



PARTNERS
FOR OHIO'S FAMILIES

OCF seeks and supports strategies to strengthen the voices of youth and families for its work.

OFFICE OF FAMILIES & CHILDREN

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From OFC Deputy Director Jennifer Justice – 4/3/15

It seems I always begin April's First Friday by highlighting the events and activities associated with Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month, and this year is no different! I love that April reminds us that child abuse and neglect are not inevitable; we can intervene early and support families to prevent it.

This year's #PinwheelSelfie campaign (see page 2) makes it especially easy and fun to help raise awareness. My dog, Oscar, already has taken his pinwheel selfie, and I hope you will follow the Ohio Children's Trust Fund on Twitter and Facebook to check out all the photos and post your own. Judging by the number of pinwheels I have seen around the office, I'm guessing that many OFC staff are planning their own photo opportunities. I can't wait to see the ways that we all use social media to develop a collaborative culture that promotes strong and healthy families.

April also is a universal benchmark for change — this is when we start to feel the shift from winter cold to balmy spring — so change is another recurrent April First Friday topic. We are talking a lot about change at OFC as we experience and prepare for changes in organizational structure.

I'm pleased to announce Kevin Bullock as the new chief of the Bureau of Automated Systems and Justin Able as the new technical assistance

manager in the Bureau of Child and Adult Technical Assistance. Many of you know Kevin and Justin from their prior positions at OFC. If you haven't had the pleasure, I hope you'll make an effort to meet them soon.

Unfortunately, I also am announcing the retirement of Barbara Manuel, chief of the Bureau of Child and Adult Technical Assistance, on June 30. These next several months will allow us to plan a smooth transition to new bureau leadership, but it always is difficult to lose someone of Barb's experience, skill and warmth. Please join me in wishing her the best (if I can't convince her to change her mind!).

In other news, I'd like to extend kudos to everyone who worked with their community colleagues to develop and submit Adult Protective Services (APS) Program Innovation or APS Capacity Building grant applications. ODJFS Director Cynthia Dungey announced 16 Program Innovation grant recipients in a March 3 email. The application period for the Capacity Building grants closed on Wednesday. We received 52 applications and will announce the recipients soon.

As you may know, these grants were recommended by the APS Funding Workgroup, which met last year to identify programmatic and financial gaps in the APS

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system, as well as county best practices. One practice the group identified was interdisciplinary teams of many professionals in a community working together to review cases, address problems or provide services. OFC staff are planning a webinar in May offering guidance to communities on how to

put these teams together. We're also nearing completion of a new APS core curriculum, which was another workgroup recommendation, so stay tuned!

We know OFC will need to make adjustments as we implement the rest of the workgroup's recommendations and further support local agencies as they build

and enhance programs to protect vulnerable adults. While it's difficult to predict what those changes will be, I am confident OFC will adapt to meet the needs of public and private agencies. Just as protective services are built around the positive promise of change, OFC is committed to implementing changes that lead to better outcomes for those we serve.

Greene County Contest Promotes Child Abuse Prevention

For the second year in a row, Greene County Children Services held a Child Abuse Prevention Calendar Art Contest for fourth- and fifth-graders. The winning entries will be announced April 29 at Green County's Blue Ribbon Breakfast at the Walnut Grove Country Club. Winning artwork will appear in a 2016 calendar, with the grand prize winner appearing on the calendar's cover.

"We've distributed over 3,000 calendars featuring last year's art contest winners, and the feedback from the community has been very positive," said Amy Amburn, Greene County Children Services administrator. "We think the contest and calendar are both very effective ways of educating Greene County residents of all ages about child abuse prevention."

