



PARTNERS
FOR YOUTH FAMILIES

There is urgency and importance to OFC's work.

OFFICE OF FAMILIES & CHILDREN

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From OFC Deputy Director Dan Shook – 11/4/16

This month marks my inaugural First Friday as deputy director of the Office of Families and Children. I'm very honored to step into this role, as well as excited for the opportunity to keep all of the good work the office has accomplished over the past five years moving forward. I especially am proud of OFC's efforts to improve the way we work with our public and private partners and want to continue building and strengthening those relationships.

I hope I've demonstrated to those of you I've worked with before how much I value your contributions. I truly believe that the challenges that confront the system and the families we serve are much too complex to tackle alone. I see the opportunity to broaden my work partnerships as one of this position's many bonuses. If you ever have the opportunity to introduce yourself, please do so!

Much of OFC's attention over the past few months has been spent assembling the budget information submitted the middle of October. Thank you to all of the staff who have responded so quickly and comprehensively to any questions or requests. Gov. Kasich will likely announce the state's proposed budget in early 2017. Stay tuned!

As you'll see in this First Friday, we've also been busy filling vacant positions. Please welcome Christine Dobrovich as chief of the Bureau of Child and Adult Protection. We also

have three additions to our Bureau of Young Adults and the Courts. Of course, this is a good news/bad news announcement. The good news is that OFC is fortunate to have excellent, experienced staff who are both eager and qualified for a challenge, stepping adeptly into available positions. The downside is that this sometimes creates vacancies, which seems to be the new normal. As the sign says, "pardon our construction."

November 2016 is National Adoption Month, and its theme – "We Never Outgrow the Need for Family – Just Ask Us" – incorporates two of our priorities: helping children build and maintain permanent connections and including youth voice in all of our conversations. I know many events are scheduled across the state this month. We'd love to hear about them so please send us your stories and photos. As in the past, Gov. Kasich has recognized November as Adoption Recognition and Recruitment Month in Ohio. I have attached his official resolution and encourage you to post it in your offices and celebrate your staff and families who have helped form forever families.

For most of us, November evokes images of family and food. To give foster youth and alumni the opportunity to gather as family over a full turkey dinner, ACTION Ohio

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and its many partners across Ohio sponsor Early Thanksgiving Dinners for Teens and Young Adults. If you know or work with a foster youth

(14 or older) or alumni, I encourage you to support their pre-registration and attendance at one of four events statewide. On behalf of everyone at OFC: HappyThanksgiving!

Ohio Adoption Photolisting

Calling all recruiters and caseworkers! If you haven't visited the **Ohio Adoption Photolisting** recently, check out this resource to help connect youth with forever families. It features 310 active individual child profiles and 34 sibling group profiles for families to review. They can contact caseworkers to learn more about a particular child or group, and also visit the site for information, resources and event announcements.

Agencies create accounts on the website and then write and post profiles themselves. The Family

and Youth Law Center (FYLaw) manages the site and is available to provide technical assistance. FYLaw recommends that new users view a June 2015 webinar to learn how to post, edit and delete profiles, and also to get tips for writing them.

If you're new to the **Ohio Adoption Photolisting**, FYLaw wants to hear from you! What would improve the site or better facilitate matches between children and families? If you have ideas, suggestions or resources/events to post, email staff attorney Megan Heydlauff at mheydlauff@law.capital.edu.

Adoption Academy

Looking for a resource for prospective adoptive families? Each fall and spring since 2002, a partnership between the Family and Youth Law Center and Nationwide Children's Hospital has presented Adoption Academy, an eight-week educational series designed to give prospective adoptive parents neutral information about adoption options and the adoption process.

The goal of Adoption Academy is to give participants the education needed to make informed decisions. The 2017 Spring Adoption Academy begins March 13, 2017. For more information or to register, visit familyyouthlaw.org/academy.php or email FYLaw staff attorney Megan Heydlauff at mheydlauff@law.capital.edu.

Adoption Profile Tips

Here are a few tips for writing **Ohio Adoption Photolisting** profiles:

- Respect the child's privacy while being honest. Don't include information the child wouldn't want shared.
- Ask the child for input when you write the profile. Possible questions: How would you describe yourself? What do you like to do? What kind of forever family are you hoping to connect with?
- Do not include any medical or mental health diagnoses or describe any current treatment.
- Do not include information about past placements or abuse history.
- Do not include information about eligibility for subsidies.
- Showcase the child's strengths and unique traits.
- Include a great photo.
- Some facts might be fine to share later with prospective parents but not appropriate for the profile.

National Adoption Month Resources

Each November, National Adoption Month focuses public attention on the urgent need for forever homes for children waiting in foster care. This year, special attention is being paid to 15- to 18-year-olds waiting in foster care. Too often, they age out of the system without a stable place to call home. Securing life-long connections for older youth, legally and emotionally, is critical to their overall well-being and future achievement.

