



PARTNERS
FOR OHIO'S FAMILIES

Partners are given **voice** in a decision-making process.

OFFICE OF FAMILIES & CHILDREN

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From OFC Deputy Director Jennifer Justice – 1/2/15

Roll up your sleeves! We have lots to accomplish together in 2015. I think that 20 years from now, we will look back and remember this as a year of laying the foundation for many program improvements.

I particularly am excited about the opportunity to enhance Ohio’s adult protection program. I was fortunate to serve on the Adult Protective Services Funding Workgroup and was impressed with the commitment shown by its members. They conveyed a sense of obligation and thoughtfulness that respected multiple perspectives. No proposal ever is perfect or final – I imagine the workgroup’s recommendations will see changes over time – but the end product acknowledges Ohio’s divergent needs while staying true to our task of envisioning an accountable network of safety for Ohio’s vulnerable adults. Read more about the workgroup’s recommendations on page 4.

Although 2015 is sure to bring its challenges, I never underestimate what can be accomplished by passionate professionals. The APS Funding Workgroup is just one of the many committees working to address shared issues. OFC is lucky to have so many stakeholders willing to donate their time and experience to improving statewide system performance, including the Level of Care Design Team and the four Child

and Family Service Plan workgroups. We’ll have more on those groups in future editions of First Friday.

Both data and anecdotes tell us that one significant barrier to achieving safety, permanency and well-being for children is parental substance abuse and addiction. OFC is working with the Supreme Court of Ohio, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities and the Public Children Services Association of Ohio on state-level initiatives that support local efforts to address this issue. Next month’s First Friday will look at some of these efforts, so stay tuned.

We know that the likelihood for success in any of our initiatives is much improved when stakeholders play an active role. I am sure we don’t say it enough, so thank you in advance to all of you who will donate your valuable time in 2015 to participate in a workgroup, comment on a rule, come to a meeting, respond to a survey, test a new approach, identify ways we can improve, or otherwise collaborate with OFC to improve outcomes for families.

A special note of appreciation is needed to mark the 2015 transition of Ohio’s Differential Response Leadership Council from the Supreme Court of Ohio to the Ohio

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Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS). We know the ingredients needed for an initiative to be successful: sufficient time to develop, stakeholder engagement, willingness to invest human resources, attention to the principles of implementation science and, perhaps most importantly, leadership. Thank you to the Supreme Court of Ohio for providing all of these things as Differential Response moved from conception to reality statewide.

Private Agency Collaboration to Improve Child Welfare Outcomes

Achieving positive outcomes for families and children is not just the responsibility of PCSAs. A variety of other stakeholders play a vital role in achieving child safety, permanency and well-being, as well. When a child is unable to remain safely at home, one of our most crucial resources is Ohio’s network of private child welfare agencies.

We generally think of private agencies – adoptive and foster homes, group homes, and children’s residential centers – as providing a safe place for children to stay. Successful placements bring stability and sometimes even permanency. But private agencies also are responsible for ensuring that children’s well-being – their educational, physical, dental and mental health needs – are met while in care. Private agencies work with PCSAs to identify needed services and develop service plans. Many times, a child’s private agency service plan is synchronized with the PCSA’s case plan. The private agency and PCSA can then jointly review the child’s service needs through the private agency’s quarterly service plan reviews and the PCSA’s three-month case

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CFSR Measure of the Month: Placement Stability

Each month, First Friday will feature one federal CFSR measure in our “Measure of the Month” series. January’s measure is placement stability. As noted in [December’s First Friday](#), placement stability is one of seven data indicators that the CFSR evaluates states on.

Although placement stability has been measured in prior CFSR rounds, Round 3 features some important changes to the way it is treated. Previously, the placement stability measure simply counted the number of placement moves a child experienced, regardless of the length of time the child was in care. The new measure also counts each placement move but controls for the length of time the child has been in foster care. This provides a much more accurate picture of placement stability.

