



PARTNERS
FOR OHIO'S FAMILIES

Every person has value and should be treated in a manner that is respectful and culturally responsive.

OFFICE OF FAMILIES & CHILDREN

From OFC Deputy Director Jennifer Justice – 1/1/16

Happy 2016! This might be your first email of the year, and I hope it finds you well-rested and revitalized from your holidays. I have a feeling that the upcoming year is going to be great – and very busy. July 1 will mark a significant benchmark for Ohio; by then, every county is expected to have new adult protective services (APS) minimum core requirements operational.

It's been exciting to hear about the activities underway in preparation for this date. More than 200 APS workers participated in 2015's APS Training Reboot opportunities, qualifying their agencies for stipends. I'd also like to say "great job!" to the 72 counties that took full advantage of the \$50,000 in funding that was made available to support community APS planning work. Read more about the Training Reboot and how Guernsey County made use of its APS development funding on page 2.

In APS and all of our programs, our conversations about how we use data have become more sophisticated. It's clear that we all are taking greater effort to ensure our systemic and case-level decisions are data-driven.

Recently, a [LinkedIn article](#) about 2016 trends caught my eye because it had a slightly different view on using data. It championed the importance of human insight, emphasizing that "big data without context isn't useful." The article described daily 90-minute staff

meetings that examined data in terms of what happened, why it matters and, therefore, what action is required.

From an OFC perspective, I think we routinely seek contextual understanding by conducting outreach, information-sharing and enhanced communication with our state and county partners. Partners for Ohio's Families has greatly helped in this effort. However, I'd like to see this trend grow in 2016!

Another major event for 2016 is the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). In early December, Carla Carpenter and I discussed the upcoming review – along with normalcy, Differential Response and visitation – during a three-hour slot at the Public Children Services Association of Ohio Executive Membership Meeting. We finally were able to share county-specific data on four of the CFSR's five permanency measures. There are so many whats behind these data, and it is critical that we share our whys for them. I believe that our Continuous Quality Improvement work, especially as we incorporate peer-to-peer experiences, can play a big role in this process.

We have a big decision to make about how Ohio conducts its next CFSR: We need to tell the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services by July 15 whether we will conduct our own review or maintain the federally

conducted one. Whatever the decision, we need to make it together.

The CFSR isn't the only activity on our calendars for 2016, and we've taken a little space in this First Friday to discuss the work we're planning in the year to come. Read more about that, along with a review of the many benchmarks we reached together in 2015, on page 4.

Speaking of 2016 trends, I totally support this winter's "no snow" approach. Let's keep this one going.

Table of Contents

From OFC Deputy Director Jennifer Justice – 1/1/16.....	1
APS Work Underway.....	2
APS Requirements: Guernsey County's Story.....	2
2015 APS Reboot Training a Success.....	3
OHSTS Regional Training Center Contacts.....	4
APS Rules Update.....	4
Reviewing 2015 and Looking Forward to 2016.....	4
Webinar: Title IV-E Review.....	5
Rule Review Update.....	6
Global Emails.....	6

APS Work Underway

Ohio's APS system has been the focus of considerable activity since April 2014, when new legislation established the APS Funding Workgroup (see the [June 2015 edition of First Friday](#)). The Controlling Board approved the workgroup's recommendations in October 2014, and they became effective with the passing of House Bill 64 on June 30, 2015. Among other things, the recommendations identified core minimum program requirements that are expected to be in place in every

county by July 1, 2016.

OFC offered one-time funding opportunities to help county agencies prepare for the state's new APS expectations, in the form of planning funds and innovation funds.

Congratulations to the 72 county agencies that took full advantage of the planning funds by applying for all four components. All 52 of the counties that applied for capacity-building grants received their full requests, and 22 counties received competitive innovation grants. Counties have until June 30 to complete grant activities.

The Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services is offering a training conference on March 18 that addresses many of the APS Funding Workgroup's recommendations. The conference will include a county presentation on I-Teams, which are a minimum APS core requirement; a multi-county panel presentation on the innovation grant projects; an OFC workshop on Ohio Revised Code and Ohio Administrative Code changes for APS; and remarks by ODJFS Director Cynthia C. Dungey. See the "Save the Date" PDF attached to this month's First Friday email for additional details.

Ohio now is six months away from the July 1 deadline for implementing core minimum requirements. Successful implementation requires an understanding of shared responsibilities among communities' stakeholders. It also requires caseworkers and supervisors to be comfortable in their own levels of competency. We checked in to see how one county used its capacity-building grant to prepare key community stakeholders and to learn more about the Ohio Humans Services Training System infrastructure; see below for details.

