% of the in-home cases were rated as a Strength and 85% of the Substitute Care cases were rated as a Strength.

Examination of partial CPOE Stage 9 data indicated that of the 56 PCSAs review, Ohio was at a 76% compliance level thus falling short of the Improvement Goal at this point in the monitoring cycle. In-home cases continued to pose problems in compliance as was the case during CPOE Stage 8 at a level of compliance of 68%. Substitute Care cases maintained a 85% level of compliance. Ohio will need to continue monitoring statewide performance throughout CPOE Stage 9 and work on improving performance through CPOE Quality Improvement Plans (QIP) especially in the area of in-home cases.

Cases rated as an Area Needing Improvement indicated: the father listed on the front page of the Family Assessment was not interviewed as part of the assessment process; Safety Plans were not being monitored; there was no evidence Case Reviews were being conducted; not all information contained in a Case Review was accurate; Safety Assessments and Family Assessments were not completed timely; SARs were not completed timely; Reunification Assessments were not being completed prior to a decision to reunify the children; and risk or safety assessments were not being conducted for children who remained in the home when one of the children had been placed in substitute care.

Absence of maltreatment recurrence

During development of the CFSR PIP, Ohio recognized that PCSAs were struggling with completion of thorough Safety Assessments, Family Assessments and re-assessments, contributing to the state's failure to meet the Absence of Maltreatment Recurrence Standard. Thorough and accurate assessments are the foundation for effective service planning and implementation of the most appropriate interventions to increase safety and reduce the risk of future child maltreatment. During implementation of Ohio's PIP, extensive training occurred over a two year period, and a new CAPMIS Took Kit was developed to assist caseworkers and supervisors in improved application of Ohio's assessment model (CAPMIS). With these efforts, ODJFS began to see improvement in the quality of PCSAs' assessments. However, in spite of the improvement in assessments, Ohio was still not seeing a significant reduction in recurrence of maltreatment. This led ODJFS and PCSAs to conduct an in-depth analysis of recurrence data in order to identify the variables impacting Ohio's ability to achieve its Improvement Goal of 93.3%.

Examination of State Data over Time

An analysis of the NCANDS data sets for 2010AB, 2011AB, 2012AB and 2013AB was conducted to determine exactly how many incidents of recurrence occurred which led to Ohio's inability to achieve its improvement goal. For each time period, we determined what the numerator would need to have been in order to achieve the improvement goal of 93.3%. The following table presents this analysis.

Time Period	%	Number Substantiated/Indicated Reports (denominator)	Ohio's Numerator	Number Needed to Meet Improvement Goal	Difference between Numerator and Improvement Goal
2010AB	93.0	15,297	14,226	14,272	46
2011AB	92.3	14,953	13,805	13,951	146
2012AB	92.4	14,705	13,585	13,725	130
2013AB	93.05	13,765	12,809	12,843	34

As evidenced above, Ohio came closest to achieving its improvement goal in 2013AB, missing the Improvement Goal by 34 cases. The narrow margin by which the measure was missed illustrates how critically important it is within a state-supervised and county-administered system for the state to work closely with each county public children services agency (PCSA) to examine county practice and the characteristics of families where recurrence was present. ODJFS and Ohio's county PCSAs have undertaken a comprehensive review of Ohio's recurrence data and practice to identify and better understand the factors influencing our performance on this measure. Recurrence of child maltreatment has been an area of focus and discussion in each CPOE onsite review between ODJFS and Ohio's PCSAs.

Examination of County Practice

One important factor influencing performance on this measure is variability in local practice. With decision-making dispersed across 88 counties, even with the use of a consistent statewide assessment framework, variability in case disposition occurs. Given Ohio's approximately 14,000 to 15,000 substantiated/indicated reports per year, the state's inability to achieve this measure will continue to be further explored.

County level performance was examined across the three observation periods to determine if some counties were more likely to experience higher rates of maltreatment. Twenty-two percent of counties (19 of 88) were below the national standard in each of the last three observations years. Twenty-five percent of the counties (22 of 88) were below the national standard in the two most recent observation years. With these results, it appears that some counties are more likely to have a pattern of high recurrence.

To identify factors affecting recurrence data, an analysis of data from FFY2011 and FFY2012 was done, and data was reviewed with PCSA leadership. The figure below is the result of an event history

model predicting the length of time between the first substantiated/indicated report and a second such report over four years. As can be seen in Figure 1, 2011 (that is "Starting in October 2011" or "FFY2012") is nearly identical to 2010, with an important decreasing trend after day 160.

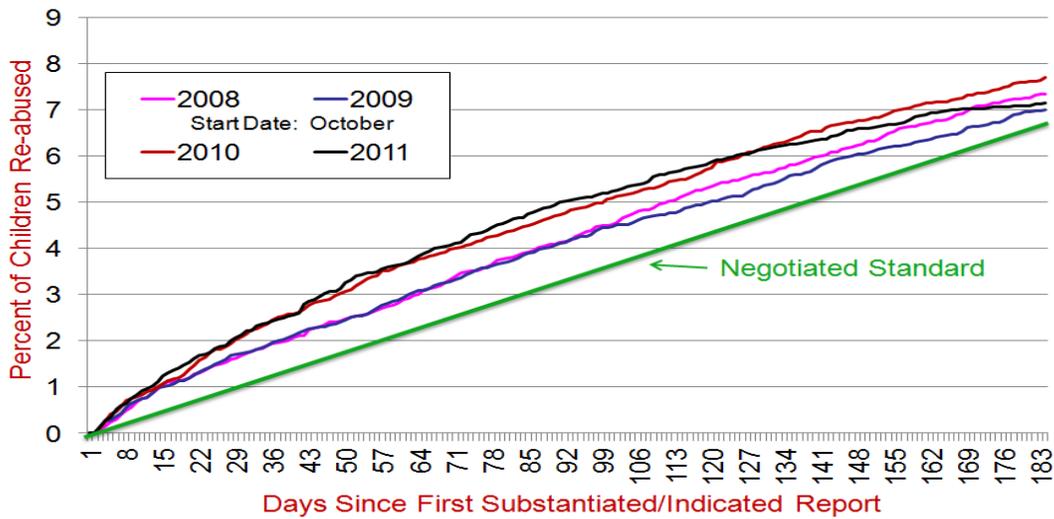


Figure 1

In our work with PCSAs to better understand impacting variables for the recurrence measure, we parsed maltreatment recurrence performance by county size: metro and non-metro. Figures 2 and 3 shows the rates of recurrence between metro and non-metro counties for 2010 and 2011. For both years, and by the end of the evaluation period, non-metros had higher rates of repeat maltreatment than metros. However, for both years, the rates of metros and non-metros are indistinguishable for select time periods. It is only after 42 days for 2010 and 84 days for 2011 that real differences appear. It is important to note that closer examination of the individual counties reveals performance differences between and among the metro counties.

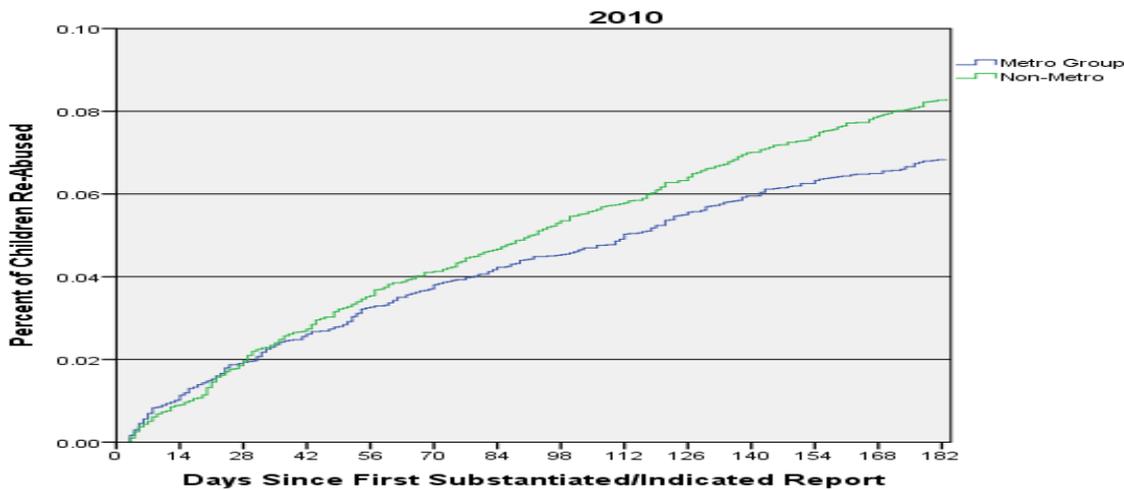


Figure 2: (FFY2011)

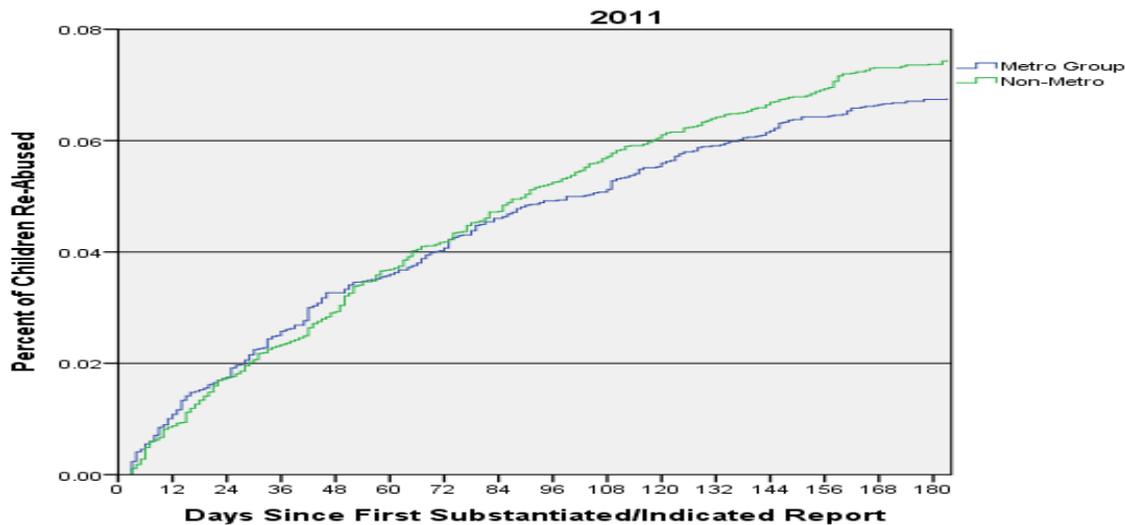


Figure 3 (FFY2012)

These findings, as well as more historical results, were discussed with all metro and selected non-metro directors. Metro and non-metro leaders alike felt the recurrence rates could be the result of services being delivered to families after the first substantiated/indicated report. While the provision of services is essential to addressing underlying concerns, this also creates increased contact between families and mandated reporters, thereby increasing families’ likelihood of being re-reported to child protective services. An additional factor considered was the impact of less frequent contact between staff and families due to resource constraints.

Examination of First and Second Reports

Ohio’s consensus is that when subsequent reports are received within a short period of time from the first report, they are likely reporting the same event. To examine this issue, the state looked at the length of time between first and second reports. Analysis of the number of recurrent reports for 2009AB, 2010AB and 2011AB indicates that the length of time between first and second reports is positively skewed – many second reports are received shortly after the first report.

About 20% of the recurrent reports occur within 20 days of the first report. This does not mean that 20% of the first reports have a recurrent report within 20 days. It means 20% of those having a second report had it within 20 days.

By Ohio policy, when abuse and neglect allegations are received, a Safety Assessment must be completed within four business days of the Intake Report. If an additional referral is received before the completion of the Safety Assessment, that information may be “attached” to the first Intake Report. If allegations are received after the completion of a Safety Assessment, a second report is triggered. By examining the data from 2009AB – 2011AB, it is clear there are second reports within four business days of the first report. We examined the data to see if the benchmark would be achieved if all PCSAs attached all allegations occurring within four days. This four-day rule could easily cause the

percent of recurrence to increase (**False Positive**). However, data analysis revealed that this change alone would not result in Ohio meeting the benchmark.

		Was Repeat Maltreatment Recorded?	
		Yes	No
Did Repeat Maltreatment Occur?	Yes	True Positive	False Negative
	No	False Positive	True Negative

Ohio conducted a special review of 72 cases that had a recurrent report within four days of the first report. Nearly all of these second reports could have been “attached” to the first report because they were reported within four days and the Safety Assessment had not been completed. Therefore, nearly all of these reports can be classified as False Positives, that is, reports that were recorded when there was no repeat maltreatment.

When Ohio examined these “recurrent” reports, a few second reports actually concerned an event that happened before the first report, but was reported to the PCSA after the first report. In other words, the events were reported to the PCSA out of sequence by time. When this type of report is required to be included, the state is penalized for events that it could not have known about, and, therefore, had no opportunity to engage in preventive efforts. After consultation with NRCCWDT, it is clear this methodological problem is not specific to Ohio, but shared across all states. However, when just a few of these events occur, the scales may be tipped, and the validity of the measure is weakened.

Examination of the Characteristics of Families

Cases were examined to identify the characteristics of families where there was recurrence. The following common factors were identified:

- Agency attempted to provide services prior to a decision to remove the child; however, there was extensive drug involvement by parents and/or mental health issues that could not be impacted through the provision of services.
- Some families had a significant history with the agency which most often centered on the following concerns: unsafe home conditions, domestic violence, lack of supervision, substance abuse and homelessness.
- Ohio has engaged in substantial efforts to improve interventions with families experiencing these varied challenges. For example, ODJFS initiated the Ohio Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Collaborative to improve outcomes for children impacted by domestic violence. The Ohio IPV Collaborative has focused on enhancing the skills of child welfare professionals to better assess the dynamics of intimate partner violence and to partner with survivors to achieve safety for their children. In addition, this initiative seeks to improve collaboration among the various community partners that serve these families, including child welfare agencies, the courts, domestic violence shelters and advocates, mental health and substance abuse treatment providers, law enforcement and schools. First initiated in 2009 in partnership with four pilot counties, the Ohio IPV Collaborative has now spread to 34 Ohio counties.

- The state has also made significant strides in advancing trauma-informed and evidence-based therapeutic services for children and their families. Two of Ohio’s metro counties are currently engaged in multi-year federal grants with the Department of Health and Human Services to implement and evaluate trauma-informed approaches. Franklin County’s Gateway CALL project is focused on improving screening procedures and comprehensive trauma assessment and treatment for the children in their care with an emphasis on improved permanency outcomes. Summit County’s STARS Program (Summit County Collaborative on Trauma, Alcohol & Other Drug, & Resiliency-building Services for Children & Families) is designed to increase the well-being and safety of children in foster care and at-risk youth by identifying and referring families for services that address parental substance abuse. Ohio hopes to build on both of these models as best practice approaches.

Examination of Differential Response

During the CFSR PIP, statutory language was enacted to authorize the statewide implementation of Differential Response (DR). A rollout schedule of county implementation was developed, and the state is still in the process of completing implementation. Counties have been implementing Differential Response through ten rounds of implementation (8-12 counties per six-month interval) scheduled to be complete in June 2014. This phased approach to the implementation process has allowed the state to provide a consistent level of support to each group of counties newly implementing, while maintaining support for counties in previous waves of implementation as they continue to grow their DR practice. ODJFS’ analysis of Differential Response in relation to the state’s performance on the recurrence measure did not reveal any clear-cut impact. Since statewide implementation has not fully occurred and many of the metro counties are still in process of “scaling up” their DR systems, it was determined that it was too early to accurately conclude whether Differential Response has had an impact on recurrence.

Goal 2 of the 2010-2014 Child and Family Service Plan (CFSP)

Children have permanency in their living situations; family relationships are preserved.

2014 Update: Ongoing collaboration between CPS policy staff and the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program (OCWTP) have resulted in the provision of updated CAPMIS training. The series of CAPMIS curricula outlined below was developed by CPS policy staff for direct service caseworkers and supervisors. A Training on Content (TOC) session was held for the Safety Response and Planning curriculum on May 12, 2014. Additional TOCs will be scheduled for the remaining curricula. The training series, as referenced in Goal 1, includes the following:

- Safety Assessment (3 hours)
In addition to addressing the assessment of safety from report initiation through case closure, this training focuses on the importance of continually assessing adult protective capacities and child vulnerabilities. Participants will leave the session with an increased awareness of how these factors, as part of the ongoing re-assessment of safety, influence every case decision and impact service planning, case reviews, and permanency planning.
- Safety Response and Planning (3 hours)
This workshop identifies the key criteria that must be assessed to determine when to implement a Safety Plan with a family (voluntary in-home, voluntary out-of-home or legally authorized out-of-home placement); provides strategies to “control” an active safety threat; provides information on identifying a “responsible person” to complete action steps in a Safety Plan; and reviews the purpose of and requirements for monitoring active Safety Plans.
- Strengths and Needs Assessment (6 hours)
This workshop highlights the foundational tenets of the CAPMIS protocol that: 1.) risk assessment is critical in the development of a case plan and in the ongoing provision of services for a family; and 2.) thorough and detailed risk assessment supports quality decision making for cases throughout the continuum of child welfare, including case plan services. The curriculum content focuses on the inter-relationship between risk elements and identification of services. The workshop provides training on identifying risk contributors and non-risk contributors of a family, and service planning.

ODJFS policy staff updated the *Child Protective Services Worker Manual* to include all of the previously developed materials including but not limited to the Practice Guidance Articles, Guidance Documents, and Field Guides. The manual content was converted into a .pdf format and uploaded onto the SACWIS Knowledge Base in March 2014.

Findings of the CFSR 2008 Round 2 review indicated that Ohio did not achieve the National Standards for all Permanency Data Indicators and was in substantial nonconformity on eleven items. These included: Item 5: *Foster care reentries*, Item 6: *Stability of Foster Care Placement*, Item 7: *Permanency Goal for child*, Item 8: *Reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives*, Item 9: *Adoption*, Item 10: *Permanency goal of other planned permanent living arrangement*, Item 12: *Placement with siblings*, Item 13: *Visits with parents and siblings in foster care*, Item 14: *Preserving connections*, Item 15: *Relative placement*, and Item 16: *Relationship of child in care with parents*. Additionally, Ohio was not in substantial conformity with the Systemic Factor of Case Review System. During the CFSR PIP negotiation phase Ohio was found to have achieved all

but one of the Permanency National Standards - *Permanency for Children and Youth in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time*. As a result of achieving the National Standards for *Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification, Timeliness of Adoptions and Placement Stability* Ohio was not required to develop a PIP to address Items 5,6,8, and 9. It should be noted that Ohio is committed to find adoptive homes for children in permanent custody and statewide efforts continued although Item 9 – *Adoption* did not need to be addressed in the PIP but was seen as a critical area to address in the CFSP.

During the past 5 years multiple strategies were implemented to achieve permanency for children and preserved family relationship and connections. These included:

- Implementation of new strategies designed to improve permanency outcomes. ODJFS and counties across Ohio worked together to implement a variety of evidence-informed strategies, including enhanced family search and engagement techniques, Family Team Meetings, and Permanency Roundtables.

In 2010, with the assistance from Casey Family Programs, Franklin County Children Services (FCCS) conducted 110 Permanency Roundtables (PRTs), which focused on 120 youth in the legal custody status of Planned Permanency Living Arrangement (PPLA). When there were siblings in PPLA, a single PRT was used to generate action plans for all the siblings. Hence, the higher number of youth than PRTs. In 2011, with assistance from Casey Family Programs, FCCS conducted 90 PRTs, which focused on 100 youth in PPLA. In 2012, FCCS conducted a third and final round of PRTs specifically targeting PPLA youth, with 68 PRTs held for 73 youth. Beginning in 2013, FCCS continued to hold PRTs but expanded beyond the PPLA youth to any child in agency custody who did not have a solid permanency plan or needed additional permanency options. PRTs are now scheduled as an ongoing part of practice with 10 slots per month rather than “rounds” of PRTs held as an agency event.

In 2013, there were 12 PRTs held for 14 youth. FCCS recognized the decline in PRTs held and learned that while the actual PRT meetings held declined, Program service supervisors report that important permanency discussions continued in a context similar to PRTs. However, while FCCS administrators recognized the positive change in practices surrounding permanency for youth there was continued emphasis on the PRT meetings and fidelity to the model. FCCS increased communication regarding PRT policies and practices in early 2014 and there has been an increase in the # of PRTs held, with 11 meetings held for 12 youth through April 30, 2014. FCCS also continues efforts to fully integrate PRTs and monitoring progress on the Permanency Action Plans (PAPs) into daily practice to better address permanency planning for all youth in care.

In addition, FCCS is participating in Ohio’s effort to expand PRTs to other county PCSAs which is supported by Casey Family Programs. FCCS staff is serving on the PRT advisory group to share information about the agency’s practices and experiences with PRTs and to continue to bring information about PRTs back to the agency.

Casey Family Programs’ research team released the Multi-Site Accelerated Permanency Project Technical Report: 12 Month Permanency Outcomes in August 2013. The 726 youth studied in four states; Alabama, Colorado, Florida, and Ohio were older youth who faced the most challenges in finding legal permanency. Outcomes cited in the report found that one year after the roundtables, 8.5% of the youth achieved legal permanency. The vast majority of the youth (61.6%) were still in care,

27.0% had exited state custody, and 2.9% had run away. The conclusions in the Executive summary state: “The youth who were included in the PRTs represented a challenging population for achievement of legal permanency. Given the relatively low rate of achievement of legal permanency within 12 months of the PRTs, it can be concluded that the PRTs were not particularly effective for this population. Nevertheless, jurisdictions report that PRTs have caused staff to have a greater awareness of the definition of legal permanency, the importance of permanency, and “thinking outside the box” regarding permanency options for youth. The child welfare field, however, must continue to seek out, improve, and evaluate the most effective and appropriate interventions to improve youth’s well-being and increase their likelihood of achieving legal and emotional permanency; this includes ongoing education and training for social workers, agency leadership, and judges, and resources and incentives to help achieve and maintain permanency. As previously reported, FCCS continued its informal assessment of the impact that PRTs had on permanency for youth who had the legal custody status of PPLA. For PRTs conducted in 2010, 9/1/12 data indicated that of the 120 children who participated in PRTs 28 achieved permanency, 51 did not achieve permanency, and 41 were still working on permanency 24 months later. For PRTs conducted in 2011, 9/1/12 data indicated that of the 100 children who participated in PRTs 7 achieved permanency, 36 did not achieve permanency, and 57 were still working on permanency 12 months later.

Total Children in PRTs in 2010 as of 9/1/12		
Achieved legal permanency	28	23%
Emancipated	40	33%
County relieved of legal custody	2	2%
AWOL	9	8%
Still in care	41	34%
Total	120	100%

Total Children in PRTs in 2011 as of 9/1/12		
Achieved legal permanency	7	7%
Emancipated	32	32%
County relieved of legal custody	3	3%
AWOL	1	1%
Still in care	57	57%
Total	100	100%

As planned, FCCS continued to monitor the PRT youth and their permanency outcomes and the tables below summarize the data for all the PRT youth as of 5/19/14. There are two tables for each cohort of PRT youth 2010 through 2014. The first table details various categories for the current status for the youth. The second table specifies the permanency status for each of the PRT youth who have exited custody as Achieved or Not Achieved. The tables illustrate that initially following the PRT, more youth remain in care and overtime more and more youth exit custody; either achieving permanency or not. Overtime, as the PRT youth exit custody, the #/% of youth achieving permanency increases slightly. As of 5/19/14, there are no PRT cohort youth from 2014 with permanency achieved, for 2013 PRT youth 50% achieved permanency, for 2012 PRT youth 23% have achieved permanency, for 2011 PRT youth 15% have achieved permanency, and for 2010 PRT youth 28% have achieved permanency. The data also illustrate that as the PRT youth exit custody the % achieving permanency is far less than the % of youth who did not achieve permanency.

Total Children in PRTs in 2010 as of 5/19/14		
Achieved legal permanency	30	25%
Emancipated	68	57%
County relieved of legal custody	1	1%
AWOL	8	7%
Still in care	13	11%
Total	120	100%

Total Children in PRTs in 2010 as of 5/19/14		
Permanency Achieved	30	28%
Permanency Not Achieved	77	72%
Total Children Exited Care	107	100%

Total Children in PRTS in 2011 as of 5/19/14		
Achieved legal permanency	12	12%
Emancipated	66	66%
County relieved of legal custody	0	0%
AWOL	4	4%
Still in care	18	18%
Total	100	100%

Total Children in PRTS in 2011 as of 5/19/14		
Permanency Achieved	12	15%
Permanency Not Achieved	70	85%
Total Children Exited Care	82	100%

Total Children in PRTS in 2012 as of 5/19/14		
Achieved legal permanency	7	10%
Emancipated	19	26%
County relieved of legal custody	0	0%
AWOL	5	7%
Still in care	42	58%
Total	73	100%

Total Children in PRTS in 2012 as of 5/19/14		
Permanency Achieved	7	23%
Permanency Not Achieved	24	77%
Total Children Exited Care	31	100%

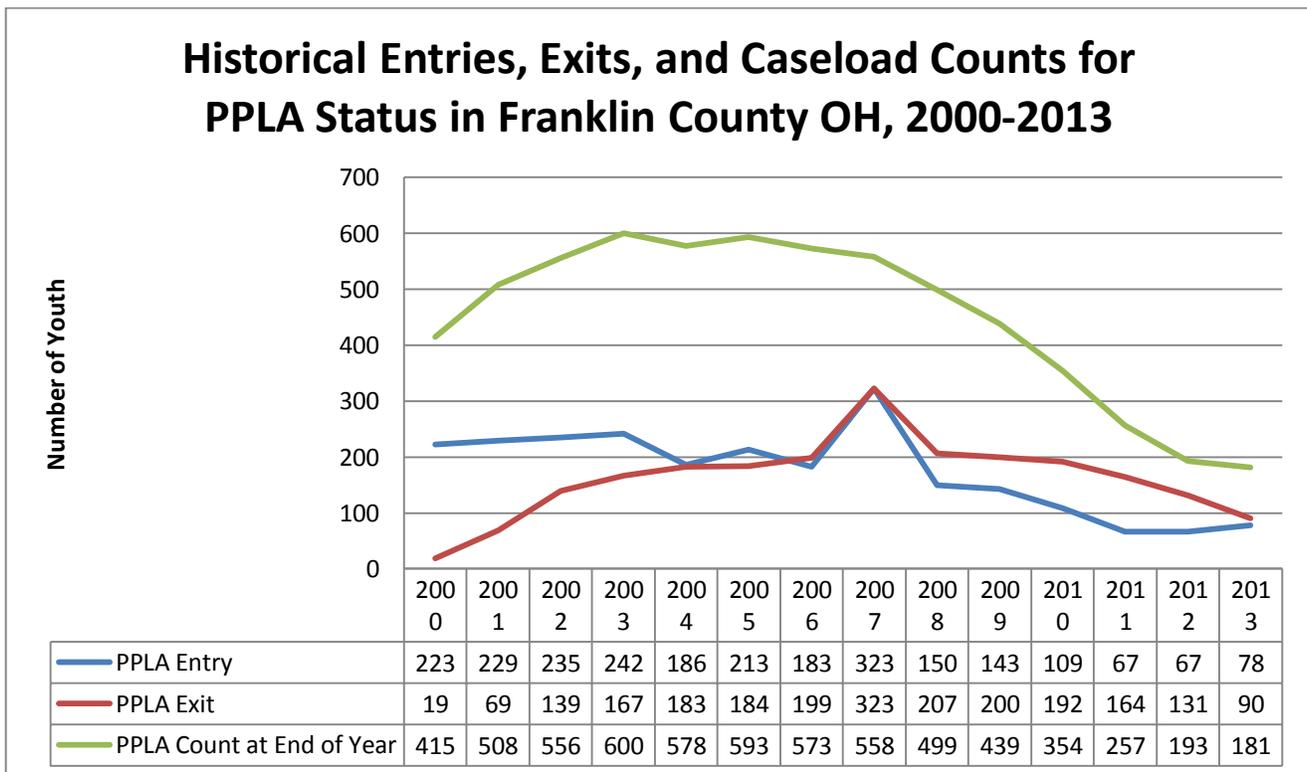
Total Children in PRTS in 2013 as of 5/19/14		
Achieved legal permanency	2	14%
Emancipated		0%
County relieved of legal custody	1	7%
AWOL	1	7%
Still in care	10	71%
Total	14	100%

Total Children in PRTS in 2013 as of 5/19/14		
Permanency Achieved	2	50%
Permanency Not Achieved	2	50%
Total Children Exited Care	4	100%

Total Children in PRTS in 2014 as of 5/19/14		
Achieved legal permanency		0%
Emancipated		0%
County relieved of legal custody		0%
AWOL		0%
Still in care	12	100%
Total	12	100%

Total Children in PRTS in 2014 as of 5/19/14		
Permanency Achieved	0	0%
Permanency Not Achieved	0	0%
Total Children Exited Care	0	0%

FCCS also continued to monitor the status and entries into and exits from PPLA for youth in agency custody. The chart below provides a historical comparison of the total number of youth in PPLA status as well as the number of entries into and exits out of PPLA status from 2000- 2013.



Key points represented in the chart include:

- The total number of youth in PPLA status increased from 2000 through 2004 then remained steady from 2005 through 2008. From 2009 through 2012, there has been a significant decline in the number of youth in PPLA status.
- From 2000 through 2007, the number of entries into PPLA outpaced or was nearly the same as the number of exits out of PPLA.
- Since 2007, the number of exits out of PPLA has outpaced the number of entries into PPLA.

- Exits from PPLA remained steady from 2008 through 2011, while entries into PPLA declined in 2010, 2011, and 2012.
- In 2013, entries into PPLA increased slightly, while exits continued to decrease.
- Entries into PPLA in 2011 (66), 2012(67), and 2013 (78) were less than half the number of entries into PPLA in 2008 (149) or 2009 (140).

