



PARTNERS  
FOR OHIO'S FAMILIES

Each OFC staff member has a responsibility and commitment to the agencies and individuals that OFC serves.

## OFFICE OF FAMILIES & CHILDREN

### From OFC Deputy Director Jennifer Justice – 9/4/15

School began in August, and I write this after making my fourth trip to the store for supplies. The 6:30 p.m. announcement that something else was needed before the next morning didn't faze me; I am well-accustomed

to this type of news. In our work, we understand that no matter how well you plan, how comprehensively you prepare or how conscientiously you approach a task, you cannot anticipate all possibilities. "Expect

the unexpected" is more than an inspirational sign to hang on the wall; it's how our work gets done.

However, it still is our responsibility to do the best we can to prepare the children and families we work with to positively handle both the successes and adversities they encounter. I hope all of you who work with older youth in care or emancipated youth will take advantage of this month's "Fostering Pathways to Success" conference (see page 2). The conference will feature many informative sessions on this topic, as well as the opportunity to network with others who share your interest. And please, if feasible, also support and enable the youth you interact with to attend.

In other news, the Partners for Ohio's Families (PFOF) Advisory Board met last month, and the agenda was packed with topics that concern the public and private partners represented at the table. This First Friday includes articles on a few of those subjects, including one that should be on everyone's agenda: caseworker visitation (see page 6). This is a continuing conversation that we will be having throughout the next year as we strive to improve our visitation performance measures.

Visiting with parents and children is the most basic of our responsibilities,

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and I know improvement — whether through documenting activities better or reviewing and revising processes — is a goal we share. Check out the board meeting's [PowerPoint](#) for more information.

I'd also like to thank Kathy Oliver (Seneca PCSA director) for suggesting that we take a closer look at visiting with incarcerated parents (see page 5). Keep the suggestions coming, particularly those related to better supporting parent-child attachment.

Another PFOF Advisory Board meeting topic was our new licensure

category: therapeutic wilderness camps. As directed in statute, ODJFS will enter into a temporary agreement with the Ohio Wilderness Boys Camp while developing Ohio Administrative Code rules regarding these types of camps. As is customary for new rules, OFC also will hold a stakeholders' meeting. Stay tuned for more information.

The board meeting helped remind me of the importance of effectively communicating our plans, reasoning and activities, both internally and among stakeholders. The PFOF Advisory Board meetings feature a wealth of great conversation. I hope that your [representative](#) is receiving

and sharing your input on relevant topics.

Finally, the recent and tragic death of Lisa Sobel, a Vermont child protection worker, has reminded us that our work is not without its physical and psychological dangers. I know that, as a community, we send our deepest condolences to Lisa's friends, family and coworkers. I also hope we remember to refresh our awareness of safety protocols and essential self-care practices. Searching the [National Child Welfare Workforce Institute library](#) for key words like "worker safety," "self-care" and "secondary trauma" will provide a range of resources.

## Don't Miss the Fostering Pathways to Success Conference!

This year's "Fostering Pathways to Success Conference" will be held on Sept. 24 at Xenos Christian Fellowship in Columbus. This dynamic, statewide conference combines the former "Connecting the Dots Conference for Teens and Young Adults" with the former "Ohio Reach Summit" for higher education and child welfare professionals. It has something for adults and youth alike.

Young people ages 14 to 21 who have experienced foster care can hear dynamic speakers and attend workshops on such topics as managing college deadlines, job searching using OhioMeansJobs.com, transitional housing options, health care, and keeping and maintaining healthy relationships. Once again, they'll have the opportunity to go "shopping" in the "Suits for Success" room (see page 3) and leave with a donated suit, pair of shoes, or other piece of clothing that they can wear to job interviews or other important occasions.

For independent living coordinators, ongoing case managers, agency administrators, workforce professionals and others who work with youth in care, the conference will offer a range of learning opportunities. It also will offer learning opportunities for Ohio Reach college campus liaisons, higher education professionals, high school guidance counselors and others committed to helping foster youth complete high school and, if they choose, college.

