



PARTNERS
FOR OHIO'S FAMILIES

It is OFC's responsibility to provide leadership and maintain organizational and professional competence.

OFFICE OF FAMILIES & CHILDREN

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From OFC Deputy Director Jennifer Justice – 3/4/16

The infrastructure of the child welfare system is evolving constantly to stay current with families' changing needs, the environment in which we do our work and advances that continue to be made in the field. Most changes are incremental – a new form or process – but sometimes, our system experiences a giant shift. Think of how the introduction of computer technology changed everything.

I think we are on the brink of one of those systemic shifts as Ohio reimagines how services are delivered through managed care. We all must ensure that child welfare's needs and idiosyncrasies are considered during the design process.

The quarterly Partners for Ohio's Families (PFOF) Advisory Board meeting in February was cancelled for (I think) the first time since the group's formation, to allow members to participate in discussions regarding Ohio's behavioral health redesign. This is a critical conversation that we all should stay engaged in as we continue following Medicaid's work to categorically move foster youth to managed care.

This edition of First Friday looks at several aspects of two important structural supports for foster youth: foster care licensing and Title IV-E funding. At our last PFOF meeting,

members asked if OFC could revive the quarterly compliance reports to ensure that custodial agencies were fully informed of non-compliance findings in placement options that they might be considering. These reports will resume in April. Thanks, PFOF, for helping us better understand partners' needs!

Thanks also are due to OFC staff who digitized hard copies of records related to adoptive and foster caregiver licenses. In January, OFC staff finished scanning the records of 2,225 closed adoption and foster care homes and 725 active adoption and foster care homes.

Speaking of large, long-term projects, we are so excited to have completed the needs assessment required by Ohio's 33-year Roe v. Staples federal consent decree. The final report was submitted to the court on Jan. 29, and we will share the findings at various events throughout the year. First up was a presentation at the Executive Membership Meeting of the Public Children Services Association of Ohio on March 1. We now are busy working on the next step in the process: a cost analysis of the report's findings. This will be submitted to the Ohio General Assembly by May 31.

I couldn't talk about change in Ohio's

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child welfare system without noting the retirement of Mead Wilkins, director of the Medina County Department of Job and Family Services. He has been a member of the child welfare workforce for more than 30 years; in the time I have known him, I've admired his passion and dedication. At OFC, we know him as "hands on" – even as a director, he continued to carry a caseload – and "forthright" – he didn't always agree with OFC's policies and was not reluctant to share his reasoning, which is an important piece of

partnership. I respected that Mead's views were based in sincere concern for children and families. Good luck, Mead, from everyone here at OFC. As a devoted traveler, I am sure you have many new destinations in your future!

March will be bringing a family spring break trip for me; I hope you all will have the opportunity to enjoy warm and balmy spring weather with those who are meaningful to you, also. First Friday will take a spring break as well; look for its return on May 6!

New SACWIS Automation

Several newly automated functions will be coming to SACWIS in the coming months. Over the next month, keep an eye out for related procedure letters in clearance and articles in the SACWIS Knowledge Base on the following procedure changes:

Monthly Adoption Assistance Statewide Maximum (MAASM)

New automation will eliminate the need to submit a JFS 01471, "Waiver Request to Exceed the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Statewide Maximum," when your agency enters into an adoption agreement that exceeds the MAASM of \$1,045. The automation will allow users to seek and receive approval directly in SACWIS and will be available with SACWIS release 3.03, which is expected to go into production next month.

Reimbursement of Nonrecurring Adoption Expenses

New automation will eliminate the need to submit a JFS 02820, "Children Services Quarterly Financial Statement," related to reimbursement for nonrecurring adoption expenses. The automation will allow PCSAs to determine nonrecurring adoption expense eligibility, capture identified expenses and generate a reimbursement all from within SACWIS, effective July 1.

Consolidated Placement Agreement

Beginning April 30, the revised Ohio Revised Code rule 5101:2-47-23.1, "Title IV-E Agency Contracting and Contract Monitoring," will require all Title IV-E agencies to use a standardized contract when contracting with a private non-custodial agency for substitute care services. The rule includes an addendum to the contract for additional services not covered in the standardized form. Both will be automated in SACWIS and must be used in all future contracts. This automation also will be part of SACWIS release 3.03.

