



PARTNERS
FOR OHIO'S FAMILIES

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

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From OFC Deputy Director Jennifer Justice – 6/5/15

May flew by, and June is promising to be another whirlwind of activities and deadlines. I was in Washington, D.C., twice last month to meet with other state leaders about issues that concern us all.

On May 15, Muskingum County Children Services Director Dave Boyer and I joined more than 60 individuals at the White House to discuss foster care placement prevention and proposals that would extend services under Title IV-E. Through ProtectOHIO, our 16-county demonstration project, Ohio has experienced the benefit of using Title IV-E dollars more flexibly, to prevent rather than pay for placement. I think it would be great to make expanded Title IV-E benefits available for preventative services statewide.

I returned to the White House on May 29. The U.S. Administration for Children and Families invited each state’s child welfare director to discuss the provisions of Public Law No: 113-183, the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, including its “reasonable and prudent parent standards.” These meetings help remind us that we all struggle with the same questions, regardless of geography, resources or history. Our issues are complex with no

simple answers so it’s important that federal, state and county agencies work together and share our collective experiences.

Back in Columbus, we’re writing federal reports, and I am reviewing hundreds of pages of activity summaries. If you ever doubt

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OFC Deputy Director Jennifer Justice in front of the White House seal in Washington, D.C.

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that we as a system are innovative, hard-working and collaborative, please join me in reviewing our Annual Progress and Services Report and Ohio's Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention and Children's Justice Act annual plans. All will be posted on OFC's website as they are submitted. Thank you to the many subcommittee and workgroup volunteers named throughout these reports. The breadth and experience of the individuals across Ohio who consistently volunteer their time and perspectives to our ongoing activities is amazing. We are a better system because of it.

Speaking of collaboration: PCSA directors, check your mailboxes for my May 27 email about the Judicial Symposium on Addiction and Child

Welfare (see page 5). The child welfare system's struggle with parental substance abuse is recurrent and ongoing. This symposium offers the opportunity to strategize with your local court and treatment providers to find solutions to this pressing issue. If your team is not yet registered, reach out to your juvenile court judge to encourage team participation.

The real story of this First Friday is Ohio's newly emerging adult protective services (APS) system. There is much going on! Remember, we just are beginning this process, and I expect many enhancements in the years ahead. In the meantime, we are building something exciting. The governor's proposed biennial budget includes an APS allotment of \$3.5 million in each of the next two state fiscal years. It also calls for a new

statutory framework, based in part on the findings of the Adult Protective Services Funding Workgroup recommended by his 2014 Mid-Biennium Review (see below). The workgroup also recommended distributing \$10 million in one-time APS funding via Program Innovation and Capacity-Building grants; congratulations also to the 63 agencies that recently received them.

Finally, don't forget to wear purple for Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15, and encourage your colleagues to do the same. Be sure to take a group picture to share with us at APS_Mailbox@jfs.ohio.gov! We love to see what your agencies are doing, and we periodically display your photos in our office to remind all OFC staff of our partnership on behalf of children, youth and vulnerable adults.

APS Program Development Opportunities

In April 2014, as a result of the governor's 2014 Mid-Biennium Review, the General Assembly enacted Amended Substitute House Bill 483. Section 751.30 of this bill established the APS Funding Workgroup and charged it with the following tasks:

- Investigating programmatic or financial gaps in the APS system.
- Identifying counties' best practices, including those that can be integrated statewide.
- Identifying areas of overlaps and linkages across all human services programs.
- Coordinating with the Children Services Funding Workgroup.
- Recommending a distribution method for \$10 million in one-time APS funding

The workgroup was comprised of statutorily designated legislative and stakeholder representatives. Their final report, released in September 2014, contained a number of recommendations for ODJFS Director Cynthia Dungey. Director Dungey accepted all the recommendations and submitted them to the Controlling Board, which approved them in October 2014.

Since then, APS staff have been hard at work implementing the workgroup's recommendations. They are listed below with status updates.

