



Each OFC staff member has a role in OFC's work and must be held accountable to promote safety and a sense of belonging for children, youth, and vulnerable adults.

OFFICE OF FAMILIES & CHILDREN

A Message from OFC Deputy Director Jennifer Justice – June 6, 2014

We've been closely following the progress of the Mid-Biennium Budget Review. It has seen a flurry of activity over the past weeks, but if you follow legislative news, you know that the budget, House Bill 483, is going to Governor Kasich for signature. The final version includes some big proposals: funding workgroups for both child and adult protective services; a level-of-care pilot project; and a requirement for all residential facilities to develop community engagement plans. Each of these could have significant impact on our systems, and we will work to stay engaged with public and private agencies and stakeholders. Whatever the outcome for this cycle, Ohio's budget process is set up in a way that means our work on it is ongoing. As soon as the 2014 Mid-Biennium Review is complete, we will begin work on the biennial budget for state fiscal years 2016 through 2017, so stay tuned!

Pop quiz: In addition to the budget, what activity is scheduled in multiyear intervals but requires daily attention and affects all aspects of our work? The Child and Family Services Review (CFSR), of course! Even as we resolve Ohio's Round 2 review and Program Improvement Plan, we have begun setting the foundation for Round 3. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau is modifying its standards, instruments and approaches as the first states prepare for their Round 3 reviews, which start in April 2015. A team of OFC staff, along with Linda Peters from the Franklin County Children Services Board, recently attended a two-day Region V briefing on the monitoring process. Many of the details still are being finalized, but the general themes are clear.

The next round of the CFSR will focus more on quantitative and qualitative data that measure specific and relevant outcomes. In addition, federal reviewers are interested only in measurements and programs that have a statewide impact. Ohio's next CFSR review will take place in 2017. The OFC Bureau of Federal and State Initiatives is laying the groundwork for it by establishing a continuous quality improvement process. You may have been contacted about this as part of our effort to learn more about continuous improvement programs already in place at county agencies. If not and you want to learn more, be sure to read next month's First Friday. July's First Friday also will have a new look. I think you will like it!

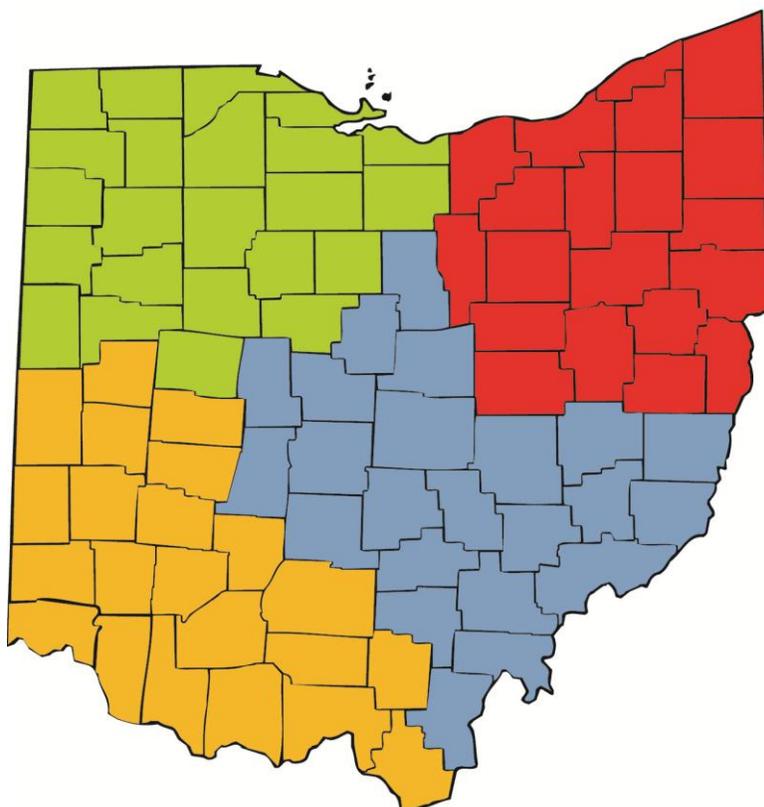
In other noteworthy news, June 15 is Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Ohio. To honor that important cause, this month's First Friday highlights Ohio's adult protective services (APS) programming. I especially am pleased about the enhancements to the Ohio Human Services Training System (OHSTS). The strength of Ohio's network for vulnerable adults is its skilled and passionate workforce. We want to make sure that all APS caseworkers have access to the skills and competencies they need to do their jobs. Educational resources such as OHSTS support ongoing personal development and peer-to-peer interaction.