Background Check Update

OFC's Bureau of Foster Care Licensing is awaiting federal approval to implement a new process to receive, review and securely store all Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification (BCI) and Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) information on public and private agency staff in state-certified facilities and foster and adoptive parents as required in Ohio Administrative Code rules 5101:2-5-09.1 and 5101:2-48-09. This process is part of the Title IV-E Program Improvement Plan submitted to the federal Administration for Children and Families last September.

Your help is critical to our success in complying with federal requirements. Before hiring public and private agency employees, request BCI and FBI background checks if the candidate has lived in Ohio for less than five years, using the Ohio Revised Code 2151.86 out-of-home care reason code; verify references; review background checks for prohibitive offenses; and appropriately apply rehabilitation standards. Ensure that employees have signed a statement of non-conviction, and don't permit employees to work alone with children until background checks have been completed.

Registration Open: Dependency Caseflow Management Courses

The Supreme Court of Ohio has notified each county's juvenile judge, court administrator and chief deputy clerk of the registration process for the regional dependency caseflow management courses described in [February's First Friday](#). The juvenile court judge may register teams of up to five members. Typically, teams will be comprised of court staff responsible for the dependency docket, the child welfare agency director or designee(s), and other court or community representatives that impact how the abuse, neglect or dependency case comes to and progresses through the court.

Teams may select from four sessions:

- April 7 (Perrysburg)
- April 26 (Beavercreek)
- May 12 (Columbus)
- May 24 (Akron)

The Supreme Court of Ohio and ODJFS are offering this opportunity for county stakeholders to examine local practices in abuse, neglect and dependency docket cases that come to the attention of the juvenile court, including processes that may impact Child and Family Service Review (CFSR) performance measures. Participants will identify and commit to a plan for improving and assessing practices while strengthening oversight of these cases. For additional information, email Ashley.Gilbert@sc.ohio.gov.

Audits: Past and Future

The Auditor of State began its annual audit of OFC last September. The audit reviewed the eligibility licensing process for July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015. The Auditor of State also examined all aspects of the ODJFS certification and approval process for public and private agencies and foster homes to ensure compliance with Ohio Revised Code and Ohio Administrative Code laws and procedures. Congratulations to the Bureau of Foster Care Licensing and its public and private partners! The Auditor of State did not have any findings or recommendations for change regarding certification and approval process.

The Office of the Inspector General, of the federal Department of Health and Human Services, will audit two facets of Ohio's foster care program under titles IV-E and IV-B of the Social Security Act: compliance with state and federal requirements for reporting, investigation, monitoring and resolution of abuse and neglect of foster children, and the health and safety of foster care children in congregate care. The OFC Bureau of Foster Care Licensing and the residential facilities we monitor will comprise a significant portion of this audit. Look for more details in future editions of First Friday.

Training Opportunity: Trauma-Informed Care

In December 2015, staff from OFC's bureaus of Foster Care Licensing and Systems and Practice Advancement joined licensing staff from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) to participate in a training called "Trauma-Informed Care: Creating Ohio Environments of Resiliency and Hope." The training helped participants better understand the basic principles of trauma-informed approaches and how to implement them. It also fostered group discussion about observed effects of trauma and the healing and recovery process. OFC will continue this dialogue between ODJFS and OhioMHAS to explore how we might work together to better implement trauma-informed care practices. If you missed this training, multiple resources are available at <http://mha.ohio.gov/traumacare>.

2016 Federal IV-E Foster Care Maintenance Review

Ohio's 2016 federal Title IV-E Foster Care Maintenance Review will be held Oct. 31 through Nov. 4, examining the period of Oct. 1, 2015, through March 31. This review determines whether children in Ohio's foster care system meet the federal eligibility requirements for foster care maintenance payments.

Later this summer, the federal Administration for Children and Families will give OFC's Title IV-E Policy Unit a randomly selected case sample of up to 180 cases

drawn from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS). The first 150 cases with identified payments made during the review period will be reviewed. The remaining cases will serve as the oversample, used under specific and limited circumstances to replace a sample case. The cases reviewed must have an error rate of 10 percent or less; otherwise, Ohio will not be found in substantial compliance.