Define core minimum APS program requirements

The workgroup identified core minimum program

requirements as screening, investigation and services. Counties are expected to have the capacity to meet these requirements by July 1, 2016. Grant opportunities were offered to help counties build or enhance their APS programming to meet this expectation (see below).

Implement a statewide APS data collection and reporting system

The ODJFS Office of Information Services is helping develop specifications for a new, automated data collection and reporting system that meets federal, state and local reporting requirements. It is expected to be operational by July 1, 2016.

Implement a statewide APS hotline

The workgroup recognized that Ohio needs a single, identifiable number that citizens can call to report suspected elder maltreatment, without replacing local intake functions. The APS statewide hotline will use geo-tracking to connect callers with the appropriate county agency. It also is expected to be operational by July 1, 2016.

Provide one-time, all-system training aligned to meeting core requirements

ODJFS, the Institute for Human Services and the Ohio Human Services Training System (OHSTS) Steering Committee developed competency-based APS core curricula that will meet the needs of Ohio's APS workforce. A condensed version will be used to provide APS Reboot

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Training, which the workgroup also recommended (see page 4). The OHSTS Regional Training Centers will offer the Reboot Training to APS caseworkers and supervisors statewide between July 1 and Dec. 31. Stipends will be available to support staff completing the training.

Offer One-Time APS Development Opportunities

OFC developed an informational packet outlining the process for counties to apply for one-time planning and innovation grants. After the packet was released on Dec. 30, 2014, OFC staff presented a webinar to explain the recommendations, requirements and application processes for each of the funding opportunities described below:

APS Planning Process Grants

These noncompetitive grants are designed to help counties meet core program requirements by June 30, 2016. Disbursements of \$10,000 are issued as various benchmarks are reached: submission of a letter of attestation; commitment to build the county's capacity to meet core requirements; development of a county plan of cooperation, signed by local APS program partner organizations; and establishment of an interdisciplinary team. Counties receive \$20,000 when they submit a comprehensive plan for meeting core program requirements, in conjunction with a memorandum of understanding (MOU) delineating the roles and responsibilities of local APS partner organizations.

To date, counties have submitted 60 letters of attestation, seven plans of cooperation, five interdisciplinary team verifications and one comprehensive plan/MOU. County agencies may submit documentation for APS planning funds through Nov. 14.

APS Innovation Fund

The APS Innovation Fund grants are designed to

encourage multidisciplinary collaboration and to build counties' capacity to meet core requirements. The Innovation Fund established two categories under which competitive grants were awarded:

- APS Program Innovation Grants support efforts that introduce new, replicable strategic or structural arrangements that allow counties to exceed or more efficiently comply with the core requirements. Of the 38 proposals submitted by the Feb. 16, 2015, deadline, 22 were recommended for funding.
- APS Capacity-Building Grants support program improvements that allow counties to comply with core requirements more efficiently. All 52 proposals submitted by the Apr. 1, 2015, deadline were recommended for funding.

In addition to the county-oriented recommendations, the workgroup also recommended core minimum requirements for ODJFS to provide administrative oversight of the statewide APS system. Specifically, the workgroup recommended that ODJFS do the following:

- Establish a statewide oversight council.
- Monitor cases 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.

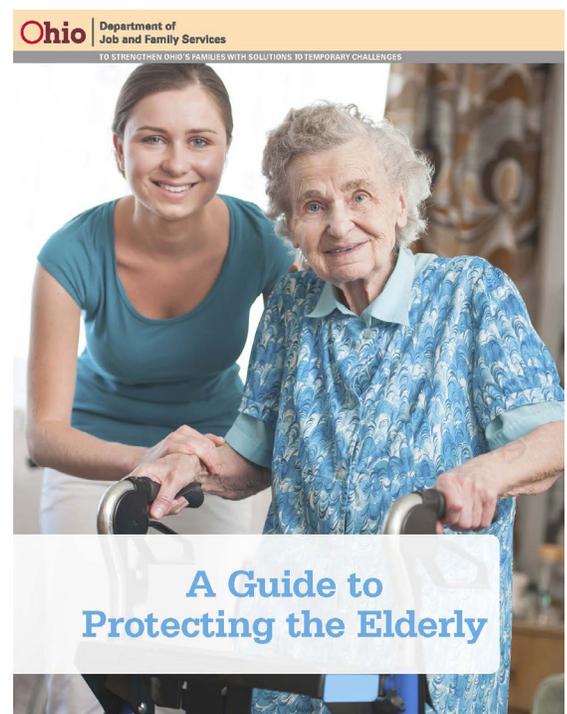
Both ODJFS and county agencies are expected to comply with the new core minimum requirements by July 1, 2016. Stay tuned!