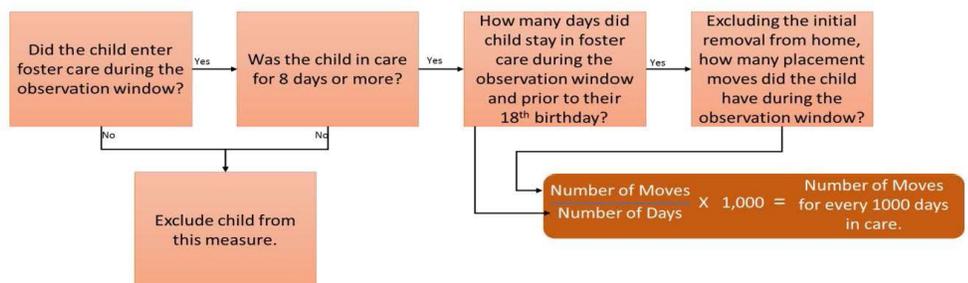
Performance is determined using a 12-month time frame. All children who entered foster care in a 12-month period are selected, and the number of days those children were in care during the period are counted (denominator). Next, the number of placement moves the children experienced are counted

(numerator). The numerator is divided by the denominator, and the result is multiplied by 1,000 to establish a rate of placement moves per 1,000 days in care.

With each of the national standards, several adjustments are made prior to determining a state’s performance. For placement stability, the initial placement into foster care is not counted as a placement move. In addition, children in foster care for fewer than eight days or who are older than 18 when they enter foster care are excluded. If a child enters foster care at age 17, placement moves after his or her 18th birthday are excluded.

This measure is risk-adjusted by the child’s age at entry. (Additional information about risk adjustment is available [here](#).) The national standard for placement stability is 4.12 or fewer moves per 1,000 days in placement. Ohio is performing well on this measure, with a risk-adjusted score of 3.44 moves per 1,000 days in placement.

Please stay tuned as we feature other CFSR measures in future editions!



SAVE THIS DATE: June 23, 2015

Have you ever wished your community’s stakeholders could get together to identify ways to more effectively intervene with families dealing with substance abuse or addiction? Then you’re in luck: A free, one-day symposium is planned by ODJFS, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Supreme Court of Ohio, the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities and the Public Children Services Association of Ohio. Teams from each county will be invited. Check out future editions of First Friday for more information.

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reviews and/or semiannual administrative reviews.

Private agencies can have significant impact on the continuity of family relationships and preservation of a child's connections by providing the following services and supports:

- Transporting a child for parent/family visits
- Providing parent/family visits within a facility or home
- Ensuring telephone contact between a child and his or her family
- Involving parents with a child's appointments (dental, medical, mental health, etc.)
- Involving parents in a child's service plan meeting

- Placing a child within his or her home neighborhood and school district
- Making provisions for a child to maintain extracurricular activities and/or religious affiliation
- Allowing a child to sustain appropriate friendships
- Upholding a child's connections with extended family and/or a Native American tribe

PCSA/private agency partnerships that promote continuous improvement are critical. PCSAs can support private agencies they contract with by sharing the CFSR review instrument and ensuring that private agencies understand the CFSR's child and family outcomes and how staff can positively affect performance. PCSAs should continuously monitor the performance of their contracting agencies.

CPOE Stage 10 – Preparing for Ohio's CFSR

[December's First Friday](#) described Ohio's third federal CFSR, which the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau will conduct in 2017. One important way to help ensure a successful outcome is to immediately begin monitoring county- and state-level performance. The Child Protection Oversight Evaluation (CPOE) Stage 10 – which is under way now – will help both OFC and PCSAs by providing data reports, technical assistance and feedback related to county-specific performance.

CPOE Stage 10 will conclude in September 2016, just months before CFSR Round 3 begins. The CSFR will look at a random selection of cases that are active between April 1 and November 15, 2016. For the first time, it will include cases assigned to an Alternative Response pathway, as well as those that have been handled through a Title IV-E court.

To help counties prepare, Alternative Response and Title IV-E categories have been added to the CPOE Stage 10 case sample. OFC staff will be able to provide technical assistance to Title IV-E courts, if needed. Alternative Response case findings will be included in counties' final

CPOE Stage 10 reports.

The CPOE Stage 10 on-site process is expected to strengthen Ohio's child welfare programming by:

- Identifying case-related information that is impacting (positively or negatively) statewide performance on CFSR child and family outcomes and systemic factors.
- Informing OFC about Ohio's statewide child welfare system and trends.
- Highlighting the need for specific program or policy development, or system-wide technical assistance.
- Collecting information from case participants, including parents, foster parents, children/teens, caseworkers and support service providers.
- Providing each PCSA with a written assessment of on-site case review findings for use in local planning and quality assurance activities.
- Identifying local programs and practices that contribute to counties' strengths and weaknesses, and supporting peer-to-peer efforts and outreach.