To prepare for Ohio's review, OFC's

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Title IV-E staff are providing training to and identifying technical assistance opportunities for Title IV-E agencies. We know that Ohio's successful performance requires a high level of state and local collaboration. During the Title IV-E Preliminary Review and Upcoming Federal Eligibility Review webinar on Jan. 27, each agency was asked to identify its Title IV-E review contact person. If your agency has not yet done so, please send the name and contact information for your agency's designee to Deanna.Robb@jfs.ohio.gov.

The review team will include staff from OFC, local Title IV-E agencies, and the Administration for Children and Families' regional and central offices. Two meetings are being scheduled to prepare Ohio team members: one this month to begin case preparation, and one in May to review the Title IV-E Foster Care Eligibility On-Site Review Instrument.

Email Lisa.Howard@jfs.ohio.gov if you have any questions.

Understanding Shared Cost

In Ohio, federal and local governments share financial responsibility for administering Title IV-E Foster Care Maintenance (FCM) payments. The federal Title IV-E share is equal to the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP), which changes every federal fiscal year; this year it is 62.47 percent. The local funds, paid by the PCSA and known as the nonfederal share, must make up the difference. When Title IV-E funds are not available because the child is not IV-E FCM-eligible and/or -reimbursable, the PCSA must pay 100 percent of the placement costs.

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Understanding Title IV-E Cost Report Processing

Ohio's public custodial agencies may place custodial children in their own foster care network or residential program or seek contractual agreements with private agencies. Custodial agencies then can seek federal Title IV-E reimbursement through the state for placement costs (i.e., maintenance and administration) incurred on behalf of Title IV-E-eligible children.

However, reimbursement consists of either the actual maintenance and administration costs incurred or the placement agency's calculated Title IV-E reimbursement ceilings – whichever is lower. Reimbursement ceilings are established when the agency submits the Title IV-E cost report, which determines the provider's daily cost to provide such Title IV-E services as food, clothing, shelter, daily supervision, transportation and other basic necessities generally provided by a child's parents. The cost report also designates a placement setting as Title IV-E-reimbursable and allows the custodial agency to seek federal reimbursement for an eligible child.

The reimbursement ceiling establishes the maximum daily amount at which the federal government will reimburse a custodial agency's placement costs for the eligible child.

Reimbursements are paid at the applicable federal financial participation percentage, which is approximately 60 percent for maintenance costs and 50 percent for administration costs.

OFC currently is processing annual Title IV-E cost reports for state fiscal year 2015. Approximately 150 agencies that provide foster care and/or residential services will submit the required cost report (Form JFS 02911, "Title IV-E Single Cost Report"), agreed-upon procedures report and additional required filing items for OFC's review and approval. The filing deadline was December 31, 2015, but many agencies requested a deadline extension to March 31, 2016. Most of the agencies are private and nearly 90 percent are licensed by OFC. The effective period for the approval designation is April 1, 2016, through March 31, 2017.

To sum everything up: When a custodial agency is considering a placement setting for a Title IV-E-eligible child and the cost of placement is the final determinant (all other factors being equal), the agency should choose a Title IV-E-reimbursable setting for the inherent cost savings. For additional information about cost reporting, contact Ryan.Meanor@jfs.ohio.gov.

Training Opportunity: New Administrator Orientation

If you are considering applying to operate a non-secure children's residential function – such as a group home and/or a foster care or adoption program – in Ohio, mark April 18 on your calendar! OFC's Foster Care Licensing Bureau is holding an orientation training for potential applicants and newly hired administrators of ODJFS-certified agencies that are preparing for recertification. The orientation will be held at 4020 E. Fifth Ave. (also known as the Air Center) in Columbus. Keep an eye on your email and future editions of First Friday for more details.

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In any placement, the custodial agency must incur the full cost up front; the agency then can be reimbursed with Title IV-E funds when appropriate. If a non-custodial agency agrees to support the placement costs, one of the following methods must be used:

1. Provide local funds to the custodial agency up front for it to use for future placement costs of children.

2. Provide part or all of the nonfederal share of placement costs for a child after the custodial agency receives Title IV-E reimbursement. Funds provided by the non-custodial agencies cannot exceed in total the nonfederal share of the placement costs.