### What Can I Expect?

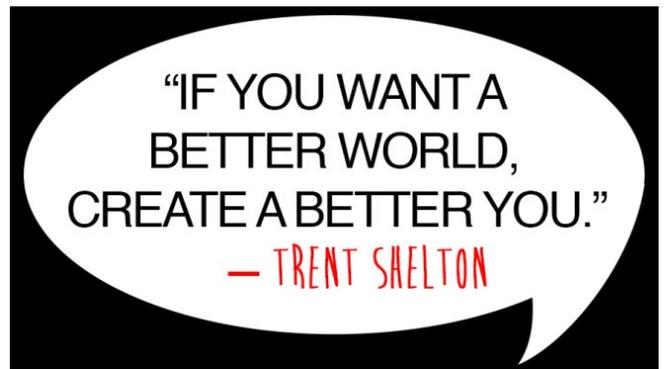
For everyone:

- In-depth workshops
- Remarkable keynote speakers:
  - » Tei Street, founder and sole proprietor of Street-Talk with the "Amazing" Tei Street, and educa-

tion director for Partners Achieving Community Transformation on behalf of The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.

- » Trent Shelton, former NFL player, founder of RehabTime and best-selling author whose daily motivational messages and videos reach more than 35 million people a week.

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Tei Street

Trent Shelton

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For youth:

- Dynamic, hands-on experiences
- Suits for Success
- On-site help with resumes
- Help setting up an OhioMeansJobs.com account and accessing the site's services
- College and university information tables
- Apprenticeship and vocational program information

For adults:

- Meaningful networking opportunities
- Trauma-informed care information
- Independent living funding options

### When and Where Is It?

9 a.m., Thursday, Sept. 24  
Xenos Christian Fellowship  
1340 Community Park Dr., Columbus

### What Does It Cost?

The conference and parking are free. Registration includes morning snacks and a boxed lunch.

### How Do I Register?

Please register soon to secure your spot, as we expect to reach capacity. The following registration processes will

## Meet the Newest Member of the Transitional Youth Team

Shelly Boyd joined OFC's Differential Response and Special Projects Section as a transitional youth coordinator on July 27, but she's no stranger to OFC. For the last 14 years, she has worked in adult protective services policy development.

Shelly has experience in child protective services, as well. She started her child welfare career as an investigative caseworker with the Lucas County Children Services Board and also has worked with Lucas County's court-appointed special advocate/guardian ad litem program.



Shelly Boyd

Since assuming her new responsibilities, Shelly jumped right into her job to help advocate for foster youth who are emancipating from care. She also is heading up registration for the upcoming Fostering Pathways to Success Conference (see page 2) and is helping with conference planning.

help ensure youth participants' confidentiality:

- Adults (including foster alumni) can register online at <http://bitly.com/pathwaystosuccess>.
- Current foster youth can by email their name, age, placement address, email address, phone number and attendance status (first-time or repeat attendee) to [Transitional-Youth-Programs@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Transitional-Youth-Programs@jfs.ohio.gov), a secure mailbox.
- Adults who work with foster youth can use the Fostering Pathways to Success Conference Registration Form, attached to this First Friday email, to register multiple youth. Just scan the form and email it to the address above. Registration information will be available onsite for youth to use when creating a resume.
- If spots are still available, same-day registration will open at 8 a.m.

Each PCSA's independent living contact should have received a school permission form for youth seeking excused absence from school.

### Questions?

Contact Shelly Boyd, OFC's transitional youth coordinator, at [Shelly.Boyd@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Shelly.Boyd@jfs.ohio.gov) or (614) 752.2701.

## Support Suits for Success

Do you have gently worn professional clothing that you're not using? Consider donating it to Suits for Success, which will give the clothing to current and former foster youth at Fostering Pathways to Success.

"This is always one of the most popular features at the conference," said OFC Deputy Director Jennifer Justice. "Professional clothing can really boost a young person's confidence. It also gives them a key tool they'll need to be successful at job interviews and other functions."

Almost all the youth at last year's conference left with a donated suit, pair of shoes or other item of clothing. Some wore their new suits throughout the conference and even to their Homecoming events later that evening.