The Child Welfare Information Gateway – a service of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau – offers a variety of resources, stories and videos related to sibling adoptions on its website, childwelfare.gov/adoption. The materials are aimed at a variety of audiences, including child welfare professionals, prospective and adoptive parents, youth in care, adopted individuals, and birth parents. They cover

such topics as recruiting families for older youth, involving and empowering older youth, preparing to adopt and finding support after adoption.

Wendy's Wonderful Kids is Working for Ohio's Children



Dave Thomas
Foundation
for Adoption

By Rita L. Soronen,
President and CEO

Since 2012, the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services have partnered to implement Wendy's Wonderful Kids (WWK), a signature program of the Foundation supporting community-based adoption recruiters to focus on the longest waiting children. In addition to Ohio, the Foundation also supports recruiters in 48 states, the District of Columbia and six provinces in Canada. WWK has shared information and experience from Ohio's model to guide other states – Georgia, Utah and (soon) five additional states – taking the program to scale. To date, more than 5,600 children have been adopted through the North American initiative.

The relationship between the Foundation and Ohio began in 2004 with one pilot site, Franklin County Children Services. This quickly grew to seven privately funded recruiters in five counties. During that time, 200 adoptions were finalized. In 2012, ODJFS initiated a statewide commitment to WWK.

Child-focused recruitment, the evidence-based* model utilized by Wendy's Wonderful Kids recruiters, continues to drive success for Ohio's children. Between 2012 and September 2016, nearly 50 recruiters have provided active and deliberate recruitment for more than 1,300 children, 600 of whom have had an adoptive resource identified. Of these children, 305 have been adopted (a 50 percent adoption rate), and another 87 are in their pre-adoptive

placement. Currently, 706 Ohio children are on WWK recruiter caseloads, including 5 percent who are in planned permanent living arrangements.

Most noteworthy about the successes these statistics signify? The demographics of Ohio's children currently being served by recruiters reflect factors all too often associated with the term unadoptable:

- 13.7 average age
- 59% part of a sibling group
- 49% minority
- 76% special needs
- 4.6 average number of prior placements
- 2,091 average number of days in care prior to WWK
- 22% failed prior adoption or pre-adoptive placement

In fact, WWK works most successfully with those children at elevated risk of aging out of care: older youth, children in sibling groups, children with special needs and youth opposed to considering adoption. Ohio's program has targeted its focus to serve children age 9 and older who have been in care two years or more.

Critical to the success of the program is a robust training strategy, consisting of online modules and in-person instruction, aggressive performance management from the Foundation's grant managers, and ongoing technical assistance and support. New to the WWK's programming are collateral training modules developed by the Foundation for key stakeholders, including judges/attorneys and caseworkers.

We are excited about the caseworker module that helps to better facilitate the relationship between front-line

casework professionals and the WWK recruiters. The 30-minute e-learning course explains the child-focused recruitment model and why it is effective, discusses why youth are resistant to adoption and how recruiters work through this barrier, explains the importance of adoptive families (even for those children in planned permanent living arrangements or independent living), and gives front-line caseworkers additional tools to partner with WWK recruiters to make the model most effective for all children who desperately need permanent, loving families of their own.



Dynamic partnerships such as the one between the Foundation and ODJFS always should be celebrated. During National Adoption Month, however, it probably is most meaningful to turn our focus to the stories of individuals, since our success is measured one child at a time. The narratives on the next page from three counties engaged in WWK programming exemplify the types of successes we are seeing across Ohio's 72 WWK county programs.

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Free Adoption Resources

The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption has a variety of free materials for individuals and agencies. These include the guidebook "Finding Forever Families: A Step-By-Step Guide to Adoption," videos ("Youth Voices: Life after Foster Care" and "Unadoptable is

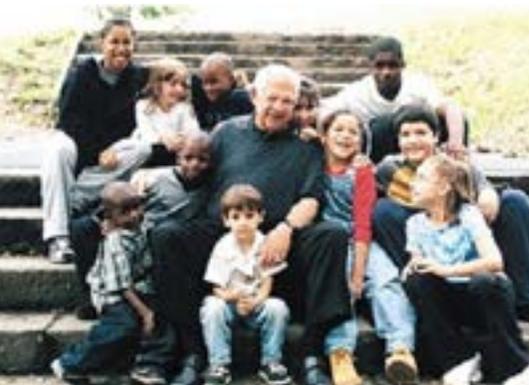
Unacceptable") and public service announcements ("When I First Met My Child"). All can be ordered or downloaded at davethomasfoundation.org. The Foundation also encourages employers to offer foster care and adoption benefits through its Adoption-Friendly

Workplace Campaign and is a founder of the National Adoption Day initiative on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. To learn more about any of the Foundation's programs, call 800-ASK-DTFA, visit davethomasfoundation.org, or follow it on Facebook or Twitter.

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Trumbull County

In September 2015, 10-year old Roger was referred to WWK. The recruiter began with a file review of his case to learn more of his history and to look at both past and current connections. Roger had been placed in foster care as a result of his birth mom's drug usage and inability to provide a stable home for him. Roger is athletic, musically inclined and usually gets good grades. He was adopted at age 4 in 2007 but disrupted six years later. His brother remained in the home while he was moved to a residential setting. In the recruiter's search for connections, she found his birth mother, who had remarried and had two other children. The recruiter reached out to her, and she was thrilled at the possibility of reconnecting with her son. Roger was happy to connect with his birth mom and began with a cautious phone call, eventually leading to his adoption by his birth mom at age 13.