Feel free to contact your regional fiscal supervisor, in OFC's Bureau of County Fiscal and Technical Assistance, if you have questions. You can look up your fiscal supervisor [here](#).

This article was written by Jenna Gant and originally ran in the Supreme Court of Ohio's newsletter, Court News Ohio, on Feb. 24. You can read more Court News Ohio articles at www.courtnewsOhio.gov.

New Workgroup Focuses on Courts' Response to Human Trafficking

The Ohio Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on Children and Families has formed a Courts' Response to Trafficking of Children Workgroup.

Chaired by Lucas County Juvenile Court Judge Denise Navarre Cubbon, the workgroup met for the first time on Jan. 20 and is made up of 20 people who have backgrounds in a variety of fields, including law, social work, law enforcement, academia, and medical.

"The workgroup's focus will be the child victims of trafficking and how juvenile courts can best address the needs of these children," Judge Cubbon said.

Each year, it's estimated that nearly 1,100 Ohio children become victims of human trafficking, and an additional 3,000 are at risk. The goals of the workgroup are to:

- Promote effective judicial response to the trafficking of children,
- Identify promising court-centered practices, models, and strategies to identify system-involved trafficked children,
- Support judicial leadership and foment inter-system collaboration at the local level, and
- Recommend rules, policies, and practices.

In its first meeting, the workgroup discussed innovative court practices currently happening in Ohio.

Judge Cubbon discussed steps Lucas County took to address human trafficking. One of the first counties to implement practices and procedures to address the serious and growing concerns of local children trafficking, Lucas County has worked collaboratively with local law enforcement, the FBI, social services agencies, and the University of Toledo's Human Trafficking and Social Justice Institute to develop protocols and response initiatives.

"Lucas County has addressed human trafficking in a very aggressive way for the last 10 years when our community learned that our children were targeted victims of a human trafficking ring," Judge Cubbon said. "The Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition was founded in 2009. The coalition works to combat human trafficking in a collaborative effort with community members and stakeholders, law enforcement, service providers, healthcare providers, business leaders, the faith-based community."

Judge Cubbon said Lucas County Juvenile Court has developed diversion protocols to address trafficking victims who have been

charged with a delinquency offence.

Ohio attorney Jamie Blair gave an overview of Summit County's Restore Program and Magistrate Lashey Stroud presented information on Franklin County's Empowerment Program. Both programs are based on Ohio's safe harbor law, which allows for decriminalization of youth offenses that result from their role as a human trafficking victim. In addition to acting as a diversion program, both models use treatment teams to identify youths' needs and services. Blair and Magistrate Stroud both said the programs have had a high rate of success in their communities.

The workgroup is in the process of developing a survey to distribute to all courts across the state in order to identify services that are currently being offered, to assess local training and program needs, and to gather information on court services. Based on the survey responses, the workgroup will tailor projects in order to meet the identified goals.

"I anticipate an excellent product for juvenile court judges to use to address the needs of the children who are victims of human trafficking," Judge Cubbon said.

The workgroup will meet again on May 2.

This article was written by Stephanie Beougher and originally ran in the Supreme Court of Ohio's newsletter, Court News Ohio, on Feb. 24. You can read more Court News Ohio articles at www.courtnewsOhio.gov.

National Resources Sought in Reducing Ohio's Repeat Juvenile Offenders

The Ohio Supreme Court hosted a two-day meeting focused on finding ways to reduce the number of repeat juvenile offenders.

Ohio is one of eight states selected to participate in a site visit with the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center's National Reentry Resource Center (NRRC). The site visit on Feb. 17-18 at the Thomas J. Moyer Ohio Judicial Center focused on:

- Research that demonstrates effectiveness in reducing recidivism and improving outcomes for youth arrested and in contact with the juvenile justice system
- Best practices for measuring recidivism and other youth outcomes and using this data to guide system policy and resource allocation
- The opportunity to receive federally funded technical assistance from the NRRC to develop a statewide plan to improve outcomes for youth.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor spoke to the group about progress being made to improve outcomes for youth under supervision in the state and local juvenile justice system. She noted the ability of courts and justice system partners to share information through the Ohio Courts Network (OCN).