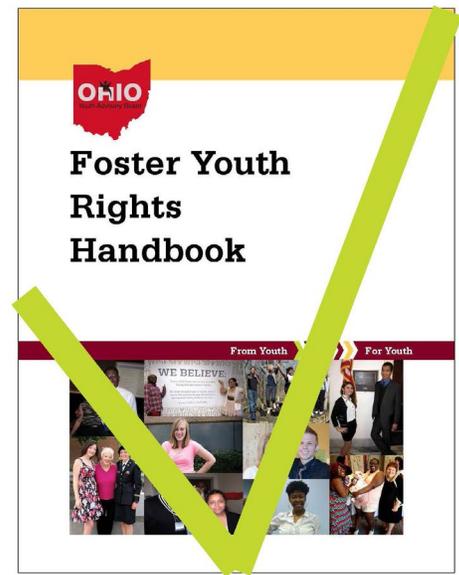
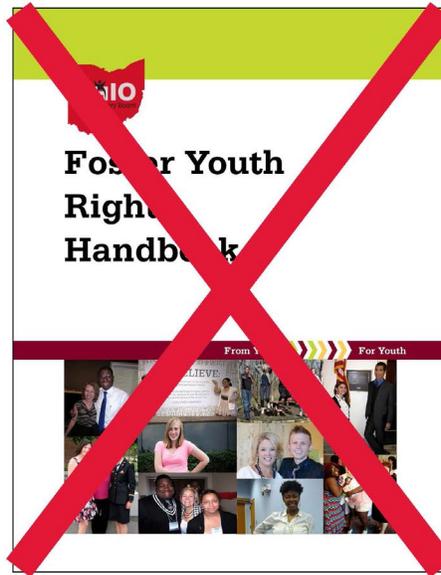
Items needed include men's and women's suits, shirts, ties, skirts, blouses, belts, and new or very gently used shoes. Please make sure that all donated clothing has a label indicating the size.

Donations will be accepted through Friday, Sept. 18. All donations are tax-deductible. To drop off clothing or make arrangements for pickup, please email Laurie Valentine at [laurie.valentine@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:laurie.valentine@jfs.ohio.gov) or Emily Dyser at [emily.dyser@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:emily.dyser@jfs.ohio.gov).

## Now Available: New Ohio Foster Youth Rights Handbook

The [Ohio Foster Youth Rights Handbook](#) has been updated to include new statutory language and Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) requirements. OAC Rule 5101:2-42-90 (effective Sept. 1) requires caseworkers to provide this handbook to all youth in custody who are 14 and older and to review it with them. The youth must sign the final page of the handbook to verify that they received and reviewed it with their caseworker or probation officer. The bottom of the signature page is perforated; be sure to remove it and attach it to the case plan to verify the date it was reviewed.

Please discard earlier versions of the handbook, marked by a green stripe across the top of the cover. Be sure to use only the newly released version of the handbook, which is distinguished by a yellow stripe.



(See above for a comparison.) PCSAs can order the handbook, also known as JFS 01677, in bulk through [JFS Forms Central](#).

We'd love to hear your thoughts. Send your comments, suggestions and questions to [Transitional-Youth-Programs@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Transitional-Youth-Programs@jfs.ohio.gov).

### Check Out these Resources

The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland (serving Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake and Lorain counties) has created a handout, available [here](#) in English and Spanish, to help college students determine whether they qualify for food assistance benefits. For additional information, email Anne Sweeney at [asweeney@lasclev.org](mailto:asweeney@lasclev.org).

Toledo Youth Pages is a resource guide aimed at preventing at-risk, Toledo-area youth from being victims of human trafficking. It was created by the University of Toledo's Human Trafficking and Social Justice Institute, the Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition, and the United Way of Greater Toledo. Toledo Youth Pages is available [online](#), as a handbook (available in English and Spanish), and as a free app download for Android and Apple devices. All three formats have information about human trafficking. For additional information, email Ashley Wickerham-Cutcher at [ashley.wickerham@utoledo.edu](mailto:ashley.wickerham@utoledo.edu).

Human trafficking spans all demographics, but some groups are at higher risk than others. Runaway and homeless youth are especially vulnerable to trafficking, as are individuals who have experienced violence or trauma. Below are some resources to help you learn more about preventing, identifying and serving trafficked minors.

- U.S. Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime: <https://www.ovcttac.gov/views/HowWeCanHelp/dspHumanTrafficking.cfm>
- Missing and Exploited Children's Program: <http://mecptraining.org/educate/webinars/>
- The Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force: <http://humantrafficking.ohio.gov/Resources.aspx>

For information about helping children and teens who have experienced domestic violence, including a downloadable resource guide, go to <http://www.odvn.org/survivor/teens-and-violence>.