FCCS also monitored the total number of youth in FCCS custody to determine the distribution of legal status types and the trends for PPLA. The table below represents the distribution of legal status types for youth in agency custody from 2008 through 2013 by number and percent. The data illustrates that PPLA legal status is declining both in number and percent relative to all legal status types. PPLA youth have declined from a high of 10% in 12/31/2009 to a steady 5% or less since 9/30/11. PPLA youth hit an all-time low of 3% of agency legal custody in 12/30/13.

FCCS-All Units-Daily Demographic Snapshot of Children on Ongoing Caseloads and Service Status as of December 31, 2013

Agency Legal Status Numbers of Children and Service Status (In Home, Kin Placements, or Paid Out of Home Placements) on Ongoing Caseload

		VPS		COPS				CUSTODY										
		Total		Total	COPS	COPSEXT	TCOPS	Total	EXPARTE	FRSTVAC	OA	PC	PPLA	TC	TCFRSTE XT	TCO	TCSECON EXT	
Total	Count % with Column % within Row	4477 100% 100%	1467 100% 32%	1,467 100% 32%	1078 100% 24%	665 100% 14%	111 100% 2%	302 100% 6%	1932 100% 43%	3 100% 0%	17 100% 0%	2 100% 0%	141 100% 3%	170 100% 3%	808 100% 18%	264 100% 5%	386 100% 8%	141 100% 3%
1.Child Living In Own Home	Count % with Column % within Row	2341 52% 100%	1357 92% 57%	1,357 92% 57%	921 85% 39%	544 81% 23%	88 79% 3%	289 95% 12%	63 3% 2%	2 66% 0%	3 17% 0%	2 100% 0%	2 1% 0%	1 0% 0%	7 0% 0%	3 1% 0%	40 10% 1%	3 2% 0%
2.Child Living with Relative-no agency custody	Count % with Column % within Row	231 5% 100%	88 5% 38%	88 5% 38%	143 13% 61%	111 16% 48%	23 20% 9%	9 2% 3%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%
3.Child Living with Non-Relative-no agency custody	Count % with Column % within Row	16 0% 100%	7 0% 43%	7 0% 43%	9 0% 56%	7 1% 43%	0 0% 0%	2 0% 12%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%
4.Child In Agency Custody Living with Approved Relative	Count % with Column % within Row	246 5% 100%	5 0% 2%	5 0% 2%	4 0% 1%	2 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	2 0% 0%	237 12% 96%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	4 2% 1%	3 1% 1%	114 14% 46%	50 18% 20%	55 14% 22%	11 7% 4%
5.Child In Agency Custody Living with Approved Non-Relative	Count % with Column % within Row	62 1% 100%	1 0% 1%	1 0% 1%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	61 3% 98%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	2 1% 3%	3 1% 4%	26 3% 41%	7 2% 11%	23 5% 37%	0 0% 0%
6.Child In Agency Custody Living In Licensed Foster Home	Count % with Column % within Row	1064 23% 100%	3 0% 0%	3 0% 0%	1 0% 0%	1 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	1060 54% 99%	1 33% 0%	8 47% 0%	0 0% 0%	94 66% 8%	61 35% 5%	452 55% 42%	153 57% 14%	188 48% 17%	103 73% 9%
7.Child In Agency Custody Living In Adoptive Placement	Count % with Column % within Row	16 0% 100%	2 0% 12%	2 0% 12%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	14 0% 87%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	14 9% 87%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%
8.Child In Agency Custody Living In Licensed Group Home	Count % with Column % within Row	101 2% 100%	1 0% 0%	1 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	100 5% 99%	0 0% 0%	1 5% 0%	0 0% 0%	7 4% 6%	32 18% 31%	29 3% 28%	10 3% 9%	12 3% 11%	9 6% 8%
9.Child In Agency Custody Living In Licensed Childrens Residential Center	Count % with Column % within Row	370 8% 100%	2 0% 0%	2 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	368 19% 99%	0 0% 0%	5 29% 1%	0 0% 0%	15 10% 4%	59 34% 15%	175 21% 47%	41 15% 11%	59 15% 15%	14 9% 3%
Others	Count % with Column % within Row	30 0% 100%	1 0% 3%	1 0% 3%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	29 1% 96%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	0 0% 0%	3 2% 10%	11 6% 36%	5 0% 16%	0 0% 0%	9 2% 30%	1 0% 3%

As of September 1, 2012, the agency looked at all youth who discharged from the PPLA status to determine if they have achieved permanency or not. These youth exited PPLA status between September 2010 and September 1, 2012. Additionally, the agency wanted to track whether these same youth discharged from the PPLA status had a PRT held for their permanency planning or not. The table below illustrates that 233 exited PPLA status between September, 2010 and September, 2012.

Fifty-one (51) or 22% of the youth achieved permanency prior to their exit from PPLA while 182 or 78% of the youth did not. When considering PRTs, of the 233 youth, 122 youth had a PRT held while 111 had exited and had no PRT held for permanency planning. The data also indicates that 29% of the youth with a PRT held achieved permanency while 14% of the youth with no PRT held had achieved permanency. The initial data suggested that youth exiting PPLA status with PRTs held achieved permanency more often than youth who did not have a PRT. As planned, FCCS continued to monitor this data to determine if the positive results are sustained and the updates are detailed in the second table below.

Youth exiting PPLA between Sept. 2010 and Sept. 2012						
	PRT		No PRT		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Permanency Achieved	35	29%	16	14%	51	22%
Permanency Not Achieved	87	71%	95	86%	182	78%
Total	122	100%	111	100%	233	100%

Youth exiting PPLA in Calendar years; 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014						
	PRT		No PRT		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Permanency Achieved	47	20%	96	28%	143	25%
Permanency Not Achieved	183	80%	244	72%	427	75%
Total	230	100%	340	100%	570	100%

Unfortunately, the initial data suggesting that youth exiting PPLA status with PRTs held achieved permanency more often than youth who did not have a PRT was not maintained. As the table details there have been 570 PPLA youth exiting custody in Calendar years 2010 through 2014. Overall, 25% of these PPLA youth exiting achieved permanency while 75% did not. When PRTs are considered, 230 of the PPLA youth exiting custody had a PRT and 20% achieved permanency while 80% did not. For PPLA youth exiting custody who did not have a PRT; 25% achieved permanency while 75% did not. The data would suggest that for PPLA youth exiting custody having a PRT does not increase the likelihood of achieving permanency.

Similar to the Casey report findings; FCCS data and informal assessment of PRTs does not support the hypothesis that PPLA youth with PRTs achieve permanency at higher rates than PPLA youth who did not have PRTs. Data also suggest that for PPLA youth, achieving permanency does take time following the PRT or simply additional time in care. As discussed approximately 20% of the youth with PRTs do achieve permanency, which given their length of custody, lack of progress with permanency, and their selection for a PRT, was otherwise unlikely. As communicated during PRT implementation, permanency for even one more of these youth is a success.

Another important finding, which is again similar to the Casey report, involves the agency’s change in philosophy, culture, and practice regarding permanency. Particularly for PPLA youth where the PRT efforts were focused, the change is evident. The trends in decreased PPLA entries with continued increases in PPLA exits resulted in the decline of PPLA youth to the current low of 3% of the custody population. FCCS dramatically changed practice regarding PPLA youth and the efforts for permanency.

Connection between PRTs and CFSR Composite 3

As discussed, FCCS continues to operate under the premise that as values underlying PRTs infuse practice decisions at FCCS, it can be expected that, over time, fewer youth would enter into the PPLA status and that fewer youth would remain in foster care for long periods of time. In short, it can be expected that, over time, FCCS’ performance on CFSR Permanency Composite 3 would improve. Specifically, the pattern of scores would look like:

- Increases in the percentage of children in foster care for 24 months or longer who are discharged to a permanent home prior to their 18th birthday.
- Increases in the percentage of children legally free for adoption at the time of discharge from foster care who are discharged to a permanent home prior to their 18th birthday.
- Decreases in the percentage of children who spend 3 or more years in foster care prior to being emancipated or turning age 18.

As a result, evidence that the permanency values of PRTs are influencing practice at FCCS would be found in the pattern of scores of the three measures for Composite 3, which focuses on the outcomes for children and teens in foster care for long periods of time. FCCS’ scores for the measures comprising Composite 3 from 2007 – 2014 are shown in the table below.

End month for rolling-12 month view

	end 9/2007	end 3/2008	end 3/2009	end 3/2010	end 3/2011	end 3/2012	End 3/2013	End 3/2014
C 3-1 Exits to permanency prior to 18th birthday for children in care 24+ month (Goal: 29.1% or higher)	23.9%	23.5%	24.5%	22.6%	30.0%	34.70%	36.2%	29.4%
C 3-2 Exits to permanency for children with TPR (Goal: 98% or higher)	98.4%	100.0%	97.1%	94.8%	94.2%	92.10%	93.0%	89.9%
C 3-3 Children Emancipated who were in foster care for 3 years or more (Goal: 37.5% or lower)	36.9%	36.4%	36.0%	41.3%	34.0%	27.50%	21.9%	23.1%

Data Sourced from ODJFS BIC CFSR Cubes 5/14/2014

As discussed, the table shows that for the 12 months ending in March 2011, the agency achieved compliance with measure C 3-1 for the first time since the agency started tracking the measure and maintained compliance through the 12 months ending March 2014. Though it would be affirming to the efforts at FCCS to declare that the improvement was due to PRTs, it would still be premature to make that attribution. As the table shows, there is a 6-7 percentage point swing within these scores so the increase in Permanency measure.C.3-1 may be due to natural variation. Discerning whether PRTs have a sustained impact will require tracking the measures that make up Composite 3 over a longer period of time. However, maintaining compliance through 2014 for C3-1 is a step toward determining that PRT improvements have become consistent and maintained. Also, C3-3 appears to have peaked at 41.3% in 2010 and beginning in March 2011, FCCS achieved compliance with the measure and has maintained compliance with scores improving through March, 2014. The CFSR improvements again highlight the change in FCCS agency practice regarding PPLA youth/youth in long term care and increased efforts for permanency rather than emancipation.

- Improvement of court practices. ODJFS and the Supreme Court of Ohio continued their strong collaboration to improve the quality and effectiveness of court hearings through enhancements in notice procedures; training for judges, magistrates and guardians ad litem; and a strong focus on meaningful participation by youth in court proceedings.
- Bench Cards - During the CFSR PIP the Case Management Section (CMS) of the Supreme Court of Ohio oversaw the task of updating the Dependency Docket Cards to reflect both statutory updates and revisions, and to include more extensive guidance regarding the content and effectiveness of judicial hearings. CMS worked with two magistrates from metropolitan courts and a PCSA attorney to finalize the Bench Cards. The Bench Cards are a resource-reference tool- that easily can be accessed by the judge during proceedings, as well in preparation for or in consideration of hearings. The Bench Cards were field tested and the Supreme Court of Ohio's Judicial College provided training on the Bench Cards during various events including the annual meeting of Ohio juvenile judges and during the Permanent custody Video Teleconference. Further discussions occurred to develop additional Bench Cards on Independent Living Skills for Older Youth, the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children and Education.

Family Court Bulletin - In the fall 2012 the lead article in the Family Court Bulletin was *Permanency – A Forever Home for Children in Foster Care: What Courts Can Do*. Of particular importance is the article's distinction between the purpose of the case review hearing and the permanency hearing. Co-written by Judge Denise Navarre Cubbon, Lucas County Juvenile Court (Toledo) and Steve Hanson, Manager of SCO's Children, Families and the Courts Programs, the article provides a solid grounding of the purpose, content, and elements of an effective permanency hearing. In addition, the article references several Ohio-based initiatives that courts might wish to consider to support permanency efforts for children in their jurisdictions. The permanency focus is continued throughout the bulletin, featuring several related articles, including a synopsis of the Summer Permanency Forums sponsored by PCSAO, Legal Orphans, Wendy's Wonderful Kids, and the Ohio Kinship Care Study.

Training for Guardian ad Litem (GALs)- In 2012, the Ohio Guardian ad Litem Education Program developed the session *Understanding Child Protective Services to be a More Effective Advocate*, to ensure guardians' ad litem are better prepared to:

- Define child abuse and neglect, safety, risk, and contributing factors; explain the types of assessments and treatments available.
- Provide a foundation for understanding the services provided by CPS, the goals at each stage of a case, and what drives the various approaches and priorities of a public children services agency.
- Create a permanency-based perspective for understanding how decisions and communication today influence outcomes and well-being of children, families and communities generations from now.

The course is taught by a public children services agency manager and family law attorney with experience as a guardian ad litem. This course was offered two times in 2012 and continues to be offered periodically on a rotating course schedule established by the Judicial College.

On-line course - In August 2012 the Supreme Court of Ohio's Judicial College released a new self-study continuing judicial education course, called *Ensuring Meaningful Opportunities for Youth Engagement in Court*. The course focused on children's involvement in court during major permanency decisions including adoption, foster care or emancipation. The course was designed to explain the value of engaging youth in court proceedings in an age appropriate manner. It also examined potential issues of involving children in court proceedings while offering solutions to those concerns.

Data- The Interactive Dashboard on county and state performance on CFSR measures continue to be posted on the Supreme Court of Ohio – Summit on Children Web Site.

- Increased efforts to engage and support fathers. ODJFS worked closely with the **Ohio Commission on Fatherhood (OCF)** to support local fatherhood initiatives and to develop training to increase the skills of child welfare professionals in effectively engaging fathers and paternal relatives. The fatherhood training is offered through OCWTP and the curriculum was developed by Jeanne Bennett, Summit County Children Services.

OCF Supports Local Fatherhood Initiatives

SFY 2014-2015

Current Grantee Programs

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Action For Children | Columbus, Ohio |
| 2. Charisma Community Connections | Akron, Ohio |
| 3. ForeverDads | Zanesville, Ohio |
| 4. Talbert House | Cincinnati, Ohio |
| 5. Urban Light Ministries | Springfield, Ohio |

During SFY 2014-2015 grant period, all grantees are required to use the Inventory of Father Involvement. For the first time, grantees are entering the data via a secure website so OCF staff can access and analyze it at any time. In addition, OCF is working with the Office of Child Support to monitor child support payments made by fathers who complete OCF-funded programs. This is one way to measure the financial return to the state on our investment in these fathers.

To ensure that funding is allocated to programs throughout the state, for the SFY 2014-2015 grant period OCF chose the highest-scoring grant applications in each of five geographic regions. In the past, grantees were selected based on their scores alone, which resulted in some counties being underserved by OCF-funded fatherhood programs. All of the newly selected grantees are experienced fatherhood programs serving multiple counties. This will maximize the impact of OCF funding.

Since August 2013, OCF-funded programs have served more than 5,000 fathers, potentially benefiting more than 10,000 children. This number is comprised of fathers who attended community wide events, sought out assistance with legal aide, child support and/or visitation, attended classes, etc.

SFY 2012-2013

Previous Grantee Programs

1. Action For Children	Columbus, Ohio
2. Charisma Community Connections	Akron, Ohio
3. Columbus Urban League	Columbus, Ohio
4. Harcatus Tri-County CAO	Dennison, Ohio
5. Talbert House	Cincinnati, Ohio
6. Urban Light Ministries	Springfield, Ohio
7. WSOS Community Action	Freemont, Ohio
8. Spirit of Peace Community Development Corp.	Dayton, Ohio

During the most recent complete grant period (SFY 2012-2013), OCF funded eight fatherhood programs (“grantees”) throughout Ohio. It required all of the grantees to use the Protective Factors Survey to measure program effectiveness. In addition, OCF retained a professional evaluator to analyze the data and to assess whether this was the best evaluation tool to use.

The data showed that all fathers who completed OCF-funded fatherhood programs demonstrated improvement in the areas of family functioning/resiliency, social support, concrete support, child development and knowledge of parenting.

However, due to variations in the needs of the fathers served and the curricula used by the various fatherhood programs, the evaluator concluded that the Inventory of Father Involvement would be a more appropriate assessment tool in the future.

Summit County Children Services – Pilot Project

History: In 2011, OCF was implemented into the Office of Family & Children’s Program Improvement Plan. After a thorough examination of practices, it was clear additional assistance was needed to engage fathers. The major barrier identified in the CPOE Stage 8 reports was agency’s

inability to involve fathers and non-custodial parents in case planning and assessments of their service needs. Thus as a result, the OCF began training Ohio County Children Services staff on engaging fathers during the early stages of the PIP. In order to strengthen the presence of fatherhood in the child welfare system OCF proposes a pilot project with Summit County Children Services.

This pilot project, developed by Summit County Children Services' Father Factor, is designed to test the model used to develop SCCS's Father Factor program for reliability in three other public children services agencies. The three counties include a metro (Franklin Co.), a large (Trumbull Co.), and a small (Ashtabula Co).

The test for reliability of the model will be answered by measuring the following characteristics during the duration of the project: April 1, 2014 to July 1, 2015:

1. Father identification in SACWIS in the three pilot counties will increase over time.
2. Father's participation in team-decision-making meetings and family team meetings will increase over time.
3. The number of fathers visiting with their children will increase over time.
4. The number of fathers securing custody of their children will increase over time.
5. Favorable attitudes about working with fathers will increase in caseworkers over time.
6. Caseworkers will report an increase in skills in engaging fathers over time.

The above 6 characteristics will be reported quarterly by the agencies and tracked by the pilot project staff. There is IT support for the counties from SCCS to show counties how to pull this information from SACWIS.

The component parts of the pilot include:

- Assessing counties' administration and staff for readiness to develop a fatherhood program
- Working with key county staff members assigned to work on the pilot
- Writing a Tool Kit on how to develop the program & working with the county, using the Tool Kit
- Assisting the counties with a Kick Off
- Attending the counties' monthly Fatherhood committee meetings
- Assisting the counties in securing fatherhood practitioner/s
- Training those selected to serve as practitioners
- Helping to monitor the county programs
- Making recommendations for where to go next

Father-Strengthening Fatherhood Program

The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood would like to see an emphasis on non-custodial fathers who have children in foster care or within care of children services. Therefore, the Commission has partnered with Urban Light Ministries to expand their father-strengthening fatherhood services from Clark County Children Services to Montgomery County Children Services. Working with this unique population makes this pilot project exceptional in many ways; and a successful project will allow Ohio

to expand this model to other counties and assist with providing stability for children in their own homes.

After the completion of this pilot project we hope to see the following outcomes:

- Fathers complete a family engagement plan and establish stability for ongoing consistent visitation.
- Children in foster care be reunited with their biological fathers
- Fathers granted full custody or shared custody
- Children spend quality time with their fathers
- Children spending less time in foster care or in care of children services

Fathers and children in the pilot will conduct activities together and share a family meal; followed by the fathers completing fatherhood classes similar to the Clark County program. Urban Light Ministries' staff must work directly with Montgomery County Children Services staff (case managers) to receive referrals in addition to developing and implementing family engagement plans for each father to work toward receiving custody or consistent visitation, etc. A Family Engagement Plan is a plan designed to facilitate the relationship between a father and his children, the current foster parents and the mother. The plan will be tailored to each father and the specific circumstances surrounding their children. The Family engagement plan should, at a minimum:

- Outline a visitation schedule
- Establish two-way communication with foster parent and child (phone call, text, e-mail, public location)
- Establish a method to communicate and be involved with the school
- Provide steps toward obtaining shared or full time custody (particularly in cases of permanent removal)
- Establish a timeline for each step

During the 14 weeks fathers should be working through their family engagement plans with the children services case manager, Urban Light Ministries' staff and additional partners. Additionally, a relationship educator should help open the lines of communication among the father, the mother of the father's child/ren and the child/ren, and work with the parents on the dynamics of co-parenting. OCF will reimburse Urban Light Ministries for any art, activity supplies purchased for use during the family activities. Urban Light Ministries will secure funding for meals from a source other than ODJFS/OCF.

Ohio County Fatherhood Initiative

The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood launched the third round of the Ohio County Fatherhood Initiative in three more counties (Coshocton, Licking and Richland) located throughout Ohio. County leaders participated in all-day training that helped them identify assets and challenges fathers face in their county. Each county will receive a total of \$10, 000 to carry out their fatherhood action plans in their community after completing the process.

Five Year Projection

OCF plans to advertise ongoing Requests for Grant Applications (RFGAs) over the next five years to provide funding for Responsible Fatherhood programs to provide services to low income fathers who encounter barriers to becoming good responsible fathers. Working with Children's Services agencies will remain a key service for fathers. Funded programs will be required to establish and maintain relationships with their local Child Protective Services Agencies as well as provide data via the data collection tools on the effectiveness of the services.

Additionally, OCF will continue to provide funding to counties that apply for and are awarded seed dollars to mobilize Responsible Fatherhood in their respective communities. Each county that applies is required to provide names of their particular leadership team. A required member of the leadership team will remain a Director of the local Children's Services Agency. By the end of State Fiscal Year (SFY 2015), OCF will have 20 of 88 counties funded. The goal is to fund all 88 counties.

As reflected above, OCF will continue to follow-up on the pilot project activities implemented by Summit County Children's Services. OCF funded Summit County Children's Services pilot project dollars to implement their training model in three Ohio Counties, Ashtabula, Trumbull and Franklin Counties. OCF plans to provide updates to Families and Children Services with a submission of a final report upon completion of the pilot project in 2015. OCF plans to explore future opportunities to collaborate with Children's Services Agencies to ensure support and provide tools to assist with father engagement.

- Advancing statewide training and technical assistance to support practice improvement. Based upon analysis of county monitoring results, ODJFS collaborated with the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program (OCWTP) to develop a variety of new training options and tools to improve the application of Ohio's child welfare assessment model (CAPMIS) and improve worker skills in family engagement. New classroom workshops, distance learning modules, and the CAPMIS Tool Kit, combined with targeted technical assistance, were implemented to improve the quality of assessments, safety and case plans, case reviews and worker visits with families and children.

From October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011, the Ohio Child Welfare Training program (OCWTP) revised and piloted the CAPMIS Tool Kit. The Hamilton County Model CAPMIS Project was conducted from April – May 2011 by the Southwest Ohio Regional Training Center (SWORTC). The Child Protection Oversight and Evaluation (CPOE) Stage 8 reports were reviewed by the CPS policy Unit.

- Developing and distribution of Guidance Articles and other written information on: *Preserving familial/kin connections, Locating and Contacting Relatives, Quality Visitation between the Child and Parent(s) and between Siblings not Placed Together, and Fostering Connections to Success.* All guidance articles are available on the SACWIS knowledge base.

The best practice guidance articles were finalized and posted to the SACWIS Knowledge Base (<http://jfskb.com/sacwis/>) in June 2012.

- Disseminating data reports which included *Number of Children Entering Care Analytic Tool Event*. As PCSAs and other stakeholders were introduced to data reports there was increased awareness in the need to use data as a source to understand how to impact practice.
- Revised state policies on the identification and notification of relatives for possible placement of a child entering agency care and family/sibling visitation. Search and Engagement efforts through the PIP facilitated implementation of the revised state policies.

Effective December 31, 2010, OAC rules were revised to require Ohio public children services agencies and private child placing agencies to identify and notify relatives for any child entering agency custody. Additionally, agencies are required to continue working to identify relatives for any child in the agency custody who is not in a relative placement. On this same date, OAC rules were revised to require Ohio agencies to develop and include a written visitation plan for siblings removed from their home and not placed together.

- Developed and offered a training series on working with youth. Youth were trained as co-trainers for each workshop offered. The series of trainings in part of OCWTP and is offered when requests are made for the training. Based on the recommendation of the National Resource Center on Youth Development (NRCYD), it was determined the workshops would be co-trained by a foster care alumni and a child welfare worker/caregiver. Training staff worked with adult supporters of youth and alumni boards across Ohio to select foster care alumni as trainers for this series. Child welfare trainers were selected from the existing pool of OCWTP trainers. The workshops are now part of the OCWTP menu of offerings and added to E-Track. In October, 2012, the series was added to OCWTP's Priority Training Opportunity webpage. (<http://ocwtp.net/PriorityTraining.htm>). In addition, OCWTP and ODJFS staff continually promote the series at meetings such as regional county training liaison meetings and PCSAO regional director's meetings.
- Monitoring PCSAs compliance with all CFSR Permanency Items during CPOE Stage 8 (October 1, 2012- September 20, 2012) and CPOE Stage 9 (October 1, 2012- September 30, 2014).

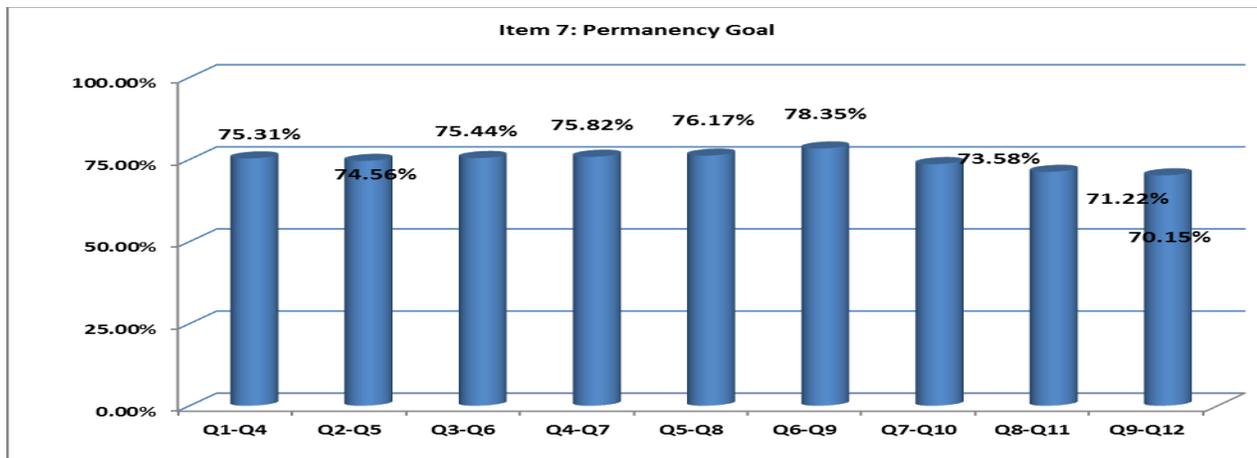
In order to determine if the above strategies resulted in improved performance in Items 7 and 10 (these were specifically required to be monitored) an examination of NCANDS data and CPOE Stage 8 and CPOE Stage 9 was conducted. However, it should be noted that all Permanency Items were monitored.

Item 7: Permanency Goal for child

The baseline for establishing the Improvement Goal was based on Roll-up Quarter 1-Quarter 4 CPOE Stage 8 results. The Improvement Goal was set at **77.5%**. The Improvement Goal was achieved during Roll-up Quarter 6-Quarter 9. Upon achievement of the Improvement Goal a steady decline was observed. Factors impacted performance included:

- Initial case plan goals were not established according to required time frames.
- Case plans were not amended to reflect changes in the permanency goal (e.g., reunification to adoption).

The following graph depicts Ohio's performance in achieving the established Improvement Goal.



Examination of CPOE Stage 8 results indicate that 76% of the cases reviewed were rated as a Strength. Partial CPOE Stage 9 data indicates that Ohio was at a 66% compliance level with determining appropriate permanency goals were established for the child in a timely manner.

Agencies that were rated as a Strength had:

- Worked with the juvenile court to consistently make concerted efforts to achieve the goal of reunification in a timely manner.
- Quickly made referrals for services and instituted a progressive parent/child visitation plan.
- Started to look at concurrent planning at the inception of placement for all their substitute care cases. At the point that the agency decides that permanent custody was the necessary case direction, multiple meetings were held leading to the supplemental plan at the SAR held prior to the agency filing for termination of parental rights.
- Consistently established timely and meaningful goals for the children in agency custody. In part this was credited to use of Family Team Meetings (FTM) in cases which are opened for services. This open forum offered families the chance to meet with investigators and ongoing workers and discuss the need for and availability of local services. One parent that was interviewed agreed that he always felt as though he were listened to and had the chance to express his frustrations and feelings, and then later gratitude, to agency workers in the FTM setting.
- Case plan goals were amended as appropriate to the needs of the case.
- Filed timely motions to terminate parental rights (TPR) for children whose goal was adoption, and specified the compelling reasons for not filing a TPR motion for the children in Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (PPLA) status.

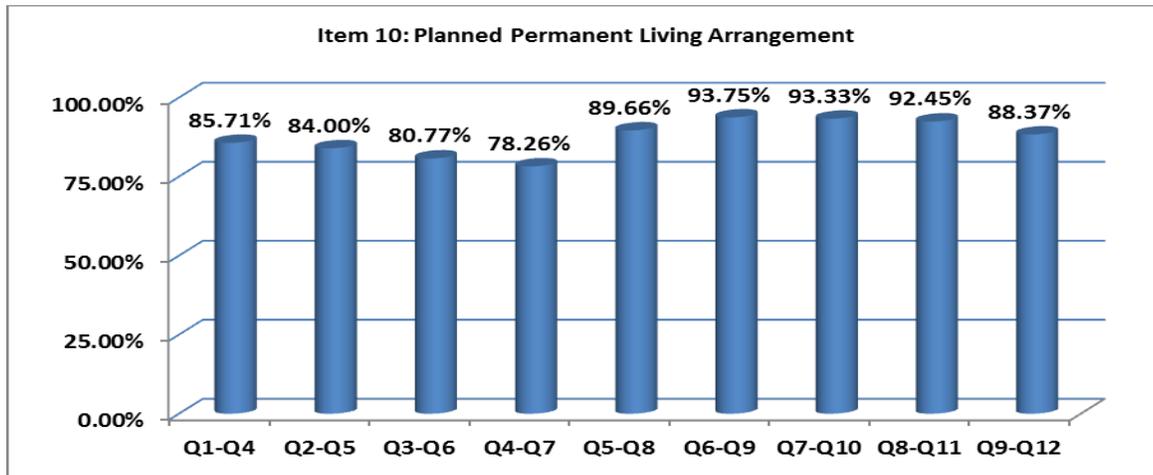
Establishment or missing case plan goals were problematic as noted in the Ohio CFSR Data Profile from the period of FFY2010 to FFY2013 as evidence below.