When it comes to the safety of vulnerable Ohioans, the more hands on deck the better so I was encouraged by the recent attention given to elder abuse by Attorney General Mike DeWine. In May, Attorney General DeWine announced a new Elder Justice Initiative spearheaded by his office's Crime Victim Services Section. They plan to work with local officials and advocates to better identify, investigate and prosecute elder abuse cases and increase services to victims.

And don't forget your purple! I've been hitting the malls to find the right outfit for "Wear Purple to Work Day" on June 13. I am confident that OFC staff will be decked out in various shades of lavender, violet, mauve, lilac and plum. I'd love to hear how your office or community shows support for this important cause. Read on to find out where to send your purple pictures.

The Ohio Human Services Training System

All county APS workers and many community partners receive training through OHSTS. ODJFS oversees this program and has cooperative agreements with Lucas, Franklin, Summit and Clermont county JFS agencies to operate four regional training centers (RTCs).



Northwest Regional Training Center
Lucas County Department of
Job and Family Services
Ms. Natalie Edwards
3210 Monroe St.
Toledo, OH 43699
Telephone: (419) 213-8572

Northeast Regional Training Center
Summit County Department of
Job and Family Services
Ms. Debra Sommerville
47 N. Main St.
Akron, OH 44308
Telephone: (330) 643-7324

Southwest Regional Training Center
Clermont County Department of
Job and Family Services
Ms. Lynn Simpson
420 Wards Corner Rd., Suite J
Loveland, OH 45140
Telephone: (513) 248-1925

Central Regional Training Center
Franklin County Department of
Job and Family Services
Ms. Rhonda Daniels
314 N. Wilson Rd.
Columbus, OH 43229
Telephone: (614) 233-2044

In state fiscal year 2013, ODJFS entered into a contract with the Institute for Human Service (IHS) for IHS to serve as the statewide training coordinator for OHSTS. As coordinator, IHS will develop a skill-based training system that meets the needs of Ohio's APS workforce and their public and private agency partners.

To date, IHS has standardized such operational processes as scheduling, trainer payments and continuing-education credit requests. It also facilitated the first strategic planning meetings with the OHSTS Steering Committee and convened trainer recruitment and curriculum development teams. The teams helped develop a trainer recruitment plan, APS core curricula and APS training competencies.

To view a training calendar or to register for training, contact your area's RTC:

Central RTC (Franklin County): Call Rhonda Daniels at (614) 233-2044

Northeast RTC (Summit County): Visit <https://www.summitdjfs.org/resources/ohsts.html>

Northwest RTC (Lucas County): Visit <http://ohsts.lucasjfs.org/>

Southwest RTC (Clermont County): Visit <http://www.ocwtp.com/ohstsswortctraining.htm>

For more information about OHSTS, email shelly.boyd@jfs.ohio.gov.

New Standards Proposed for Guardianship

In 2007, the Supreme Court of Ohio's Advisory Committee on Children and Families (currently cochaired by Marion County Juvenile Judge Deborah Alspach and OFC Deputy Director Jennifer Justice) convened a Subcommittee on Adult Guardianship to draft standards for adult guardianship cases. The subcommittee completed this task through four workgroups:

1. The "Establishing the Guardianship" workgroup determined how to identify guardians and the level of guardianship to use for a person, an estate or both. The group also developed a list of potential training topics for new guardians.
2. The "Ongoing Responsibilities of the Guardian" workgroup drafted duties and requirements for guardians.
3. The "Administering the Guardianship" workgroup identified information guardians must report to a court and procedures for filing a guardian's report. The group also defined basic guardian recordkeeping and reporting needs.
4. The "Specialized Training" workgroup identified 13 topics new guardians should receive training in. Now it is forming a curriculum development group that will categorize each topic as either "mandatory" or "dependent upon funding and need of the guardian."