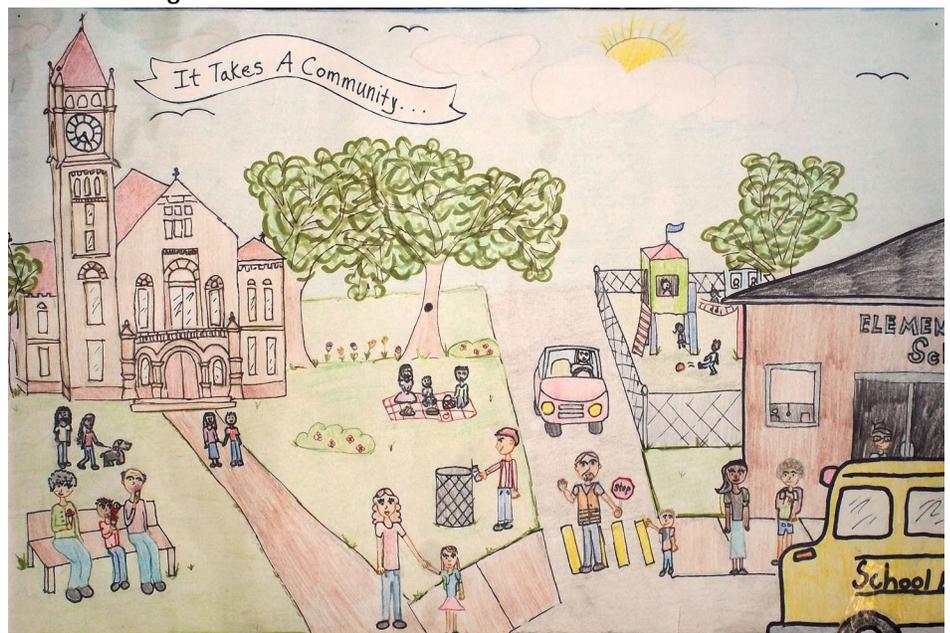
The theme of this year's contest is "Keeping Kids Safe All Year Long." Greene County Children's Services kicked off the contest by making presentations to more than 700 students at 10 Greene County elementary schools. All students received blue wristbands with the phrase "It Takes a Community to Protect a Child" printed on the outside and "Report Abuse" and the Greene County Children Services phone number printed on the inside. Facebook promotions and a press release encouraged homeschooled students to participate, as well.

Nearly 80 children entered the contest. OCTF Executive Director Kristen N. Rost will announce the winners. Both the winners and their schools also will receive monetary prizes from OCTF.

The calendars will be available for free in the lobbies of Greene County Children Services and the Greene County Department of Job and Family Services.

Ohio Children's Trust Fund's #PinwheelSelfie Campaign

To help raise awareness of the importance of preventing child abuse and neglect, the Ohio Children's Trust Fund (OCTF) invites you to participate in its #PinwheelSelfie Campaign. This effort kicks off on April 6 and runs through April. Simply snap a photo of yourself, or a "selfie," with a pinwheel and post it to your Twitter account. Make sure to include the Trust Fund's Twitter handle, @OhioCTF, and the campaign's official hashtag, #PinwheelSelfie. For pinwheel signs and a make-your-own-pinwheel template, visit <http://jfs.ohio.gov/OCTF/CAPM.stm>.



Above: Last year's contest winner, created by Jennah Johnson, is the cover image for the 2015 Child Abuse Prevention Calendar. Last year, Jennah was a fourth-grade student at Fairborn Intermediate School.

How to Participate in Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month

Communities throughout the state organize proclamations, vigils, ceremonies, educational forums and other activities to recognize April as Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month. Visit the [OCTF Facebook page](#) for information about activities across Ohio.

Here are some ways your agency can be involved:

- Participate in the #Pinwheel-Selfie campaign (see page 2)
- Follow @OhioCTF on Twitter
- Like OCTF on [Facebook](#)
- Follow and repin from our [Pinterest](#) board
- Wear blue on April 8 (see right)
- Praise good parenting when you see it
- Reach out to a neighbor in need of help
- Donate to the Ohio Children's Trust Fund via <http://jfs.ohio.gov/OCTF/Donations.stm> or mail. OCTF sends letters of receipt to all donors. Make checks payable to the Ohio Children's Trust Fund. Mail donations to:
Ohio Children's Trust Fund
P.O. Box 183204
Columbus, Ohio 43218-3204

Don't Forget: Ohio Wears Blue on April 8

Ohio Wears Blue is a statewide awareness campaign that takes place on the second Wednesday of every April. Ohioans are encouraged to wear blue that day to work, school or community events to show support for child abuse and neglect prevention.



Above: Representatives from nine metropolitan counties, the Public Children Services Association of Ohio and OFC at a recent meeting to discuss new Child and Family Services Review measures (see page 8).

Right: OFC staff pose with one of the Berenstain Bears.



Left: Members of the Supreme Court of Ohio's Family Law Team, which meets bimonthly to share information and strategize on how best to support local courts and children services agencies. The team is comprised of OFC's Kristin Gilbert and Supreme Court of Ohio staff representing programs that serve the families who come before Ohio's courts.