Permanency Goal	FFY 2010		FFY 2011		FFY 2012		FFY 2013	
	# of Children	% of Children						
Case plan goal not established	635	5.3	732	6.0	724	6.0	745	6.1
Missing Goal Information	575	4.8	534	4.4	575	4.8	431	3.5

The SACWIS team has been examining this information and has been in contact with counties.

Item 10: Permanency goal of other planned permanent living arrangement

The baseline for establishing the Improvement Goal was based on Quarter 1-Quarter 4 CPOE Stage 8 results. The Improvement Goal was set at 89.9%. The Improvement Goal was achieved during Roll-up of Quarter 6-Quarter 9. During PIP implementation and the non-overlapping year the State was faced with problems obtaining the required sample size. Quarter 9-Quarter 12 had the lowest applicable cases and as a result performance appeared to drop. The following graph depicts results for Item 10 by Roll-up Quarters.

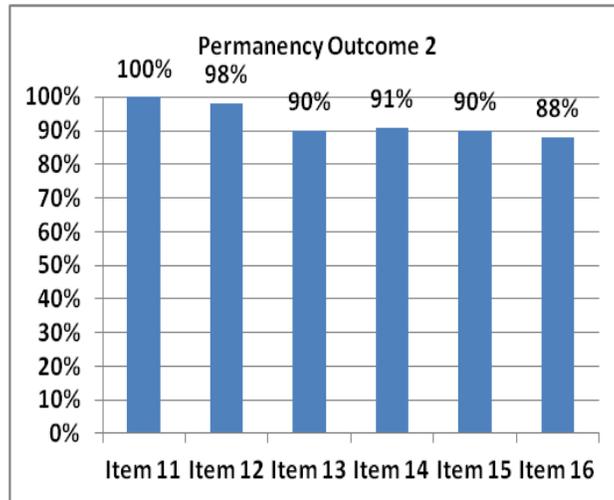


Examination of CPOE Stage 8 results indicate that 88% of the applicable cases reviewed were rated as a Strength. Partial CPOE Stage 9 data indicates that Ohio was at a 90% compliant level for the applicable cases reviewed.

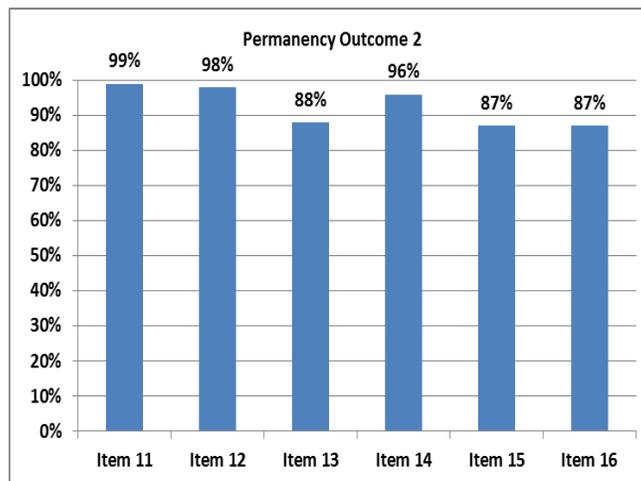
Items 12, 13,14,15,16

Items 12 through 16 falls within Permanency Outcome 2: *The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved.* During the past 5 years these items were monitored during CPOE Stage 8

and CPOE Stage 9. At the conclusion of CPOE Stage 8 all items, with the exception of Item 16, were at 90% compliance or more for the applicable cases reviewed. For item 16 compliance was at 88%. Multiple strategies used to address these items appeared to impact performance as counties reviewed later in a Cycle were involved in PIP activities and had a heightened awareness of the importance of searching for family members (paternal and maternal), placing children with relatives, and maintaining a sense of connections for children. The following graph depicts Permanency Outcome 2 results for CPOE Stage 8.



With partial CPOE Stage 9 data available there appears to be comparable results to those achieved during CPOE Stage 8. Upon the close of CPOE Stage 9 on September 20, 2014 Ohio will conduct a more thorough examination of items which fell below 90%. The following graph depicts CPOE Stage 9 results thus far.



National Standard - Permanency for Children and Youth in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time.

At the time of approval of the CFSR, PIP Ohio had not achieved the National Standard *Permanency for Children and Youth in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time*. Using the data period for the Final Report, the 2009ab results of 112.4 were used as the baseline to establish the Improvement Goal. The

Improvement Goal was then set at 115.5. Compliance with the Improvement Goal occurred with the submission of the 2010B2011A files. Level of compliance was at 119.9.

Since compliance was achieved, *The Ohio Child and Family Services Review Data Profile: January 6, 2014* indicated Ohio achieved the National Standard with the submission of the 2011AB file at 122.7. The federal FY2012AB file revealed achievement of the National Standard and continuous improvement with a State Score of 128.0 and a State Score of 127.7 with the submission of the Federal FY2013ab files. Further examination of the Components which make up the composite show that Ohio:

- Continues to exceed the National Median of 25.0% for *Component A, Measure C3-1 – Exits to permanency prior to 18th birthday for children in care for 24 + months*. Since FFY2010 there has been a slight increase in the number of youth who have been in care for 24 months or longer being discharged to a permanent home prior to their 18th birthday and by the end of the fiscal year.

The State's efforts with Casey Family Programs in using Permanency Roundtables, increasing the use of Family Team Meetings, emphasis on Search and Engagement methods developed during the PIP, Wendy's Wonderful Kids recruitment activities and work with Ohio's courts are starting to demonstrate their effectiveness in helping youth achieve permanency.

- Continues to struggle with *Component A, Measure C3-2- Exits to permanency for children with TPR*. Youth who have been in the system where parental rights have been terminated have multiple challenges. PCSAs are mandated to conduct adoption matching conferences every 90 days to continue to explore placements for our youth. PCSAs are responsible for engaging in specialized recruitment efforts for youth.

The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption (DTFA), through its signature Wendy's Wonderful Kids (WWK) program has increased the number of adoptions from foster care by implementing child focused recruitment, resulting in more than 4000 children, nationwide, finding permanent homes since 2004. Its slogan, "Wendy's Wonderful Kids is making a difference for thousands of children for adoption one child at a time", rings true across the nation in several states. A five year evaluation of the Wendy's Wonderful Kids showed children in the custody of public children service agencies, who are served by WWK are 1.7 time more likely to be adopted than those not served. Per the research, the impact of the child-focused recruitment model is greatest among children who are older or those who have mental health disorders. For older children, the impact of the WWK model increases with age: For children referred to WWK at age 8, the likelihood of adoption was 1.5 time higher; for children referred at age 11, the likelihood was twice as high; and for children referred at age 15, the likelihood of adoption was three time higher. Children with mental health disorders who are served by WWK are reportedly three times more likely to be adopted than those not served by WWK recruiters. As of September, 2013, the DTFA through WWK has served 9,783 children nationwide, matching 6,499, placing 631, and finalizing 3,757 adoptions.

ODJFS partners with the DTFA to serve children in Ohio's foster care system, in need of a permanent home. Nearly 50 recruiters have been employed under the WWK contract to implement the Wendy's Wonderful Kids Model Signature Program (WWK). Specifically, each recruiter is charged with

managing a child-specific caseload, providing child-focused recruitment services, and diligent searching for potential adoptive families. In addition, recruiters are involved in the coordination of statewide recruitment efforts with PCSA, PCPAs, with an emphasis on Ohio's target populations (i.e., children in the permanent custody of PCSA who are over the age of nine, part of a sibling group, and/or in care for two or more years, and children in permanent planned living arrangements). Recruiters work to match children with potential adoption families, secure placements, and move toward the finalization of adoptions for the target population of our most vulnerable citizens.

As of September, 2013 --out the nearly 700 children targeted through the Wendy's Wonderful Kids program in August 2012:

- 367 have been served under the Ohio model;
- 39 children have been placed;
- 43 children were matched (since the start of the 2014 SFY, bringing the total number of children matched in the 12 month period to 107); and
- 3 adoptions were finalized for a total of 7 since the inception of the ODJFS_WWK partnership.

In addition, case plan goals have changed to "Adoptions" for some youth in Permanent Planned Living Arrangements.

- Continues to fall below the 25th percentile for *Component B, Measure C3-3* since FFY 2011 as Ohio works on reducing a child's length of stay in foster care. However, work is still needed to understanding the characteristics of youth who continue to remain in foster care for long period of time.

The following graph presents information on Ohio's efforts in addressing Permanency Composite 3.

	Federal FY 2010ab	Federal FY 2011ab	Federal FY 2012ab	Federal FY 2013ab
XI. Permanency Composite 3: Permanency for Children and Youth in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time [standard: 121.7 or higher]. Scaled Scores for this composite incorporate two components	State Score = 114.4	State Score = 122.7	State Score = 128.0	State Score = 127.7
National Ranking of State Composite Scores (see footnote A on page 12 for details)	30 of 51	14 of 51	7 of 51	8 of 51
Component A: Achieving permanency for Children				



	Federal FY 2010ab	Federal FY 2011ab	Federal FY 2012ab	Federal FY 2013ab
in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time. This component has two measures.				
Measure C3 - 1: Exits to permanency prior to 18th birthday for children in care for 24 + months. Of all children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the year shown, what percent was discharged to a permanent home prior to their 18th birthday and by the end of the fiscal year? A permanent home is defined as having a discharge reason of adoption, guardianship, or reunification (including living with relative). [national median 25.0%, 75 th Percentile = 29.1%]	26.1%	28.7%	28.9%	27.6%
Measure C3 - 2: Exits to permanency for children with TPR: Of all children who were discharged from foster care in the year shown, and who were legally free for adoption at the time of discharge (i.e., there was a parental rights termination date reported to AFCARS for both mother and father), what percent was discharged to a	87.4%	86.1%	84.8%	87.8%

	Federal FY 2010ab	Federal FY 2011ab	Federal FY 2012ab	Federal FY 2013ab
<p>permanent home prior to their 18th birthday? A permanent home is defined as having a discharge reason of adoption, guardianship, or reunification (including living with relative) [national median 96.8%, 75th Percentile = 98.0%]</p>				
<p>Component B: Growing up in foster care. This component has one measure.</p>				
<p>Measure C3 - 3: Children Emancipated Who Were in Foster Care for 3 Years or More. Of all children who, during the year shown, either (1) were discharged from foster care prior to age 18 with a discharge reason of emancipation, or (2) reached their 18th birthday while in foster care, what percent were in foster care for 3 years or longer? [national median 47.8%, 25th Percentile = 37.5% (lower score is preferable)]</p>	43.2%	35.8%	28.2%	29.7%

Ohio's extensive data reports distributed in different formats and venues has demonstrated how data can be used to address problems and challenges while at the same time engage our county and state partners and stakeholders in address permanency options for children and youth.

Goal 3: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs as a result of improved practices.

2014 Update: ODJFS policy staff updated the *Child Protective Services Worker Manual* to include all of the previously developed materials including but not limited to the Practice Guidance Articles, Guidance Documents, and Field Guides. The manual content was converted into a .pdf format and uploaded onto the SACWIS Knowledge Base in March 2014.

Ongoing collaboration between CPS policy staff and the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program (OCWTP) have resulted in the provision of updated CAPMIS training. The series of CAPMIS curricula outlined below was developed by CPS policy staff for direct service caseworkers and supervisors. A Training on Content (TOC) session was held for the Safety Response and Planning curriculum on May 12, 2014. Additional TOCs will be scheduled for the remaining curricula. The training series, as stated in the previous two goals includes the following:

- **Safety Assessment (3 hours)**
In addition to addressing the assessment of safety from report initiation through case closure, this training focuses on the importance of continually assessing adult protective capacities and child vulnerabilities. Participants will leave the session with an increased awareness of how these factors, as part of the ongoing re-assessment of safety, influence every case decision and impact service planning, case reviews, and permanency planning.
- **Safety Response and Planning (3 hours)**
This workshop identifies the key criteria that must be assessed to determine when to implement a Safety Plan with a family (voluntary in-home, voluntary out-of-home or legally authorized out-of-home placement); provides strategies to “control” an active safety threat; provides information on identifying a “responsible person” to complete action steps in a Safety Plan; and reviews the purpose of and requirements for monitoring active Safety Plans.
- **Strengths and Needs Assessment (6 hours)**
This workshop highlights the foundational tenets of the CAPMIS protocol that: 1.) risk assessment is critical in the development of a case plan and in the ongoing provision of services for a family; and 2.) thorough and detailed risk assessment supports quality decision making for cases throughout the continuum of child welfare, including case plan services. The curriculum content focuses on the inter-relationship between risk elements and identification of services. The workshop provides training on identifying risk contributors and non-risk contributors of a family, and service planning.

Topics of additional training workshops to be provided during 2015 and 2016 include case planning, case review, and reunification assessment.

Findings of the CFSR 2008 Round 2 review indicated that Ohio was not in substantial conformity with *Well- Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs* which included: Item 17-Needs and services of child, parents, and substitute caregivers or pre-adoptive parents, Item 18 –Child and family involvement in case planning, Item 19 – Caseworker visits with child, and Item 20- Caseworker visits with parents.

During the past 5 years multiple strategies were implemented to address Goal 3. These included:

- Implementation of strategies designed to improve well-being outcome 1. ODJFS and counties across Ohio worked together to implement a variety of evidence-informed strategies, including enhanced family search and engagement techniques, Family Team Meetings, and Permanency Roundtables.
- Increased efforts to engage and support fathers. ODJFS worked closely with the Ohio Fatherhood Commission to support local fatherhood initiatives and to develop training to increase the skills of child welfare professionals in effectively engaging fathers and paternal relatives. The fatherhood training is offered through OCWTP and the curriculum was developed by Jeanne Bennett, Summit County Children Services.
- Advancing statewide training to support practice improvement. Based upon analysis of county monitoring results, ODJFS collaborated with the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program (OCWTP) to develop a variety of new training options and tools to improve the application of Ohio's child welfare assessment model (CAPMIS) and improve worker skills in family engagement, case planning, conducting case reviews, and enhancing worker skills when conducting visits with children and parents. These included new classroom workshops, distance learning modules, learning labs on Effective Use of Home Visits, guided application and practice sessions, self-directed online courses on family search and engagement, blended courses that combine online technology with field-based practice, coaching activities on skills in engaging families and children in collaborative partnership, a supervisory checklist to use when discussing home visits with parents to assure the safety and well-being of children.

Access to **distance learning** allows staff and caregivers to have access to a library of online, just-in-time trainings available via vendor contracts (Essential Learning and Foster Parent College). In 2013, caregivers completed 1782 distance learning courses through a partnership with the Foster Parent College. One-hundred and four (104) caseworkers and supervisors also accessed these online courses.

The OCWTP has also developed over thirteen self-directed online courses available for credit via an online learning management System or just-in-time via the OCWTP web page.

Currently, OCWTP has three blended courses that can be scheduled based on training needs assessments.

The [E-Track Training Homepage](#) of the OCWTP website provides E-Track users with over 190 self-directed trainings on how to access, enter, and perform specific functions in the OCWTP's online E-Track Learning Management System. Self-directed learning tools are specific for various users – trainers, RTC administrators, county staff, caregivers, and county training liaisons.

Sharing and problem-solving through **guided application and practice sessions (GAPS)** with colleagues frequently provides resourceful solutions to complex issues. Recognizing that developing these “communities of practice” are a valuable component of a training program, the OCWTP has made a concerted effort to develop trainers to facilitate these sessions and have increased GAP offerings over the course of the past two years.

To date, there have been over 50 GAPS that addressed topics including:

- ✓ Assessment skills
- ✓ Case planning
- ✓ Working with birth families
- ✓ Investigating child sexual abuse
- ✓ Managing conflict
- ✓ Documentation
- ✓ Transfer of learning

Similar to a science lab, a **learning lab** focuses on practice and development of skills introduced in a previous workshop. The OCWTP embedded learning labs in the 2008 revision of Caseworker Core and the 2010 revision of Supervisor Core.

Implementation research indicates that **coaching** is a worthwhile investment for PCSAs wanting to ensure that staff use the skills learned in training when they return to the field. OCWTP has seen an increase in coaching hours from 600 hours in 2010 to 947 hours in 2013. To date, the OCWTP has 62 staff and caregiver coaches and 8 executive coaches.

Review of coaching documents and coaching evaluation surveys shows an increase in coaching hours from 600 hours in 2010 to 947 hours in 2013. Total hours in 2013 include 237 hours of executive coaching (first launched in 2011) and 22 hours of caregiver coaching (launched in 2013.) Content areas most commonly coached are:

- ✓ Assessing safety throughout the life of a case
- ✓ Supervising challenging staff
- ✓ Engaging families
- ✓ Family assessment
- ✓ Case documentation
- ✓ Time management and organizational skills
- ✓ General agency management
- ✓ Fiscal issues
- ✓ Family group conferencing
- ✓ Adoption subsidies

Summit County Children Services developed and implemented a Family Search and Engagement (FSE) Procedure with follow up training in spring 2013. This Procedure spells out roles and responsibilities of FSE for all service areas within the agency. This Procedure has

been approved to serve as a sample procedure and is available on the OCWTP website and has been distributed to members of the FSE work team. Athens County CSB has incorporated FSE activities utilizing flow charts (how they articulate procedures).

Cuyahoga County has done extensive follow up on FSE through a Family Finding Collaboration with The Village Network, Child-Centered Recruitment, and Wendy's Wonderful Kids (WWK) Recruiters. They have also developed an on-line FSE Tool Kit for their agency.

Hamilton County continues to follow up on their Permanency Round table efforts, have reviewed the circumstances of those children who have been in placement the longest to look at lessons learned, and have added a WWK Recruiter to work with children in PPLA status.

Ashtabula County is making efforts to better engage fathers.

Several Technical Assistance Specialists (TAS) have participated in FSE work team meetings to share their experiences with counties as part of their CPOE audits and the strengths/concerns counties have demonstrated with regards to FSE.

Members of the FSE work team presented at the October 2013 PCSAO Conference to discuss FSE with other PCSA county staff .

Permanency round table training, with an emphasis on FSE, is being provided through the OCWTP with a pilot beginning in Spring 2014.

The Institute for Human Services (IHS) is in the process of developing FSE Tools for Supervisors.

- Advancing county efforts to evaluate the timeliness and quality in completion of CAPMIS tools through work with Franklin County Children Services (FCCS). The FCCS QA Peer Review Process entailed collecting data on completion of Safety Plans, Safety Assessments, Family Assessments, Case Plans, and Reunification Assessments in order to establish a baseline to evaluate their current level of performance, continue to evaluate their performance and define their timeliness and quality standards for each of the CAPMIS tools.

FCCS remains committed to utilization of “true peer review” with front line supervisors intimately involved in all aspects of the process. The focus of the peer review and performance improvement efforts has been the CAPMIS tools given their importance to assessment and planning the delivery of effective child welfare services. The approach involves assessing timeliness and quality of the CAPMIS tools utilized by caseworkers and supervisors in their child protection work with children and families. FCCS previously reported on the steps involved in defining timeliness and quality standards and establishing a baseline for the

CAPMIS Safety Plan. This report contains an update on the peer review work as well as initial data regarding timeliness and quality.

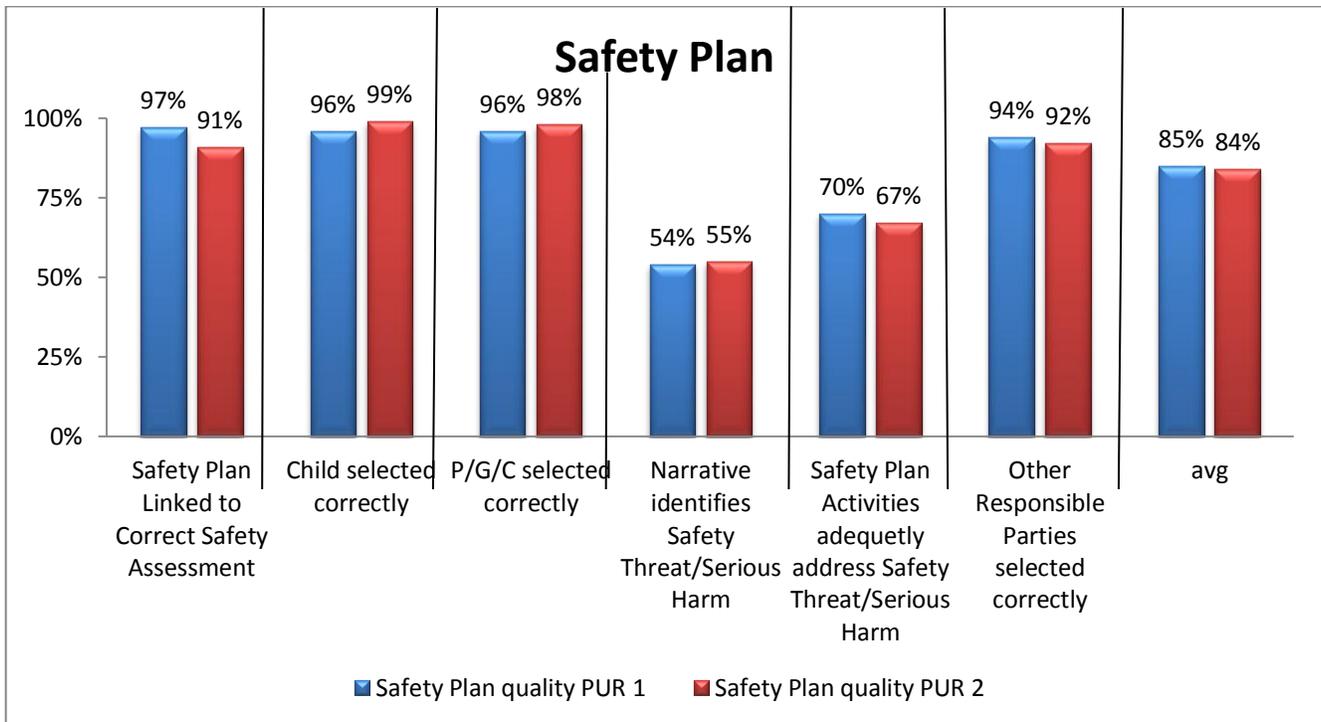
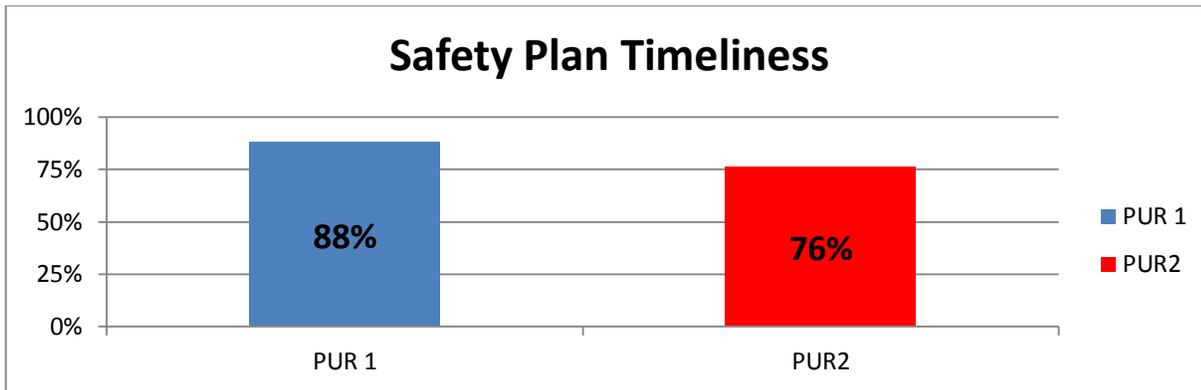
Safety Plan

As mandated by the Performance Improvement Plan, FCCS began to review the agency's practice in regards to Safety Plans. In April 2013, the agency created a quarterly workgroup made up of Intake, Regional, Performance Improvement, Professional Development, Adoption, Legal, Evaluation, Kinship and Volunteers Department to determine areas of focus. In June of 2013, the quarterly workgroup identified both systemic and case level areas of focus. The Peer Review focused on timeliness and quality. FCCS has completed two peer review periods for the Safety Plan deemed Period under Review 1 (PUR1) and Period under Review 2 (PUR2). PUR1 encompassed 6/1/12-5/31/13 while PUR2 encompassed 6/1/13-11/22/13.

Safety Plan timeliness was measured by the days between Effective Date of Safety Plan and Approval of Safety Plan in SACWIS. Timely Safety Plan completion was defined as this timeframe being between 0-1 days. During PUR1 timely Safety Plans were demonstrated at a rate of 88% while this rate was seen at 76% for PUR2. The average over the two periods under review was 82% for timely Safety Plan completion.

Quality was determined by the inclusion of correct Safety Assessment, correct identification of participants and other responsible parties, identification/adequate addressing of serious harm and information regarding discontinuation of Safety Plans as answered by answering Addressed, Partially Addressed and Not Addressed OR completed correctly or not. Quality Safety Plan completion was measured by the percentages assigned to the correctly completed and addressed answers for the questions included in the Peer Review tool. For PUR1 quality Safety Plans were completed at a rate of 85%. For PUR2 quality Safety Plans were completed at a rate of 84%.

While this review process was ongoing another agency charge was developed to address Safety Plans. Both groups collaborate in addressing policy revisions and creation of new policies, Red Letter Guide revision, support tools, dashboard reports, create consistent activity log coding for Safety Plan contact to ensure proper SACWIS documentation. Through this process, Professional Development will address changes in practice and philosophy in agency wide trainings to improve practice which will be reviewed on a quarterly basis by the quarterly workgroup.



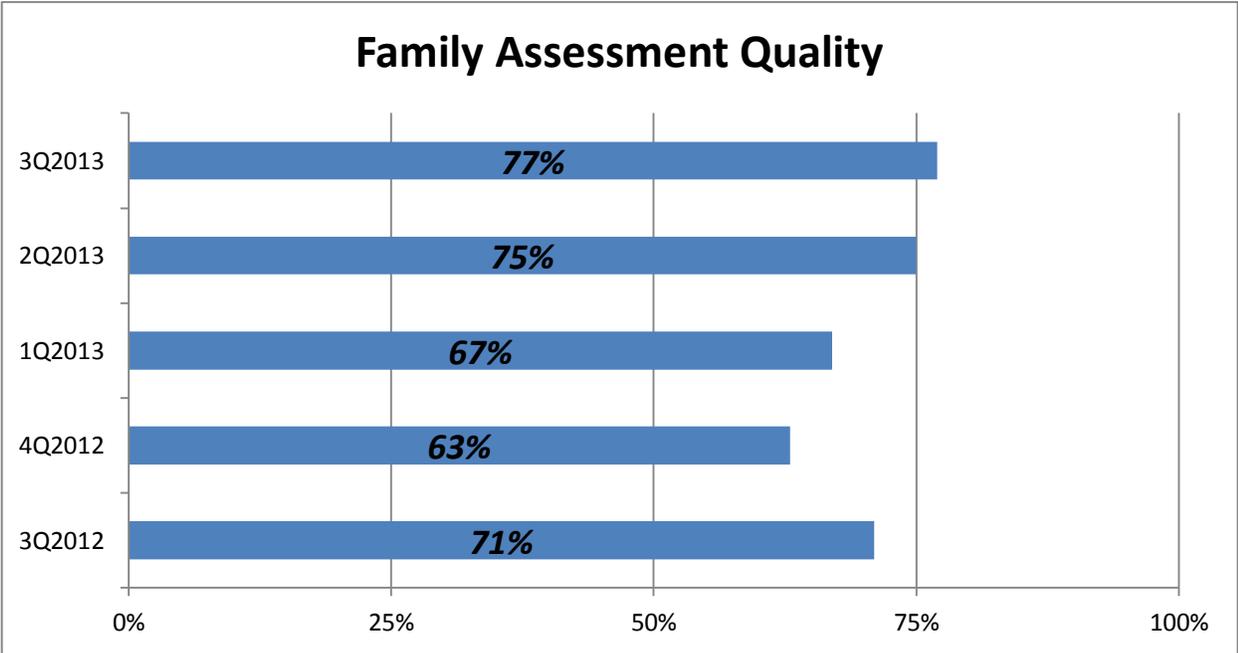
Family Assessment

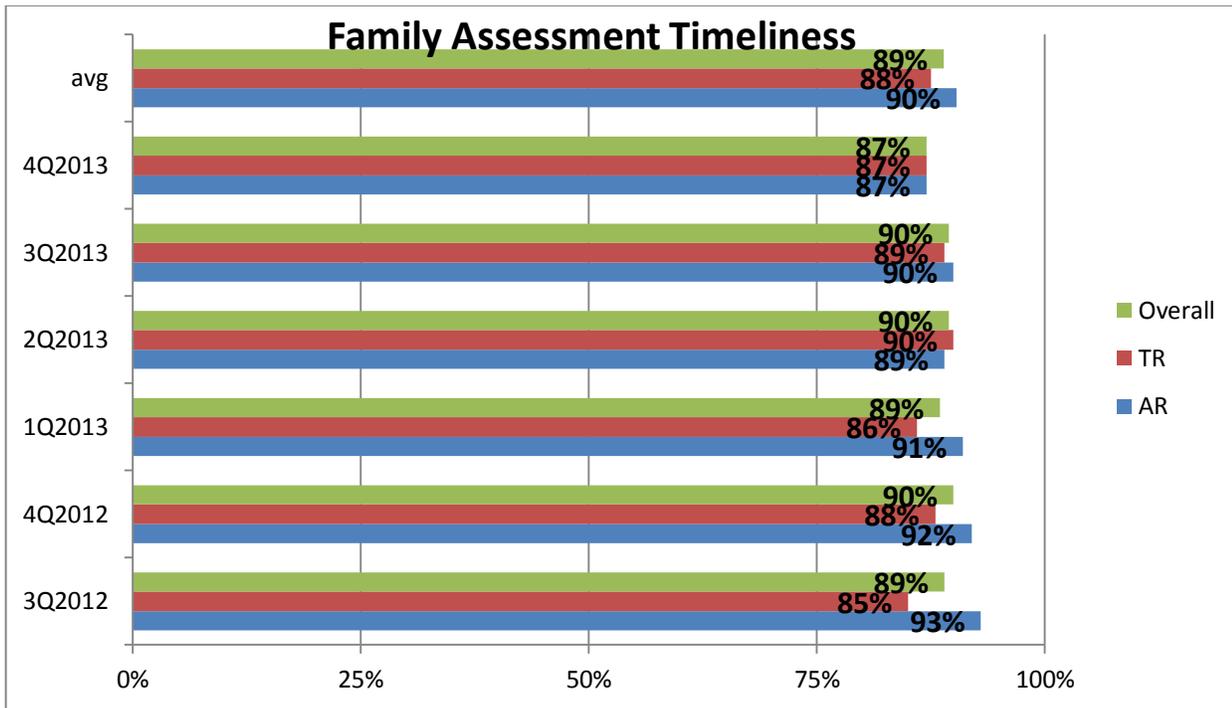
FCCS began work with the Family Assessment in July, 2011. FA timeliness is measured by supervisor approval of the completed FA compared to OAC timeframe requirement. The six quarters of peer review included (3Q2012-4Q2013) demonstrate that FCCS was able to maintain a high level of timeliness for Family Assessments with a six quarter average of 90% completed timely for Alternative Response and a six quarter average of 88% completed timely for Traditional cases. Overall FA timeliness for the six quarters reviewed was 89% completed timely. This overall score demonstrated an improvement from 84% completed timely during 2Q2012 to 87% completed timely during this review period 4Q2013.