"Currently, 63 percent of the cases in juvenile court is searchable in the OCN. We continue to make headway here as there are nine juvenile courts coming online soon that will account for an additional 12 percent of the juvenile case volume available through the OCN," Chief Justice O'Connor said.

Additionally, she talked about the proposed amendment to the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio that, if approved, would mandate local courts adopt rules to better regulate shackling of youths during court proceedings.

There were several different stakeholder groups who met with NRRC, including judges, state lawmakers, and probation and correction officers.

Holmes County Chief Probation Officer, and a member of the Ohio planning team, Dave Williams, stated that in his focus group there was consensus that local communities are open to consistent statewide practices, and there is an opportunity to improve accessible services that are evidence-based for all children in Ohio.

The Ohio team, which includes staff from the Ohio Supreme Court, county juvenile courts, the Ohio General Assembly, the Department of Youth Services, and the Ohio Attorney General's Office, will formally ask to be a part of the CSG Justice Center's Statewide Juvenile Justice Improvement Initiative.

Rule Review Update

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

From Feb. 24 through March 26:

- OAC Rule 5101:2-5-26, "Revocation, denial of initial certification or denial of recertification of a foster home certificate."
- OAC Rule 5101:2-5-32, "Occupancy limitations and accessibility."
- OAC Rule 5101:2-5-38, "Payment of foster caregiver training stipends; reimbursement of training allowances to recommending agencies."
- OAC Rule 5101:2-7-08, "Alternative care arrangements."

Purpose: Five-year rule review and revisions for classification.

From Feb. 25 through March 27:

- JFS 01700, "Individual Child Care Agreement"

Purpose: Revision.

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 297 hits during February 2016.

Agency Spotlight: Ohio's Children's Crisis Care Facilities

The primary purpose of a Children's Crisis Care Facility (CCCF) is to provide temporary residential and other care to children and pre-teens to support a parent or caretaker who is facing a crisis. CCCFs also serve children and pre-teens placed in the facility by a PCSA or private child-placing agency that has legal or permanent custody of the pre-teen. In these circumstances, the PCSA or private agency has determined that an emergency situation exists necessitating the pre-teen's placement in the facility, rather than in an institution certified under section 5103.03 of the Ohio Revised Code or another type of facility. Section 305.122 of Amended Substitute House Bill 64 (131st General Assembly) allocated \$300,000 per fiscal year to support CCCFs; these funds support direct care costs for child and family services at two northeast Ohio agencies.

Blessing House is an ODJFS-licensed CCCF that provides residential care for up to 10 children ages newborn to 12 years old whose families are in crisis or experiencing an emergency. In 2014, Blessing House cared for 152 children. When a family is dealing with a housing emergency (such as an impending utility shutoff or eviction), a medical emergency

requiring hospitalization or a situation in the home that involves a parent/child conflict, the parent or caregiver often is emotionally unable to make decisions that will resolve their problems. For 10 years, Blessing House has referred families to available community support services and offered encouragement and support as they address their issues. During 2014, Blessing House had a waiting list of more than 40 children for approximately half of the year.

ODJFS also licenses the 20-bed Providence House Crisis Nursery and the 10-bed Providence House Wellness Nursery as CCCFs. Both facilities support voluntary, non-custodial placement of approximately 400 children ages newborn through 10 years old annually. State funds support placement of children who are actively at-risk of child abuse and neglect who stay, on average, for 26 days, as well as provision of family support, education and preservation services to ensure long-term child safety and family stability. Families receive six months of aftercare services following discharge.

We asked these unique facilities to tell us a bit more about their

programs. Read on to learn more.

Blessing House

By Donna Humphrey, Business Manager, Blessing House

A single mother with three children does not know what to do. She has been sick for several days and she knows she needs to go to the emergency room. She would go but she has no one to take care of her children. Her mom and sister live in another state. She does not know where the father of her children is staying. She could leave her children with a neighbor, but she doesn't trust the neighbor's boyfriend. She is afraid if she takes them with her to the hospital, child protection services will be called and she may lose custody.