APS Requirements: Guernsey County's Story

Guernsey County wanted to use its capacity-building grant to enhance collaboration and service delivery through better training for community partners. Peg Earhart, the grant's training facilitator, gave us an overview of the project.

The Guernsey County Department of Job and Family Services requested funding to offer an area-wide APS educational series in partnership with Zane State College. The series aimed to improve communication and collaboration among community stakeholders who regularly work with APS. It also aimed to lay the foundation for a strategic plan to better protect older adults. The training consisted of four monthly sessions that each provided five hours of continuing education.

Tracey Tonnous, director of Workforce Training at Zane State College, was named the project manager. Former Associate Professor Peg Earhart was hired to be the opening speaker at the first

session and to facilitate the remaining three. Sue Thomas-Sikora, assistant director of the Guernsey County Department of Job and Family Services, helped plan the program and spoke at the first session about the role the community plays in the protection of older adults.

Session 1: Overview

The first session reviewed the history of APS law and the many hindrances to protecting adults who have both the right to live as they determine and a fear of change. Jayme Richards, executive director of the Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services, and Melanie Cooley, victim service coordinator in the Ohio Attorney General's Crime Victims Section, spoke of their victim education and advocacy work.

Session 2: Mental Health Issues

The second session focused on the many mental health issues facing older adults that often complicate

needed interventions. Karen Kruzan, a licensed independent social worker and certified professional organizer, spoke about hoarding disorder and the difficulty of helping individuals who have it. She also discussed health and safety issues that would necessitate intervention. This session ended with speakers from the District 9 Area on Aging discussing the difficulties of caregiving and the stress that can lead to neglect or even abuse of older adults.

Session 3: Legal Issues and Processes in Implementing Service Plans

Attorney Mike Bryan explained individuals' rights, as well as the differences between power of attorney and guardianship and the limitations of each. He also explained the difference between incapacity and decisional capacity in health care and addressed "undue influence" in signing legal documents. Sam McCoy and Audrey Caley from the Ohio

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Department of Aging's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs spoke about the protection of older adults in long-term care and the differences in jurisdiction with the county APS unit.

Robin Miller and Amy Welling, policy developers for OFC, reviewed the most recent changes in state statutes and the process involved in making policy changes. They also discussed available funding opportunities, including the funding for this training.

Session 4: Resources and Community Planning

The final session focused on identifying resources that improve case outcomes and the importance

of creating a community strategic plan. APS was examined from both the perspectives of intervention and prevention. Also discussed were the various ways the community can partner with local APS staff to ensure the safety of older adults.

Each session was attended by about 30 individuals from Guernsey, Muskingum and Perry county partners, including county departments of job and family services, area agencies on aging, senior centers, and emergency medical professionals. Attendees kept the discussion interactive by asking questions and contributing case examples, which helped ground the legal mandates in real situations.

Evaluations were given at the

beginning and end of each session, and all feedback was positive. Here are some examples:

"What a great training, a great level of speakers"

"Great info! Well prepared with good resources to use in practice."

"As a care giver, I appreciate the scope and variety of information shared"

Of course, as with any community collaboration, follow-up and ongoing communication among partners is vital. But we believe that this first step will have an impact on lives and prepare the area for the future, as the number of older adults increases.

2015 APS Reboot Training a Success

Included in the APS workgroup's final report (see page 2) was a recommendation for one-time system training aligned to meet core requirements. The recommendation was met through an Ohio Human Services Training System (OHSTS) initiative that came to be known as "Reboot." Reboot included a series of in-person workshops and eLearning opportunities offered to APS workers and supervisors from July through November 2015. APS staff could choose four in-person and four eLearning options that best fit their needs.

To create the trainings, OHSTS adapted several workshops from the National Adult Protective Services Association. It also arranged for four national trainers to present the trainings and to mentor 11 OHSTS trainers, who led the in-person workshops multiple times across the state. To support full participation, APS agencies were eligible for training stipends to cover the travel costs for each APS worker and supervisor who completed the entire eight-training Reboot series. Approximately 200 individuals completed at least four of the six in-person workshops available. Training options included the following:

In-Person Workshops

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

eLearnings

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

The Reboot generated very positive feedback. Many agencies requested that the core curricula be offered again, and the OHSTS regional training centers (RTCs) are working with counties to schedule. In addition, 20 more specialized courses will be offered throughout the state in February and March. For more information, contact your OHSTS regional training center (see page 4).



OHSTS is a cooperative effort between ODJFS, four OHSTS regional training centers and the Institute for Human Services. Contact your regional training center to learn more about the opportunities in your region or to request training. You also can check out www.ohsts.org to keep up with announcements and opportunities.