FA quality is assessed with the peer review tool which focuses on Section 1 Identifying Information, 3 Child Harm, 6 Family Risk Assessment of Abuse/Neglect, and 7 Case Analysis of the FA to determine if items were completed correctly and/or addressed fully. Quality scores were derived from the data

gathered by averaging percentages from all questions included on the peer review tool answered as Addressed. This data showed that FCCS had made an improvement for quality FA completion over the periods reviewed (3Q2012-3Q2013) from 71% to 77%.

After five quarters of review the agency collectively determined that FCCS was improving overall practice at an adequate rate. Though some areas were identified as continued growth opportunities; Q-Tips, trainings and group discussions were determined to be effective ways for continuous practice improvement. Beginning in 4Q2013, FCCS shifted focus to Section 4 Strengths and Needs and 5 Family Perception of the Family Assessment. Baseline data has been gathered and Peer Reviews continue to be ongoing.



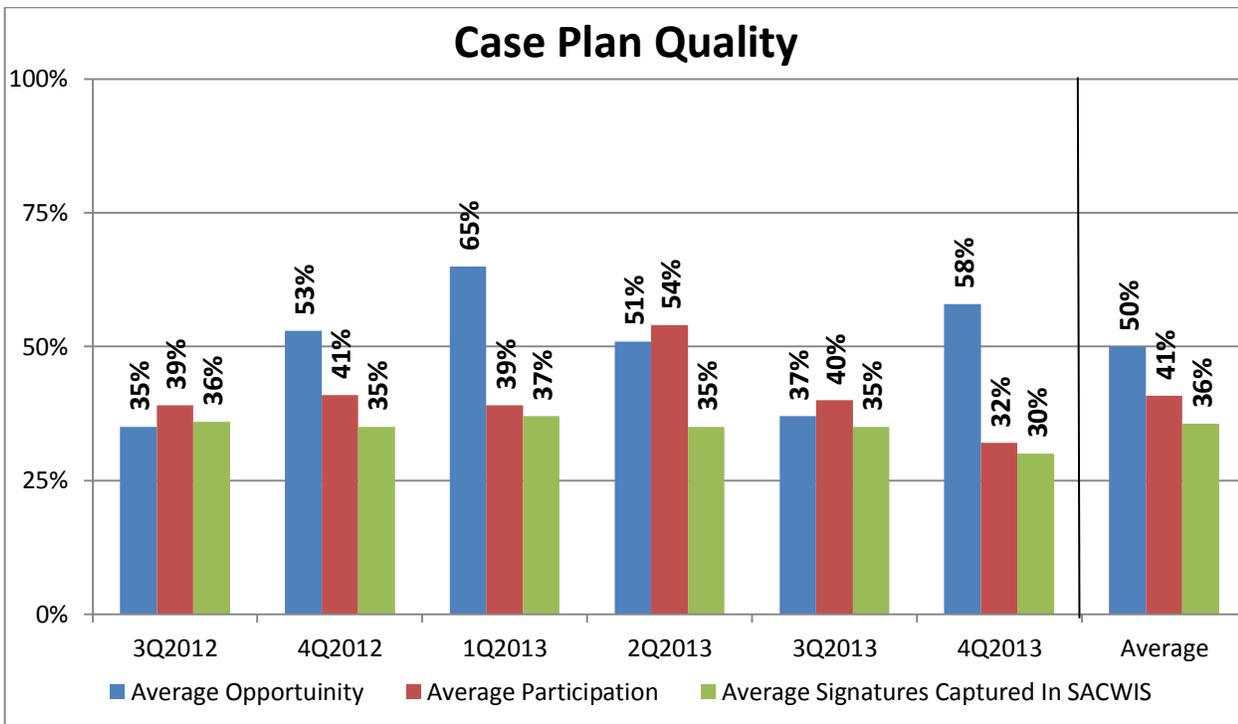
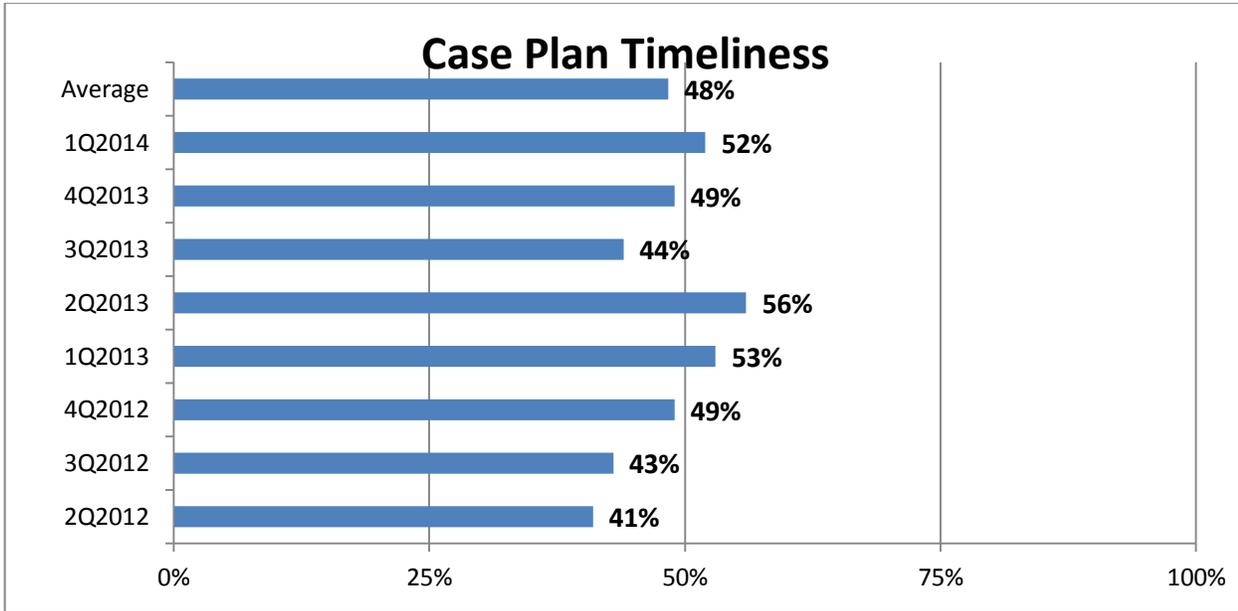


Case Plan

FCCS has continued to review the Case Plan timeliness that began in early 2012 over the subsequent 8 quarters (2Q2012-1Q2014). Timely Case Plan completion is defined as those Case Plans completed within the 30 day timeframe developed by both internal FCCS review of policies and procedures as well as CAPMIS guides in conjunction with OAC/ORC and CPOE/CFSR guidelines/rules. Starting in 2Q2012 (April-June) FCCS has monitored Case Plan timeliness through SACWIS. The Case Plan timeliness for the period reviewed (2Q2012-1Q2014) demonstrated an improvement from 41% of Case Plans completed timely to 52% of Case Plans completed timely. Through this data, the agency has discussed barriers to timeliness, how to improve timeliness and has taken steps to recognize those meeting or exceeding these standards. When looking at strategies to improve Initial Case Plan timeliness an effective strategy has been agency wide utilization of Dashboard reports. FCCS has also begun to look at the timelines for caseworkers routing Case Plans to supervisor for approval as well as whether these cases were re-routed by the supervisor for rework. FCCS set a goal of 80% for Initial Case Plans completed in 30 days or less and has recognized units meeting these goals at Regional All Staff meetings.

To ensure overall quality, FCCS has continued to use the Case Plan Peer Review tool to focus on various sections of the Case Plan with items in the sections being answered as addressed, partially addressed and not addressed OR completed correctly or not. FCCS has continued to focus the Case Plan Peer Review on participant's opportunity to participate, their participation and the signatures captured on the Case Plan as these areas continue to be identified as areas in need of improvement. Quality data from these areas of focus is defined as those answers given as addressed or completed. The average over six quarters (3Q2012-4Q2013) for opportunity to participate was 50%. While the six quarter average is 50% the increase from 3Q2012 to 4Q2013 for case plan participation was 23% from 35% to 58%. The average over six quarters for Participation was 41%. The average over six quarters

for signatures captured was 36%. These items were initially selected in an attempt to improve parent/child participation in the development of the initial case plan. These items remain an identified area for improvement for FCCS and will be included in the peer review process in upcoming reviews. The strategies that have been utilized include four quarterly trainings with Regional Staff focused on Case Plan specifics, and Quality Improvement Tips (Q-Tips) distributed throughout the agency. In future Peer Reviews, a new section has been added to the tool to measure whether strengths for case plan participants are being entered into the strengths section of the Case Plan.



- Developing and distribution of Guidance Articles and other written information on: *Effective Home Visitation between Worker and Child, Effective Visitation between Caseworkers and Parents, Child Vulnerability and Protective Capacities* Statewide training occurred on the Guidance Articles and they are available on the SACWIS knowledge base.

Best practice guidance articles were finalized and posted to the SACWIS Knowledge Base (<http://JFSKB.com/SACWIS/>) in June 2012. Additional resources developed by CPS staff for casework and supervisory staff were provided electronically and through the safety assessment trainings provided regionally.

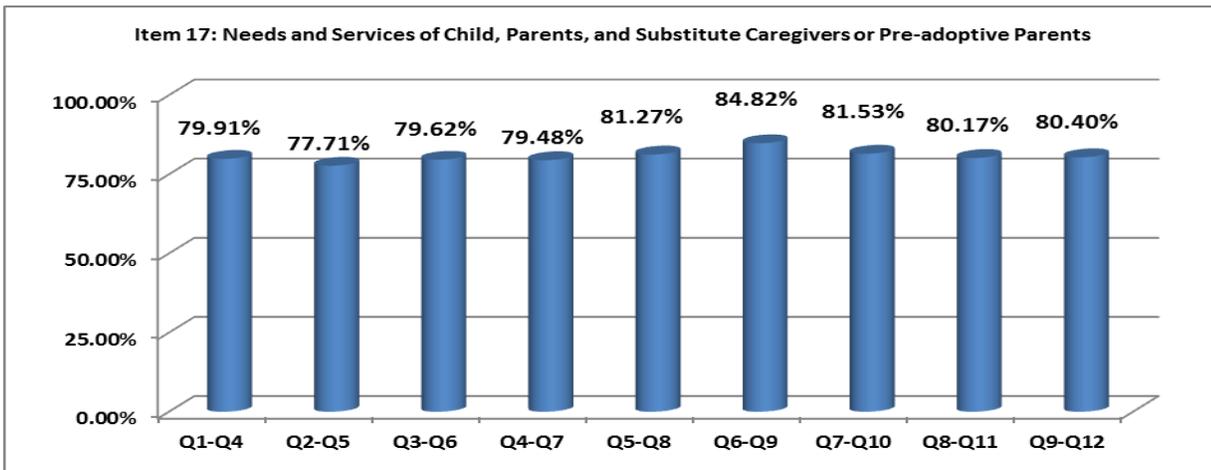
- Monitoring PCSAs compliance with all CFSR Well-Being Outcome 1 Items during CPOE Stage 8 (October 1, 2012- September 20, 2012) and CPOE Stage 9 (October 1, 2012- September 30, 2014).

Item 17-Needs and services of child, parents, and substitute caregivers or pre-adoptive parents

The baseline for establishing the Improvement Goal was based on Roll-up Quarter 1-Quarter 4 CPOE Stage 8 results. The Improvement Goal was set at **80.6%**. The Improvement Goal was achieved during Roll-up of Quarter 5-Quarter 8. Upon achievement of the Improvement Goal achieved the Improvement Goal in the following two Roll-up periods. For Roll-up Quarter 8- Quarter 11 and Roll-up Quarter 9-Quarter 12 Ohio missed its Improvement Goal by a slight percentage. Cases rated as an Area Needing Improvement were a result of one or more of the following findings:

- Non-custodial parents were not being identified and involved in case planning where services needs would be assessed and identified.
- Fathers' needs were not being assessed and they were not engaged by the agency in case planning.
- On-going assessment of child and parents needs did not occur.
- Children and youth were not involved in case planning or asked to identify service needs.
- Services were identified as needed by the parents in the case record but were not included in the Case Plan.
- Agency did not conduct an assessment of the needs for substitute care providers. A foster parent was having difficulty coping with the reunification process of the young children placed in her home. There was no documentation to indicate contact with the private foster care network regarding this concern or any services provided to the foster parent surrounding the issue of reunification.
- Agency struggled with the assessment of needs and service provision to parents. Alcohol and substance abuse assessments were not identified by the agency although there was a clear pattern of abuse documented in the case record.
- Difficulty in obtaining progress reports from service providers.

The follow graph depicts Roll-up results from Quarter 1- Quarter 4 though Quarter 9- Quarter 12.

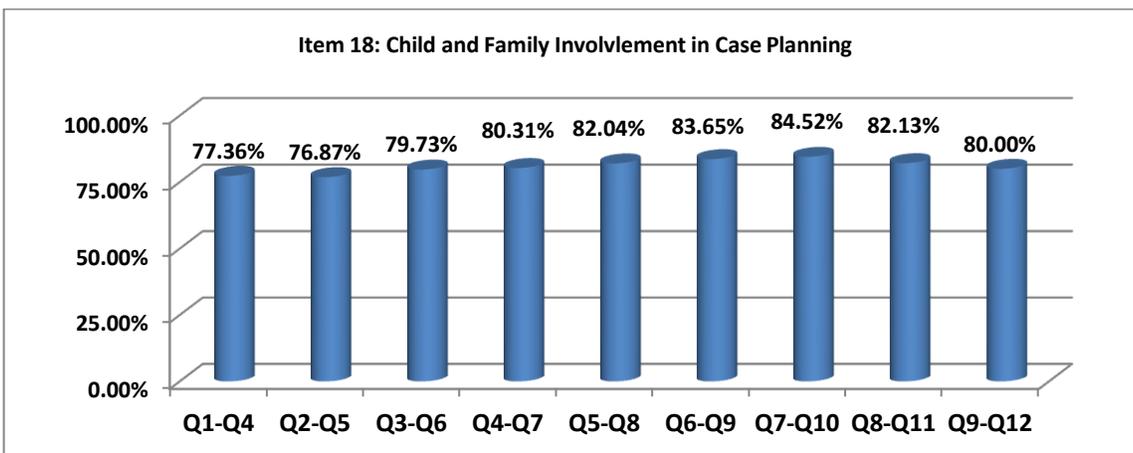


Examination of CPOE Stage 8 final results and CPOE Stage 9 partial results was conducted to determine if the results were similar to those achieved as a result of roll-up of PCSAs by Quarter. Statewide compliance with Item #17 at the conclusion of CPOE Stage 8 was at the 80% level. In-Home Cases were at the 74% compliance level and Substitute Care cases were at the 85% level. Continued work needs to occur in improving performance for in-home cases.

Partial CPOE Stage 9 results indicated State compliance at 79.01% with in-home case compliance impacting overall performance. In-home case compliance was 70% while Substitute Care case compliance was 86%. Further examination of results will need to occur at the conclusion of CPOE Stage 9.

Item 18 –Child and family involvement in case planning

The baseline for establishing the Improvement Goal was based on Quarter 1-Quarter 4 CPOE Stage 8 results. The Improvement Goal was set at **79.0%**. The Improvement Goal was achieved during Roll-up Quarter 3-Quarter 6. Upon achievement of the Improvement Goal achieved the Improvement Goal in all of the remaining Roll-up Quarters. The following graph presents compliance findings for Roll-up Quarter 1-Quarter 4 through Roll-up Quarter 9-Quarter 12.



Examination of CPOE Stage 8 compliance results for Item 18 indicate Statewide performance was at 80% for applicable cases rated as a Strength. As with Item 17, in-home case compliance impacted the overall performance for Item 18. In-home case compliance was 74% for cases rated as a Strength and Substitute Care case compliance was rated at 84%.

Partial CPOE Stage 9 results were reviewed and currently Item 18 is at a 79% compliance level for making concerted efforts to involve parents and children in case planning on an ongoing basis. In-home case compliance was 74% while Substitute Care case compliance was 83%.

Item 19 – Caseworker visits with child

The baseline for establishing the Improvement Goal was based on Quarter 1-Quarter 4 CPOE Stage 8 results. The Improvement Goal was set at 82.7%. During the PIP and the non-overlapping year Ohio was not able to achieve its Improvement Goal. Examination of each rolling quarter’s data indicated the following:

Rolling Quarter	Number of Cases Rated As a Strength Needed to Achieve Goal	Number of Cases Rated As a Strength	Number of Cases Short of Achieving Improvement Goal
Quarter 2-Quarter 5	260	258	2 cases
Quarter 3--Quarter 6	264	260	4 cases
Quarter 4-Quarter 7	286	279	7 cases
Quarter 5-Quarter 8	287	286	1 case
Quarter 6-Quarter 9	277	275	2 cases
Quarter 7-Quarter 10	290	287	3 cases
Quarter 8-Quarter 11	284	279	5 cases
Quarter 9- Quarter 12	313	298	15 cases

As evident from the above results, Ohio was extremely close to achieving the negotiated improvement goal:

- For Quarter 5-Quarter 8, Ohio missed the Improvement Goal by **one case, or .28%**.
- For Quarter 2-Quarter 5, Ohio missed the Improvement Goal by two cases, or .53%
- For Quarter 6-Quarter 9, Ohio missed the Improvement Goal by two cases, or .61%.

Examination of CPOE Stage 8 data revealed that Statewide compliance was at 82% for applicable cases rated as a Strength. Partial CPOE Stage 9 data revealed that Statewide compliance is at a 77% level for conducting frequency and quality caseworker visits with children. In home case compliance was 70% while Substitute Care case compliance was 83%. Upon completion of CPOE Stage 9 an assessment will be conducted to determine if any improvement during the Stage occurred.

Continuation of the some strategies used during the five year period as well as implementation of CPOE QIPs by PCSAs for this item, it is anticipated, will result in improved performance.

Item 20- Caseworker visits with parents

The baseline for establishing the Improvement Goal was based on Quarter 1-Quarter 4 CPOE Stage 8 results. The Improvement Goal was set at 66.1%. During the PIP and the non-overlapping year Ohio was not able to achieve its Improvement Goal. Examination of each rolling quarter's data indicated the following:

Rolling Quarter	Number of Cases Rated As a Strength Needed to Achieve Goal	Number of Cases Rated As a Strength	Number of Cases Short of Achieving Improvement Goal
Quarter 2-Quarter 5	169	152	17 cases
Quarter 3--Quarter 6	169	157	12 cases
Quarter 4-Quarter 7	186	167	19 cases
Quarter 5-Quarter 8	184	171	13 cases
Quarter 6-Quarter 9	180	176	4 cases
Quarter 7-Quarter 10	188	182	6 cases
Quarter 8-Quarter 11	184	183	1 case
Quarter 9- Quarter 12	208	200	8 cases

As evident from the above results, Ohio generally demonstrated a trend of gradual improvement in performance and narrowly missed the improvement goal:

For Quarter 6-Quarter 9, Ohio missed the Improvement Goal by four cases, or 1.39%.

For Quarter 8-Quarter 11, Ohio missed the Improvement Goal by **one case, or .27%**.

Continuation of the some of the strategies implemented during the CFSP five year period as well as implementation of CPOE QIPs by PCSAs for this item, it is anticipated, will result in improved performance.

Goal 4: Community Collaboration

COLLABORATION

Round 2 CFSR findings identified the strong partnerships among state child-serving agencies, the courts, local agencies and service providers as a solid foundation for advancing needed improvements to Ohio's child welfare system. To demonstrate inter-departmental commitment to these efforts, the Cabinet served as an advisory council to the development and implementation of Ohio's Program Improvement Plan. Throughout the process, these entities continued to support the state's CFSR efforts.

While each system remains challenged by multiple priorities, Ohio's CFSP is based on an integrated initiatives model that decreases fragmentation and duplication of scarce resources. Specific inter-system programs are described throughout this section.

Key Concerns

The CFSR process examined the state's assessment of children's educational, physical (including dental) and mental health needs, as well as the provision of services to address those needs. HHS identified the following concerns based on information contained in the statewide assessment, interviews with state and local stakeholders, and onsite review findings:

- The State did not consistently ensure that children's educational needs were met. Key issues identified pertained to cases in which children demonstrated school-related behavioral problems, developmental delays, learning disabilities, and/or academic performance not commensurate with ability. Specific factors of non-compliance included:
 - Transitional education plans;
 - Inconsistent coordination of screening and interventions; and
 - Limited service capacity.

- The state's efforts to assess and address mental health needs of children receiving both foster care and in-home services were inconsistent. Key issues identified included:
 - Mental health services were not consistently provided to address identified behavioral health needs;
 - Mental health services were delayed for some children;
 - At times, services were provided too infrequently to be effective;
 - Behavioral health care services were not sufficiently accessible across the state; and
 - In some cases, services rendered to children and families were not individualized.Ohio's response to these findings is highlighted below:

System Infrastructure to Support Ohio's Program Improvement Plan

Ohio Family and Children First (OFCF):

OFCF is a partnership of state and local government, communities, and families that enhances the well-being of Ohio's children and families by:

- Building community capacity;
- Strategically coordinating systems and services;
- Engaging and empowering families; and
- Sharing accountability.

At the state level, OFCF is comprised of the directors of all child-serving departments: Job and Family Services, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Health, Developmental Disabilities, Youth Services, Rehabilitation and Corrections, Education; and the Office of Budget and Management. Each county operates a local council consisting of the local directors of these agencies (plus the PCSA director in separated agencies), municipal and county officials, Head Start representatives, a representative of a local non-profit agency serving children and families, a representative of the local early intervention program, and family representatives. In addition, a local juvenile judge may serve in an advisory capacity to the council. OFCF works toward the fulfillment of the following commitments:

- Expectant Parents and Newborns Thrive;
- Infants and Toddlers Thrive;
- Children Are Ready for School;
- Children and Youth Succeed in School;
- Children and Youth Engage in Healthy Behaviors; and
- Youth Successfully Transition into Adulthood.

In order to streamline and coordinate governmental services for families seeking assistance for their children during this reporting period, OFCF:

- Increased requirements for family engagement and empowerment;
- Increased expectations regarding improved service coordination for children with multi-system needs and their families;
- Aligned programming targeting transition-aged youth; and
- Increased community capacity to address local priorities based on needs assessments, gap analyses, and resource assessments.

The OFCF Cabinet served as an advisory council for the implementation of Ohio's Program Improvement Plan. Other key OFCF accomplishments achieved throughout this reporting period include: increased family engagement in policy development, training, and service delivery; development of a strategic plan to better serve transition-aged youth, and implementation of a flexible funding pool at the local level to provide needed services to families and youth based on community priorities.

Education

From 2010 to 2014, ODJFS, the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS), previously the Ohio Department of Mental Health, ODMH) and the multi-systemic Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Steering Committee implemented two strategies to improve assessment of children's educational needs and the provision of individualized services to address them. The strategies were to:

- Promote an integrated network of school-based support services that address non- academic barriers to educational success; and
- Improve access to IEP-related services for children who were Medicaid eligible.

Shared Agenda:

ODMH and ODE jointly supported *Shared Agenda*, a project designed to improve behavioral and academic outcomes for children and youth by removing non-cognitive barriers to learning. *Shared Agenda* components included school-based mental health services, and activities designed to increase awareness of behavioral health issues by students and school personnel. Ohio was nationally recognized for this collaborative effort to improve children's mental health and academic success.

Highlights of the *Shared Agenda* project included:

- The *Eliminating Barriers* Initiative- a previously federally funded project to address the stigma of mental illness in school-based settings.
- Establishment of a legislatively commissioned Educator Standards Board.
- Adherence to the following Guiding Principles:
 - Mental health is crucial to school success; and
 - Shared opportunities exist for improvement.
- Promotion of mental wellness as a critical component of school success among education staff, mental health providers, families and other stakeholders.
- Expanded implementation of evidence-based practices; and
- Professional development to increase local capacity to provide effective school- based mental health programming.

FASD Resources for Educators:

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) is an umbrella term used to describe the range of effects that may occur in individuals whose mothers consumed alcohol during pregnancy. Many of these effects, which include physical, mental, behavioral, and/or learning disabilities, have lifelong consequences. While FASD prevalence within the child welfare system is not currently known, it has been estimated that substance abuse is a contributing factor in up to 80% of out of home placements.

In 2004, Ohio launched a statewide initiative to prevent FASD and improve services for individuals affected by prenatal alcohol exposure. Multi-system partners remained committed to this work throughout this CFSP reporting period. The following trainings were offered in both traditional and web-based formats:

- Educating Preschool Children with FASD;
- Strategies for Educating Children with FASD; and
- Strategies for School Staff.

Sessions were targeted to teachers and school personnel. The courses provided information about how to more effectively respond to FASD-related neurological impairment, including:

- Organizing the physical space so that is conducive to learning;
- Reinforcing routines and assisting with transitions;
- Making needed accommodations for learning; and
- Promoting social development to improve student behavior.

Comprehensive System of Learning Supports:

The ODE's Comprehensive System of Learning Supports targets the following nonacademic barriers to learning: student mobility; absences; retention; and behavior, particularly incidents associated with out of school suspensions and expulsion. As students enter middle and high school, additional indicators include being over age for grade level and under-credited. The ODE has continued to recommend that districts weave these supports into a comprehensive, multifaceted system of classroom, school, and community-based interventions.

During this reporting period, specific supports were designed to increase student success by improving access to non-traditional opportunities, address barriers to learning, and enhance teaching methods. The resources, strategies, and practices fostered physical, social, emotional, and intellectual student development. The goals of this initiative were to:

- Re-engage students in learning;
- Reduce teacher and student dropout rates;
- Increase student achievement and narrow the gaps among subgroups;
- Reduce student and teacher absences; and
- Reduce out of school suspensions and expulsions.

Supplemental Educational Services (SES) – Parents:

Low-income students who attend Title I-served schools undergoing mandated improvement efforts are eligible for Supplemental Educational Services (SES). Priority is given to the lowest achieving eligible students.

The program targets interventions in reading, language arts, and math. SES can take place before or after school, and/or on weekends. SES requires that school personnel assist parents in identifying their child's needs and how to best address them with supplemental assistance. During this reporting period, ODE developed a list of state-approved providers by school district. In turn, school district personnel provided this information to parents to help them select specific services and providers to facilitate their child's achievement of targeted educational goals.

The Medicaid School Program (MSP)

MSP serves Medicaid eligible children between the ages of 0-21. The program permits reimbursement of allowable services identified on the child's individualized education program (IEP) and provided in the school setting. Approved school providers can receive reimbursement for:

- Direct services delivered to eligible children with an IEP, or those undergoing evaluation for a disability;
- Targeted Case Management for children with developmental disabilities;
- Administrative claiming; and
- Limited transportation services.

As of May 2014, 601 providers had enrolled in Ohio's MSP. These providers represent a variety of school settings statewide including: city, local, and exempted village school districts; state schools; and community schools. MSP is administered jointly by the Ohio Department of Medicaid and ODE.

Child Welfare, Education, and the Courts:

In November 2011, Ohio participated in the national 2-day meeting to address educational stability for foster youth. Following that event, the Supreme Court of Ohio (SCO) convened a workgroup to advance the state's plan. Workgroup participants included: state staff from the ODJFS/Office of Families and Children, ODE, and the SCO; local judges; PCSA directors; service providers; and advocates. Key activities of the workgroup included:

- Clarifying the definition of "enrollment" to include attendance and provision of services;
- Identifying barriers to transportation;
- Exploring shared funding (IV-E and Title 1) to support educational liaisons;
- Developing key questions about education for Judicial Officers' use in child protection hearings;
- Identifying and promoting use of best practices; and
- Establishing protocols for cross-systems data sharing.

Behavioral Health/ Family Support Services

Ohio identified community collaboration as the vehicle by which to address Round 2 CFSR well-being findings associated with physical and behavioral health care. Strategies, jointly designed with stakeholders, included:

- Improved identification and statewide dissemination of practices which result in better outcomes for children and families;
- Increased access to effective community-based treatment and family support services; and
- Decreased fragmentation of policies and procedures impacting youth who are aging out of care.