As a result of the subcommittee's work, the Supreme Court of Ohio is reviewing proposed "Rules of Superintendence 66.01 - 66.09," which would apply to cases in which a non-family member is appointed guardian. The proposed rules are open for public comment through June 25. The text can be reviewed [here](#). Comments may be emailed to Diana.Ramos-Reardon@sc.ohio.gov.

The following tasks remain for the subcommittee to complete in 2014:

- Work with the Judicial College to develop an adult guardian education program.
- Work with federal partners from the Social Security Administration and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to resolve conflicts in federal and state law regarding wards of probate courts.
- Plan a statewide training to support the work of county interdisciplinary guardianship committees.

Timeline: Standards for Adult Guardianship Cases

2000 - The National Guardianship Association (NGA) wrote and adopted standards of practice for guardians. Current standards can be found at http://www.guardianship.org/documents/Standards_of_Practice.pdf.

2001 - The Supreme Court of Ohio sponsored the Honorable Thomas A. Swift's (Trumbull) attendance at the first Wingspan Conference on Adult Guardianship. The conference produced 68 recommendations, including standards of practice for guardians. Other recommendations addressed alternate dispute resolution, due process, agency guardianship, monitoring and accountability, and lawyers as fiduciaries or counsel to fiduciaries. The National College of Probate Judges and the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys recognized the NGA standards as a national model.

2003 - The Ohio Association of Probate Judges convened a group of interested agencies and individuals called the Guardianship Forum.

2004 - The National College of Probate Judges, the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and the NGA considered recommendations made at the Wingspan Conference, including the establishment of state interdisciplinary guardianship committees.

2005 - The Guardianship Forum became the Interdisciplinary Guardianship Committee.

2007 - The Interdisciplinary Guardianship Committee became the Subcommittee on Adult Guardianship, established by the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Children, Families and the Courts. One of its first projects was developing Ohio's version of the NGA standards for guardians.

Elder Abuse Awareness and Wear Purple to Work Days

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day falls on June 15 each year. In addition, Governor Kasich has proclaimed June 15, 2014, as Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Ohio.

Many communities are planning Elder Abuse Awareness Day activities. Here are just a few examples:

- **ODJFS** has designated June 13 as “Wear Purple to Work Day.” Each ODJFS office is encouraged to take group pictures of staff decked out in purple. Photos and an article will appear in News Today, the agency’s internal e-newsletter.
- **Montgomery County Department of Job and Family Services** is having a Senior Expo from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on June 13 at Courthouse Square. Information about elder abuse and other topics will be provided.
- **South Central Ohio Job and Family Services** has submitted an article to local newspapers addressing how to identify possible power of attorney abuse.
- **Wood County Department of Job and Family Services** is partnering with the Wood County Committee on Aging to host a ceremony on June 13 at the Bowling Green Senior Center. Two hundred and forty-three purple flowers will be planted, representing the number of abuse complaints investigated in Wood County in 2013. The Wood County commissioners and representatives from the four largest Wood County cities will present proclamations. Purple T-shirts will be available for sale, and people throughout the county will be encouraged to wear purple that day. A large street sign will be placed in Bowling Green, six billboards throughout the county will promote Elder Abuse Awareness Month in June, and car magnets will be placed on vehicles owned and operated by the two agencies.
- **The Action Ohio Coalition for Battered Women** is hosting a Symposium on Elder Abuse Awareness June 13 at the Ohio Statehouse. It will feature a panel discussion on elder abuse and public policy.

We’d like to hear about your agency’s awareness activities, too. Email Olympia Boyce-Taylor at olympia.boyce-taylor@jfs.ohio.gov to share information about events in your community.

The Ohio Attorney General’s Elder Abuse Commission

In 2009, the Ohio Attorney General created the Ohio Elder Abuse Commission to improve education efforts, boost research and raise awareness.