## Introducing the Bureau for Systems and Practice Advancement

July's [First Friday](#) announced the formation of the OFC Bureau of Foster Care Licensing, which previously had been part of the Bureau of Child and Adult Technical Assistance. We now have a new name for the bureau housing the OFC technical assistance managers and specialists: the Bureau for Systems and Practice Advancement (BSPA). BSPA is headed by Carla Carpenter, who formerly was chief of the Bureau of Federal and State Initiatives.

BSPA has two sections: Federal and State Initiatives (which houses staff members Colleen Tucker-Buck, Joan Van Hull, Roger Ward and Sue Williams) and County Monitoring and Support (which houses the technical assistance managers and technical assistance specialists).

BSPA oversees many of OFC's new initiatives, analyzes data, and works to strengthen practice and improve outcomes. It is responsible for the Child Protection Oversight and Evaluation (CPOE) review process with all Ohio PCSAs and Title IV-E courts, and it also is responsible for developing federal plans and reports. These include Ohio's Title IV-B Child and Family Services Plan, Annual Progress and Services Report, and the federal Child and Family Services Review.



Above: Staff of the Bureau for Systems and Practice Advancement's County Monitoring and Support Section.

Back row (left to right): Gina Velotta, Carla Carpenter, Anna Wyss-Zilles, Justin Abel, Warne Edwards, Robin Jasper and Betsy Bentsen.

Front row (left to right): Susan Halter, Susan Shafer, Amy Reinhart, Lisa Purdy and Nancy Soldner.

Not pictured: Katina Bays, Lynn Boose, Cheryl O'Brien, Erin Reuter and Carmen Stewart.

## Visiting Incarcerated Parents

OFC and the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction are working together to make it easier for caseworkers to hold timely visits with incarcerated parents. We'd like to hear your thoughts about barriers that impede meaningful visits, ways to improve the process and processes that are working well. Send your suggestions to Sue Williams, inter-systems program administrator, at [susan.williams@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:susan.williams@jfs.ohio.gov) before Sept. 18.

## Safety Net Emergency Funding for Foster Youth

The safety net emergency funding program can provide up to \$500 once each school year to former foster youth pursuing post-secondary certifications or degrees. Youth can request the funding by emailing Ohio Reach Coordinator William Murray at [william@pcsao.org](mailto:william@pcsao.org). William will work with state staff and community professionals to determine the best way to help.

The funding can be used to help with:

- Housing emergencies
- Transportation emergencies
- Health care emergencies
- Child care or parenting emergencies
- Replacement of belongings after fires or other disasters

To learn more about safety net emergency funding or other resources that may be available for former foster youth pursuing higher education, email [william@pcsao.org](mailto:william@pcsao.org) or call (614) 224-5802.

## Caseworker Visits: Improving Practice and Facilitating Change

As child welfare professionals, we recognize the importance of quality visits with parents and children. Our interactions with parents and children are the core of what we do, and these contacts influence every other outcome related to children's safety, permanency and well-being.

The recent announcement of the performance-based incentives for caseworker visits has brought increased attention to this issue. This has generated a strong focus on data quality and the actions counties can take to ensure that visits are accurately recorded and measured. Data quality remains critical as we look to improve performance. However, it only affirms that a visit has been made. To improve outcomes for families, caseworker visits also must make a meaningful impact.

Research shows that 30 percent of a person's success in making positive life changes can be attributed to the relationship developed between that individual and the professional helping him or her<sup>1</sup>. Cuyahoga, Richland and Trumbull counties held parent focus groups as part of the Helping Ohio Parent Effectively pilot program. These focus groups provided insight about caseworker characteristics and behaviors that are most important to families. Lessons learned include the following:

- Caseworkers who are not judgmental and provide continued support to the parents increase the parents' participation in the case planning process.
- Workers who are compassionate to both the children and the parents strengthen the engagement process.
- Workers who explain options and court procedures to parents help remove the confusion associated with being in the children services system and help parents feel more engaged.

Ohio's Differential Response Practice Profiles (JFS

08301) include a number of strategies to help improve caseworker visits. The Practice Profiles are appropriate for use in both Alternative Response and Traditional Response cases, and at any time during the case.

As an ongoing staff development activity, supervisors may consider highlighting a "Practice Profile of the Month" with their workers and encouraging them to incorporate one new strategy from that Practice Profile. Ohio's Differential Response Practice Profiles are available online [here](#). For hard copies, email Sonia Tillman, Differential Response and Special Projects Section manager, at [sonia.tillman@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:sonia.tillman@jfs.ohio.gov).