Grants for Local Human Trafficking Prevention Efforts

In collaboration with the Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force, OCTF awarded \$90,000 in grants to eight organizations to support human trafficking prevention programs statewide. Because of these programs, community members, professionals, families and at-risk youth in 22 Ohio counties will receive much-needed human trafficking prevention services, outreach and advocacy. Read on to find out how much grant money each organization was awarded and what programs the funds will support.

Bellefaire JCB, Cuyahoga County (\$15,000)

- Educational presentations to community agencies, school personnel and social services employees to engage at-risk youth and the staff who serve them.
- Educational presentations to community stakeholders.
- A materials outreach campaign targeting places where at-risk, runaway and homeless youth gather.

The Children's Advocacy Center of Guernsey County, Guernsey and Noble Counties, (\$10,633)

- A social media campaign targeting youth through collaborations with students and young professionals.
- Educational outreach to employees and owners of local businesses that are at risk for potential human trafficking activity.
- An awareness campaign comprised of the following: (1) large stickers with helpline phone numbers, which will be displayed in local businesses and areas at risk for human trafficking; (2) posters, fact sheets and billboards; and (3) public service announcements on radio stations and social media sites.

Crime Victim Services; Allen, Defiance, and Putnam Counties (\$15,000)

- Development of a youth-based human trafficking curriculum.
- Peer-to-peer classroom presentations to student leaders at a local high school.
- An awareness-raising human trafficking and dating violence student project at a local high school.
- Training for education and faith-based professionals, foster care organization staff, and foster parents.
- Public awareness campaign.

Gallia and Lawrence County Family and Children First Councils, Gallia and Lawrence Counties (\$8,750)

- Formation of a coalition that will implement community training and public awareness campaigns.

Ottawa County Department of Job and Family Services, Ottawa County (\$7,300)

- Development of a reporting and response protocol for suspected human trafficking through collaborations with local law enforcement and a regional coalition.
- Training for practitioners, community resource

staff and at-risk youth.

- A community outreach campaign via billboards and posters in high-traffic areas.

Power 2 Impact Global Foundation DBA Ohio Youth Empowerment Program, Franklin County (\$3,318)

- Collaboration between artists and survivors, who will work with local schools to create an art-based awareness campaign.

Sisters in Shelter; Crawford, Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Huron, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca, Williams, Wood and Wyandot Counties (\$15,000)

- Training additional presenters to provide awareness presentations to up to 15 schools across seven Ohio counties.
- Formation of a youth focus group comprised of students from seven Ohio counties
- A community outreach campaign via billboards in 13 Ohio counties.
- Staff and volunteer prevention training.

The University of Toledo, Lucas County (\$14,999)

- Development of a "Youth Page" smartphone application to identify resources for at-risk minors.
- Creation of a Spanish-language Youth Pages Resource Handbook that identifies resources for at-risk minors.



Making an Impact with Art

One of the grant recipients – Power 2 Impact Global Foundation DBA Ohio Youth Empowerment Program – is taking an innovative approach to its school-based prevention efforts. Local artists and human trafficking survivors are teaming up to educate young people at several central Ohio locations: the Dowd Education Center; Focus Learning Academy South; The Ohio State University Star House; and Hilliard Davidson, Whitehall and Worthington high schools.

After learning more about human trafficking, the youth will develop art projects showing their impressions of the crime's impact. This project will begin in April, and selected pieces will be displayed in galleries around Columbus in May or June. The goal is to spark discussion and raise awareness.

Independent Living/Transitional Youth Statewide Meeting

Agency administrators, independent living coordinators and other staff who work with foster youth age 14 older: Have you wondered what was learned during last fall's independent living/transitional youth meetings? On April 15, OFC staff will share their findings at the Ohio Department of Transportation building at 1980 W. Broad St., Columbus. The meeting also will provide information about policy changes resulting from enactment of the federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act.

Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m.; the meeting will run from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. It also will be available via webcast through Microsoft Silverlight, a free browser plug-in. You can register now for the webcast by emailing Rhonda.Nelson@jfs.ohio.gov.

For additional information, contact Susan Halter at (614) 752-0088 or Susan.Halter@jfs.ohio.gov or Laurie Valentine at (614) 752-1122 or Laurie.Valentine@jfs.ohio.gov.

Congratulations, Justin Able!

The Bureau of Child and Adult Technical Assistance is pleased to welcome Justin Able to his new position as technical assistance manager of the Columbus field office. There, he will oversee the Columbus office's technical assistance specialists, foster and adoption certifications, and Ohio's Multi-Ethnic Placement Act monitor.