Members include representatives from the Ohio Attorney General’s Office, the Ohio Board of Nursing, the Ohio Job and Family Services Directors’ Association, the Ohio Victim Witness Association, the Ohio Supreme Court, the Ohio Coalition of Adult Protective Services, the Ohio Probate Judges Association, the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association, the Ohio County Commissioners’ Association, the Ohio Association for Area Agencies on Aging, the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, the Buckeye State Sheriffs’ Association, and the Ohio departments of Aging, Job and Family Services, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Insurance, Developmental Disabilities, and Public Safety.

The commission has accomplished a great deal:

- Provides information to the Aging Subcommittee of the Ohio Attorney General’s Criminal Justice and Mental Illness Task Force.
- Cosponsored the Ohio Summit on Aging and Post-Summit on Aging with the Supreme Court of Ohio.
- Hosted the Ohio Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence: Enhancing Judicial Skills in Elder Abuse Cases.
- Convened the Elder Abuse Research Symposium.
- Developing the Law Enforcement Tip Card, a pocket guide that helps first responders identify and report elder abuse.
- Reviews Ohio’s laws and policies related to elder abuse.

Commission meetings are held on the fourth Monday of February, April, June, August, October and December. Meetings are open to the public, and time is allotted for public comment. For more information, visit www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Individuals-and-Families/Seniors/Elder-Abuse.

The Ohio Coalition on Adult Protective Services

The Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services (OCAPS) is a statewide advocacy and educational organization for Ohio professionals working to improve services for Ohio's vulnerable adults. Members include state and local APS staff, geriatric social workers, law enforcement, elder law attorneys, legislators, academicians and other Ohio professionals. Meetings are held every other month in Columbus.



Each March, OCAPS hosts a conference that brings together 150 to 200 APS professionals and stakeholders from across the state. National and local experts present workshops on clinical, legal and legislative topics.

One highlight of the conference is the naming of the Adult Protective Services Worker of the Year Award. The 2014 winner was Jessica "Brooke" Lynch from Montgomery County. Lynch was nominated by her supervisor, Lai Bryant-White, for going above and beyond the call of duty in many ways. Among other things, Lynch helped a 73-year-old woman have her legal competency restored so she could remain in her own home and arranged for a home health aide to help the woman with grocery shopping and other chores. Lynch also gathered evidence in an exploitation investigation that led to the indictment of a perpetrator for theft from a disabled older adult.

For more information about OCAPS and its advocacy work, or to subscribe to the biannual OCAPS newsletter, visit <http://www.ocapsohio.org/>.



Lisa Wiltshire, OFC's Bureau of Child and Adult Protection chief; Sylvia Pla-Raith, OCAPS president; Lai Bryant-White, Montgomery County APS supervisor; Jessica "Brooke" Lynch, APS Worker of the Year; and Deborah Hall, Montgomery County Department of Job and Family Services' Social Services and Income Support assistant director.

Ohio's APS System and the National Adult Protective Services Association

The National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA) is the only national advocacy organization representing the interest of APS programs, staff and the victims they serve. NAPSA's members hail from all 50 states. They include APS workers and administrators, aging and disabilities professionals, and various other organizations and individuals committed



to protecting vulnerable adult citizens. The organization's mission is to strengthen the capacity of APS at the national, state and local levels; to effectively and efficiently recognize, report and respond to the needs of elders and adults with disabilities who are the victims of abuse, neglect or exploitation; and to prevent such abuse whenever possible. To fulfill its mission, NAPSA conducts the following activities:

- Operates the National Adult Protective Services Resource Center to provide APS systems, agencies and professionals with current and relevant information and support to enhance the quality, consistency and effectiveness of APS programs across the country.
- Partners with many diverse organizations to provide a cohesive network of research, practice and policy to meet the diverse needs of the ever-changing population of vulnerable adults.
- Actively conducts national research on such topics as APS training activities, services for self-neglecting adults and national APS data collection.
- Partners with academic researchers on elder and vulnerable adult mistreatment studies.
- Hosts an annual conference and a national summit on financial exploitation. The conference features nationally known and respected professionals who share their expertise on issues applicable to APS practice and other disciplines.
- Works to increase national awareness of elder and vulnerable adult mistreatment through education, advocacy and congressional testimony.

Several ODJFS staff members are actively involved with NAPSA. They participate in monthly NAPSRC technical assistance webinars and quarterly regional teleconferences. To learn more, visit <http://www.napsa-now.org>.