<sup>1</sup> Hubble, M., Duncan, B., & Miller, S. (1999). *The Heart and Soul of Change: What Works in Therapy*. Washington, D.C.: APA Press

### Additional Resources

Several excellent resources are available online to help caseworkers and supervisors improve the quality of their visits with parents and children. Here are a few:

- The Child Welfare Information Gateway has a [helpful bulletin](#) about family engagement.
- The Child Welfare Information Gateway also includes a wealth of [information and resources](#) about family-centered approaches to child welfare practice.
- The United Kingdom's National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children has a solution-focused [practice toolkit](#) with worksheets and activities.

## Bureau for Systems and Practice Advancement Welcomes Ohio's Title IV-E Courts

On July 8, technical assistance staff from the Bureau for Systems and Practice Advancement (see page 5) met with 45 staff from 24 of Ohio's Title IV-E juvenile courts to share information about the courts' involvement in the CPOE Stage 10 review. This CPOE is vital to Ohio's preparation for the 2017 Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). Although the CFSR may seem far away, the window of time for the cases that are eligible to be reviewed — April through

November 2016 — opens in just seven months. The CPOE will give us an opportunity to address areas needing improvement before the CFSR onsite review.

OFC staff provided an overview of the CPOE process and a high-level introduction to the CFSR On-Site Review Instrument, which is being used during CPOE Stage 10. The technical assistance specialists who will be conducting the review got to know the court representatives

and answered their questions. We are working hard to prepare written responses to questions that didn't get answered and will distribute them to all IV-E court contacts.

Although this is not the first time Title IV-E court cases will be reviewed during the CFSR, it is the first time they will be reviewed during the CPOE. Because this is a new experience, quality improvement plans will not be required for areas

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of noncompliance. Instead, OFC staff will offer technical assistance to improve both the court's CFSR performance and outcomes for court-involved families.

If you work for a Title IV-E court, were unable to attend the July 8 meeting and would like a copy of the materials, please email your assigned technical assistance specialist or any of the following technical assistance managers: Justin Abel (Columbus)

at [justin.abel@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:justin.abel@jfs.ohio.gov); Gina Velotta (Dayton) at [gina.velotta@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:gina.velotta@jfs.ohio.gov) or Anna Wyss-Zilles (Toledo/Akron) at [anna.wyss-zilles@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:anna.wyss-zilles@jfs.ohio.gov).

## Judicial Symposium Planning Funds Still Available!

If your team attended the June 23 Judicial Symposium on Child Welfare and Addiction and submitted an action plan, it is eligible for a one-time \$1,000 payment to help support the plan's action steps. Funds will be paid to your team's local PCSA and can be used to host a meeting, secure a trainer, contract with a facilitator or complete other startup activities. Each eligible PCSA representative received a July 20 email with the subject line "Judicial Symposium on Addiction and Child Welfare." This email contained information about the funds and the required invoice form. This funding closes on Dec. 1, 2015. Email [leroy.crozier@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:leroy.crozier@jfs.ohio.gov) or [kristin.gilbert@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:kristin.gilbert@jfs.ohio.gov) with any questions.

## Bureau of Automated Systems Updates

First Friday last looked at the Bureau of Automated Systems in [February 2015](#). Since then, bureau staff have been very busy! Read on for a status update on some ongoing and new activities.

### Private Agency Roll-Out

Phase II of the private agency SACWIS rollout is progressing successfully. The six Central Region Wave 1 agencies (National Youth Advocate Program, St. Vincent Family Center, Youth Advocate Services, ENA/Necco, Oesterlen Services for Youth and A New Leaf) went live on Aug. 4 after three weeks of end-user and super-user training. Now, 13 private agencies have extended SACWIS access. OFC continues to offer ongoing support, including weekly telephone conferences.

Five Central Region Wave 2 agencies (Adriel, Choice Network, UMCH Family Services, Synergy Family Foster Care and LifeStart, Inc.) held their kickoff and planning meeting on Aug. 11. Three-week training for this wave's end-users and super-users is scheduled for Sept. 7 through 25, with an anticipated go-live date of Oct. 6.