Stage 10 CPOE Changes

The Ohio CPOE system was implemented more than 20 years ago to review counties' child welfare practices. It has become an important component of OFC's continuous quality improvement system. On-site CPOE activities involve a joint case record review by PCSA and ODJFS staff, reconciliation, and technical assistance.

Staff from OFC's Bureau of Child and Adult Technical Assistance give PCSAs ongoing data reports, management letters and correspondence and meet with PCSAs to offer technical assistance and to review any post-CPOE quality improvement plans. After the on-site case record review and issuance of the final CPOE report, bureau staff continue to help PCSAs strengthen their practice and address areas needing improvement throughout the two-year CPOE cycle.

CPOE's Stage 10 process began in October 2014 and continues through September 2016. This time, the CPOE reviewers began using the federal CFSR instrument, and electronic case review tool that aligns CFSR measures with CPOE measures. This will help prepare for Ohio's 2017 CFSR and more accurately

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identify areas needing improvement. You can check out the instrument in the “Instruments and Guides” section of the federal [CFSR Information Portal](#).

County Size	Number of Cases by Type or Universe			
	Alternative Response	In-Home	Substitute Care	IV-E
Small	3	3	3	1
Small/Medium	3	3	4	1
Medium	4	4	5	3
Large	5	5	5	3
Metro	5	5	5	6
Major Metro	6	6	6	12

Other Stage 10 CPOE changes include the following:

- Alternative Response cases have been included in the review sample, now that Differential Response has been implemented statewide.
- Ohio’s 41 Title IV-E juvenile courts are being reviewed. They will not be required to develop quality

improvement plans, but OFC staff will be available to provide technical assistance, if needed.

- The frequency of review for Ohio’s major metro counties – Cuyahoga, Franklin and Hamilton – has been reduced from once a year to once every two years.
- More cases are being reviewed in every county. The sample

size is determined by a formula based on county size.

Look for opportunities to learn more about CPOE Stage 10. Staff from the Bureau of Child and Adult Technical Assistance will provide an overview during the first quarter of 2015. For additional questions, email Darlene.Dalton@jfs.ohio.gov.

APS Funding Workgroup Formed

The 2014 Mid-Biennium Review proposed, and H.B. 483 established, the Adult Protective Services Funding Workgroup to examine Ohio’s adult protective services (APS) system. The workgroup was tasked with the following:

- Investigating programmatic or financial gaps in the APS system.
- Identifying best practices currently employed at the county level, as well as those that can be integrated into the system.
- Identifying areas of overlap and linkages across all human services programs.
- Coordinating with the Children Services Funding Workgroup, which also was created by HB 483 (Section 751.140)

The workgroup made the following six recommendations for distributing \$10 million in one-time funding:

1. Define core minimum APS requirements for the state and each county. The workgroup recommended that ODJFS pursue legislation defining the minimum requirements and requiring the state and each county to comply with the requirements by July 1, 2016. It recommended that the requirements define the following three functions of an adult protection system:
 - Screening, which is the capacity to accept and evaluate reports of suspected abuse or neglect of an adult.
 - Investigation, which is the capacity to examine and assess reports of suspected abuse or neglect of an adult.

- Service provision, which is the capacity to provide services that alleviate the abuse or neglect, fully utilize available community resources, and prosecute the offender when appropriate.

The workgroup also identified the following core minimum requirements for ODJFS to provide administrative oversight of a statewide APS system:

- Establish a statewide oversight council.
- Monitor and provide selected case review.
- Provide technical assistance and training as needed.
- Collect and retain state- and county-level data.
- Write and amend policy.
- Work collaboratively on cross-system issues.

The final report includes draft legislative language.

2. Implement a statewide APS data collection and reporting system.
3. Implement a statewide APS hotline.
4. Provide one-time, all-system training to help the state and counties meet core requirements.
5. Provide one-time APS planning funds to help counties meet core requirements.
6. Provide a one-time APS Innovation Fund to encourage multidisciplinary collaboration and build system capacity to meet core requirements.

The workgroup’s [final report](#) describes its activities and provides additional details about each recommendation.