There are many examples of similar dilemmas that confront families daily: Mom receives an eviction notice because she has not been able to keep up with her rent and has no place to go. Dad unexpectedly receives custody of his children but does not have accommodations or day care for them. Grandma is worn out from dealing with the behavior issues of the grandchildren she has agreed to raise because her daughter is a drug addict. Parents and caregivers don't know what to do when their family is facing an emergency and they have no one to help them.

In Lorain County, Blessing House is available to provide residential care to children birth to 12, as well as to help the children's families by providing information, education and assistance to address their situations and help them develop resiliency. Blessing House has become an integral part of the family support system in Lorain County, working with children services, other agencies, law enforcement, and medical, educational and faith-based organizations to provide this support.



Above, left: Blessing House.

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Blessing House is an independent, nondenominational, faith-based, non-profit organization. Sr. Mary Berigan, SND, founder and executive director of Blessing House, states: "Since Blessing House opened 11 years ago, we have cared for over 1,150 children who have needed a safe place to stay. Parents bring their children to us because they need help and they trust us to provide safe, loving care for their children. They leave their children with us knowing we will take them to their home school, help them with homework and make sure they have healthy meals and snacks and lots of loving attention. They know that asking for help is a sign of strength. We develop relationships with our families and provide encouragement and support, even after the children go home, understanding that what struggling families need most is someone to be available to them, someone to care about them and someone to give them hope."

Providence House

By Natalie A. Leek-Nelson, President and CEO, Providence House

Providence House is Ohio's first licensed Crisis Nursery (Crisis Care Facility), offering free, voluntary, non-custodial emergency shelter to children newborn through 10 years old who are actively living in crisis situations that place them at risk of abuse or neglect. To provide the support needed by these families, Providence House uses a two-

generation approach focused on both the child and their caregiver(s), delivered through a holistic, integrated program focused on both child abuse prevention and family preservation. This unique Crisis Nursery model provides services based on 35 years of experience; the latest research in our industry; and proven, evidence-based programs and practices that can help prevent child abuse and neglect, reduce foster care placements, and strengthen families.

At Providence House, children find safety and comfort in a home-like setting while we coordinate and connect families to partner community organizations to stabilize family crisis. Children may stay from 24 hours up to 60 days, with extensions to 90 days available to support parents who are receiving inpatient treatments, who are incarcerated or who are medically incapacitated. Providence House is a Trauma-Informed Care Environment and both caregivers and children are offered a range of case management, parent education and supportive services with a goal to stabilize, strengthen and preserve each family. Families are further supported through a six-month voluntary aftercare program to monitor family progress and stability following discharge.

Continued Growth

The Providence House services and campus in Cuyahoga County have

undergone significant growth and expansion in recent years to meet the growing needs of families in crisis who have young children. Today, three distinct service areas are supported on their campus in two buildings: "Leo's House: A Crisis Nursery" supports traditional Crisis Nursery services for up to 20 children at a time (250 or more per year). The second building houses their newest service, "Elisabeth's House: The Prentiss Wellness Nursery," which supports up to 10 children at a time who are in crisis and also have medical conditions. The Wellness Nursery offers pediatric medical care and parent medical training in addition to traditional crisis nursery services. Elisabeth's House also offers a dedicated wing housing the "Family Center," which contains three dedicated "family rooms" to support parent visitation, education, case management and aftercare support.

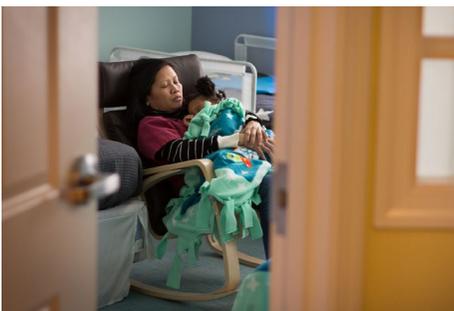
Proven Impact

The results at Providence House continue to prove that their services are positively impacting children and families. Last year:

- 272 children from 121 families were served
- 97 percent of children were reunified with their parent or guardian
- 84 percent of families stated

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Below, right: Providence House.