Justin's career with social services began when he joined the Harrison County Department of Job and Family Services in 2000. He became a supervisor at that agency in 2002.

In 2011, he joined OFC as a technical assistance specialist.

Justin was born and raised in eastern Ohio. He graduated from Wagner College in Staten Island, New York, where he played football for four years and earned All-American honors as a two-way starter. He continued his studies at Wagner as a graduate assistant football coach for one year. When not at work, Justin enjoys riding his motorcycle, playing golf, traveling and watching sports, particularly the Pirates and Steelers.



Justin Able



Kevin Bullock

Congratulations, Kevin Bullock!

OFC's Bureau of Automated Systems has a new chief: Kevin Bullock. Kevin brings wide-ranging experience to this position. He first joined the bureau as a business analyst in 2006 during the early testing, pre-implementation days of SACWIS. Working on-site during initial SACWIS implementation as county partners went live helped him develop a user-focused perspective.

In 2012, Kevin was promoted to Integrated Help Desk manager, responsible for both the SACWIS and OFC help desks. He also was involved in the Title IV-E juvenile court SACWIS rollout, which again

allowed him to work directly with new SACWIS users. Prior to joining OFC, Kevin was a child welfare caseworker and court liaison with Franklin County Children Services.

"I am very excited about my new role and am looking forward to the upcoming initiatives involving Ohio's SACWIS Project, such as document imaging, private agency rollout, the new field assistant approach and many others," Kevin said. "I am very proud to lead such a talented staff, and I anticipate more great accomplishments from Ohio's SACWIS team."

OCTF Board Welcomes New Members

Every child will grow up nurtured by a network of strong communities and healthy families – that’s the vision of OCTF.

OCTF is Ohio’s sole public funding source dedicated to preventing child abuse and neglect. It is governed by a board of 15 members: eight public members appointed by the governor, four legislative members, and the directors of the Ohio departments of Health, Job and Family Services, and Mental Health and Addiction Services. Board members guide OCTF’s operational, programmatic and fiscal decisions regarding the planning and implementation of child maltreatment prevention efforts and policies.

Half of the board’s governor-appointed members reached their statutory term limits over the last two years. Although this created challenges, it also offered an opportunity to enhance the board’s geographical and professional diversity. With the support of OCTF stakeholders, the board revitalized its membership; strengthened its programming, evaluation and financial sustainability; and expanded its collaborations and partnerships.

This month, as child abuse and neglect prevention is forefront in our minds, we want to thank the OCTF board members for their ongoing commitment of time and expertise to prevent child abuse and neglect. The names of the board members are listed below. New members are noted with an asterisk.

- State Sen. Kevin Bacon (Chairman), 3rd District, represents central Ohio and contributes his legal expertise, as well as his extensive experience advocating for improving the lives of those with special needs.
- Julie Barnes*, executive director of Summit County Children Services, represents northeast



Ohio Children’s Trust Fund

Ohio’s Prevent Child Abuse America Chapter

Ohio and has extensive knowledge of social work and child abuse and neglect services.

- Cynthia C. Dungey is director of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, the state agency responsible for the state’s child protective services programs.
- Jon Fishpaw, vice president of advocacy and government relations for Catholic Health Partners, represents central Ohio and has extensive knowledge of government relations, advocacy, the health care industry and the private sector.
- State Sen. Lou Gentile*, 30th District, represents eastern Ohio and contributes his expertise in economic development, education and legislation.
- Richard Hodges is director of the Ohio Department of Health.
- Christina Klefeker*, professor and coordinator for service learning and volunteerism at Miami University, represents southwest Ohio and contributes her expertise in higher education and child welfare.
- State Rep. Sarah LaTourette*, 76th District, represents northeast Ohio and has experience in both legislative and non-profit leadership.
- Judy Leb*, training coordinator for Lucas County Court Appointed Special Advocates/Guardians Ad Litem, represents northwest Ohio and contributes her legal expertise.
- Dr. Kathi Makaroff*, pediatrician and associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Cincinnati’s College of Med-

icine, represents southwest Ohio and contributes her expertise in medicine and higher education.

- Dr. Lolita McDavid, medical director of child advocacy and protection at Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital in Cleveland, represents northeast Ohio and has extensive experience in medicine and higher education.
- Tracy J. Plouck is director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.
- Ron Rees*, executive director of the Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development, represents southeast Ohio and contributes his expertise in mental health and nonprofit leadership, as well as his years of experience in working to ensure the safety of children.