Meeting notes and documentation are available on the [SACWIS Knowledge Base](#). For questions, email [kimberleah.starr@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:kimberleah.starr@jfs.ohio.gov) or [lindsay.williams@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:lindsay.williams@jfs.ohio.gov).

### Title IV-E Court Access

When expanded SACWIS access for Title IV-E courts was discussed in February, four pilot courts were fully using SACWIS, six additional courts were beginning to use it, and Wave 2 courts were being recruited. A milestone

was reached last month when the final 16 courts (out of 41) began their Wave 4 kickoff session. These included juvenile courts from Allen, Brown, Clark, Erie, Fairfield, Geauga, Jefferson, Lawrence, Lorain, Lucas, Meigs, Muskingum, Perry, Shelby, Williams and Wood counties. Each week, users from these courts can participate in two technical assistance sessions that navigate them through the application. As with other groups, they also receive ongoing technical assistance from SACWIS business analysts. Wave 4 is scheduled to be fully implemented by Nov. 5. Questions? Contact [lucy.gobble@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:lucy.gobble@jfs.ohio.gov) or [cathy.ghering@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:cathy.ghering@jfs.ohio.gov).

### Visitation Reports

In June, we began providing monthly, automated Comprehensive Visitation reports to support agencies' efforts to monitor caseworker visits. Reports are delivered to agency directors and secondary contacts via email on the 15th of each month.

SACWIS staff hosted a June 18 webinar to walk users through the new reports and provide a forum for discussion. Your much-appreciated questions and comments triggered the following changes in reporting:

- The report will now count three attempted visits as a completed visit for the purpose of calculating visitation percentages.
- The report will not count the in-home siblings of a child in care if the children remaining in the home are not listed as case plan participants.

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- The report's protocol for identifying the primary caseworker responsible for visitation when multiple agencies share a child's case has been modified. The following is the new protocol:
  - » If the child is in foster care:
    1. A caseworker at the custodial agency has primary visitation responsibility.
    2. If no caseworker can be identified with the custodial agency, a caseworker with the case plan agency is responsible (unless the case plan is closed).
    3. If no caseworker can be identified with either the custodial or case plan agencies, the case-owning agency assumes responsibility.
  - » If the child is not in foster care:
    1. The caseworker with the case plan agency has primary visitation responsibility (unless the case plan is closed).
    2. If no case plan agency exists, the case-owning agency assumes responsibility.

Email questions about visitation reports to [kristine.monroe@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:kristine.monroe@jfs.ohio.gov) or [lindsay.williams@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:lindsay.williams@jfs.ohio.gov).

### Upgrade and Code Freeze

The SACWIS enhancement freeze has been extended through this fall, until the coding environment upgrade is completed. For readers who are familiar with the technical aspects of SACWIS: The upgrade will replace the Optimal J code generators, which will enable SACWIS to run better and implement different enhancements in the future. The new code requires an upgrade in the WebSphere (middleware) environment from WebSphere Application Server (WAS) 7 to WAS 8.

In spite of this enhancement freeze, the work has not stopped! SACWIS staff continue to identify and prepare system enhancements so they'll be ready to implement when the upgrade is in place.

### Webinar Series

The SACWIS Project Team is developing a series of webinars to help users take full advantage of SACWIS functionality. The sessions identify tips and shortcuts that make data entry easier. They also highlight often-overlooked tools that can simplify task management. Is there a topic you would like to see covered? Send your suggestions to Cathy Ghering at [cathy.ghering@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:cathy.ghering@jfs.ohio.gov) or call (614)387-8880.

## Rule Review Update

The following Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rules are or were posted to Ohio's Families and Children Rule Review website, [www.ohiorulereview.org](http://www.ohiorulereview.org), for the times specified below.

From July 31 through Aug. 31:

- OAC Rule 5101:2-20-01, "Adult protective services definitions."
- OAC Rule 5101:2-20-02, "Provisions for adult protective services."
- OAC Rule 5101:2-20-03, "Adult protective services designated agency provisions."
- OAC Rule 5101:2-20-04, "Adult protective services case records."  
Purpose: Alignment to House Bill 64 statute revisions.

From Aug. 10 through Sept. 10:

- OAC Rule 5101:2-42-60, "Placement services for infants of incarcerated mothers."  
Purpose: Clarification.

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 1,649 hits during June 2015 and 1,404 hits during July 2015.