For additional information about Ohio's APS system development, email APS_Mailbox@jfs.ohio.gov.

New APS Public Awareness Tools

A new APS booklet and quick reference card will be available soon for county departments of job and family services' staff and the public. Both were developed for APS professionals and program stakeholders to use in raising community awareness about elder maltreatment and issues facing vulnerable adults.

"A Guide to Protecting the Elderly" (JFS 08025) is a comprehensive booklet with information about various types of maltreatment, signs and symptoms of abuse, reporting elder abuse, and knowing whom to call for help. The "Adult Protective Services Rack Card" (JFS 08027) is a modified, quick-reference version of the guide. Both will be available at no charge through the ODJFS Forms Central website at www.odjfs.state.oh.us/forms/inter.asp. Keep checking for availability.



Wear Purple to Work Day

June 15 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. In support of this important event, Governor Kasich also declared June 15 to be Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Ohio.

To demonstrate a commitment to protecting vulnerable adults from exploitation and maltreatment, ODJFS has designated the day as "Wear Purple to Work Day." We hope you will join us in wearing purple and that you encourage others in your community and professional affiliations to do the same. It would be great to see Ohio turn purple on June 15!

OFC commends the agencies throughout Ohio that have scheduled events this month to bring attention to the issue of elder abuse. Please see the "Elder Abuse Awareness Events" attachment included with the First Friday email for a list of activities and events, and let us know if we missed any in your community.



ODJFS staff gather in Columbus to show their support of elder abuse awareness during last year's "Wear Purple to Work Day" event.

Statewide APS "Reboot" Training

In keeping with the APS Funding Workgroup recommendations, statewide APS Reboot Training will be offered for all APS line staff and supervisors between July 1 and Dec. 31. The Reboot consists of four in-person and four e-learning workshops, chosen from six options in each category. See below for the offerings. To register, go to www.ohsts.org.

E-Learnings

1. APS Values and Ethics
2. Case Documentation
3. APS Interviewing Skills
4. The Aging Process
5. Voluntary Case Planning in APS
6. Involuntary Case Planning for APS Workers

In-Person Workshops

1. Initial Investigation
2. Dynamics of Elder Abuse
3. Risk Assessment
4. Voluntary and Involuntary Case Planning*
5. Collaboration in APS
6. Professional Communication Skills

*Prerequisites: E-learning courses 5 and 6.

I-Team Training

Are you considering developing a county APS interdisciplinary team (I-Team) but have questions about what that means? Help is on the way. Watch for details about OFC's upcoming webinar, "The Prerequisites of Developing an I-Team." The webinar will help participants do the following:

- Understand the purpose and benefits of an I-Team.
- Identify the appropriate stakeholders and community partners that might participate in an I-Team.
- Identify strategies to engage stakeholders and community partners.

New Adult Guardianship Rules

What a difference a year can make! Just 12 months after opening for public comment, new rules to bring uniformity and consistency to Ohio's adult guardianship practices will become effective June 1.

Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio (Sup.R.) 66.01 through 66.09 provide clear

guidance for best practices in adult guardianship cases. In addition, Sup.R. 73, regulates guardianship compensation matters. The rules were drafted by the Supreme Court of Ohio's Subcommittee on Adult Guardianship. The [June 2014](#) issue of First Friday discussed their seven-year evolution.