For more information about OCTF, please contact Executive Director Kristen Rost at (614) 387-5478 or Kristen.Rost@jfs.ohio.gov.

Reminder

County agencies’ Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month Report Forms are due to OCTF by June 1, 2015. Report templates can be downloaded from <http://jfs.ohio.gov/OCTF/CAPM.stm>. Just scroll to the bottom of this page and click on “Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month Report Form April 2015.”

Don't Miss Out: Safe and Together™ Meetings

It's not too late to register for Regional Safe and Together™ Meetings! (See "Regional Safe and Together™ Meetings Planned for Justice System Partners" in [February's First Friday](#).) We encourage each county to take advantage of this opportunity. Participants will get to hear from national experts and discuss the intersection of child welfare and domestic violence with colleagues from their own and neighboring communities. Meetings are scheduled for the following dates and times:

Tuesday, April 21, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Southwest Ohio Regional Judicial Meeting
Hilton Garden Inn Beavercreek

Wednesday, April 22, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Central Ohio Regional Judicial Meeting
Embassy Suites Columbus Airport

Tuesday, May 19, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Northwest Ohio Regional Judicial Meeting
Holiday Inn French Quarter Perrysburg

Wednesday, May 20, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Northeast Ohio Regional Judicial Meeting
Hilton Akron/Fairlawn

For additional information, contact Supreme Court of Ohio Domestic Violence Counsel Diana Ramos-Reardon at diana.ramos-reardon@sc.ohio.gov or Ohio Intimate Partner Violence Collaborative Coordinator Jenny Hartmann at jhartmann@law.capital.edu or (614) 236-6539.

Ohio Minds Matter Launches Stakeholder Network

Ohio Minds Matter, a collaborative working to improve the appropriate use of psychotropic medications for children in foster care, has launched a statewide stakeholder network of clinicians and local partners. Although the network kicked off with a webinar on March 24, it's not too late to join. Members will have the opportunity to do the following:

- Participate in quarterly webinars facilitated by children's services agencies and state partners to discuss engaging foster youth in treatment and strengthening community linkages to reduce barriers to care.
- Discuss strategies to engage foster youth in mental health treatment.
- Identify ways to strengthen community supports.
- Receive diagnostic and prescribing resources specifically tailored for clinicians, families, child welfare agencies, schools and community members.
- Implement tested Ohio Minds Matter resources for shared decision-making with youth, caregivers and families.
- Receive Maintenance of Certification, Continuing Medical Education and Continuing Education Unit credits for completing online learning modules.

See the attached description of upcoming webinars, all of which are recorded for later viewing. If you would like to participate, please submit an interest form to Celina.Mincey@hsag.com. For more information, visit www.ohiomindsmatter.org.

April 2015 Global Emails

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

3/3/15 - Letter of receipt of proposals

3/10/15 - Independent Living/Transitional Youth Statewide Meeting

Please Participate!

The Supreme Court of Ohio's Subcommittee on Responding to Child Abuse, Neglect and Dependency (CAND) is beginning a three-year assessment of issues that might be appropriate for its future consideration. Please help make this process meaningful by taking a few minutes to complete the survey available [here](#).

This assessment is a key requirement for Ohio to receive federal Children's Justice Act funding so your input is vital.

Feel free to share this link with your colleagues and others who may be interested in sharing their input. It is important to make sure all perspectives have voice; a simple comment can spark change or innovation. Put your experience to good use. You can make a difference!

For more information about CAND's current focus, see "CAND Subcommittee Welcomes New Chair" in the [March 2015 First Friday](#).

It's Official: Capital University Group Changes Name

In March, the National Center for Adoption Law and Policy (NCALP) changed its name to the Family and Youth Law Center (FYLaw) at Capital University Law School. The new name more accurately reflects the entire scope of FYLaw's work and mission: To work within child welfare, adoption and juvenile justice systems to support positive outcomes for children, youth and families. You can learn more about FYLaw at www.familyyouthlaw.org.

Right: FYLaw staff pose at a ribbon-cutting ceremony organized to announce and celebrate the organization's new name.



CFSR Measure of the Month

Each month, First Friday features one Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) measure in our "Measure of the Month" series. April's measure is "Permanency in 12 Months for Children in Foster Care 24+ Months." Because the CFSR "looks back" at prior years' activities, the work we do today will impact Ohio's performance in the 2017 CFSR. It is critical that stakeholders fully [understand the CFSR process](#) and assess current performance.