## CFSR Measure of the Month

Each month, First Friday features one CSFR measure in our “Measure of the Month” series. September’s featured measure is “Maltreatment in Foster Care,” which focuses on the safety of children and youth while they are in the custody of the child welfare agency. This measure holds states accountable for keeping children in care safe from harm.

Because the CSFR looks back at prior years’ activities, the work we do today will affect Ohio’s performance in the 2017 CSFR. It is critical that stakeholders fully understand the [CFSR process](#) and assess their current performance.

Although “Maltreatment in Foster Care” has been a component of previous CSFRs, Round 3 features two significant differences in how the measure is calculated:

1. During Round 2, when a child in foster care had a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report, the report was counted as “Maltreatment in Foster Care” only if the perpetrator was a foster parent or facility staff member. Round 3’s measure includes **all** substantiated or indicated reports that occur while a child is in care, regardless of the perpetrator’s role.
2. In Round 2, the U.S. Administration for Children and Families’ Children’s Bureau used the report date, not the incident date, as the date the abuse or neglect occurred. This meant that a substantiated or indicated report was included automatically if it was received while the child was in foster care, even if the

reported event occurred before the child was placed in care. For Round 3, reports are excluded if the incident date entered in SACWIS was before the date the child entered care. If no incident date is entered, the report date is used as the default. Please see guidance in this [SACWIS Knowledge Base article](#).

The diagram below shows how the “Maltreatment in Foster Care” calculation is made.

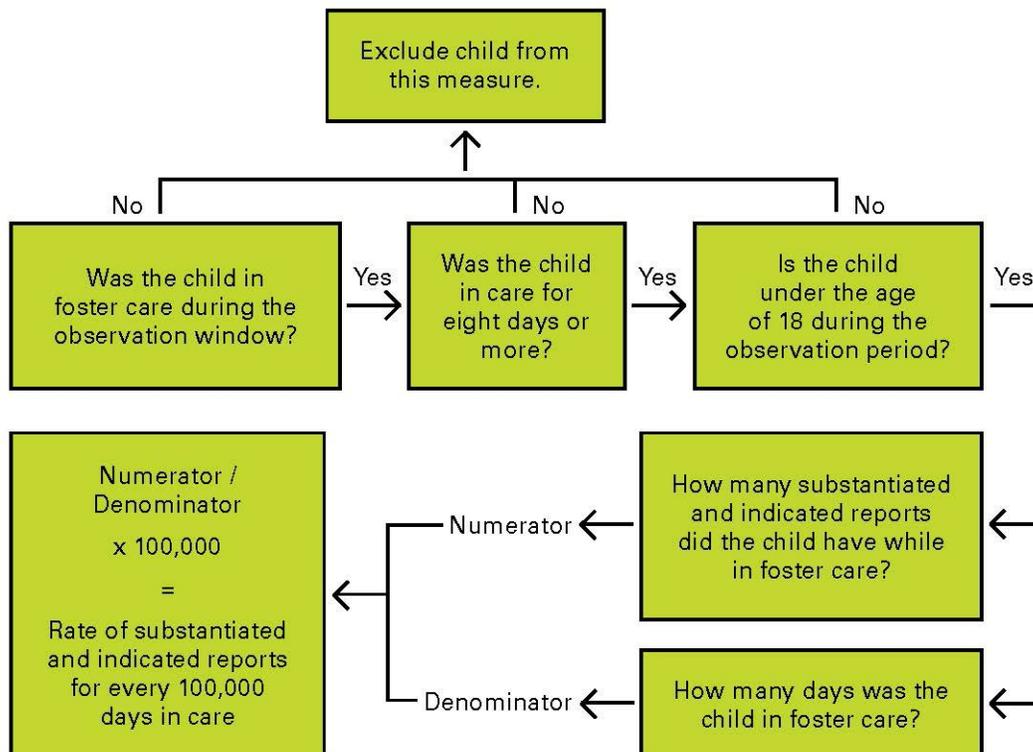
First, we count the number of days during the federal fiscal year that all children under 18 were in foster care if they were in care longer than seven days. This number becomes the denominator of the calculation.

Next, we count the number of substantiated and indicated maltreatment reports for these children during the same federal fiscal year. This number becomes the numerator.

Finally, we divide the numerator into the denominator and multiply that number by 100,000. This gives us the rate of substantiated and indicated reports for every 100,000 foster care days.