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To be eligible for I-Team benchmark funds (see page 3-4), the county department of job and family services must be the lead agency. County agencies are responsible for convening local I-Teams to promote community collaboration in APS service delivery.

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"[These rules] will align Ohio with standards set by the National Guardianship Association in adult guardianship cases and raise the level of professionalism among our guardians," Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor said. "We know this has been a long process, but we have never lost sight that the ultimate goal is to provide our probate courts with effective means to ensure the safety and well-being of people who need our protection."

The rules require courts to institute a comprehensive complaint process, and they instruct guardians to exercise due diligence, avoid conflicts of interest, and act with integrity and above reproach. They emphasize person-centered planning and making least restrictive, most normalizing decisions possible on behalf of adult wards. They also underscore the importance of educated and knowledgeable guardians. For example, Sup.R. 66.06 and 66.07 require guardians to complete a one-time fundamentals course and to pursue continuing education provided by the Supreme Court of Ohio or another court-approved entity.

To help guardians meet these requirements, the Supreme Court of Ohio Judicial College will host a six-hour guardian fundamentals course regionally and free of charge. Separate tracks will be offered for professional guardians, such as attorneys and social workers, and for lay-person guardians, such as volunteers or family members. Beginning in the first quarter of 2016, the required three-hour continuing education seminars also will be available annually, regionally and free of charge.

For adult guardianship course updates and other educational opportunities, please visit the Ohio Adult Guardianship Education Program [website](#). Sup.R.66.01 and 66.09 can be viewed [here](#).

With the new rules in place, the Subcommittee on Adult Guardianship has turned its attention to other efforts to improve adult guardianship policies and practices. For example, the subcommittee is focusing on enhanced educational opportunities, beginning with a Summit on Guardianship this fall. Stay tuned for more details on this event! For more information on the subcommittee itself, please email Stephanie.Nelson@sc.ohio.gov.

Are You Registered for the Judicial Symposium on Child Welfare and Addiction?

June 23 is just around the corner, and team registrations for the Judicial Symposium on Child Welfare and Addiction are arriving daily. This event offers county teams a great opportunity to view the intersection of child welfare, substance abuse treatment and the courts through a variety of perspectives. A range of state and local leaders and national speakers will be on hand to help shape the day, but the event's true focus will be team discussion and planning.

Your time is valuable, and we hope you will invest it in this opportunity to improve outcomes for the families that struggle with substance abuse and addiction. OFC would like to thank Casey Family Programs,



JUDICIAL SYMPOSIUM
on Addiction & Child Welfare

which is joining us to incorporate post-event supports. These include the following:

- Limited funding to support activities identified during the event and included in the team plan.
- Competitive grants to build on strategies identified at the symposium.
- Competitive funding opportunities for PCSAs that collaborate with family drug courts.

The May 8 invitation letter from Governor Kasich and Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor asked the administrative judge of each county's juvenile court to assemble a team that includes the county's juvenile court judge, child welfare director, Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board director, and one additional community member. If you have questions or want to confirm your team's participation, please email Alaina Herrel at aherrel@oacbha.org.

Congratulations, Patty Ciripompa!

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

Each March, OCAPS hosts a statewide conference that brings together as many as 200 APS stakeholders from across the state. National and local experts present workshops on clinical, legal and legislative topics. During this year's conference, OCAPS celebrated 30 years of advocacy and education.

One highlight of the annual conference is the APS Worker of the Year Award. This year's award

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went to Patty Ciripompa, APS investigator for the Fairfield County Department of Job and Family Services. Patti was nominated by her colleague, Janet Stout, for "putting her all into providing for [her APS clients'] safety."

Under Patti's leadership, the Fairfield County Elder Abuse I-Team was one of only nine groups nationwide to be recognized by the Library of Congress for best practices among interdisciplinary teams. In addition, Patti hosts a weekly radio show, "Aging with an Attitude," in which

she discusses health, safety and other issues relevant to older adults.