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their family stability had increased

- 88 percent of families complied with all Providence House services requirements

In addition, Providence House recently completed the first-ever study of crisis nursery outcomes

against public child protective services data in the United States, directed by David Crampton, PhD., Associate Professor of Social Work at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences. The study found that when parents engage in and complete recommended Providence House services (case management, parent education and aftercare), their children are less likely to be

placed in foster care after they leave Providence House. Minority families (African-American and biracial) are the most successful (vs. Caucasian), with more engagement in Providence House services and less foster care involvement after their child's stay. The results of this study have been published in Volume 61 (February 2016) of "Children and Youth Services Review."

CQI Corner

The CQI Corner is a recurring column featuring examples of continuous quality improvement (CQI) at work in child welfare. This month, we are highlighting the first in OFC's series of CQI webinars.

In the CQI webinar on Dec. 2, 2015, OFC joined child welfare partners to explore how CQI strategies can be used to enhance child welfare practice and inter-system collaboration and to share real-world examples of how that has worked for other public and private agencies. If you were unable to attend the live presentation, the recorded webinar, PowerPoint and transcript are available at <http://jfs.ohio.gov/ocf/CQI-Initiative.stm>.

We are interested in your feedback to ensure future webinars are meaningful and relevant to your work. A survey was advertised at the end of the webinar, and it still can be accessed at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z5JSNZY>. We'd love to hear from you! Email Colleen.Tucker@jfs.ohio.gov if you have questions or suggestions.

March 2016 Global Emails

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

- 2/10/16** - Child Protective Services Incentive Fund Distribution
- 2/18/16** - Kinship Permanency Incentive County Contacts
- 2/25/16** - Opportunity - HOPE Primary Parent Partner Program
- 2/29/16** - Transitional Youth Programs Statewide Meeting Regarding Feedback from the Five Regional Meetings
- 2/29/16** - National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) Survey Response Rate

Update: Juvenile Restraint

The [October 2015](#) edition of First Friday highlighted the Supreme Court of Ohio's Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice, which met on Jan. 28 to discuss public comments about a proposed Rule of Superintendence that addresses indiscriminate shackling of juveniles in court proceedings. The rule was drafted by the subcommittee's Restraint Workgroup, created to review Ohio's practice of indiscriminately shackling or restraining children.

Because Ohio does not have a law or rule governing the use of restraints on children during court proceedings, the workgroup surveyed Ohio juvenile judges and magistrates to better understand current practices. A majority of responders answered that they "always" or "frequently" restrain juveniles during court proceedings; 70 percent of those use restraints without a local rule, standing court order or other written practice.

The subcommittee drafted a rule that, if implemented, would require local courts to adopt a local rule prohibiting indiscriminate shackling of children. The rule would permit local courts to make decisions on a case-by-case basis, based on whether the juvenile is a significant and imminent flight risk or if the juvenile poses a threat to self or others in the room. Restraint would only be acceptable if the judge finds that no less-restrictive alternatives to physical restraint are available. The proposed rule was released for public comment from Dec. 7, 2015, until Jan. 7.

During the public comment period, the Supreme Court of Ohio received 47 comments in general support of the proposed rule or a variation thereof and 15 comments opposing the proposed rule. The court also received a letter template from the American Civil Liberties Union, through which 1,205 supporting comments were submitted. Several broad themes were found in the public comments, including the following:

- This rule is needed to preserve the dignity and
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fairness of the court.

- Courts should not exacerbate the youths' trauma by using restraints indiscriminately.
- Juveniles should not be shackled if they don't show a flight risk.
- The rule should include a presumption that juveniles accused of violent offenses should be restrained.
- Judicial discretion is at jeopardy.

- The rule fails to take into account courthouse safety and the layout of each court facility.

The subcommittee presented a recommendation to adopt the rule, with amendments based on public comments, to the Supreme Court of Ohio's Advisory Committee on Children and Families. It passed, and the amended Rule of Superintendence will be presented to the Supreme Court Justices for approval this month. For additional information, email Stephanie.Nelson@sc.ohio.gov.

Principle of the Month

It is OFC's responsibility to provide leadership and maintain organizational and professional competence.

Feedback and Subscriptions

If you want to subscribe to First Friday, have comments or ideas about content, or wish to be removed from the mailing list, please send an email to First_Friday@jfs.ohio.gov. For additions to or removals from the list, be sure to include your name, organization and email address.



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