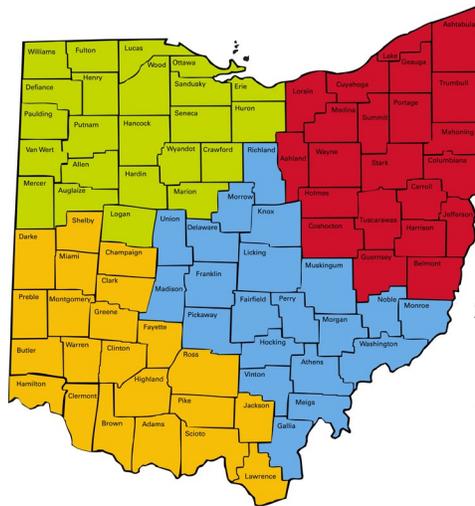
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APS Rules Update

Ohio Administrative Code rules are being developed to support the legislation implementing several recommendations of the APS Funding Workgroup. The rules will be divided into three packages. The first was available for comment on Ohio's Families and Children Rule Review website, www.ohiorulereview.org, in July and August and will enter the clearance process soon. The second package will be posted to the rule review website later this month. The third package will address requirements for the new APS case management system; those rules will post to the review website as soon as the system design is complete. APS county contacts will be notified when each package posts.

Reviewing 2015 and Looking Forward to 2016

We asked OFC managers to identify a few 2015 accomplishments that they felt had an especially meaningful impact. What do you think about this list?

Roe vs. Staples: Ohio successfully resolved the monitoring component of the 30-year Roe vs. Staples federal consent decree.

Statewide CQI: OFC launched the statewide Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) initiative. The CQI Advisory Team includes staff from OFC, public and private agencies, the Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies, the Public Children Services Association of Ohio, the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program, and the Supreme Court of Ohio. Among other things, the team developed a written

framework to guide statewide CQI activities, launched a statewide CQI webinar series and made critical data more accessible through such things as monthly emails to agency directors with data on caseworker visits.

SACWIS Upgrade: In early November, the SACWIS team deployed an upgraded version of the system (build 3.00). This will pave the way for future enhancements and ensure that Ohio's SACWIS coding is supported into the future.

Title IV-E Courts and SACWIS: All Title IV-E juvenile courts are now "live" in SACWIS.

SACWIS Data Enhancements: To ease user navigation, Medical/Mental Health Characteristics were

divided into the following categories: Medical, Mental Health/Substance Abuse, Developmental/Intellectual and Prenatal/Birth. Also, the names of diagnoses now align with changes in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM V).

Other enhancements have streamlined data entry for medical information. Medication records now include the most commonly prescribed medications in a drop-down field. A Pregnancy Detail page captures additional pregnancy information. The Education page includes a copy feature for academic evaluation records and allows users to record 504 plans (as described in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973), in

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addition to individual education plans.

Finally, records can no longer be deleted but may be marked as "created in error."

National Youth in Transition Database Compliance: Your hard work paid off! Ohio's 2015b data submission met federal requirements.

CPOE and Title IV-E Juvenile Courts: Ohio's Title IV-E juvenile courts now participate in the Child Protection Oversight and Evaluation (CPOE) process. This is an important step in statewide CQI efforts and in preparing for the next round of the federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). We're excited to partner with the courts and provide technical assistance through the CPOE process.

Foster Home Agency Licensing: OFC's licensing staff completed nearly 650 reviews of public and private agencies. This included all of the following types of reviews: recertification, additional visit, PCSA, initial certification, complaint, policy, amendment, closure, training and recruitment plan, and Multi-Ethnic Placement Act. Additionally, our administrative staff processed 4,700 private agency and 2,700 public agency recommendations.

Statewide System Reform Program Grant: Ohio was one of five states awarded a federal planning grant to increase the scale and scope of the state's family dependency treatment courts. Research indicates that family dependency treatment courts improve rates of treatment initiation, treatment completion and reunification, and reduce time in out-of-home care. Ohio's work is being led by a core team of representatives from the Supreme Court of Ohio, ODJFS, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and a multidisciplinary Advisory Board. At the close of the planning period, the state will be eligible for a five-year implementation grant.

We also asked managers to identify some of the work ahead in 2016. We know that new and unexpected challenges are a given for those who work in child welfare, but watch for these activities to head your way!

Roe vs. Staples: We are hopeful that the federal court will approve Ohio's completed Statewide Needs Assessment as meeting the second overarching component of this 30-year consent decree. We will present the results of the assessment to the Ohio General Assembly.