For more information about OCAPS and its advocacy work, or to subscribe to the quarterly OCAPS newsletter, visit www.ocapsohio.org.

Meet the New Ohio Human Services Training System

Over the past year, the Ohio Human Services Training System (OHSTS) has developed new APS core curricula, recruited new trainers, launched a new website and, most importantly, created a new brand. Why is building a brand so important? As with any product or service, it is vital that we convey a uniform message about the system's quality and credibility to customers. The new OHSTS brand will:

- Help customers know what to expect,
- Provide guidelines for communications,
- Offer direction for all interactions,
- Motivate customer involvement, and
- Build business value.

OHSTS is a dynamic training system that develops professionals who promote safety and well-being for Ohio's older, vulnerable adults. To this end, it will strive to strengthen APS best practices through comprehensive skill development, collaboration and advocacy.



June 2015 Global Emails

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

5/4/15 - CPOE Stage 9 Final Report

5/6/15 - AFCARS and NYTD Files

5/8/15 - Title IV-E Program Improvement Plan - Removal from a Specified Relative and Best Interest Finding

5/8/15 - 2015 Judicial Symposium on Addiction and Child Welfare

5/12/15 - ODJFS Recognizes Ohio's Foster Parents

5/20/15 - Adult Protective Services (APS) Training

5/27/15 - June 23rd - Judicial Symposium on Child Welfare and Addiction

5/27/15 - Ohio Children's Trust Fund (OCTF) Survey

5/28/15 - Caseworker Visitation Summary and Continuous Quality Improvement

Rule Review Update

Currently, no Ohio Administrative Code rules are posted to Ohio's Families and Children Rule Review website, www.ohiorulereview.org. 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 1,785 hits during April 2015.

It's been more than a year since we debuted the Ohio Rule Review website on May 1, 2014. Since then, we've had more than 25,460 hits and an average of 72 unique visitors per month to the website!

CFSR Measure of the Month: Caseworker Visitation

Each month, First Friday features one Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) measure in our "Measure of the Month" series. This month, we are featuring Caseworker Visits with Children and Caseworker Visits with Parents. We also are launching a new tool to help track performance on these measures.

OFC's Continuous Quality Improvement Advisory Team recently recommended that OFC establish a mechanism to regularly share critical data with PCSA leadership. (For more on OFC's Continuous

Quality Improvement initiative, see page 2 of the [August 2014 First Friday](#).) In response, our SACWIS team developed a summary of the SACWIS Comprehensive Visitation Report to help agencies track monthly percentages of visits met for children and parents for both in-home and custody cases. This summary will be generated automatically and emailed to agency directors and children services administrators on the 15th of each month, starting June 15. This will give agencies time to use the data to improve their performance for that month.

These summary reports are intended to be conversation starters. They will contain county-specific, aggregate data, without case-specific information. However, they will allow agencies to generate reports that "drill down" to identify which children and/or parents need visits. For those interested in finding more detailed, case-specific information, a report is available in SACWIS under the "Administration" tab. Instructions on how to generate the report are available in [this](#) SACWIS Knowledge Base article.

Caseworker Visits with Children and Caseworker Visits with Parents are two distinct measures examined through the CFSR case review process. (A review of this process is available on pages 2 and 3 of the [December 2014 First Friday](#).) For CFSR Round 3, these measures fall under Well-Being Outcome 1. The on-site review will examine case documentation to determine the following:

- Whether the frequency and quality of visits between caseworkers and the child(ren) in the case are sufficient to ensure the safety, permanency and well-being of the child(ren) and to promote achievement of case goals.
- Whether the frequency and quality of visits between caseworkers and parents of the child(ren) are sufficient to ensure the safety, permanency and well-being of the child(ren) and to promote achievement of case goals.

Although Ohio's CFSR review is not scheduled until 2017, the period under review begins April 1, 2016, so we have only the next 10 months to improve on these items.

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.

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 FirstFriday@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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