Family-Centered Services and Supports:

The Cabinet's Family-Centered Services and Supports (FCSS) project reflects the state's cross-system commitment to implementing a coordinated continuum of services and supports for children (ages 0-21) with multi-system needs and their families. This initiative is jointly funded by ODJFS (Title IV-B dollars), and state funds from the Ohio Departments of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Youth Services, and Developmental Disabilities. Over the course of this reporting period, Ohio's investment in FCSS exceeded \$21 million. These dollars are appropriated to local Family and Children First Councils to provide non-clinical, family-centered services and supports. Use continues to require identification of needs on a local service coordination plan which must be jointly developed with the family. . The chart below illustrates number of individuals served, the number of services provided, and the percentage of children receiving FCSS programming who were able to remain in their homes each year of the reporting period. Please note, these numbers contain some duplication as families served extended across state fiscal years. **On average, 96.25% of the children were able to avoid out of home placement and costly institutionalization due to the provision of these community-based services and supports.**

Time Period	Children Served	Families Served	# of Services & Supports Provided	% Remaining at Home
SFY10	5,307	Not Assessed	13,837	95%
SFY11	5,966	Not Assessed	14,517	95.3%
SFY12	5,520	4169	9,171	95.7%
SFY13	5,866	4724	8,744	96%
SFY14 (1st half)	2,692	2189	4,324	Pending

The most requested FCSS during this reporting period included: service coordination, respite care, social supports, non-clinical in-home visits, structured activities to improve family functioning, and transportation.

Parent Advocacy Connection:

A portion of the FCSS dollars continue to be allocated to the Ohio Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) to support the Parent Advocacy Connection (PAC) program. PAC provides support and education for parents of multi-need children being served by local Family and Children First Councils, and assists them in navigating the multiple systems necessary to secure help for their children. To view a map of regional PAC resources, go to:

http://www.namiohio.org/images/publications/brochures/PAC_brochure.pdf

The chart below represents the number of families and children served annually over the course of this reporting period. Please note, these numbers contain some duplication as families served extended across the fiscal year timeframes.

Fiscal Year	# of Families	# of Children
SFY 10	508	1140
SFY 11	688	1608
SFY 12	1002	2309
SFY 13	869	2072
SFY 14 (1st half)	969	2431

NAMI staff also conducted an analysis of numbers served (based on “point in time” data) from SFY09-SFY13. This graphic illustrates the dramatic growth in the program and includes specific information regarding the system involvement of the families who received assistance from PAC.

Number Served	FY 2009	FY 2013	Increase
Total	602	1179	96%
Alcohol/Other Drug	22	45	105%
Children Services	139	378	172%
Juvenile Justice	215	340	58%
Mental Health	392	829	112%
Developmental Disabilities	91	228	151%
School	181	613	239%
Wraparound	3	197	6467%
Other	51	77	51%

100% of those receiving assistance from PAC over the course of this reporting period indicated they were satisfied with the services rendered; approximately **97.5%** reported they were highly satisfied. Client comments received about the program include:

- *There was no help until PAC came into my life.*
- *I enjoyed working with Jody and am very glad she was involved or I wouldn't have felt comfortable at some of our wraparound meetings...*
- *PAC has helped me feel better about what's going on with my child.*
- *PAC has helped my family be heard concerning issues with my child.*
- *I am more confident since I've received services for my daughter with the help of my advocate.*
- *This is a great program, I would recommend it.*

In order to meet families' needs more effectively, PAC advocates are required to undergo extensive training to ensure services are culturally-competent, home and community-based, family-driven, and focused on individual strengths. During this reporting period, NAMI facilitated **266 workshops**, either regionally or on a statewide level. Topics included, but were not limited to: program orientation (policies and procedures to facilitate standardized practice across regions), cultural sensitivity, boundaries, ethics, publicly funded benefits, community resources, crisis planning, educational advocacy/IEP development, juvenile justice, developmental disabilities, child welfare/custody issues, medical diagnoses, domestic violence, and working with juvenile sex offenders.

Lifespan Respite Care:

In 2011, the Ohio Department of Aging was awarded a three-year (\$200,000.00/year) grant from the U.S. Administration on Aging to improve access to respite care regardless of age, disease or disability through development of a statewide infrastructure. The goals of this initiative are to:

- Raise public awareness about the need for, and importance of, respite services; and
- Develop new ways of recruiting, training, and supporting paid and volunteer respite

Partners include Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Departments, and the Ohio Respite Coalition.

Additional Initiatives

Please refer to:

- The *State Healthcare Plan for Ohio's Child Welfare System* (CFSP 2015-2019):
 - A detailed description of Ohio's efforts to address concerns identified in the CFSR related to behavioral health care. Highlighted updates include:

- Trauma informed care;
 - Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation;
 - The Early Childhood Mental Health-Child Welfare Demonstration projects; and
 - Ohio’s Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders State Systems’ Initiative.
- A detailed description of Ohio’s efforts to address concerns identified in the CFSR related to physical health care, and services for young children. In addition to screening timelines and monitoring requirements, the plan features:
- Ohio’s efforts to address medication use in the foster care population;
 - Progress toward integrating physical and behavioral healthcare;
 - Projects to improve care coordination across systems;
 - The Personal Responsibility and Education Program (PREP) to reduce pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections in the foster care population; and
 - BEACON, a public-private partnership designed to improve health outcomes and reduce costs.
- Earlier sections in the Child and Family Services Plan Report that describe Ohio’s Differential Response program, and Partners for Ohio’s Families. Collaboration with state and local partners was essential in the design and implementation of both of these initiatives.

Improved Identification and Statewide Dissemination of Practices

Website Development and Technical Assistance:

ODJFS continues to work with the SCO and OFCF to identify and disseminate practices that demonstrate improved outcomes for children and families. This information is distributed to sister agencies, PCSAs, local courts, and Family and Children First Councils to assist communities in the collaborative planning necessary to effectively address the multiple needs of families who come to the attention of child welfare agencies.

During the PIP development process, the SCO established a CFSR webpage: <http://www.summitonchildren.ohio.gov/cfsr/default.html>. This site contains information regarding the CFSR process; highlights the Review’s relevance to multiple systems; features information regarding preferred practices; and provides state and county-specific data analyses of the following child welfare elements:

- Length-of-Stay;
- Children in Custody at Month’s End;
- Reunification and Re-entry;
- Children in Care Longer than One Year;

- Using Data to Control Costs;
- Point in-Time Forecasts of Children in Care; and
- Forecasts on the Number of Children Entering Care Each Month.

During this reporting period, confidential, child-specific data was also made available to PCSAs monthly through the ODJFS Business Intelligence System (BIC). These data profiles enabled agency staff to determine unique child characteristics which impacted local CFSR performance. In addition, ODJFS' Technical Assistance Specialists provided individualized guidance to PCSAs on use of local data for monitoring and program planning purposes.

Goal 5: CFSP Licensing Five Year Summary

Foster Care Licensing: Children are safe while placed in out-of-home care settings due to increased oversight of placement providers.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' (ODJFS) Office of Families and Children worked for more than four years to address two findings related to its Foster Care Licensing process identified in the 2009 Child and Family Service Review (CFSR) final report. Significant changes have taken place since the Ohio CFSR program improvement plan was implemented in 2009. To give context to changes in the foster care licensing process, the CFSR examined:

- Whether state standards for foster family homes and child care institutions reasonably concurred with recommended national standards;
- If state standards were consistently applied to all licensed homes and institutions receiving Title IV-E or IV-B funds;
- Whether the state complied with Federal requirements for criminal background checks;
- If Ohio's case planning process included provisions for addressing the safety of foster and adoptive placements;

The 2009 CFSR report to Ohio identified the following areas of concern in the Ohio licensing process:

- Application of state standards was inconsistent due to the practice of granting waivers or variances to foster homes and child care institutions.
- Ohio's regulations regarding background checks conform to federal regulations; however, children may be at risk as local agencies oversee this process.

ODJFS established two strategies to address the two foster home and agency licensing concerns which will be discussed below:

- Amend rules governing the issuance of **waivers and variances** in the Ohio Administrative Code.
- Enhance Ohio's process for ensuring compliance with **background check** requirements for all ODJFS- licensed caregivers.

Strategy 1: Waivers and Variances

In late 2009 ODJFS convened a workgroup comprised of policy and licensing managers and ODJFS legal department staff to review the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rules for granting waivers and variances. At the time certified agencies, children's residential centers and group homes could petition ODJFS using the form "Rule Waiver Request for Agencies, CRCs & Group Homes" to waive OAC rules. Office of Families and Children (OFC) internal committee of Foster Care Licensing and policy staff would determine if the waiver request would be approved based upon the circumstances identified in the request.

Meetings of the workgroup were scheduled weekly and multiple variables related to waivers and variances were reviewed. Of thirty-three waivers requested in a four month period in 2010, one third of the waiver requests were related Staff Development and Training; another almost one third requested a waiver related to Admissions and the other requests varied. Over a six month period, OAC rules were revised to accommodate the most commonly requested waivers. The new rules became effective on December 1, 2010. By revising the rules to allow agencies to make their own decisions about late training or admissions, ODJFS eliminated the necessity for agencies to request waivers and allowed the department to narrow the scope of waivers down to only those related to relative foster homes. It also provided the ability to eliminate variances.

The workgroup specifically recommended the following changes to OAC rule 5101:2-5-18, "Waivers and Variances" and OAC rule 5101:2-5-19 "Variances".

1. OAC 5101:2-5-19 - Language was added to this rule which prohibits approval for new variance requests.
2. OAC 5101:2-5-18 - Language was added to limit the request of waivers to the following circumstances:
 - An adult resident of a foster home or prospective foster home is unable to complete the fingerprint requirement due to the adult's physical inability to comply with this requirement. Under these circumstances, a waiver may be requested when the recommended agency has documented the adult's physical inability to comply with this rule and that this adult poses no danger to foster children or adoptive children. In such cases, the recommending or approving agency must request the bureau of criminal

identification conduct a criminal records check using the person's name and social security number.

- The request is for a relative foster home for a non-safety issue.

3. Language was added to this rule to allow for existing waivers and variances approved prior to the adoption of this rule to remain in effect under the following conditions:

- Previously approved waiver requests will remain in effect until the waiver expires unless the terms or conditions of the waiver are violated or otherwise become nullified by a situation or by a change in the applicable Administrative Code.
- Previously approved variance requests will remain in effect unless the terms or conditions of a variance are violated or otherwise become nullified by a situation or by a change in the applicable Administrative Code.

The waiver and variance process for foster and adoption homes also changed to eliminate variances. There is no longer any provision in OAC for agencies to request a variance.

Based on changes to OAC rule 5101:2-5-18 and OAC 5101:2-5-19 ODJFS has not received any waiver or variance requests from certified agencies since late 2010 when licensing staff began to publicize the policy change.

Strategy 2. *Enhance Ohio's process for ensuring agency compliance with requirements for conducting background checks.*

To address the second licensing finding in the 2009 Ohio CFSR report, ODJFS established new protocols to enhance the practice of monitoring criminal background checks for caregivers who are certified and/or approved by ODJFS and for staff who care for children in residential and group home settings. The *Retained Applicant Fingerprint Database Information Exchange* process, known as "RAPBACK" was implemented in 2010. ODJFS submits a file to the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (BCII) with the names and identifying information of all known certified foster caregivers, currently approved adoptive parents and other adults living in the foster care household. The information is maintained by BCII in a databank and used to exchange information with ODJFS about caregiver arrests and/or criminal charges.

BCII notifies the Department of arrests or convictions for anyone on the list of names submitted by ODJFS. Upon receipt of BCII information, ODJFS notifies the agency that recommended the home for certification. If the BCII information indicates a person in the household has been arrested, convicted, or plead guilty to any offense, the recommending agency must take appropriate action within twenty-four hours of receiving the information from BCII. Appropriate actions by the recommending agency must include:

- Contacting the local law enforcement agency that made the arrest;

- Contacting any other agency that holds custody of a child in the home within twenty-four hours to inform them of the BCII information; and
- Re-evaluating the household to ensure the crime will not jeopardize the health, safety or welfare of the children in the home.

RAPBACK notifications are received in an online folder and reviewed by the OFC Enforcement Coordinator. The RAPBACK folder is checked daily for notifications, also known as hits. Upon receipt of a hit on a foster/adoptive parent, notice is sent to the recommending agency and to the assigned ODJFS Licensing Specialist or Technical Assistance Supervisor. The notification is logged in the “RAPBACK Hits Log”. Each recommending agency is required to complete the JFS 01301 “Retained Applicant Fingerprint Database Post-Notification Report” form. The Enforcement Coordinator monitors receipt of the form. The review includes a determination regarding whether the agency was properly notified by the foster parent and if the response contained sufficient information for ODJFS to assess the matter. The form is logged by the Enforcement Coordinator and a determination is made whether the conviction is a prohibited offense. Additionally, the Enforcement Coordinator reviews the case to determine if a revocation of the foster care certificate is necessary.

In addition to RAPBACK, ODJFS reviews criminal background checks through a sample record review of newly certified/recertified foster parents, newly approved/updated adoptive parents, and newly hired staff of JFS-certified residential facilities. The recertification reviews include monitoring how each agency followed up on RAPBACK hits and whether they conducted background checks on new staff. Agencies are required to develop corrective action plans to address any findings of non-compliance related to RAPBACK or background checks. Each CAP submitted specified:

- What the agency is going to do to correct an area of noncompliance;
- How noncompliance would be prevented in the future;
- Who in the agency would be responsible for the implementation of the corrective action plan; and
- How the agency would document that the corrective action plan has been implemented.

Since the inception of RAPBACK in 2009, there have been 1,109 hits. Of those numbers 479 were on closed foster homes; 435 were on active foster homes; 105 were old charges that the agency knew about; 31 were closed after the RAPBACK notification; 45 the adult household members were not in the home; and, 14 resulted in the revocation of the foster home.

RAPBACK Results 2010-2013

Year	No. of Old Hits	Voluntary WD	Revocations
2010	103	2	2
2011	183	0	7
2012	315	0	4
2013	353	0	0

ODJFS used the following methods to publicize the changes in policy and practice related to waivers, variances and background checks:

- ODJFS Licensing Quarterly Meeting Agenda
- Meeting with the Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO) and the Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies (OACCA/private agency lobby)
- Word of mouth by Licensing Specialist staff
- Revision of the Foster Care Licensing Policy Manual to reflect the policy change.

Systemic Factors: Service Array and Resource Development

Array of Services

The state provide an array of services that assess the strengths and needs of children and families and determine other service needs, address the needs of families as well as the individual children in order to create a safe home environment, enable children to remain safely with their parents when reasonable, and help children in foster and adoptive placements achieve permanency. The state ensures that these services are accessible in all political jurisdictions covered the CFSP.

HHS Example

An analysis of the services available across the state indicated that formal programs for intensive in-home services/reunification/independent living/post-adoption services are available in X of Y counties. Further, separate focus groups were conducted across the state with parents, youth, caseworkers, and community leaders, and these corroborated the above analysis. In addition, the focus groups identified that the X number of counties for X (specified) services, there were significant gaps/alignment between the needs of the population and the available slots.

OHIO-Specific Information

Item 35-Ohio Findings CFSR 2:

- Rated as a Strength.
- The State has in place an array of services that assess the strengths and needs of children and families and determine other service needs, address the needs of families in addition to individual children in order to create a safe home environment, enable children to remain safely with their parents when reasonable, and help children in foster and adoptive placements achieve permanency.

Round 2 Statewide Assessment:

- **Ohio provides, at a minimum, the following services in each county:**
 - Case management, therapeutic services, homemakers/home health aide, counseling, protective day care, diagnostic services, emergency shelter, substitute care, adoption, information and referral, life skills, and single parent services.

- **In addition, at least three of the following services also must be made available in each county:**
 - Community education, crisis services, emergency caregiver, employment and training, environmental management, parent aide, parent education, crisis nursery, and day treatment.

Service Accessibility

OHIO-Specific Information

CFSR Item 36 – Services are accessible to families and children in all political jurisdictions was identified as an Area Needing Improvement (for both rounds of the CFSR):

- **Waitlists for services.**
- **Services are not sufficiently accessible to all children and families across the State.**
- **Key services lacking include:**
 - Transportation,
 - Independent Living,
 - Mental health and substance abuse services.

Statewide Assessment Information:

- **Several counties have developed innovative approaches to providing comprehensive services to children and families:**
 - Cuyahoga and Hamilton Counties have implemented strong wraparound programs that incorporate the values of giving families a voice in the case planning process.
 - Hamilton, Butler, and Clermont Counties are implementing aggressive foster parent recruitment campaigns, and have engaged local service providers in a shared partnership to improve foster care utilization and placement practices.
 - ProtectOHIO provides support for select counties to implement one of the following initiatives: family team meetings, structured visitation, kinship support, and managed care and enhanced mental health/substance abuse services.
- **The most frequently planned services for both in-home and out-of-home care cases were:**
 - Case management;
 - Information and referrals; and
 - Counseling.
- **The most frequently cited barriers to service provision/delivery were:**
 - Client refusal,
 - Lack of consistent monitoring,
 - Budgetary constraints,
 - Insurance issues,
 - Difficulties of engaging child welfare clients who have complex needs

- A lack of transportation in some parts of the State, and
- The limited number of Ohio dentists who are willing to accept Medicaid.

Stakeholder Interview Information:

- **Transportation is insufficient throughout the State**
- **Certain services are less available to rural parts of the State, including mental health and substance abuse treatment**
- **Gaps in accessing the following services:**
 - Child psychiatry,
 - Residential psychiatric placements, esp. for adolescent females,
 - Substance abuse treatment, for both children and adults,
 - Counseling,
 - Parenting classes,
 - Supportive services for youth aging out of foster care,
 - More services for clients with developmental disabilities, and
 - Insufficient coordination of services with the Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

Stakeholder Interview Information (for Item 23-Mental Health):

- **Stakeholders indicated that core services are generally available to families.**
- **Stakeholders praised:**
 - Help Me Grow,
 - Family-to-Family,
 - Early Childhood Mental Health Initiative,
 - Trauma-informed services,
 - The State Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Initiative,
 - The Therapeutic Interagency Program for Preschoolers, and
 - The Parent Advocacy Program.
- **Stakeholders in review sites noted:**
 - Family Team Meetings help identify resources for children and families; and
 - There is a need for more services related to domestic violence.

CPOE 8 Item #23-Mental/Behavioral Health of Child (Concluded September 2012):

- Ohio was at a **94%** level of compliance for addressing the mental/behavioral health needs of the child.
 - **In home** case compliance was **90%**
 - Substitute Care case compliance was **96%**
 - **8 PCSAs** had to develop a **QIP** to address this item

- Cases rated as a **Strength** demonstrated:
 - Mental/behavioral health needs of children were assessed and services provided
 - Agencies linked parents to parental education so that they could acquire the skills necessary to appropriately manage the child's behavioral issues
- Cases rated as an Area **Needing Improvement** did not provide needed services to address the problems noted in the Family Assessment.

Additional service needs identified by the Ohio Summit on Children, ProtectOhio, and Alternative Response.

- Drug and alcohol prevention/education programming;
- Affordable and flexible substance abuse treatment for parents and children;
- Mental health services, especially in small/rural counties;
- Accessible health services;
- Respite services (parents and foster caregivers);
- Parent education;
- Child Care;
- Kinship/Caregiver support;
- Employment and training;
- Special Education, especially for children with Autism and mental health issues;
- Affordable housing; and
- Mentoring (parent, teen, and family).

COLLABORATION

Collaboration with the Courts

Stakeholders design and coordinate policies, practices and services to improve child well-being. Findings of the CFSR 2008 Round 2 review indicated that Ohio was not in substantial conformity with the Systemic Factor Service Array. During the past 5 years multiple strategies were implemented and sustained to address Goal 4. These include the following:

Collaboration with Ohio Judicial System

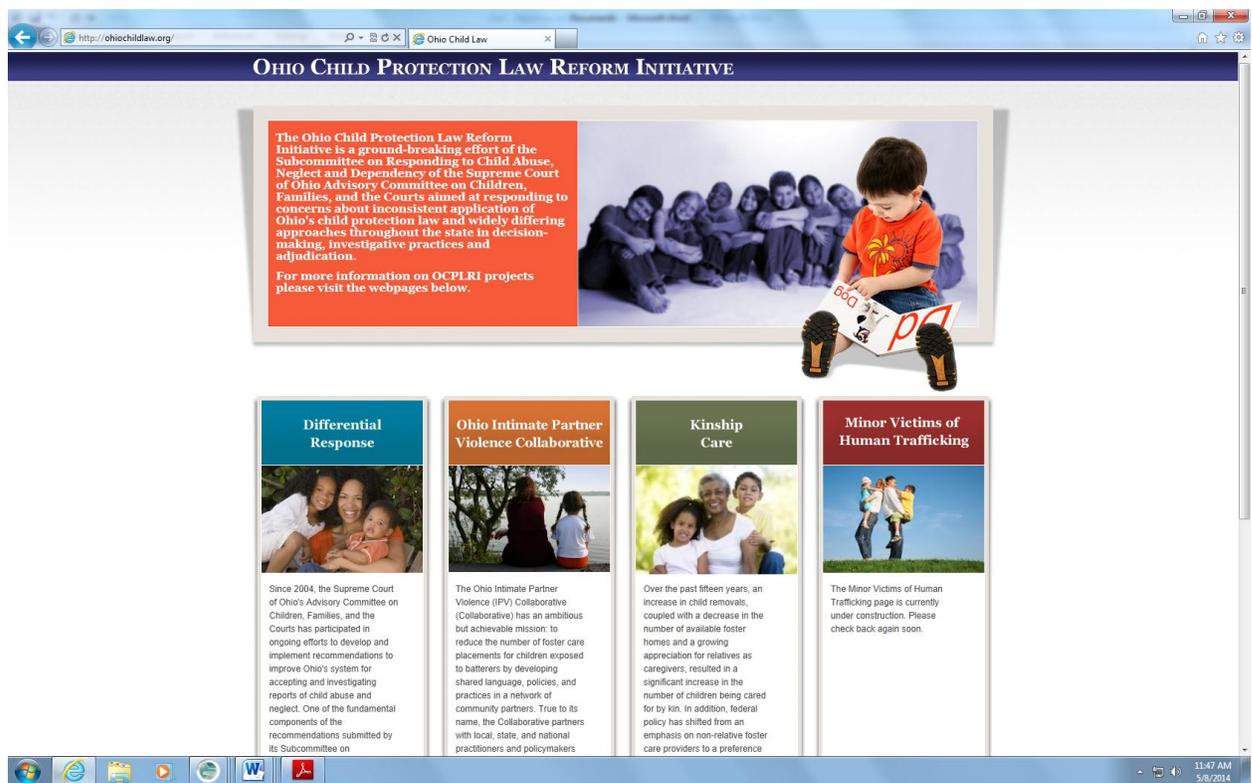
ODJFS and the Supreme Court of Ohio (SCO) are in the fifteenth year of a state-level affiliation that has progressed from a relationship of cooperation to a culture of partnership. Each entity is committed to a formal association on behalf of the children and families that appear before Ohio's courts; one that is memorialized through the state's only Interbranch Agreement and bi-annually reviewed and renewed. This partnership promotes shared values, influences, and agendas; it is a partnership founded on equal footing within the process.

Ohio undertook the court-connected tasks established within the Program Improvement Plan (PIP) through the use of multidisciplinary work groups that utilized local expertise and acknowledged the diversity of approach, resources and community need across Ohio's 88 counties. **The Advisory Committee on Children & Families** is appointed by the Chief Justice of the SCO to provide ongoing advice to the Court and its staff regarding the promotion of statewide rules and uniform standards concerning the establishment and operation of programs for children and families in Ohio courts; the development and delivery of services to Ohio courts on matters involving children and families, including training programs for judges and court personnel; and the consideration of any other issues the advisory committee deems necessary to assist the Court and its staff regarding children and families in Ohio courts. The advisory committee is jointly staffed by OFC and SCO representatives.

PIP work primarily was accomplished through one of the advisory committee's three subcommittees, the Subcommittee on Responding to Child Abuse, Neglect and Dependency (CAND). This multidisciplinary working group, established through court appointment and supported with by the National Center on Adoption Law and Policy, also serves as Ohio's Children's Justice Act Task Force. Activities included:

1. Ohio Children Protection Law Reform Initiative Website

CAND is committed to effectively communicating the substance of its work, making resources available to support full implementation of its initiatives, and regularly soliciting constituent input through surveys, focus groups and presentations to state membership associations. CAND has established a website to support this function, <http://www.ohiochildlaw.org>. The site includes a public section and a password-protected section. The public site links to informational resources of interest to stakeholders.



2. Ohio Summit on Children Website

During Ohio's two earlier summits on children, county teams assembled by a county juvenile judge were asked to identify items that would be of most use in local efforts to improve outcomes for their county's families and children. Access to data for informed decision-making and information regarding programs that other counties considered to "work" were frequent responses.

Ohio's Summit on Children website, hosted by SCO and jointly maintained by SCO and ODJFS, offers a regularly updated menu of data reports that are both state-aggregate and county-specific, and focused on the issues that courts and agencies continue to work together to address. In addition, the website offers links to resources, county program lists, and related websites.



CFSR
Data
Resources
Contacts

With goals of enhancing the safety, well-being and permanent home environments of children, the Governor and Chief Justice hosted Ohio Summits on Children in 2008 and 2009. Modeled after the National Summits on Children, the idea for an Ohio summit came about after the success of the Joint Supreme Court and Department of Job and Family Services *Beyond the Numbers* initiative, which primarily focused on improving court processes for the benefit of children and families.

The 2008 Summit on Children hosted 3-7 member teams convened by each county's juvenile judge and children services agency director. The event allowed county teams to hear national, state and local perspectives on the importance of collaboration on children's issues; saw examples of proven and promising programs; and, most importantly, discussed local issues affecting children. Facilitators assisted county teams as they assessed strengths and challenges, identified service gaps and developed local plans for improvement in delivering services to Ohio's children. At the conclusion of the summit, each county submitted a summary of their discussions and a plan to expand their teams to address local issues. Each team submitted a local plan on how the county will enhance local service delivery to children.

A follow-up summit was held in late 2009 to chart the progress of counties in their quest to meet the needs of Ohio's children. The opportunity to come together cross-jurisdictionally with colleagues to explore common challenges was one of the needs most frequently cited in the 2008 Post Summit Plans. Communities expressed a desire to learn from the experiences of their peers and to generate new approaches by sharing successes and challenges. The 2009 Summit was formatted to respond to this request through its use of breakout sessions. The Summit also gave counties the opportunity to hear about actions taken by the state to reduce bureaucratic barriers. Lastly, county teams were asked to prioritize their current planning issues, align them with solutions, and identify strategies for sustaining a collaborative approach following the Summit.

This Web site offers resource materials and data to support the ongoing efforts of county teams as they continue to work to enhance the safety, well-being and permanent home environments of Ohio's children.

COLLABORATION - OHIO CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND (OCTF)

The mission of the Ohio Children's Trust Fund (OCTF) is to prevent child abuse and neglect through investing in strong communities, healthy families and safe children. The OCTF was statutorily created in 1984 and is Ohio's sole public funding source dedicated to the primary and secondary prevention of child abuse and neglect. The Children's Trust Fund is designated by the governor to serve as the state lead agency to receive and administer the federal Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention grant.

The OCTF is a quasi-public entity, governed by a board of 15 members representing a broad public-private partnership. Eight members are appointed by the Governor to represent the citizens of Ohio, four members are legislative appointees and three members are agency directors (Ohio Departments of Health, Job and Family Services and Mental Health and Addiction Services). Current OCTF Board members reflect a diversity of expertise as well as geographic interest. The Board consists of representatives from the following fields: social work and child abuse and neglect services; expertise in government relations and advocacy; the healthcare industry and the private sector; expertise in higher education; the legal community and the medical community and expertise in mental health and non-profit executive leadership. The Board supervises the policies and programs of the Trust Fund and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services serves as the Trust Fund's administrative agent in that it provides for procurement and budgeting functions.

OFC Collaboration with the Ohio Children's Trust Fund

Throughout the last five years, the Office of Families and Children and the Ohio Children's Trust Fund have worked together to seamlessly integrate prevention efforts into the child welfare continuum within the OFC. In December 2010, the OCTF physically relocated their offices into the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Office of Families and Children and became part of the Office of Families and Children. This move resulted in increased partnership and collaboration between the Trust Fund and the Office of Families and Children and illustrates Ohio's commitment to delivering prevention services to both high-risk and low-risk families.

As a result of this alignment, the OCTF and OFC have worked together to conduct strategic, long-term and outcome focused planning in order to promote sustainable systems change for child maltreatment prevention in the state of Ohio. Furthermore, Jennifer Justice, the Deputy of the Office of Families and Children, sits on the Ohio Children's Trust Fund Board and ensures that the work of the Trust Fund aligns and supports the work of our office. This alignment not only resulted in increased partnership but also resulted in a decrease in duplicative prevention efforts.

During FFY 2013, we continued to partner and collaborate with the OCTF. Collaboration occurred at both a policy and programmatic level.

Partners for Ohio's Family Advisory Board

Recognizing that the prevention of child abuse and neglect is a goal of the child welfare system, we asked the Ohio Children's Trust Fund to sit on the Partners for Ohio's Family Advisory Board. The Partners for Ohio's Families (PFOF) Advisory Board is a leadership body formed through the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' Office of Families and Children. The goal of this initiative is to work in partnership with public and private child serving agencies to improve outcomes that promote safety and well-being. This encompasses not only a shift in how the state does business with external stakeholders, but also represents a change in culture and climate internal to the organization. The PFOF Advisory Board is comprised of representatives of local public and private child welfare agencies, OFC, OCTF and other child welfare stakeholders, such as the Supreme Court of Ohio, the Public Children Services Association of Ohio and the Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies. The Board serves as a forum to promote a sustainable and collaborative partnership aimed at improving Ohio's child welfare system. Since the Trust Fund provides support to families to prevent them from entering the child welfare system they bring a unique perspective to the advisory board.

Differential Response Leadership Council

During FFY 2013, the OCTF continued to support the statewide expansion of Differential Response. OCTF staff sat on the Differential Response Leadership Council and participated in statewide Differential Response Leadership team meetings and provided expertise and support in implementing secondary child abuse and neglect prevention programs at the local level.