As noted [last month](#), three permanency measures are related to the time children spend in custody. Each measure assesses our performance in achieving permanency for one of three distinct populations: children who have been in care for 12 months or less; children who have been in care for 12 to 23 months; and children who have been in care for at least 24 months. These data indicators measure one of child welfare's most critical obligations to the children and families it serves: timely reunifying or placing children in safe and permanent homes.

CFSR Round 3 brings an important change in how permanency is measured. In previous CFSR rounds, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau

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Rule Review Update

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

From March 11 through April 10:

- OAC 5101:2-42-68, "Necessity for continued substitute care placement: court reviews and hearing requirements."
Purpose: To add language regarding Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) for youth in foster care age 16 or older.

From March 31 through April 30:

- OAC Rule 5101:2-36-08, "PCSA requirements for involving a third party in the assessment/investigation of a child abuse or neglect report."
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 1,137 hits during February 2015.

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 examined reunifications within 12 months and adoptions within 24 months as separate data indicators. The new set of measures examines permanency in a more holistic fashion, with a range of outcomes, including a child's discharge from foster care to a relative caregiver, legal guardianship, adoption, or reunification with parents or a primary caretaker.

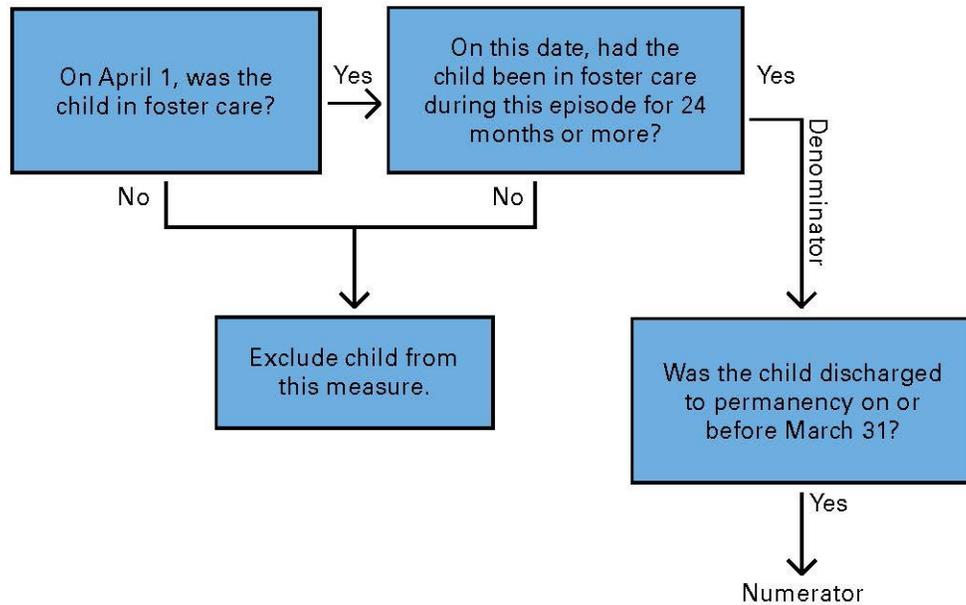
In **February** and **March**, we featured the first two permanency measures, which focused on children in care for 12 months or less and children in care for 12 to 23 months. This month's measure examines how successful

we are in achieving permanency for youth in care for 24 months or longer.

To assess our performance, we select all children who were in care for at least 24 months as of April 1 of each year. Then we identify the percentage of those children who were discharged to permanency by March 31 of the following year. Youth who are at least 18 years old on April 1 are excluded. The Children's Bureau makes an adjustment for children placed in trial home visits. This means that if a child is discharged from foster care to his or her parents or other caregivers after an extended trial home visit, time spent in the trial home visit exceeding 30 days is subtracted from the length of stay

in foster care. This prevents states from being penalized for efforts to approach permanency options in a thoughtful and well-planned manner.

Performance on this measure is risk-adjusted by the child's age on April 1. The national standard is 30.3 percent or more. Our most recent risk-adjusted performance was 26.9 percent. In other words, of all the children who were in care for at least 24 months on April 1 of the last year measured, only 26.9 obtained permanency by March 31 of the following year. This was comparatively worse than the median performance across states and means that Ohio is not getting these youth to permanency fast enough to meet the national standard.



Principle of the Month

OFC seeks and supports strategies to strengthen the voices of youth and families for its work.

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.