New APS Funding Opportunities

Three one-time funding opportunities to help county departments of job and family services enhance their APS programming now are available. Application materials and additional details are available [here](#). These funding opportunities were developed by the Adult Protective Services Funding Workgroup. (See “APS Funding Workgroup Formed,” page 4.) The workgroup’s final report includes the following statement:

The workgroup consistently observed that Ohio currently does not have a statewide APS system but a collection of county-based programs that vary widely in resources and capability. To remedy this, the workgroup identified minimum core requirements for establishing a more accountable statewide system.

However, we know that counties’ capability to comply with core requirements proposed by the workgroup varies considerably. Some counties already may meet or exceed proposed requirements while others may need considerable work to sufficiently enhance existing services.

The three opportunities acknowledge county individuality. They support counties’ efforts to coordinate available resources, assess existing capacity and develop

a collaborative county plan for enhancing system availability. Here is a summary of each:

1. APS Planning Process

Counties have an 11-month planning period (Jan. 1, 2015 – Nov. 14, 2015) to collaboratively map out steps to make core APS requirements available by July 1, 2016. Funding will be awarded to counties as they meet each of four benchmarks, with the expectation that funds will be applied to continued enhancement efforts. Each county is eligible to receive planning awards, regardless of whether selected benchmarks were in place before Jan. 1, 2015.

2. APS Capacity Building (Competitive Funding)

These awards will support counties’ efforts to meet or exceed core requirements. Applicants are asked to link their proposals to core APS requirements, define the problem or barrier that will be addressed, and describe the approach that will be used. County plans for sustainability also will be assessed.

3. APS Program Innovation (Competitive Funding)

This category promotes innovation in Ohio’s APS programming. This is the opportunity to test new ideas and approaches that advance Ohio’s practice.

Field Notes: CPOE Field Guide Under Construction

In addition to preparing for the transition to a new CPOE review instrument, staff from OFC’s Bureau of Child and Adult Technical Assistance have been working to improve the procedure’s inter-rater reliability. Inter-rater reliability is the consistency with which different reviewers produce similar ratings when judging the same behaviors and characteristics in a situation. The percentage to which they agree is called the inter-rater reliability calculation. A higher percentage of agreement equals a more consistent judgment.

The first step in improving inter-rater reliability was the

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APS Funding Workgroup Members

Greg Moody (chair), Office of Health Transformation
 Laura Abu-Absi, County Commissioners’ Association of Ohio
 Georgia Anetzberger, National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse
 Bill Coley, Ohio Senate
 Mike Dovilla, Ohio House of Representatives
 Cindy Farson, Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging
 John Fisher, Licking County Department of Job and Family Services
 Bob Hagan, Ohio House of Representatives
 Vicki Jenkins, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
 Jennifer Justice, ODJFS
 Beverly Laubert, Ohio Department of Aging
 Michael McCreight, ODJFS
 Brandi Nicholson, Ohio Department of Medicaid
 Sylvia Pla-Raith, Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services
 Joel Potts, Ohio Job and Family Services Directors’ Association
 Dan Schrieber, Ohio Office of Budget and Management
 Jen Seidel, Governor’s Office
 Michael Skindell, Ohio Senate
 Bill Sundermeyer, American Association of Retired Persons
 Adreana Tartt, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

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development of a CPOE Review Field Guide, expected to be released in early 2015. The guide will be a great reference tool for anyone who needs to understand Ohio's new review instrument and process. This one-stop resource will provide specific instructions

on how to rate each item, parameters to use when applying professional judgment, frequently asked questions, federal technical assistance issuances, and corresponding Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) citations and interpretations for each item. For additional information, email Anna.Wyss-Zilles@jfs.ohio.gov.

January 2015 Global Emails

The following emails were sent in December 2014 from Jennifer Justice to PCSA directors and/or private agency directors. They are organized below by mailing date and key word.

12/30/14 - APS Update

Principle of the Month

Partners are given voice in the decision-making process.

Rule Review Update

The following OAC rules will be posted to Ohio's Families and Children Rule Review website, www.ohiorulereview.org, for the times specified below.

From December 8, 2014, through January 8, 2015:

- OAC Rule 5101:2-39-01, "Removal of a child from the child's own home"
Purpose: To incorporate new federal requirements as a result of the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act

From December 22, 2014, through January 5, 2015:

- OAC 5101:2-47-08, "Required application/update for Title IV-D (child support) services and referrals to Title IV-A (public assistance); health-check; third party insurance; and supplemental security income (SSI)"
Purpose: Five-year review

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 1,069 hits during November 2014.

Feedback and Subscriptions

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.



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