Human Trafficking Prevention Workgroup

During FFY 2012 and FFY 2013, we collaborated with the Ohio Children's Trust Fund to co-chair the Human Trafficking Prevention Workgroup, a subgroup of the Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force. Survivors, practitioners, researchers, evaluators, state agencies, judges, state associations and the Governor's Office all participated on the workgroup. During FFY 2013, the workgroup convened five meetings to provide a foundation for proactively protecting Ohio's children and youth.

Acknowledging the need to be proactive, the Human Trafficking Prevention Workgroup made prevention initiatives a priority. During FFY 2013, the workgroup:

- Identified youth populations in Ohio most at risk for trafficking;
- Developed a framework for preventing trafficking, which includes both supply-side interventions and demand reduction strategies; and
- Developed a unified multi-agency plan for providing prevention services to youth populations most vulnerable to human trafficking.

Child Abuse and Neglect Curriculum

The Office of Families and Children continued to collaborate with the Trust Fund on the dissemination of the *Keeping Children Safe: Child Abuse and Neglect Curriculum for Early Childhood*

Professionals with the Office of Families and Children. Since county caseworkers are the primary audience for the train the trainer trainings, we help the Trust Fund publicize their trainings. We also have agreed to serve on the statewide workgroup that will update the curriculum in FFY 2014.

April: Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month

In both April 2013 and April 2014, the OCTF, OFC and Ohio's 88 counties collaborated to support Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month through the Wear Blue campaign. We worked with the Trust Fund to promote the Wear Blue campaign and participated in the campaign. Senior staff assisted the Trust Fund by speaking at county events.

PROGRAM SUPPORT

Training Updates for 2013

Updated curricula modules are available as an attachment. Please review the content in the **OCWTP Training Update** report which consists of 175+ new training endeavors including Human Trafficking. Continuous and ongoing methods to inform the training program of priority training needs are well established. It is a priority that they develop curricula that address the needs as they relate to meeting CFSP goals and objectives.

Technical Assistance to Counties

Look-back highlights provided ample explanation as to how Partners For Ohio's Families has impacted the area of technical assistance with the formation of regional teams. These teams continue to meet internally to maintain up-to-date information across bureaus in order to provide consistent and accurate technical assistance to the counties.

The CPOE Quality Assurance system is also intact as the technical assistance staff assigned do continue in their role of point of contact for the county public and private agencies and they are tasked with the responsibility of reviews. This is an ongoing set of activities with the goal of identifying both positive and challenging child welfare practices in PCSAs.

SACWIS Supports

Information Systems/Research Support

Ohio implemented significant modifications to improve SACWIS functionality and local implementation over the past 15 months. Approximately 655 enhancements/development items were completed in the following areas: 30% screening/intake, 23% case management, 23% finance, 16% resource management and 8% administration. Major project accomplishments are summarized below:

Homestudy Editing, Data Freezing and Enhanced Report Functionality

Significant development work to improve SACWIS foster care and adoptive homestudy functionality was completed in late April 2014. New functionality to ensure homestudy information is stored/frozen upon supervisory approval and retrievable for auditing or monitoring activities was introduced. Additional functionality to ease linkages and connections of person record updates (changes in client characteristics or demographic information) was also deployed.

Candidate for Foster Care on Case Plan

New functionality was implemented in October 2013 to enable county staff to document eligibility, risks, reasonable efforts and services associated with the federal designation of a child who is a "candidate for foster care" on the case plan.

Investigations on Adoptive Cases

Joint Application Design sessions are concluding to add functionality to enable caseworkers to record child abuse/neglect investigations on adoptive cases that may have previously been restricted.

Historically, SACWIS did not include functionality to permit investigations to be linked to existing adoption information in the system. Consequently, information on the rate of abuse/neglect in adoptive homes and/or the rate of adoption disruption was difficult to assess. Adoption development enhancements will be deployed in late summer 2014.

IV-E Court Roll Out

Approximately 44 Ohio courts have Memorandum of Understanding agreements with local child welfare agencies to take physical custody/care of youth and claim federal IV-E reimbursement for eligible placement costs. Over the past several years, Ohio has run the initiative as a pilot project and child welfare staff members have entered eligibility and visitation information in SACWIS on behalf of courts. A court steering committee was formed and met regularly throughout the year. Functionality to enable courts to expunge delinquency information was added in April 2014. Pilot roll out efforts were initiated with Cuyahoga, Hamilton and Miami County Juvenile Courts in January 2014. It is important to note, at this time, Cuyahoga and Hamilton County Juvenile Courts serve about half of the Ohio youth eligible for IV-E reimbursement through the program. Initial pilot efforts focused on direct data entry of eligibility, placement/provider and visitation information. The SACWIS team expects to partner with six additional counties in June/July 2014 to initiate additional roll outs.

Multi Ethnic Placement Act (MEPA) Provider Inquiry

New functionality to enable county agencies to record out-of-state provider inquiries to comply with the federal MEPA corrective action plan requirements were implemented in January 2014. Modifications in SACWIS to permit easy tracking and reporting of inquiries may assist counties with ensuring responsiveness and inclusion of potential out-of-state matches to place youth.

Adoption Foster Care Analysis Reporting System (AFCARS) Corrective Action Items

Ohio's first AFCARS review was completed in August 2012 and the federal report was issued in early June 2013. Ohio submitted the AFCARS Improvement Plan in July 2013 and implemented significant changes to comply with report findings. The team recently completed Joint Application Design sessions with county agencies to better incorporate client characteristic and medical/educational information. An initial development estimate was completed for this body of work and it is being incorporated into the schedule for the SFY15 time period.

Case Services Needs Assessment Functionality

SACWIS staff members have met throughout the year to assist with ongoing efforts to improve SACWIS service data integrity, streamline services data entry and develop service utilization reports. A real time service utilization report was deployed into the Business Intelligence Channel "BIC" report suite. Based upon user feedback and new rule changes, additional functionality to enable counties to more easily update services during the case review process was deployed in late March 2014. The SACWIS team continues to collaborate with counties to improve services data entry quality and SACWIS automation of child welfare services information.

System Test Environment with Batch Capacity & New Training Environment

The team successfully deployed a new test environment that replicates financial batch capacity. A new outward facing training environment was also implemented in February 2014. As Ohio has been working with the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program to integrate SACWIS training into core training curriculum offerings, the availability of an external (web based) training environment was critical. The new training environment is also utilized by several metropolitan counties.

Retained Applicant Fingerprint Database (Rapback) 2.0

Throughout the year, the SACWIS team partnered with the Ohio Attorney General's Office to begin developing a new workflow design and business process document to support the new version of Rapback. Resource constraints at the AG's office delayed initiation of development work. At this time, the SACWIS team is completing requirements documentation and working toward implementation by the end of CY2014.

ProtectOHIO

Significant work continues to support the Title IV-E waiver, ProtectOHIO program. Changes were made to consistently capture information related to two key intervention strategies: kinship services and family team meetings. Key collaborative meetings were held to assist county staff with documenting practice and data entry requirements to support these initiatives. Efforts will continue over the next reporting cycle to improve data reporting and linkages to child welfare outcome information.

Reports

Many new reports were introduced during the recording period. Online exception reports for AFCARS and NCANDS were introduced to assist local agencies with monitoring data quality in real time. A NYTD status summary report was deployed to enable counties to monitor progress in reaching transitioning youth to complete the outcome survey. A comprehensive visitation report including all case plan participants (parents) for both in-home and out of home care cases was introduced. Additional management reports to assist supervisors in monitoring workload activities (Semi Annual Review/Case Review due report, Safety Plan Summary and AWOL summary report).

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION BETWEEN TRIBES AND STATES

2014 ICWA State Standards Update

ICWA administrative code rules were updated and became effective February 1, 2014. Ohio Administrative Code rules 5101:2-53-01, 2-53-03, and 2-53-05 through 5101:2-53-08 are written to implement the requirements of Public Law 95-608 and the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978. Pursuant to OAC Chapter 53, PCSA, PCPA, and PNAs are required to fully comply with ICWA as follows:

Adhere to [5101:2-53-01 Definitions related to the Indian Child Welfare Act.](#)

(A) "Active efforts" means prompt and diligent efforts to:

- (1) Determine the child's tribe(s) for which he or she may qualify for membership.
- (2) Contact the child's tribe(s) when known.
- (3) Provide remedial services and rehabilitative programs designed to prevent the breakup of the family.
- (4) Coordinate with the child's tribe or any Indian organization to assist the Indian parent or Indian custodian with services needed to avoid the need for placement, or in the event placement becomes necessary, to serve as a placement for the child.
- (5) Make arrangements to ensure visitation with the extended family, or if there is not family in the area, with other tribal members to support the child's cultural connections.
- (6) Coordinate with the child's tribe and family to identify significant cultural and important familial events and arrange for the child's attendance.

(B) "Child custody proceedings" include foster care placements, termination of parental rights, pre-adoptive placements, and adoptive placements. A placement that meets the definition of foster care placement and results from an act that would not be deemed a crime if committed by an adult such as a status offense, is a child custody proceeding under the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) as reauthorized by the "Child and Family Services Improvement Act" of 2006. A child custody placement pursuant to a divorce where someone other than one of the parents will obtain custody of the child is also a child custody proceeding under ICWA.

(C) "Extended family member" is defined by the law or custom of the Indian child's tribe, or in the absence of such law or custom, a person who has reached the age of eighteen and who is the Indian child's grandparent, aunt or uncle, brother or sister, brother-in-law or sister-in-law, niece or nephew, first or second cousin, or step-parent.

(D) "Foster care placement" is any action where an Indian child is removed from his or her parents or Indian custodian for temporary placement in a home or institution, including guardianship and

conservatorship, and where the parent or custodian cannot have the child returned upon demand but where parental rights have not been terminated.

(E) "Indian" is any person who is a member of an Indian tribe or an Alaskan native who is a member of a regional corporation as defined by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act 43 U.S.C. Sec. 1606 (2008).

(F) "Indian child" is any unmarried person under age eighteen and is either:

(1) A member of an Indian tribe.

(2) Eligible for tribal membership in an Indian tribe and is the biological child of a member of an Indian tribe, or an Alaskan native who is a member of a regional corporation as defined by the Alaska Native Claim Settlement Act.

(G) "Indian child's tribe" is the Indian tribe in which an Indian child is a member or eligible for membership, or in the case of an Indian child who is a member of or eligible for membership in more than one tribe, the Indian tribe with which the Indian child has the more significant contacts.

(H) "Indian custodian" is any Indian person who has legal custody of an Indian child under either tribal law or custom or under state law or to whom temporary physical care, custody, or control has been transferred by the parent of the child.

(I) "Indian organization" is any group, association, partnership, corporation, or legal entity owned or controlled by Indians, or a majority of whose members are Indian.

(J) "Indian tribe" is any tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community of Indians recognized by the secretary of the interior as eligible for services provided to Indians because of their status as Indians, including any Alaska native village as defined by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, 43 U.S.C. Sec. 1602 (2000).

(K) "Parent" means the biological parent or parents of an Indian child or an Indian person who has adopted an Indian child either under state law or tribal law or custom. This includes the non-Indian biological parent but it does not include a putative father whose paternity has not been established.

(L) "Qualified expert witness" means an expert on the child's tribe. In addition, the bureau of Indian affairs has promulgated "Guidelines for State Courts" which interpret the ICWA. The following characteristics are set forth at 44 Federal Register 67,593 (1979) as those most likely to qualify a witness as an expert under ICWA:

- (1) A member of the Indian child's tribe who is recognized by the tribal community as knowledgeable in tribal customs as they pertain to family organization and child rearing practices.
- (2) A lay expert witness having substantial experience in the delivery of child and family services to Indians, and extensive knowledge of prevailing social and cultural standards and child rearing practices within the Indian child's tribe.
- (3) A professional person having substantial education and experience in the area of his or her specialty.

(M) "Reservation" means Indian country as defined in section 1151 of Title 18, U.S.C. (1949) and any lands which are either held by the United States in trust for the benefit of any Indian tribe or individual, or held by any Indian tribe or individual subject to a restriction by the U.S. against alienation.

(N) "State court of competent jurisdiction" means an Ohio juvenile court.

(O) "Secretary" means U.S. secretary of the interior.

(P) "Tribal court" is a court having jurisdiction over child custody proceedings. It may be an Indian court of offenses, a court established and operated under tribal law or custom, or any other administrative body of a tribe which is vested with authority over child custody proceedings.

(Q) "Tribal intervention" means a tribe may act on its right to participate in a child custody proceeding. This intervention can be wide in its interpretation; the tribe may request to transfer the case to tribal court (a transfer of jurisdiction) or the tribe may choose to only monitor the case through court records. Transfer of jurisdiction can be requested by either the parent or the tribe. A tribe may intervene at any point in an Indian child custody proceeding.

Ensure the Proper Interpretation of 5101:2-53-03 Determination of Indian status, tribal eligibility and membership.

[Replaces: part of rule 5101:2-53-04.](#)

(A) The public children services agency (PCSA) or the private child placing agency (PCPA) shall follow all of the Indian child welfare rules and guidelines as outlined by the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) as reauthorized by the "Child and Family Services Improvement Act" of 2006. Failure to identify Indian children can nullify court proceedings that have not been conducted in accordance with ICWA.

(B) For each referral the agency screens in, the agency shall make sufficient inquiry to determine whether a child or a family member of the child is a member or eligible for membership in an Indian tribe upon the initial face to face contact with the child's parent, guardian or custodian.

(C) If the child's parents, guardian or custodian are unavailable or unable to provide information regarding the Indian heritage, the agency shall consider the following and document in the case record:

- (1) A consultation with relatives or collaterals providing information which suggests the parent or the child may or may not be of Indian heritage.
- (2) An examination of any other information bearing on the determination of the child's Indian heritage, such as a review of all documentation in the file, including contact with previous caseworkers and communication from other sources, (e.g., Indian tribes and Indian organizations).

(D) If the agency is initiating court action for removal or custody of the child and information is obtained that suggests a child may be of Indian heritage but the tribe cannot be identified, the agency shall contact the bureau of Indian affairs (BIA), pursuant to paragraph (E) of this rule, to determine if:

- (1) The birth place of the child or parent is known to be a common residence of an Indian family.
- (2) The surname of the child or parent is one identified to be common among members of Indian tribes.

(E) If the agency is initiating court action for removal or custody of the child and information is obtained that suggests a child is of Indian heritage, is a tribal member or is eligible for membership and a tribe or possible tribes have been identified, the agency shall do all of the following:

- (1) Contact the tribe or possible tribes within fourteen days of the date the information was obtained; and
- (2) Submit a request to the tribe by certified letter for written verification from the tribe regarding the child's eligibility for tribal membership. The agency's inquiry to the tribe shall be sent "return receipt requested" to a membership committee, an enrollment clerk, or individual who is accustomed to responding to questions about tribal membership. If the tribe does not respond, the caseworker shall contact the tribe by telephone and document contacts made in the case record. Sources of verification include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - (a) "U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, Minneapolis Area Midwest Regional Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, One Federal Drive, Room 550, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111-4007."
 - (b) "Bureau of Indian Affairs, MS-4606-MIB, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240."
- (3) Bring to the juvenile court's attention, if applicable, any documentation submitted by the tribe and the agency's efforts to verify the child's Indian status.
- (4) Include the following information with the petition filed in such proceeding:
 - (a) The name, age, tribal affiliation(s) and last known address of the Indian child.

- (b) The name and address of the child's parent(s) and/or Indian custodian(s), if any, and tribe. The agency shall provide a detailed explanation of active efforts made to locate the parents, Indian custodian and/or the Indian child's tribe.
- (c) A detailed account of the circumstances which led the agency to conclude that the child would suffer imminent physical damage or harm.
- (d) A specific plan of action the agency is following, including services provided, to restore the child to his or her parent(s) or Indian custodian, or to transfer the child to the jurisdiction of the appropriate Indian tribe.

(F) If the juvenile court takes action to verify the child's Indian heritage, the agency shall provide the court with assistance if so requested.

(G) The agency shall assist the family in filing required documents if the family wishes to submit an application for the child to become a member of his or her tribe.

(H) A child who is determined by the tribe not to be a member nor eligible for membership is not subject to the requirements of the ICWA. Once tribal ineligibility has been determined, tribal status should be clearly documented in the case record, along with the date and source of documentation. In such cases, agency staff shall:

- (1) Document in the case record steps taken to determine the child's Indian/tribal ancestry and the tribe's written statement declaring the child ineligible for membership.
- (2) Incorporate in any court hearing the tribe's written statement declaring the child ineligible for membership.

Ensure Adherence to [5101:2-53-05](#) Voluntary placement for temporary custody of Indian child.

(A) A public children services agency (PCSA) or private child placing agency (PCPA) may accept a voluntary placement agreement for temporary custody of an Indian child from a parent, guardian or Indian custodian for the purpose of placing the child in substitute care only if the agreement is executed upon an JFS 01645 "Agreement for Temporary Custody of Child" (rev. 4/2006) and is recorded before a juvenile court, or a tribal court, if jurisdiction has been transferred there.

(B) The agency shall submit a notification of the voluntary placement agreement to the tribe's designated agent or tribal court pursuant to rule [5101:2-53-03](#) of the Administrative Code. The tribe retains the right to participate as an interested party or to intervene at any point, even if the tribe has declined to be involved.

(C) An agency shall abide by the agreement for temporary custody requirements set forth in rules [5101:2-42-06](#) , [5101:2-42-07](#) and [5101:2-42-08](#) of the Administrative Code, and shall document in the child's case record that:

- (1) The agreement for temporary custody was not executed until at least ten days after the birth of the Indian child. Any consent given prior to, or within ten days after, birth of the Indian child shall not be valid.
- (2) The terms and consequences of the agreement for temporary custody were fully explained in detail. If the agency has reason to believe that the parent or Indian custodian will not understand the agreement for temporary custody because of possible limited English proficiency, a copy of the agreement shall be sent to the bureau of Indian affairs (BIA) area office nearest to the residence of that person, and a request made of BIA to arrange for translation in the language that the parent or Indian custodian best understands. The voluntary agreement for temporary custody shall not be executed until it has been translated into the language that the parent or Indian custodian best understands.
- (3) The parent or legal guardian is requesting the agency take custody and provide services because one of the following conditions exists:
 - (a) The child cannot remain at home due to a temporary crisis in the family, and cannot safely stay with a member of the extended family or another responsible adult well known to the child.
 - (b) The child needs to be placed outside the home due to problems in the family that could compromise the safety of a family member, and a placement of limited duration with assistance from the agency providing intensive services that are likely to reunite the family and reduce the safety concerns is needed.
- (4) The parent or legal guardian or custodian is immediately and temporarily unable to fulfill his or her parental responsibilities and this inability will be alleviated with short-term placement.

(D) Any parent or Indian custodian may withdraw consent to a foster care placement under law at any time, orally or by written notification and, upon such withdrawal, the child shall be returned to the parent or Indian custodian.

(E) If a parent or Indian custodian request the termination of the voluntary agreement and the agency has reason to believe the child will be unsafe if returned home to the parent or Indian custodian, the agency shall submit a request to the juvenile court requesting temporary or permanent custody.

Ensure Adherence to [5101:2-53-06](#) Emergency removal and involuntary custody of Indian children.

Replaces: part of rule [5101:2-53-04](#)

(A) A public children services agency (PCSA) can take emergency protective custody of any Indian child pursuant to paragraph (C) of rule [5101:2-39-01](#) of the Administrative Code regardless of the jurisdictional status of his or her tribe as long as the child is in danger of imminent physical damage or harm.

(B) When emergency removal of a child from his or her own home is necessary, the PCSA shall consider the child's racial or ethnic background to determine Indian heritage. In such cases where the circumstances during the removal are not favorable to identify or inquire if a child is of Indian heritage, upon the agency's initial contact the case worker shall take the required steps to determine the Indian status of eligibility and membership. The agency shall act in accordance with the requirements set forth in paragraph (C) of rule [5101:2-53-03](#) of the Administrative Code.

(C) Prior to an involuntary custody court proceeding, the PCSA or private child placing agency (PCPA) shall provide the court with information which either proves or suggests a child is a member of an Indian tribe and is eligible to be within the jurisdiction of a tribal court pursuant to rule [5101:2-53-03](#) of the Administrative Code.

(D) The agency shall notify the parents or Indian custodian and the Indian child's tribe or tribal court, region director at the bureau of Indian affairs (BIA), and the U.S. secretary of the interior of all juvenile court proceedings involving foster care placement, termination of parental rights, pre-adoptive or adoptive placement. The agency shall send the notice by registered mail with "return receipt requested" and the notice shall include:

- (1) The name of the Indian child.
- (2) The Indian child's tribal affiliation.
- (3) A copy of the petition, complaint, or other document by which the proceeding was initiated.
- (4) The name of the petitioner and the name and address of the petitioner's attorney.
- (5) A statement of the right of the parent or Indian custodian and the child's tribe to intervene in the proceeding.
- (6) A statement of the right of the parent or Indian custodian and the Indian child's tribe that no temporary or permanent court commitment proceeding shall be held until at least ten days after the parent or Indian custodian and the Indian child's tribe have received notice of the agency's intention to commence such an involuntary court action. This statement shall also include the provision that, upon request, the parent or Indian custodian or the Indian child's tribe shall be granted up to twenty additional days to prepare for the proceedings.
- (7) The location, mailing address, and telephone number of the juvenile court.
- (8) A statement of the right of the parent or Indian custodian or the Indian child's tribe to petition the juvenile court to transfer the proceeding to the Indian child's tribal court.
- (9) A statement of the potential legal consequences of an adjudication on future custodial rights of the parents or Indian custodians.
- (10) A statement regarding the confidential nature of child custody proceedings.

(E) If there is reason to believe that the parent or Indian custodian will not understand the notice because of possible limited English proficiency, a copy of the notice shall be sent by the agency to the BIA area office nearest to the residence of that person, and a request made of BIA to arrange for

translation in the language that the parent or Indian custodian best understands. The PCSA or PCPA shall document the request for translation in the file.

(F) The agency shall notify the tribe's designated agent or tribal court affecting their tribal member even if the tribe has declined to be involved. The tribe retains the right to participate as an interested party or to intervene at any point in the proceeding.

(G) If the identity or location of the parent or Indian custodian and the tribe cannot be identified, the agency shall send the same type of notification identified in paragraph (D) of this rule in the same manner to the region director at BIA and U.S. secretary of the interior, who shall have fifteen days after receipt to notify the parents or Indian custodian and the tribe.

(H) If the agency recommends foster placement, an affidavit documenting active efforts shall be submitted to the court containing all of the following information:

- (1) A description of active efforts to coordinate with the child's tribe or any Indian organization in assisting the Indian parent or Indian custodian with services needed to prevent the need for placement, and an explanation of why these services were unsuccessful in maintaining the child in the home.
- (2) An explanation of why the child cannot be protected from serious emotional or physical harm if the child remains in the home even if services are provided to the child and family.
- (3) An explanation of the diligent efforts made to contact the child's extended family about providing a placement for the child or, if any members are not known, diligent efforts made to contact the child's tribe and other local Indian organizations for assistance in identifying and contacting extended family, other tribal members, or Indian families for placement.

(I) The agency shall submit a report that contains the following information at the review hearing:

- (1) A description of active efforts to reunify the family since the last disposition or review hearing and if those efforts were not successful, an explanation regarding why.
- (2) That efforts were made by the agency to arrange for the child's visitation with extended family, or with other tribal members, to ensure the child's ongoing participation in his or her culture.
- (3) A statement of family changes needed to correct the problems necessitating intervention, with timetables for accomplishing them.
- (4) A description of services to be provided to assist the family, specifically identifying those made available with assistance from the tribe or an Indian organization.
- (5) A description of services to be provided to ensure the child's ongoing connection to his or her culture while placed outside of his/her family, including attendance at significant cultural events.

- (6) A description of actions to be taken by the parents to correct the identified problems, and of the parents' compliance with the case plan thus far.
- (7) A statement that active efforts have been made to provide services to rehabilitate or prevent the breakup of the Indian family and that these efforts were not successful.

(J) If the agency petitions the court for termination of parental rights, the agency shall include the following information in the petition:

- (1) The description of circumstances supporting the grounds for termination.
- (2) A description of the active efforts made to provide remedial services and rehabilitative programs as coordinated efforts to prevent the breakup of the family and why these efforts were unsuccessful.
- (3) A description of the active efforts made to assist the Indian parent or custodian with services needed to avoid termination of parental rights and an explanation of why these efforts were unsuccessful.
- (4) An explanation of why the child cannot be protected from the identified problems in the home.
- (5) A summary of the tribe's position regarding the permanency plan, including any attachments or supporting documents sent by the tribe to the agency.
- (6) An explanation of the efforts completed pursuant to rule [5101:2-53-08](#) of the Administrative Code.
- (7) A description of arrangements made by the agency to ensure visitation and all efforts made to maintain the child's cultural connections.
- (8) A permanency plan for the child.

(K) Upon the agency's determination that there are compelling reasons not to pursue termination of parental rights or reunification, the agency shall petition the court for a planned permanent living arrangement disposition. The planned permanent living arrangement petition shall include the following:

- (1) Documented facts and circumstances refuting the grounds for termination of parental rights. The agency has to show that although the child cannot be returned home, termination of parental rights is not in the child's best interest.
- (2) A description of why the planned permanent living arrangement is in the child's best interest.
- (3) A description of the active efforts made to provide remedial services and rehabilitative programs as coordinated efforts to prevent the breakup of the family and why these efforts were unsuccessful.
- (4) An explanation of the active efforts made to contact the child's tribe, extended family, and other local Indian organizations for assistance in identifying a culturally appropriate placement for the child.

- (5) An explanation of why the child cannot be moved to a placement that meets the preferences established in accordance with rule [5101:2-53-08](#) of the Administrative Code if the child is not placed with the tribal placement preference.
- (6) A description of arrangements made by the agency to ensure visitation with extended family, or, if there is no extended family, with other tribal members, to support the child's cultural connections.
- (7) A summary of the tribe's position regarding the permanency plan, including any attachments or supporting documents sent by the tribe to the agency.
- (8) A plan to ensure the stability of the planned permanent living arrangement.

[5101:2-53-07 Permanent surrender or parental consent to adoptive placement of Indian children.](#)

Replaces: 5101:2-42-54

(A) A public children services agency (PCSA) or private child placing agency (PCPA) may accept a permanent surrender of an Indian child by a parent or Indian custodian only if the surrender is executed on a JFS 01666 "Permanent Surrender of Child" (rev. 6/2006) and is recorded before a juvenile court, or a tribal court if jurisdiction has been transferred there.

(B) The agency shall act in accordance by the permanent surrender requirements set forth in rules [5101:2-42-09](#) and [5101:2-42-95](#) of the Administrative Code with the exception that a permanent surrender for an Indian child cannot be executed until at least ten days after his or her birth.

(C) All juvenile court proceedings are to be notified to the tribe's designated agent or tribal court by the agency of every proceeding affecting their tribal member even if the tribe has declined to be involved. The tribe still retains the right to participate as an interested party or to intervene at any point in the proceedings.

(D) The agency shall recognize and adhere to the following rights of parents of Indian children relative to the withdrawal of permanent surrender or parental consent to adoptive placements:

- (1) A permanent surrender action or consent to adoption may be withdrawn at any time for any reason prior to the issuance of a final decree of adoption. Upon such withdrawal, the Indian child is to be returned to his or her parent or Indian guardian.
- (2) Within two years after the entry of a final decree of adoption, the parent or Indian custodian may withdraw consent to adoption if the parent or Indian custodian can prove parental consent was obtained through fraud or duress. Upon court order, the Indian child is to be returned to the parent or Indian custodian.

(E) If the agency has reason to believe that the parent or Indian custodian will not understand the permanent surrender because of possible limited English proficiency, a copy of the JFS 01666 form shall be sent to the bureau of Indian affairs (BIA) area office nearest to the residence of that person, and a request is made of BIA to arrange for translation in the language that the parent or Indian custodian best understands.

5101:2-53-08 Placement preference of Indian children.

Replaces: part of rule [5101:2-53-02](#)

(A) When the public children services agency (PCSA) or private child placing agency (PCPA) has temporary custody of an Indian child, it shall select a substitute care setting that is consistent with the best interest and special needs of the child and that meets the following criteria:

- (1) Is considered the least restrictive, most family-like setting available to meet the child's emotional and physical needs.
- (2) Is in close proximity to the home from which the child was removed or the home in which the child will be permanently placed.
- (3) Is in close proximity to the school in which the child was enrolled prior to placement.
- (4) Is designed to enhance the likelihood of achieving permanency plan goals.
- (5) Is able to provide a safe environment for the child.

(B) In any substitute or pre-adoptive placement consideration, the agency shall consider placement preference to the following in order from least restrictive to most restrictive:

- (1) A member of the Indian child's extended family.
- (2) A foster home licensed, approved, or specified by the Indian child's tribe.
- (3) An Indian foster home certified by the Ohio department of job and family services (ODJFS) or another state agency with such authority.
- (4) An institution for children approved by an Indian tribe or operated by an Indian organization which has a program suitable to meet the Indian child's needs.

(C) The agency shall attempt to place siblings in the same home unless it is not in the child's or siblings' best interest.

(D) When the Indian child's tribe establishes a different order of preference by resolution for a non-adoptive substitute care placement or an adoptive placement, the agency or court effecting the placement shall abide by the tribe's order so long as the placement is the least restrictive setting appropriate to the particular needs of the child.

(E) In any adoptive placement of an Indian child, a placement preference shall be given, to the following:

- (1) A member of the child's extended family.
- (2) Other members of the Indian child's tribe.
- (3) Other Indian families.
- (4) Other non-Indian prospective adoptive families.

(F) If the agency believes that there is good cause not to abide by the order of placement preference, then its findings shall be based on one or more of the following considerations:

- (1) The request of the biological parents or, when age-appropriate, by the Indian child.
- (2) The extraordinary physical or emotional needs of the child as determined by a qualified expert witness.
- (3) The unavailability of preferred families after a diligent search for such families has been conducted.