SACWIS Intake Usability: Working closely with county partners, the Ohio SACWIS team is working to simplify SACWIS data entry. Look for functional design changes, enhancement of the person and address search functions, enhancement of the spell check feature, and additional technical assistance.

SACWIS Private Agency Rollout: Private agencies will continue to join the 24 Central Ohio agencies with expanded SACWIS access. On Jan. 12, another 13 private agencies in Southeast and Southwest Ohio will begin planning.

Social Services Random Moment Cost Allocation: Juvenile courts will receive a new training to help them better understand random moment sampling, which is used to determine administrative costs. The training will explain the rationale behind random moment sampling and the most effective ways to conduct it.

Title IV-E Eligibility Review: Ohio's

secondary Title IV-E eligibility review is scheduled for Oct. 31 through Nov. 4, using cases drawn from Oct. 1, 2015, through March 31, 2016. A preliminary eligibility review was completed in December 2015 with a sample of 150 cases (from Oct. 1, 2014, through March 31, 2015). Only 10 of those cases were found to be in error, which means that if it had been an actual review, Ohio would have been in substantial compliance. (See "Webinar: Title IV-E Review," below.)

Preparation for CFSR Round 3: OFC will be working with state, county and federal partners to develop a plan for Ohio's 2017 CFSR review, including selection of the state's review methodology. The CQI Advisory Team is exploring the potential benefits and challenges of both options: conducting our own review or having a traditional federally conducted review.

Background Check Reviews: OFC will review 100 percent of all foster home and agency employee background checks, as required by the federal Title IV-E program improvement plan. Discussions are ongoing with the Ohio Attorney General's office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to ensure we meet their standards.

Serious Risk Compliance: Foster care licensing staff will revisit efforts to focus on areas of noncompliance that pose the most serious threat to health and safety in licensed public and private agencies.

Deemed Status: OFC will continue to

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Webinar: Title IV-E Review

Do you want to be ready for Ohio's secondary Title IV-E eligibility review this fall? OFC is hosting a 90-minute webinar at 10 a.m. on Jan. 27 to help! OFC staff will discuss the areas of noncompliance found during the June through December 2015 preliminary review of 150 cases, share information about the secondary review and answer questions.

Pre-registration is required; click [here](#) to do so. Handouts will be provided in advance to anyone who registers before Jan. 22. Email Deanna.Robb@jfs.ohio.gov if you have questions.

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work with public and private agencies to examine if and how accreditation from recognized organizations (e.g. Council on Accreditation) may be used to meet comparable state licensing requirements.

APS Database and Hotline: Work will continue on designing and implementing a new APS case management system and a toll-free number to report suspected abuse.

Pre-adoptive Staffing and Matching: Based on counties' responses to the adoption survey sent in August 2015, OFC's adoption developer will revise the pre-adoptive staff meeting and matching procedures.

Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children Training: Watch for new

regional training opportunities this year. These will expand on the trainings offered in 2015, address agency questions and help workers better understand the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children. For more information, or to inquire about hosting an event, email Heather.Spencer@jfs.ohio.gov.

Revitalization of Kinship Activity: State and county kinship staff are discussing the feasibility of a statewide home assessment for kinship caregivers. The long-term goal is to incorporate the final assessment into SACWIS.

CAPMIS: Advanced learning opportunities and resources will be available in 2016 to support the management and use of the Comprehensive Assessment and Planning Model – Interim Solution (CAPMIS), Ohio's child protection

assessment model. A new training approach has been piloted and is available through the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program regional training centers. Read more about this in next month's First Friday.

Foster Care Licensing Procedure Manual: Look for a new foster care licensing manual in early 2016, more in line with the technical assistance offered since the Partners for Ohio's Families initiative began.

Managed Care for Foster Youth: The state's biennial budget requires all children in foster care to be moved from traditional fee-for-service Medicaid coverage to Medicaid managed care plans by Jan. 1, 2017. Preparations for this will take place throughout 2016.

Rule Review Update

Currently, no rules are posted on 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 an average of 1,604 hits a month in 2015 and 623 hits in December.

January 2016 Global Emails

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

- 12/9/15 - Ohio's FFY 2015 Title IV-B Caseworker Visit Submission
- 12/9/15 - CFSR Round 3 Permanency Data
- 12/11/15 - 2016 Letters of Assurance
- 12/21/15 - Follow-Up to Judicial Symposium on Addiction - SUD Training Survey
- 12/22/15 - Title IV-E Foster Care Maintenance (FCM) Preliminary Review Results and Secondary Review Information Webinar

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.

Principle of the Month

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