Best Wishes in Your Retirement, Steve Hanson

On June 30, 2014, Steve Hanson will retire from the Supreme Court of Ohio. If you see him during his final three weeks of transitional planning events, recognition ceremonies and committee meetings, be sure to thank him for his many contributions to Ohio's child welfare system.

Everyone who has worked with Steve appreciates his expertise, knowledge and determination to stay solution-focused. What has distinguished Steve the most, however, has been his willingness to invest in relationships. Successfully working *with* and *for* children and families requires this skill, which often is hard to find. Steve has always made the effort to really listen to people, learn from them and set aside his own assumptions. Most importantly, he has been willing to persist until everyone is a winner.



Steve Hanson

We extend our thanks to Steve for his 34 years of child welfare leadership and for our many productive years of working together on behalf of children and families.

From the Ohio Youth Advisory Board and Ohio's Foster Care Alumni of America to Steve

From the moment you first came in contact with Ohio foster care youth and alumni, you have listened to our voices, acted on our suggestions and supported our efforts.

Please know how much you mean to us, and that wherever you are, you have our appreciation, respect and support.

New Initiative to Prevent LGBTQ Youth Homelessness

Two Cincinnati organizations, Lighthouse Youth Services and Strategies to End Homelessness, have been selected to participate in a national initiative to help prevent homelessness in lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth. Research shows that LGBTQ youth are overrepresented in homeless populations and also at higher risk of physical violence and sexual exploitation.

The U.S. departments of Housing and Urban Development, Education, Health and Human Services, and Justice, along with the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, developed the National LGBTQ Youth Homeless Prevention Initiative. Cincinnati and Houston were the only two communities invited to participate. Their work will help inform national strategies and future federal policy.

“We know there is an overrepresentation of LGBTQ youth in our homeless shelters and on the street,” said Bob Mecum, president and CEO of Lighthouse Youth Services. “This initiative allows us evaluate data and facilitate greater collaboration between community stakeholders working with youth.”

Lighthouse Youth Services kicked off the project on April 14 by gathering more than 40 individuals from 15 community agencies to develop a community-wide strategic plan. Members of the Lighthouse Youth Advisory Council also participated to lend a youth voice to the process. Over the next four to six months, participants will identify strategies to improve the emotional well-being, stable housing, permanent connections, education and employment of LGBTQ youth.

Partners in the project include Caracole, Inc.; Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network; the Partnership Center; the Office of Cincinnati Mayor John Cranley; Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center; Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition; Cincinnati Public Schools; the Cincinnati Police Department; Planned Parenthood Southwest Ohio Region; Heartland Trans* Wellness Group; the YWCA; the Cincinnati Human Rights Campaign; Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays; Hamilton County Job and Family Services; and ODJFS.

For more, email Lighthouse Youth Services’ policy and planning director, Meredith Hicks, at mhicks@lys.org.

Rule Review Update

The following rules were posted to the Ohio’s Families and Children Rule Review website, www.ohiorulereview.org, for 30 days beginning on May 6, 2014:

- OAC 5101:2-5-31
- OAC 5101:2-48-19

The comment period for the above rules now is closed, but please continue to visit the site periodically for new postings. We welcome your input and hope you use this opportunity to share your experiences.

The website received 6,127 hits during May 2014.

June 2014 Global Emails

The following emails were sent in May from Jennifer Justice to PCSA directors and/or private agency directors. They are organized below by mailing date and key word.

- 5/1/14 - National Foster Care Month
- 5/5/14 - 2014 Opiate Conference
- 5/6/14 - Chapter 33 PFOF rule summaries
- 5/19/14 - Elder Abuse Awareness Day, June 15, 2014

PRINCIPLE OF THE MONTH:

Each OFC staff member has a role in OFC’s work and must be held accountable to promote safety and a sense of belonging for children, youth and vulnerable adults.

If you want to subscribe to First Friday, have comments or ideas about content, or wish to be removed from the mailing list, please send an email to First_Friday@jfs.ohio.gov. For additions to or removals from the list, be sure to include your name, organization and email address.



PARTNERS
FOR OHIO'S FAMILIES