(G) The burden of establishing the existence of good cause not to follow the order of placement preference is the responsibility of the agency, if the agency's decision is that the placement preference not be followed.

(H) Whenever an Indian child is placed by or leaves the custody of an agency, the agency shall complete a JFS 01646 "Report of Indian Child Placement" (rev. 11/2007). The JFS 01646 shall be submitted to ODJFS or documented in the statewide automated child welfare information system (SACWIS) within fourteen calendar days of the child's placement or termination from custody.

(I) The Indian child's case record shall contain the complete record of placement determination.

2014 ICWA Children Population - Update

In FFY 2013, there were 139 children identified as having a race of 'Native American' in agency custody. Of those, Native American was the only race identified for 31 of the children. The remaining 108 children had at least one other race identified. Additional information is captured in the tables below relative to the children who were in agency custody at the time of this report. As noted, 83 Native American children were in custody at the time of this report. More than half are over the age of ten. Sixty-one percent were placed in a foster home setting, while thirteen and twelve percent were in relative/nonrelative or residential facilities respectively. Over thirty-one percent were in the custody of Franklin County Children Services, Columbus, Ohio.

Native American Children Currently in Custody (83 in Total)

Custodial Agency	Count of Children
Ashland County Department of Job and Family Services	1
Ashtabula County Children Services Board	2
Clermont County Department of Job and Family Services	3
Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services	10

Defiance County Department of Job and Family Services	2
Delaware County Department of Job and Family Services	1
Fairfield County Department of Job and Family Services	1
Franklin County Children Services Board	26
Gallia County Children Services Board	1
Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services	8
Hancock County Job and Family Services	1
Harrison County Department of Job and Family Services	1
Henry County Department of Job and Family Services	2
Highland County Job & Family Services- Children Services Division	1
Jefferson County JFS- Children Services Division	1
Logan County Children Services Board	3
Lucas County Children Services	7
Muskingum County Children Services Board	4
Portage County Department of Job and Family Services	1
Summit County Children Services	5
Lorain County Juvenile Court	2
Total	83

Native American Children Currently in Custody (83 in Total)

Current Age	Count of Children
0 to 3	23
4 to 6	12
7 to 9	5
10 to 14	20
15+	23

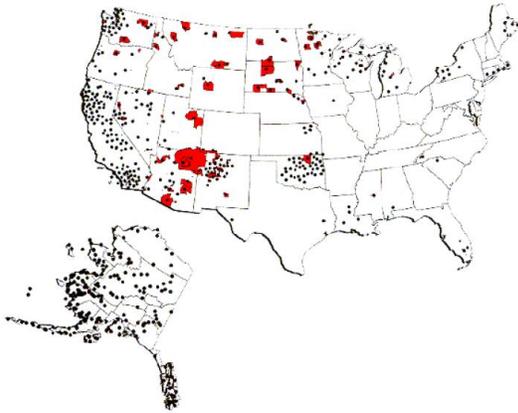
Placement Setting Type	Count of Children
Adoptive Placement	4
Certified Approved Non-Relative	2
Certified Approved Relative	9
Certified Children's Residential Center	10
Certified Foster Home	51
Certified Group Home	3
Independent Living	4

ICWA Noncompliance- Item 14 for CPOE Cycle 8 and 9 Reviews is dedicated to ICWA. Of the reviews completed in both cycles, a total of five QIPs were required where there were problems identified with compliance with ICWA. Henry County was cited in CPOE Stage 8 for failing to comply with ICWA. In the report it stated: "The agency conducted sufficient inquiry with parents to determine that one of the children reviewed may be eligible for an Indian tribe. The agency, however,

did not contact the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs for over five months. Technical assistance was provided that contact must be made within 14 days." Fulton, Hardin, Morrow and Warren were each required to develop a QIP for CPOE Stage 9 since there was "insufficient inquiry regarding children's Native American Heritage."

Ensuring Adequate Technical Assistance for Agency Staff

INDIAN COUNTRY FACTS



Although there are no federally recognized tribes in the state, Ohio continues to seek guidance from ICW experts and convey guidelines and technical assistance to agencies regarding the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), specifically in locating the Native American child and family population (i.e., <2 percent in Ohio). In 2013, ODJFS designated a staff to serve as the ICWA rule developer. The developer completed revisions to OAC 5101:2-53-01 through 08 to ensure compliance with federal language. ODJFS staff also participate in regular ICW Manager activities. ICW Managers is a workgroup which includes Indian child welfare professionals from most of the states across the nation. ICW managers have access to the ICW Managers site which is dedicated to providing resources for workgroup members to share best practices, policy, resources, and discuss events. Membership is limited to state-affiliated members and invited parties, and serves as a private meeting place that includes a shared calendar, discussion forums, member profiles, photo gallery, file storage and more. State staff will utilize the ICW Managers Workgroup to exchange information about the APRS plan with the tribal community and to collaborate with agencies where Native American children are in custody, as well as routinely share information with agencies from credible sources such as:

- https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/issue_briefs/tribal_state/tribal_state.pdf#page=1&view=Introduction
- HHS Office of Inter-governmental and External Affairs:
- <http://www.hhs.gov/iea/>
- Cultural guide:

- <http://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content//SMA08-4354/SMA08-4354.pdf>
- Native American Trauma:
<http://www.icctc.org/Trauma%20in%20Indian%20Country-revised.pdf>
- Ohio NA population % by county (2010):
- <http://www.indexmundi.com/facts/united-states/quick-facts/ohio/american-indian-and-alaskan-native-population-percentage#map>
Ohio specific history:
<http://www.native-languages.org/ohio.htm>

In addition, ODJFS will continue through the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program to make available the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) online course to public children services agency staff and to provide educational information on the Indian Child Welfare Act through:

- Updated policy guidance letter(s);
- Updated administrative code rule(s);
- Statewide video conferences;
- Workshops as part of various continuing education conferences; and
- Provision of ongoing technical assistance to agencies on specific cases.

Each PCSA was asked to designate at least one staff person to complete the online course and serve as a point person for periodic teleconferences and meetings regarding practice issues related to the Indian Child Welfare Act. Since inception 351 individuals and 60 counties have registered to have taken the course and are the contact person for on-going training and conferences. It is a goal to reach 100% representation in Ohio.

FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT RECRUITMENT

Diligent Recruitment

The Dave Thomas Foundation Partnership

To keep adoptable children with lengthy placement histories from lingering in foster system in Ohio and further assure the population of adoptive families reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of children needing permanency, ODJFS began a partnership with the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption in July, 2012. ODJFS allocated \$2.3 million, including \$1.1 million in state funding, to hire specialized, child-focused recruiters whose sole mission is to find adoptive families for older children in foster care. Using the renowned child-focused, *Wendy's Wonderful Kids* (WWK) program model, recruiters across Ohio work to match and place children in foster care between the ages of 9 and 17, who have been awaiting adoption for more than two years. The program targets over 700 children in the custody of PCSAs across the state. WWK strategies include: an initial referral process; relationship building;

in-depth case record reviews; child specific family search efforts; assessments; child readiness efforts; network capacity building; and child-focus recruitment plans.

2014 Update

In July, 2013, ODJFS continued the adoption incentive program as well as reentered into contract with the David Thomas Foundation for Adoption (DTFA). The contract increased to \$3,408,750 for SFY 2014 and \$3,408,750 for SFY 2015 to cover expenses and recruitment services for up to fifty recruiters per year, hired by PCSA, PCPA, and/or PNAs at an average of \$67,500 per recruiter. In addition, the program's target population was expanded to include children under the age of five and youth placed in the permanent planned living arrangements.

Outcomes directly relating to the WWK are starting to realize. To date, forty-five recruiters under contract work to implement an aggressive, statewide recruitment strategy aimed at moving Ohio's longest-waiting children from foster care into adoptive families. The model has been successful in finalizing 33 adoptions since the inception of the ODJFS contract, including several sibling groups. As of March 31, 2014, 544 children were enrolled in Ohio's WWK program. 114 children have been matched since July 1, 2013, bringing the total to 178 since inception. Fifty children are in pre-adoptive placement. The contract also covers statewide training for recruiters, to include the 2013 WWK Recruiter and Supervisor Summit, held in Columbus in May. Topics covered included:

- *Developing Professional Cultural Competence In Adoption*, as presented by the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA)
- *Working Effectively with Child's Network And Child Welfare Jurisdictions*
- *State Of Adoption*, presented by Ambassador Susan Jacobs, Special Advisor for Children's Issues, U.S. Department Of State
- *Focus on Older Youth*
- *Sibling Issues in Foster Care and Adoption*
- *Father-Finding and Engagement*
- *Kinship Families and Permanency for Children*
- *Adoptions and Native Americans*
- *Working with Children with Extreme Behaviors*
- *Surviving Disruptions*

Moving forward, ODJFS will include incentivizing placements of children in foster care who are under age five and awaiting permanency. Local initiatives in operation in Ohio also have proven to be effective diligent recruitment efforts such as the Partners for Forever Families, Cleveland, Ohio.

Partners for Forever Families

Partners for Forever Families is a public-private partnership between Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services, Adoption Network Cleveland, Beech Brook and Case Western Reserve University. Its mission is to promote permanency for older youth in care, siblings who strive to be together, and the support of kinship families who are permanency resources for youth in care.

Partners for Forever Families has two primary components:

- Using a neighborhood-based approach to increase permanency outcomes for youth on the verge of aging out by having a teen specialist work alongside para-professional navigators and neighborhood collaborative staff to demonstrate that found families can be engaged through the process
- Driving system change by aligning policy with practice in areas that impact outcomes related to permanency for our children and youth in care.

National Center for Adoption Law and Policy – Capital Law School, Columbus, Ohio

ODJFS utilizes the National Center for Adoption Law and Policy (NCALP) for recruitment purposes. NCALP is responsible for manning the Ohio Adoption Photolisting website in concert with AdoptUSKids. The “photolisting” highlights waiting children who are in the permanent custody of Ohio public children services agencies and for whom families are being sought. A photo and brief profile are listed for each child as well as contact information. It is expected ODJFS will continue to collaborate with NCALP- which also services youth who have aged out of foster care.

General information such as to who may adopt, the adoption home study process, adoption subsidies available, costs associated with adopting, access to adoption records and information on interstate adoptions can also be found on this website. In addition, the “photolisting” website provides links to Ohio Department of Job and Family Services publication such as the “Ohio Adoption Guide” and the “Adoption Subsidies Guide” and lists information about ongoing events, trainings and meetings.

In an effort to further inform the state's impact on adoption for all age populations please review the following data:

SFY 2013 Actuals																
Completed adoption for children under 9								Completed adoption for children 9 and older								
Agency	2010	2011	2012	2013 Base Line	Finalized July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013	Finalizations Above Base Line	Adoption Incentive Achieved for SFY 2013	Agency	2010	2011	2012	2013 Base Line	Finalized July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013	Finalizations Above Base Line	Adoption Incentive Achieved for SFY 2013	Total Adoption Incentive Achieved for SFY 2013
Adams County	6	2	0	3	6	3	\$9,750.00	Adams County	1	0	3	1	1	0	\$0.00	\$9,750.00
Allen County	4	2	7	4	8	4	\$13,000.00	Allen County	3	3	9	5	8	3	\$19,500.00	\$32,500.00
Ashland County	3	12	1	5	4	0	\$0.00	Ashland County	2	1	6	3	2	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ashtabula County	12	6	14	11	8	0	\$0.00	Ashtabula County	5	2	4	4	1	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Athens County	10	16	4	10	4	0	\$0.00	Athens County	4	6	9	6	3	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Auglaize	0	0	0	1		0	\$0.00	Auglaize	0	0	1	1	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Belmont County	5	7	1	4	4	0	\$0.00	Belmont County	0	0	1	1	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Brown County	9	3	9	7	4	0	\$0.00	Brown County	4	0	1	2	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Butler County	44	44	55	48	40	0	\$0.00	Butler County	10	13	20	14	13	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Carroll County	1	0	4	2	0	0	\$0.00	Carroll	0	0	0	1	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Champaign County	4	0	0	1	0	0	\$0.00	Champaign County	1	2	0	1	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Clark County	27	19	22	23	15	0	\$0.00	Clark County	3	3	6	4	5	1	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00
Clermont County	36	29	32	32	37	5	\$16,250.00	Clermont County	14	14	10	13	7	0	\$0.00	\$16,250.00
Clinton County	2	2	6	3	7	4	\$13,000.00	Clinton County	1	1		1	3	2	\$13,000.00	\$26,000.00
Columbiana County	8	5	9	7	6	0	\$0.00	Columbiana County	6	1	3	3	7	4	\$26,000.00	\$26,000.00

Coshocton County	0	1	2	1	3	2	\$6,500.00		Coshocton County	0	1	1	1	1	0	\$0.00	\$6,500.00
Crawford County	8	2	5	5	6	1	\$3,250.00		Crawford County	1	1	4	2	0	0	\$0.00	\$3,250.00

Cuyahoga County	147	131	103	127	93	0	\$0.00		Cuyahoga County	57	25	34	39	19	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Darke County	0	2	3	2	2	0	\$0.00		Darke County	0	2	3	2	1	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Defiance County	2	5	4	4	2	0	\$0.00		Defiance County	0	6	0	2	1	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Delaware County	3	3	1	2	1	0	\$0.00		Delaware County	1	2	0	1	2	1	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00
Erie County	4	1	1	2	3	1	\$3,250.00		Erie County	2	1	3	2	0	0	\$0.00	\$3,250.00
Fairfield County	16	9	15	13	19	6	\$19,500.00		Fairfield County	2	3	5	3	7	4	\$26,000.00	\$45,500.00
Fayette County	3	4	7	5	11	6	\$19,500.00		Fayette County	1	1	3	2	0	0	\$0.00	\$19,500.00
Franklin County	125	132	93	117	92	0	\$0.00		Franklin County	44	67	47	53	38	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fulton County	1	1	1	1	1	0	\$0.00		Fulton County	1	0	0	1	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Gallia County	1	4	0	2	4	2	\$6,500.00		Gallia County	0	4	1	2	1	0	\$0.00	\$6,500.00
Geauga County	3	3	2	3	3	0	\$0.00		Geauga County	9	2	6	6	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Greene County	10	7	8	8	1	0	\$0.00		Greene County	8	3	3	5	5	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Guernsey County	11	2	2	5	11	6	\$19,500.00		Guernsey County	1	4	7	4	5	1	\$6,500.00	\$26,000.00
Hamilton County	87	71	92	83	77	0	\$0.00		Hamilton County	14	23	27	21	19	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hancock County	11	12	7	10	6	0	\$0.00		Hancock County	1	4	2	2	1	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hardin County	0	0	4	1	3	2	\$6,500.00		Hardin County	0	2	0	1	0	0	\$0.00	\$6,500.00
Harrison County	2	1	0	1	2	1	\$3,250.00		Harrison County	1	0	1	1	0	0	\$0.00	\$3,250.00
Henry County	2	1	0	1	0	0	\$0.00		Henry County	0	0	1	1	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Highland	15	7	2	8	4	0	\$0.00		Highland	0	2	7	3	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00

County									County								
Hocking County	4	4	3	4	4	0	\$0.00		Hocking County	0	3	0	1	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Holmes County	1	0	1	1	1	0	\$0.00		Holmes	0	0	0	1	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Huron County	1	1	1	1	1	0	\$0.00		Huron County	1	3	1	2	1	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Jackson County	1	1	1	1	2	1	\$3,250.00		Jackson County	0	3	2	2	1	0	\$0.00	\$3,250.00
Jefferson County	4	9	0	4	4	0	\$0.00		Jefferson County	0	4	0	1	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Knox	0	0	0	1	0	0	\$0.00		Knox County	0	0	0	1	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lake County	3	1	1	2	4	2	\$6,500.00		Lake County	0	0	0	1	3	2	\$13,000.00	\$19,500.00
Lawrence County	3	10	15	9	0	0	\$0.00		Lawrence County	2	0	0	1	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Licking County	44	44	24	37	23	0	\$0.00		Licking County	13	7	4	8	10	2	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00
Logan County	4	2	2	3	4	1	\$3,250.00		Logan County	1	1	2	1	1	0	\$0.00	\$3,250.00
Lorain County	21	10	10	14	24	10	\$32,500.00		Lorain County	8	5	3	5	5	0	\$0.00	\$32,500.00
Lucas County	80	86	77	81	106	25	\$81,250.00		Lucas County	17	19	14	17	15	0	\$0.00	\$81,250.00
Madison County	3	4	4	4	0	0	\$0.00		Madison County	0	1	0	1	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mahoning County	15	9	6	10	7	0	\$0.00		Mahoning County	8	11	4	8	1	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Marion County	7	4	7	6	9	3	\$9,750.00		Marion County	1	1	1	1	2	1	\$6,500.00	\$16,250.00
Medina County	1	3	6	3	4	1	\$3,250.00		Medina County	0	0	0	1	4	3	\$19,500.00	\$22,750.00
Meigs County	5	1	4	3	5	2	\$6,500.00		Meigs County	1	0	0	1	1	0	\$0.00	\$6,500.00
Mercer County	1	1	5	2	1	0	\$0.00		Mercer County	0	0	1	1	1	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Miami County	6	4	2	4	0	0	\$0.00		Miami County	2	3	1	2	2	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Monroe County	0	2	0	1	0	0	\$0.00		Monroe County	2	0	0	1	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Montgomery County	39	39	59	46	45	0	\$0.00		Montgomery County	14	16	26	19	13	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Morgan	0	2	0	1	0	0	\$0.00		Morgan	0	2	0	1	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00

County									County								
Morrow County	2	0	0	1	0	0	\$0.00		Morrow County	0	2	0	1	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Muskingum County	10	17	11	13	16	3	\$9,750.00		Muskingum County	7	0	2	3	1	0	\$0.00	\$9,750.00
Noble	0	0	0	1	1	0	\$0.00		Noble County	0	0	0	1	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ottawa County	0	0	0	1	3	2	\$6,500.00		Ottawa County	0	0	0	1	0	0	\$0.00	\$6,500.00
Paulding County	0	0	0	1	0	0	\$0.00		Paulding County	0	0	0	1	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Perry County	1	2	7	3	6	3	\$9,750.00		Perry County	1	1	2	1	4	3	\$19,500.00	\$29,250.00
Pickaway County	2	1	7	3	1	0	\$0.00		Pickaway County	0	0	2	1	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pike County	2	1	0	1	5	4	\$13,000.00		Pike County	3	2	0	2	0	0	\$0.00	\$13,000.00
Portage County	5	4	11	7	4	0	\$0.00		Portage County	0	4	2	2	2	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Preble County	8	2	5	5	3	0	\$0.00		Preble County	1	3	1	2	2	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Putnam County	1	0	0	1	0	0	\$0.00		Putnam County	0	0	0	1	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Richland County	8	7	8	8	7	0	\$0.00		Richland County	4	2	1	2	1	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ross County	0	11	8	6	8	2	\$6,500.00		Ross County	1	3	3	2	10	8	\$52,000.00	\$58,500.00
Sandusky County	1	3	2	2	2	0	\$0.00		Sandusky County	0	3	1	1	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Scioto County	0	3	1	1	0	0	\$0.00		Scioto County	2	0	1	1	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Seneca County	0	4	0	1	2	1	\$3,250.00		Seneca County	1	9	1	4	1	0	\$0.00	\$3,250.00
Shelby County	2	0	0	1	7	6	\$19,500.00		Shelby County	2	2	1	2	1	0	\$0.00	\$19,500.00
Stark County	52	50	39	47	51	4	\$13,000.00		Stark County	12	17	8	12	12	0	\$0.00	\$13,000.00
Summit County	67	54	43	55	48	0	\$0.00		Summit County	17	27	30	25	18	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Trumbull County	28	16	23	22	17	0	\$0.00		Trumbull County	1	4	6	4	4	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Tuscarawas County	23	13	14	17	30	13	\$42,250.00		Tuscarawas County	9	10	3	7	13	6	\$39,000.00	\$81,250.00
Union	2	2	4	3	0	0	\$0.00		Union	1	0	0	1	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00

County									County								
Van Wert	0	0	0	1	0	0	\$0.00		Van Wert County	0	0	0	1	1	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Vinton County	0	3	0	1	2	1	\$3,250.00		Vinton County	0	6	0	2	3	1	\$6,500.00	\$9,750.00
Warren County	3	3	8	5	11	6	\$19,500.00		Warren County	2	2	1	2	3	1	\$6,500.00	\$26,000.00
Washington County	2	3	1	2	7	5	\$16,250.00		Washington County	2	1	3	2	2	0	\$0.00	\$16,250.00
Wayne County	12	7	8	9	12	3	\$9,750.00		Wayne County	4	3	7	5	4	0	\$0.00	\$9,750.00
Williams County	2	3	3	3	1	0	\$0.00		Williams County	0	0	0	1	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Wood County	6	8	0	5	0	0	\$0.00		Wood County	2	2	0	1	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Wyandot County	1	2	3	2	4	2	\$6,500.00		Wyandot	0	1	3	1	0	0	\$0.00	\$6,500.00
Grand Total	1105	1002	950	1027	979	143	\$464,750.00		Grand Total	339	382	365	381	292	43	\$279,500.00	\$744,250.00
South Central Total Allocation (Included Separately Above)																	\$68,250.00

ADOPTION INCENTIVES AND SERVICES UPDATE

Adoption Incentive Program Summary

Over twenty percent of the children in the custody of Ohio's public children services agencies (PCSA) are awaiting adoption. Two-thirds of the children are over the age of nine. This population has historically lingered for longer periods in care and face diminishing prospects for permanency as they grow older. As a result, finding permanent homes for waiting children remains a priority for the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS).

For this cause, in January 2012, ODJFS invited several adoption professionals to the table for an informal discussion about how ODJFS could assist in supporting Ohio's adoptions. Adoption advocates and practitioners from across the state were invited to discuss permanency planning for Ohio's hardest to place youth. Specifically, ODJFS wanted to know more about the influences and restrictive forces that impact PCSA adoptions in Ohio in areas of:

- Family Finding – Strategies employed by placement practitioners to successfully locate child-specific families (e.g., online tools and use of social networks);
- Homestudy Assessments – Processes most successful in moving foster to adopt placements to finalization (e.g., dual assessments, permanency roundtables, and regional collaborations involving public private provider);
- Post-Finalization Resources – Adoptive parenting and efforts to meet the needs of children within local communities (e.g., efforts to minimize disruptions and dissolutions, efforts to maximize services for children in PC who present with significant medical, mental, and behavioral health issues);
- Adoption Subsidy and Incentive Based Contracts – Efforts to provide financial to support to adoptive families (e.g., negotiations in adoption subsidies) and adoptive agencies (flexible funding and spending); and
- State and Local Policies and Procedures – Rules and regulations, policies and laws that impede or propel permanency planning.

Two initiatives birthed out of the result of the meeting: The Ohio Adoptive Incentive Program and ODJFS' partnership with the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption. Both initiatives work in tandem to recruit homes for waiting children and to promote the placement of such children in adoptive settings. The two pronged approach included:

- A focus on outreach, marketing, and regional services and training conferences. ODJFS sought to secure services of adoption professional in 2012-2013 to jointly work with the counties where target child populations reside, that would identify and assist families in moving through the adoption process.
- Incentivize PCSAs for finalizing adoptions of the target population (9 and older) over the county's average from the past three years. ODJFS used the SFY 2012 data to compare to the average of 2009, 2010, 2011 and to allocated incentive funds such that county agencies may reinvested in finalizing adoptions in 2013. Refer to SFY 2013 Adoption Incentive Calculation.

Ohio Adoption Loan Program

In 2012, ODJFS launched the Ohio Adoption Loan Program to help parents defray the initial costs of adopting a child. Adoptive parents with credit approval are eligible for assistance to cover adoption fees, court costs, attorney fees and other expenses directly related to the legal adoption of a child. Parents may receive up to \$3,000 from the loan program if the child being adopted lives in Ohio and up to \$2,000 if the child is from outside Ohio. A regional financial institution, the Fifth Third Bank, manages the program, including receiving, reviewing and approving all loan applications. The program was advertised through a statewide press release in 2012 and 2013. Though the loan program is underutilized by adoptive parents, ODJFS plans to continue to make the program available over the next five years.

Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy (PASSS) Summary and Update

The Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy (PASSS) continues to be a signature program for ODJFS. It is a unique subsidy program designed to assist Ohio families after the finalization of their adoption. The PASSS program is dependent upon the state's budget bill and is subject to change from year to year. ODJFS successfully secured continued funding for PASSS, for SFY 2013 at \$3.5 million. For SFY 2014, as in the case for prior years, PASSS was funded 75% through Title IV-B, Part II and 25% through Ohio's General Revenue Fund (GRF). Approximately \$3.3 million is slated to be allocated for the program for ensuing fiscal years.

Adoptive families continue to secure last resort funds for services to address their child's "special needs." The "special needs" approved for PASSS included, but was not limited to the following:

- Asperger's Disorder
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- Autistic Disorder
- Cerebral Palsy
- Developmentally Handicapped
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

- Learning Disabled
- Mental Retardation
- Mood Disorder (Bi-Polar/Depression)
- Obsessive Compulsive Disorder
- Post Traumatic Disorder
- Reactive Attachment Disorder
- Severe Behavioral/Emotional Disorder
- Substance Abuse

As noted in previous APSR reports for 2010-2014, PASSS is dispensed on a first-come, first-served basis and is dependent upon the availability of state funds. Families may receive up to \$10,000 per child per SFY, for family preservation services including medical, medical equipment, surgical, psychological, and/or psychiatric services, residential treatment (maintenance and treatment costs only) and respite services. If extraordinary circumstances exist, families may receive up to an additional \$5,000 per child per SFY.

Adoptive parents who receive PASSS funds must pay at least five percent of the total cost of all services provided to the child. This co-payment may be waived if the gross income of the child's adoptive family is less than two hundred percent of the federal poverty guideline as determined by the Federal Poverty Guidelines for family size as was published in the Federal Register, Vol. 79, No. 14, January 22, 2014, pp. 3593-3594.

PASSS funds are available to families of adopted children with special needs, with the exception of stepparent adoptions, regardless of the type of adoption (public or private agency, attorney, international), provided the following criterion is met:

- The child has a physical, developmental, mental or emotional condition;
- The child's special need existed before the adoption was finalized or can be attributed to a pre-adoptive condition;
- The child is less than 18 years of age (or is less than 21 years of age and mentally or physically handicapped); and
- The family has explored other sources of assistance, but the sources are inadequate or are not available to meet the needs of the child.

2014 Update

Agencies pay for PASSS expenditures out of their own agency funds as in previous years. However, as of July 1, 2013, PCSAs are reimbursed by ODJFS on a monthly versus quarterly basis for such expenditures due to added SACWIS functionality. ODJFS worked diligently this SFY to implement PASSS into SACWIS in June, 2013. SACWIS generates county specific information for use by ODJFS and counties. PCSAs are now able to enter application information into SACWIS and track payment.

Now fully implemented, agencies are able to process applications, claim reimbursement electronically, as well as produce detailed reports on funds (e.g., services requested and utilized, amounts approved or denied, and the demographics of the families that use PASSS). As of the date of this report, nearly 900 applications for PASSS have been received for SFY 2013. Over \$6 million has been requested to cover special services for adopted children. ODJFS has paid \$2.7 million of the funds requested.

Please refer to the attached excel spreadsheet for PASSS expenditures.

Child Welfare Demonstration Activities

Ohio's Title IV-E waiver demonstration project, ProtectOHIO was approved on March 8, 2011 for a five year extension by the Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, US Department of Health and Human Services. The waiver extension was effective retroactive to October 1, 2010 and will continue through September 30, 2015. ProtectOHIO continues to focus on two primary strategies, Family Team Meetings and Kinship Supports, to improve outcomes for children. As Ohio enters its third phase of the waiver, ProtectOHIO continues to focus on ways to increase fidelity to the strategies to improve outcomes, identify evaluation data, and share placement and fiscal data. Additionally, the evaluators continue to explore the impact of waiver expansion within Ohio and research the concept of applying a well-being or family functioning assessment to the current waiver.

The collaborative effort between ODJFS, the Consortium, Ohio Child Welfare Training Program and the Institute for Human Services continues developing and coordinating the delivery of training workshops entitled, 'ProtectOHIO Family Team Meetings (FTM): Engaging Parents in the Process' and 'ProtectOHIO Kinship Strategy.' The outcome of each workshop is to encourage fidelity to the models, and develop specific skills in facilitation and understanding and supporting kinship caregivers. Additional subcommittee meetings were held during this period to plan for implementation of the intervention strategies and continuation of the waiver and evaluation.

The ProtectOHIO Consortium, which consists of agency directors and/or upper level administrative staff of the 17 counties participating in the waiver, ODJFS staff, and members of

the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI) evaluation team, is currently planning for application for a fourth phase of Ohio's IV-E waiver demonstration project, pending HHS approval. The Consortium surveyed the non-ProtectOHIO counties to determine their level of interest participating in the waiver project, and 88% of respondents reported a positive interest in learning more about the waiver and increased funding flexibility. ProtectOHIO participants are highly supportive of the waiver, and are committed to the strategies as they have experienced a reduction in placement days (over the control group) and cost savings which can be reinvested for additional benefit to children and families. In an article for the Mansfield News Journal, Executive Director Patty Harrelson of Richland County Children Services shared the benefits of one strategy her county has implemented as part of ProtectOHIO, Family Team Meetings (or team Decision Making (TDM)). Director Harrelson appreciates the increase in "options for any child that may have to leave their house." Further, the Mansfield News Journal reports, "outcomes of the TDM process include avoiding a child being removed from the home, shorter time in placement, reduced times that cases are kept open, more and quicker reunification of the family and reduced child maltreatment."