To meet this national standard, states must have a rate no greater than 8.5 victimizations for every 100,000 days in foster care. Ohio’s most recent performance, 16.56 victimizations per 100,000 days in care, **does not meet** the national standard.

To improve performance, local agencies should  
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conduct an objective and critical review of what children experience in their foster care systems. They also should examine which practices may contribute to the high rate, so changes can be made and monitored. Here are some suggestions:

1. **Placement Selection:** Make a concerted effort to match each child's needs with the caregiver's skills, knowledge, strengths and experience.
2. **Quality Assessment:** Thoroughly and regularly assess children's needs, not only through the initial Family Assessment, but also during ongoing visits.
3. **Communication:** Give foster children, youth and caregivers ongoing support and frequent opportunities to provide feedback to the agency. (See "County Success Stories," below, for two local examples.)
4. **Exit Interviews:** Review exit interview documents and monitor for issues.

## Thank You, Careful Reader!

A reader caught an error in last month's article about the "Recurrence of Maltreatment" measure: We inadvertently switched the numerator and denominator. For this measure, the number of children with at least one substantiated or indicated report of maltreatment in a 12-month period is the denominator, and the number of children who had another substantiated or indicated report of maltreatment within 12 months of their initial report is the numerator.

Additionally, in the flow chart that accompanied this article, in response to the question "Are the incident dates of the first and the second reports the same?," the chart should have indicated "Yes > Delete

this report for this measure." If the incident dates are the same for two reports, the second report would be excluded from the measure and not considered recurrence.

Both inaccuracies have been corrected, and a new version of the article has been posted to the [OFC website](#).

We always strive for complete accuracy in First Friday, but we're human and sometimes make mistakes, too! Thank you to the reader who pointed out these errors, and thank you to all our readers who take the time to better understand each of the CFSR Round 3 measures.

## 20/20 Vision Recipient: Michael R. Smalz

The American Bar Association's Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence selected Ohio's Michael R. Smalz as one of 17 lawyers nationwide to receive its 20/20 Vision Award. Recipients are chosen for having played an instrumental role in mobilizing the legal profession against domestic and sexual violence by either creating, supporting, advancing or advocating for the commission or the Violence Against Women Act.

Mike is a senior attorney at the Ohio Poverty Law Center, where he has worked on family law, domestic violence and other poverty law issues since 1988. As a member of the Supreme Court of Ohio's Subcommittee on Responding to Child Abuse, Neglect and Dependency (CAND) since its establishment in 2004, he played an important role in the design, evaluation and implementation of Ohio's Differential Response system. He also has served on the Ohio Child Support Guidelines Council and many Ohio Supreme Court, professional, and administrative agency committees and task forces. Currently, as part of CAND, he is reviewing Rule 48 (governing guardians ad litem) of the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio.

Congratulations Mike, from your friends and colleagues at OFC!

## County Success Stories

Two notable examples of excellent communication can be found in Shelby and Guernsey counties.

In Shelby County, Primary Care Team Meetings are held monthly with staff, family members, school personnel, court-appointed special advocates, foster parents and service providers. During each meeting, the team discusses case plan services, the child's adjustment to placement, medical issues, visitation, court hearings, case plan goals and agency assistance. Meetings end with a round-robin question-and-answer session. Those interviewed during the county's last CPOE review said these meetings give everyone a platform to voice their opinions and keep everyone on the same page regarding services and progress.

In Guernsey County, caregivers complete Foster Caregiver Monthly Progress Reports for each foster child in their home. Agency staff use this to gather regular feedback about whether caregivers' needs are being met.

## September 2015 Global Emails

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

**7/6/15** - Adoption Incentives

**7/13/15** - Child and Family Services Review

**7/15/15** - Visitation Resources

**7/16/15** - Adult Protective Services State Reboot Stipend

**7/29/15** - Dependency Docket Bench Cards for PCSA Attorneys

**8/5/15** - Caseworker Visits Performance Incentive Q & A

**8/12/15** - Ohio Adoption Incentive Awards

**8/24/15** - Please Join Us in Helping Children Adopted from Care Receive a Free Backpack

**8/27/15** - HR 4980 CMFC: Web Reporting Form/Webinar Announcement

## Principle of the Month

Each OFC staff member has a responsibility and commitment to the agencies and individuals that OFC serves.

## 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](mailto: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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