Statistics also support an improvement in placement day usage and cost savings for ProtectOHIO counties. For the 12 month period ending March 31, 2014 (first count data), ProtectOHIO counties have experienced a preliminary placement day usage increasing rate of 1.80% versus a control group increasing rate of 5.97% from the prior 12 month period. For the 6 month period ending March 2014 (first count data), the experimental group has generated preliminary internal increase of days equal to 75,044 placement days over the budgeted amount. Since the inception of the demonstration, the experimental group, as presently composed, has generated internal savings 597,052 days. (Note: The placement day savings do not take into consideration Hamilton County days as Hamilton County has not participated in ProtectOHIO throughout the entire project).

The experimental group's capitation budget assumes that the cost neutrality group's usage rate for FFY '14 will be a negative 3.3%. If the cost neutrality group's final rate of growth for FFY '14 remains a positive 5.97%, then the experimental group will have been under capitated by \$5,335,403.71 federal share.

Please refer to the attached *ProtectOhio* Semi-Annual Report for additional information.

CAPTA

Please refer to the attached CAPTA report.

STATISTICAL AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

CAPTA Data Requirements are in the attached CAPTA report.

CHILD PROTECTIVE WORKFORCE

Ohio Administrative Code 5101:2-33-55 requires Ohio public child protective service professionals to meet the following education and training requirements.

- (1) Bachelor's degree in human services related studies.
- (2) Bachelor's degree in any field and employed for at least two years in a human services related occupation.
- (3) Associate's degree in human services related studies.
- (4) Employed for at least five years in a human services related occupation.

For employment to continue, a person described in (2), (3), or (4) of the above rule information must obtain a job-related bachelor's degree not later than five years after the date of employment with a public children services agency (PCSA) commences.

Child protective services professionals employed by an Ohio PCSA prior to October 5, 2000 is not required to comply with the educational provisions contained in the rule for child protective service professionals.

Ohio PCSA professionals hired after January 1, 2007 shall complete all of the following:

- (1) One hundred two hours of in-service training during the first year of the worker's continuous employment with the agency.
 - (a) This training requirement shall be met by attending the standardized core training provided by the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program.
 - (b) The director of a PCSA may waive the training requirement for a school of social work graduate who completed the university partnership program (UPP) (outlined in the Ohio Revised Code 5101.141).
- (2) Thirty-six hours of annual in-service training in areas relevant to the child protective service professional's assigned duties after the first year of continuous employment with a PCSA.

Efforts to retain well trained and competent child welfare staff continues with the following efforts involving ODJFS, OCWTP and the University Partnership Program. An eighth university in Youngstown, Ohio has now been added to the list of participating universities.

University Partnership Program

- The OCWTP in partnership with ODJFS and PCSAO, has coordinated the University Partnership Program (UPP) at eight public universities in Ohio and systematized data collection and storage activities across all eight universities.
- To date, the program has:
 - Placed 249 UPP Social Work student interns in 49 PCSAs
 - Graduated 235 UPP social work students—202 BSW and 33 MSW
 - 166 UPP Graduates gained employment in 36 Ohio PCSAs
- OCWTP staff conducted evaluation activities to determine UPP graduate employment retention and inform program improvement.
- A case study of each of Ohio’s 8 UPP universities has been completed to use as a basis to promote standardization and outcome evaluation.

Key tasks performed this year including:

- ODJFS continues to allow a year to find employment rather than 6 months.
- A work team of UPP instructors continued the work of increasing the degree of consistency among the universities in regards to the CW I and II classes.
- The UPP data management system serves as the primary vehicle for the collection and analysis of program statistics, for producing reports for monitoring and management, and for evaluating the long-term outcomes of the UPP program.
- Program information about the UPP was consolidated and updated at a single web-site location. The web link is http://www.pcsao.org/univ_partnership.htm.

Ohio Child Welfare Professional Demographics

The following table depicts Ohio’s child welfare professional demographics for 2013

<u>Ohio’s Child Welfare Professionals</u>	<u>6,548</u>
Public Children Services Agencies	6,119 Professionals
	5,012 Caseworkers providing direct services
	<u>1,107 Supervisors/Admin overseeing direct services</u>
Private Agencies	429 Professionals

Sources of Maltreatment Data will be further outlined in the attached CAPTA report.

Education and Training Vouchers Data

Attachment F

Annual Reporting of Education and Training Vouchers Awarded

Name of State: Ohio

	Total ETVs Awarded	Number of New ETVs
Final Number: 2012-2013 School Year (July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013)	442	215
2013-2014 School Year* (July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014)	To date – As of March 2014 369	To date –As of March 2014 187

Inter-Country Adoptions

DESCRIPTION of ACTIVITIES for CHILDREN ADOPTED FROM OVERSEAS

Ohio continues to provide inter-country adoption services through post-adoption services (e.g., Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy program).

To ensure the safety of children adopted abroad, agencies must abide minimal standards as imposed by ODJFS through administrative and revised code. Every public children services agency (PCSA), private child placing agency (PCPA) and private non-custodial agency (PNA) approved or certified by ODJFS, involved in processing international adoptions, is to adhere to all state and federal requirements pertaining to adoption. Like agencies whose focus is primarily domestic adoption, PCPA and PNAs undergo oversight and monitoring by ODJFS to include

reviews of case records, policies and procedures to ensure compliance with the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) and the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC).

Update of Children Adopted From Overseas

ODJFS plans to develop an International Adoption Agency stakeholder group in SFY 2015 for the purpose of gathering information regarding the needs and availability of services to children adopted abroad.

INFORMATION ON CHILDREN ADOPTED FROM OTHER COUNTRIES WHO ENTER STATE CARE

Though ODJFS continues to comply with the Inter-country Adoption Act of 2000 by providing oversight to international adoption agencies and extending post-adoption services to international adoptive families, ODJFS is uncertain to what extent services are being accessed and/or to what degree such services are affecting families of internationally adopted children.

In May 2008, ODJFS released *Procedure Letter No.143 "Inter-country Adoption Data Collection Pursuant to the Title IV-B State Plan"* which requires PCSAs, PCPAs and PNAs to report the following information to ODJFS:

- The identification of the child who was adopted from another country and entered agency custody as a result of a disruption of the adoptive placement or a dissolution of the adoption (42 USC 622[b] [12]);
- A description of the permanency plan for the child, including reasons for the disruption/dissolution and the steps taken to achieve permanency after the disruption/dissolution occurred;
 - The identification of the PCSA, PCPA or PNA which approved the adoptive placement or finalized the adoption; and
- A description of the activities undertaken by the PCSA, PCPA, PNA or any other agency on the child's behalf, including the provision of adoption and post-adoption services. (42 USC 622[b] [11]).

As of this date, no inter-country adoption disruption or dissolution in SFY12/13 was reported to ODJFS. The lack of reporting is consistent with SFY 2012, 2011, 2010, and 2009 –though the reporting requirement has been a continual mandate each year, pursuant to OAC 5101:2-48-25. As a result, an internal analysis was conducted of the data on adoption disruptions or dissolutions as captured by SACWIS. Refer to Adoption Dissolution Analysis Appendix.

Internal findings indicate that as of October 1, 2013, there were 391 previously adopted children in Ohio, out of a total of 12,109 children in foster care. This includes some children adopted abroad and out of state as well as those adopted from Ohio's child welfare system. Overall, 150 of these children have experienced adoption dissolutions.

A data analyst (Hubble, 2013) conducted a survival analysis based on close to 35,000 adoptions occurring from 1990 to the present in order to determine rates of foster care re-entry and adoption dissolutions. The actual rate of foster care re-entry is 6.79 percent. The estimated foster care re-entry rate based on survival analysis is 9.52 percent after 18 years. With the survival analysis one can get an estimate of the adoption dissolution rate after a certain amount of time. In Ohio, for example, at 10 years after finalization the estimated adoption dissolution rate is 1.95 percent, while at 14 years after finalization the adoption dissolution rate estimates level off to 2.22 percent. The internal data shows the median time between finalization and foster care re-entry is 5.1 years, with a mean of approximately 5.6 years. For those experiencing adoption dissolutions, the time between finalization and dissolution was a median of 4.5 years, and a mean of 5.1 years. This may explain why ODJFS has received so few reports since 2009 when OAC 5101:2-48-25 Inter-Country Adoption Data Collection went into effect. Records show that the last JFS 01670 "Inter-Country Adoption Data Collection" (rev. 1/2009) received by ODJFS were dated 2010.

Furthermore, the re-entry ages for the children who re-enter foster care were primarily in the 12-15 years range, and this re-entry age did not seem to depend much on their age when the child was adopted. The rates of foster care re-entry and dissolution do not vary significantly by gender, but there are differences by race. For example the rate of foster care re-entry is 5.41 percent for white children and 8.96 percent for non-white children. The adoption dissolution rate was 1.39 for white children and 2.15 for non-whites. (These rates are based on all children that have been adopted since 1990, not just those who have reached age 18.)

It should also be noted that analysis includes data from former statewide information systems and SACWIS which does not fully capture international adoptions or post-adoption re-entries and dissolutions over the past 18 years.

- *Due to the lack of reports from counties, ODJFS will provide training during the summer of 2014 on the subject of the inter-country adoptions.*

1.2 MONTHLY CASEWORKER VISITS

Ohio Administrative Code 5101:2-42-65 *Caseworker visits and contacts with children in substitute care*, describes statewide standards for content and frequency of caseworker visits for children in foster care in Ohio:

- The public children services agency (PCSA) or private child placing agency (PCPA) that holds custody of a child shall comply with the provisions set forth in this rule regarding caseworker visits and contacts with the child and the substitute caregivers to ensure the child's safety and well-being, and to assess whether the placement and services continue to meet the child's needs in accordance with the case plan.
- The PCSA or PCPA may delegate another caseworker or supervisor employed or contracted by the PCSA or PCPA to conduct one or more of the required visits on behalf of the assigned caseworker.
- The PCSA or PCPA, as part of a managed care agreement pursuant to rule [5101:2-1-01](#) of the Administrative Code, may contract with another agency to have the managed care caseworker assume responsibility for the child's case and caseworker visits required by this rule.
- The minimum frequency of visits shall be as follows, with individual time for the child as appropriate to his or her ability to communicate:
 - For a child placed in a relative or non-relative home approved pursuant to rule [5101:2-42-18](#) of the Administrative Code or a foster home or group home certified pursuant to rule [5101:2-5-03](#) of the Administrative Code:
 - One face-to-face visit with the child and substitute caregiver within the substitute care setting during the first week of placement, not including the first day of placement.
 - One face-to-face visit with the child and the substitute caregiver within the substitute care setting during the first four weeks of placement, not including the visit during the first week of placement.
 - Monthly face-to-face visits with the child and substitute caregiver within the substitute care setting, which may include visits referenced in paragraphs (C)(1)(a) and (C)(1)(b) of this rule, provided that at least one of the visits occurs within each month.
 - In a foster home which has two foster caregivers on the certificate, assure that each caregiver receives at least one of the face-to-face visits referenced in paragraphs (C)(1)(a) to (C)(1)(c) of this rule in each two-month period. If a caregiver is out of the home for the entire two month period (e.g. military leave or extended hospital stay) the caregiver is exempt from the visits for that time period.

- For a child placed in a treatment or medically fragile foster home certified in Ohio in which the foster caregiver is providing care for a child for whom a special, exceptional, or intensive needs difficulty of care payment is made pursuant to rule [5101:2-47-18](#) of the Administrative Code:
 - One face-to-face visit with the child and substitute caregiver within the substitute care setting during the first week of placement, not including the first day of placement.
 - One contact each week with the caregiver to monitor the child's progress.
 - One face-to-face visit with the substitute caregiver and child every two weeks within the treatment or medically fragile foster home, with each substitute caregiver receiving one face-to-face visit in a two month period when there are two licensed substitute caregivers for the home.

- For a child placed in a children's residential center (CRC) certified in Ohio:
 - One contact with the CRC within ten days of placement.
 - Monthly face-to-face visits with the child, within the CRC.
 - The caseworker within the CRC, performing casework duties, shall not conduct visits on behalf of the PCSA or PCPA.

- For a child who is sixteen years of age or older and placed in an independent living arrangement certified in Ohio in which he or she is fully responsible for his or her individual living environment:
 - One face-to-face visit with the child within the living environment within seven days of placement.
 - Monthly face-to-face visits with the child, within the living environment, which may include the visit referenced in paragraph (C)(4)(a) of this rule.

- Contacts and visits for children in the custody of a PCSA or PCPA shall be documented in the child's case record as outlined in rule [5101:2-33-22](#) of the Administrative Code and address the following:
 - The child's safety and well-being within the substitute care setting. In assessing the child's safety and well-being, the caseworker shall consider the following through observation and information obtained during the contact or visit:
 - The child's current behavior, emotional functioning and current social functioning within the substitute care setting, and any other settings/activities in which he or she is involved.
 - The child's current vulnerability.

- The child's current behavior, emotional functioning and current social functioning within the substitute care setting, and any other settings/activities in which he or she is involved.
 - The child's current vulnerability.
 - The protective capacities of the child's caregiver(s).
 - Any new information regarding the child, the substitute care setting, and impact on the substitute caregiver's willingness or ability to care for the child including but not limited to:
 - Changes in the marital status.
 - (ii) Significant changes in the health status of a household member.
 - (iii) Placement of additional children.
 - (iv) Birth of a child.
 - (v) Death of a child or household member.
 - (vi) A criminal charge, conviction or arrest of any household member.
 - (vii) Addition or removal of temporary or permanent household members.
 - (viii) Family's relocation.
 - (ix) Child's daily activities.
 - (x) A change in the caregiver's employment or other financial hardships.
 - Any supportive services needs for the child or caregiver to assure the child's safety and well-being.
 - The child's progress toward any goals in the case plan as applicable from information obtained from the child and caregiver.
 - Permanency planning in accordance with the child's case plan.
- For a child who is placed through the "Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children" into a substitute care setting outside of Ohio:
 - Request the out-of-state children services agency (CSA) to provide needed supervision and services to the child as identified in the child's case plan and to submit written supervisory reports on a monthly basis.
 - Contact the substitute care placement setting within ten days of the child's placement and at least every other month thereafter.

- Conduct monthly face-to-face visits with the child within the substitute care setting. The PCSA or PCPA may request the supervising CSA in the other state to conduct these visits.
- Ohio’s Program Improvement Plan (PIP) continues to support the charge of increasing staff skills and competencies in conducting visits with children in substitute care to assure their safety.

FFY 2013 Monthly Visits

- Ohio reports monthly visit numbers on an annual basis as required. Please see the chart below for more specific information last submitted in December of 2013.

Aggregate number of children (unduplicated) who met the visitation criteria	18,711
Total number of monthly caseworker visits made to children	131,150
Total number of complete calendar months children in the reporting population for FY2013 spent in care	136,188
Total number of monthly visits made to children in the reporting population that occurred in the child’s residence	118,613
Percent of visits completed	96.30%
Percent of visits completed in child’s residence/placement setting	90.4%

- Ohio achieved 96.30% compliance and surpassed the 90% federal target goal. Summary statistics were pulled from Ohio’s SACWIS as of December 2, 2013 and met the compliance criteria described in ACYF-CB-PI-12-05 program instructions. A sampling methodology was not utilized to fulfill the revised monthly caseworker data reporting requirements.

Caseworker Visitation Update

OAC 5101:2-42-65.1 Exit Interview

- Effective June 1, 2013, PCSAs and PCPAs began conducting exit interviews with every child within seven days of leaving a foster care placement. The face-to-face interview is to be completed in conjunction with OAC 5101:2-65.1. To continue to strive for safety in foster care placements, each child is asked a series of questions, based on their developmental level, regarding their time at the placement. The exit interview form, JFS 01678 *Foster Care Exit Interview* and associated questions seek to gain more information from the child about the placement such as what they liked and did not like about the placement, how they were treated, and what, if anything, could have made the placement better. The form is used “in the field” as a template to initiate conversation between the caseworker and the child/youth. Wording is adjusted based on the age and developmental level of the child. Information on the JFS 01678 *Foster Care Exit Interview* is then entered into SACWIS (as of November 15, 2013). To date, 1459 interviews have been entered in SACWIS.

Services For Children Under The Age of Five (FYs 10-14)

So noted in previous years, ODJFS has conducted extensive data analyses regarding the child welfare population. This data is used to guide adoption recruitment activities as well as to drive adoption incentive programming. Recent data also demonstrates statewide effort in place to reduce the number of children placed in out of home care (e.g., child vulnerability and risk assessments conducted at reviews). A reduction in the length of time in substitute care (data) is evident, as well as efforts to promote adoption for those children who cannot be reunited with their families. The statewide adoption incentive program is but one example.

Statewide training has recognized the under- five population and the vulnerabilities inherent in this population. The OCWTP collaborated with ODMH in 2012 to provide training through the Early Childhood Mental Health Demonstration Grant. The OCWTP:

*Developed three hours of a six-hour workshop, *Social and Emotional Development and Trauma in Young Children*

*Coordinated offerings of the above workshop and a six-hour training entitled, *Devereux Early Childhood Assessment – Infant/Toddler*

- *Development of Infants and Toddlers and the Impact of Abuse and Neglect*, part of the Fundamental of Fostering Series of trainings focuses on this age group.

- *Engaging Families in Planned and Purposeful Visitation* is a blended distance learning course for PCSA staff and caregivers that reinforces the importance of regularly scheduled visitations and provides strategies to support the developmental needs of children.
- There are currently three, non-standardized trainings that address children under five for caseworkers, and 43 trainings for caregivers under the topic of infant and toddlers.
- The development of children under five is addressed in Ohio's mandated 36 hours of Pre-service training for potential caregivers.

Please refer to the CFSP 2010-2014 attached state healthcare plan for a detailed description of state efforts to provide age appropriate services and to specifically address concerns of young children in Ohio's child welfare system. In addition to assessment timelines and the monitoring requirements, the plan features: Ohio's efforts to address medication used by young children; Early childhood Mental Health Consultation; the Early Childhood Mental Health-Child Welfare Demonstration projects; Ohio's Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders State Systems' Initiative; projects to improve care coordination across systems; and BEACON, a public-private partnership designed to improve health outcomes and reduce costs.

Identification of At-Risk of Maltreatment Populations

Consistent with national trends, Ohio identified children living in homes where intimate partner violence (IPV) is an issue, as being at increased risk of child maltreatment. To address this, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) partnered with Casey Family Services, the Supreme Court of Ohio Subcommittee on Responding to Child Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency, the Ohio Domestic Violence Network, the Ohio Children's Trust Fund, the HealthPath Foundation of Ohio, and the National Center for Adoption Law and Policy (NCALP) to establish the Ohio IPV Collaborative as a partnership. The Collaborative was established with the goal of reducing trauma to children experiencing violence in their homes and avoidable entry of children into foster care by forging community partnerships to develop a collaborative and holistic response to intimate partner violence, especially within the context of a differential response child protection practice approach.

Under the oversight of the Subcommittee and Differential Response leadership at the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, the Collaborative enlisted David Mandel & Associates (DMA) in 2010 to train four demonstration sites on its Safe and Together™ model, a strengths-based, behaviorally focused approach to intimate partner violence that utilizes skills-based trainings to assist workers in strengthening their assessment, client engagement, and interviewing skills for timely identification of intimate partner violence and to provide appropriate and adequate service recommendations. The model also places a strong emphasis on cross-systems

collaboration by inviting community partners to participate in the training alongside agency workers.

Following intense training, technical assistance, coaching, and mentoring, the four demonstration sites implemented the model with very positive results. Based on positive feedback from the demonstration counties' community partners and children service agencies, the Collaborative partners committed to a statewide expansion plan for county training utilizing Ohio-based trainers certified by DMA for Safe and Together™ model training. The Collaborative has completed year three of the five-year expansion plan.

To expand IPV training throughout Ohio, DMA has continued to work with the 12 Ohio-based, fully certified trainers in their provision of ongoing training additional counties. Certified trainers are required to deliver no fewer than nine Safe and Together™ training, coaching, mentoring, or community days per year; in addition, trainers participate in their own continuing education and practice enhancement activities designed to assure model fidelity, including telephone conferences with project facilitators; DMA-led conference calls to discuss training and practice issues; quarterly meetings; and pre- and post-training discussions and documentation.

Several counties that had begun training in 2012 or early 2013 completed their training in late 2013. These included: Madison, Butler, Hamilton, Erie, Putnam, and Sandusky Counties. In state fiscal year 2013-2014, a total of 12 new counties began training. These counties included Mahoning, Portage, Ashtabula, Lake, Belmont, Coshocton, Noble, Delaware, Marion, Greene, Miami, and Preble Counties. This brings the total number of Ohio counties trained in the Safe and Together™ model to 34.

As in previous cohorts, county selection was based on a number of factors. First, counties selected were required to have had experience implementing Differential Response. Second, counties had to express interest in and commitment to the training. A combination of geographic proximity and county logistics solidified the selection. These factors will continue to be considered as the Collaborative plans for regional cohorts with all remaining counties still untrained in Safe and Together™. Regional cohorts allow for greater efficiency in training smaller counties.

Expansion cohorts are requested to give input on their training experience and the trainers through post-training evaluations. Thus far, participants have been generally pleased both with the training and the Safe and Together™ model; these counties provided valuable feedback to guide the work in subsequent cohorts and to further enhance the training skills of the Ohio-based trainers. Based on this feedback, DMA, ODJFS, and NCALP are reviewing future implementation strategies to identify any redundancies, considering additional training topics, and planning additional trainer support opportunities.

DISASTER PLAN UPDATE

Disaster Plans have been in existence since the onset of SFY 2009. Per OAC 5101:2-5-13.1, agencies governed by ODJFS (PCSAs, PCPAs, PNAs) must address disaster planning as a condition of its agency foster care policy. All residential facilities must also comply with this rule in addition to rule [5101:2-9-07](#) of the Administrative Code. The following areas are addressed in the each disaster preparedness plan:

- (1) Identification of essential personnel needed for the operation of the agency.
- (2) Alternative physical work location including provisions for temporary work sites.
- (3) Communication plan for agency staff, substitute caregivers, and other critical team members with or without e-mail, internet, SACWIS, or telephone access.
- (4) Identification of essential work activities that must continue in order to ensure the safety of children, support caregivers and service providers.
- (5) Procedures for handling new reports of child maltreatment if the agency is responsible for responding to reports concerning children.
- (6) Procedures for tracking clients and substitute caregivers with or without SACWIS or other technical system in place.
- (7) Continuity of services to families receiving in-home supportive services.
- (8) Continuity of services to children in substitute care and kinship care placements.
- (9) Maintenance and security of agency records not included in SACWIS including soft copies stored in other software applications or hard copies.
- (10) Maintenance and security of court records for child protective services cases and PCPA adoption court records.
- (11) Coordination of services with law enforcement, hospitals/medical providers or other disaster response agencies for the following:
 - (a) Children in agency custody.
 - (b) Children with no known or available parent, guardian or custodian.
- (12) Working with emergency shelters for the following:

- (a) Staff training in disaster preparedness.
- (b) Coordination of services for children and families in emergency shelters (physical location; shared responsibilities).
- (c) Volunteers.

(13) Plans of cooperation/memoranda of understanding with neighboring counties which, at a minimum, would address duties and requirements.

Additional requirements for PNAs or any residential facility including those residential facilities operated by a PCPA or PCSA are:

- (1) Identification of essential personnel needed for the operation of the agency.
- (2) Identification of an alternative physical work location including provisions for temporary work sites.
- (3) Communication plan for agency staff, substitute caregivers, and other critical team members with or without e-mail, internet, SACWIS or telephone access.
- (4) Identification of essential work activities that must continue in order to ensure child safety and support caregivers, youth and service providers, and facility staff, if applicable.
- (5) Procedures for tracking clients and substitute caregivers.
- (6) Continuity of services to children in substitute care.
- (7) Maintenance and security of agency records.

Disaster Preparedness Planning Update

No changes are necessary and/or expected to occur relative to disaster preparedness as requirements have been in effect in Ohio since 2008. The Disaster Plan, in its' entirety, will be attached to the CFSP for 2015-2019.

Other Statistical and Supporting Information:

SACWIS IV-B Retrospective 5 Year Language

2009 - 2013

Ohio has worked collaboratively with stakeholders (local child welfare agencies, private child placement agencies, juvenile courts, federal partners and state/vendor technical and program staff) to significantly improve Ohio SACWIS. Since 2009, 6 Advance Planning Documents were submitted and approved by ACF describing SACWIS development initiatives, budget estimates/allocations and deployment schedules. Ohio has participated in federal onsite SACWIS monitoring visits in April 2007, May 2009 and April 2013. Ohio has successfully implemented comprehensive system changes and continues to support SACWIS to ensure it is a useful casework tool and compliant with federal standards.

As of December 2008, the case management module was “live” in all of Ohio’s 88 counties. As of October 2010, Phase 1 [Adoption Assistance (AA) and Medicaid] of the Financial Roll Out was successfully implemented in all counties. Phase 2 [Foster Care Maintenance (FCM)] was successfully completed in all counties by September 2011. In March 2012, 73 private foster care and adoption agencies were given limited SACWIS access. In 2012-2013, two mandated interfaces [Medicaid and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)] were implemented. In January 2014, 3 Juvenile Courts (Cuyahoga, Hamilton and Miami) participating in the IV-E program began piloting direct SACWIS data entry of eligibility and placement information.

Notable system enhancements to support Alternative Response, Ohio’s ProtectOHIO IV-E waiver, local financial processing, local editing capability, activity logs and homestudy/licensure processes, as well as federal reports/data integrity and many other system enhancements have been described in detail multiple federal documents (APDU as well as the Annual CFSP plans) and are not repeated in significant detail here.

AFCARS Related Issues

Past five years:

In 2009, Ohio SACWIS staff began a comprehensive review of Ohio’s AFCARS code based on recommendations provided by the National Resource Center. Ohio created detail mapping documents for each AFCARS element, enhanced the AFCARS Exception report, and revised the AFCARS code in an effort to ensure that elements were reported correctly. In 2012, Ohio added visual indicators to all AFCARS related fields on SACWIS screens to encourage thorough data entry of AFCARS elements. Ohio also implemented an AFCARS utility enabling agencies to view child specific AFCARS information. In August of 2012, Ohio participated in an AFCARS Assessment Review with ACF. Prior to the review, state staff again reviewed federal AFCARS guidance and made code modifications as needed. State staff began making changes to the AFCARS code and the SACWIS application based upon preliminary AFCARS Assessment Review findings. In 2013, Ohio implemented validations requiring that race and Hispanic

ethnicity data be entered at intake disposition. Validations related to race, ethnicity, and foster family structure were also added for provider members. In the spring of 2013, Ohio received formal findings from the AFCARS Assessment Review and now has an active AFCARS Improvement Plan. Ohio is actively working to address the issues identified in the AIP and has made significant progress.

Annual CFSP

Progress from 10/01/2012 - Present

Ohio began working on AFCARS related system and code improvements after the August 2012 AFCARS Assessment review, working off of the preliminary findings. Code modifications for the foster care file were made related to the date of the most periodic review, race information, ethnicity information, clinically diagnosed disabilities, the manner of removal from the home, caretaker family structure, Title IV-E funding, Title IV-A Funding, Title IV-D funding, SSI and Social Security, and None of the Above financial information. Code modifications for the adoption file were made related to the special needs criteria and the relationship of the adoptive parent to the child.

In addition to code changes, the SACWIS team has made and will continue to make application changes as recommended in the AIP. The following SACWIS application changes are complete:

- The state has updated language on the person characteristics screen to remove the use of the word disability.
- Ohio has added the ability to identify when a child was in care less than 24 hours if the child's custody episode starts on one day and ends on the next day. If this condition is met, these children are no longer reported to AFCARS.
- The state has moved the field that documents the mother's marital status at the time of the child's birth from the adoption case to the child's person record.
- The state has added the ability to document whether a child was adopted from within Ohio, from another state, or internationally to the private adoption subsidy record.

Ohio continues to work with county agency partners to improve data quality. When the AFCARS Assessment Review was held, only 7% of Ohio children had a documented clinical diagnosis. As of 4/14/2014, nearly twenty-three percent of children in the 2014a AFCARS file had a documented clinical diagnosis. On 3/31/2014, a meeting was held with county agency employees and state staff members to discuss additional changes.

Ohio continues to assess the AFCARS Assessment Review Improvement Plan to determine needed code and system modifications. Several changes are already complete and were corrected based upon August 2012 preliminary review findings. Ohio continuously reviews AFCARS compliance/accuracy, makes system enhancements, and educates end users of

requirements/issues. A detailed AFCARS Improvement Plan is currently being drafted and will be submitted as required. Specific data quality improvement strategies are noted below:

- SACWIS business team will continue to review AFCARS files, including data frequency and data quality reports. When problems are identified, collaboration with state monitoring staff as well as county agency staff will occur to address issues.
- Monitoring staff will assess AFCARS data when conducting monitoring visits, encouraging accuracy, data entry and identifying technical assistance/training needs.
- SACWIS Knowledge Base articles have been developed to assist users with AFCARS data entry issues. Additional articles will be developed as data quality issues are identified.
- The AFCARS Exception Report is available in SACWIS and provides a comprehensive list of data exceptions for specific counties and cases. The state SACWIS/AFCARS team has made numerous report modifications to ensure all exceptions are captured and the report is accurate.
- Validations were added to SACWIS to support the entry of complete and accurate data. One example is that a user can no longer enter a non-ODJFS provider (such as a relative caregiver) into SACWIS without entering a date of birth and race and ethnicity information for the caregivers. Additional validations are being added in the future, such as preventing the entry of a date of birth of 1900 for the applicants on a provider home study.
- SACWIS and data quality trainings are being developed through the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program.
- Results Oriented Management application (ROM) and the Business Intelligence Channel (BIC) trainings continue. These reporting applications provide users with greater exposure to data and help to improve data accuracy.
- Data control and extraction comparisons were implemented to improve data accuracy.
- AFCARS informational hover icons are visible on SACWIS screens. If the user hovers over these icons, a pop-up message identifying the AFCARS element number and definition displays.
- An AFCARS utility was developed and is available online. The utility allows users to search for a specific child and view all AFCARS reported information.