Dave Thomas believed finding permanent homes for children was everyone's responsibility.

Summit County

Seventeen-year old Wesley had been in care seven years and experienced six different placements. He had a history of running away, fighting, and had been neglected and sexually abused in his birth home. Three of his four siblings had been adopted. Wesley also has special needs, requires extra supports in school and receives services through the developmental disability board. In the recruiter's mining of the file and working with his caseworker, it was discovered that his older brother's adoptive parents were open to visits between the siblings. A relationship began to develop between Wesley and his brother's family. The family wanted to know more about Wesley and discussed the possibility of him being placed in their home. During a placement disruption for Wesley, the family agreed to have Wesley move into their home. After Wesley's move, his worker and recruiter talked with the family about adopting Wesley. Three months before turning 18, Wesley was adopted.

Hamilton County

At age 13, Carol was added to the WWK caseload. She was in her third foster home; was diagnosed with bipolar, post-traumatic stress and oppositional defiant disorders; and was taking psychotropic medicines to help manage her mood swings. Carol vacillated between a desire to be adopted and an adamant opposition to adoption. Part of her resistance resulted from a fear of being disloyal to her birth family.

She remained in contact with some members who were not able to provide a permanent home for her. The recruiter helped Carol process her feelings and understand the advantages of adoption. Her foster mother also helped Carol work through her mixed feelings, supporting Carol's continued birth family relationship.

The recruiter was able to see the encouraging and loving relationship that existed between Carol and her foster mother. She approached the foster mother about the possibility of adoption, which opened up new potential. Carol later shared with the recruiter that she feels at home with her foster mom and that she was ready to be adopted by her. Carol was adopted at age 16 and is excited about going to college to become a social worker.

For children and youth like Roger, Wesley and Carol, who are most at risk of aging out of care, Wendy's Wonderful Kids works. The Foundation and ODJFS will continue to use their partnership to prove that unadoptable is unacceptable.

**The Foundation engaged Child Trends (Washington, D.C.) to conduct a five-year randomized control trial evaluation of WWK. In 2011, the research was released and showed that, on average, a child served by WWK was 1.7 times more likely to be adopted, and older youth were three times more likely to be adopted. Additionally, children with mental health challenges were more than three times more likely to be adopted.*

Welcome, New Staff!

October's First Friday announced OFC's Bureau of Young Adults and the Courts (BYAC). Now, we'd like to introduce its newest members, who may already be familiar to you. We're pretty excited about their commitment to improving outcomes for young adults coming out of foster care and the diversity of skills and experience each brings to the team.

Jana Pearce



Jana joins BYAC from the Bureau of Automated Systems, where she was a financial business analyst on the SACWIS team. In that capacity, she

was instrumental in enhancing contract management functionality to be more user-friendly. Jana's knowledge of SACWIS will be a critical asset to BYAC's work. Prior to joining to OFC, she worked at Franklin County Children Services as an ongoing and intake caseworker. She has a bachelor's degree in psychology from The Ohio State University and lives with her partner, Kristyn, and two "fur babies," Jett and Addy. Jana enjoys being active. Recently, she started rock climbing, which is quickly becoming her favorite thing to do outside of spending time with her family and friends.

Betsy Bentsen



Betsy comes to BYAC from the Bureau of Practice and Systems Advancement, where she was a technical assistance

specialist serving the southeastern region for two years. Only for the opportunity to make such a difference for Ohio's foster youth would she have left her work with OFC's local partners, which she so enjoyed. Prior to joining

OFC, Betsy worked for 21 years at Franklin County Children Services in both direct services and contract administration. She has a bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University and a master's degree in business administration from Ohio Dominican University. Betsy loves going to concerts and traveling to new and exciting places.

Chynna Kelley



Chynna previously served as the foster youth advocate in OFC's transitional youth section, where she helped ensure that Ohio's foster youth had a

voice in transitional programming. A native of Tampa, Florida, Chynna has a bachelor's degree in political science from Florida A&M University in Tallahassee and a law degree from the Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. While attending law school, she represented youthful offenders in criminal proceedings, which also involved helping them access services and programs. After graduation, Chynna worked as an assistant state's attorney at the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office. She relocated to Columbus to be closer to family. Fun fact: Chynna used to be a competitive gymnast.

Welcome Christine!



We are very excited to welcome Christine Dobrovich into her new position as chief of the Bureau of Child and Adult Protective Services

(BCAPS). This bureau oversees many of OFC's core functions, including the development of policies and Ohio Administrative Code rules that govern Ohio's child protection, substitute care and adult protective services programs. The Ohio Central Registry, Putative Father Registry, Adoption Assessor Registry, Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children, Ohio Child Welfare Training Program, Ohio Human Services Training System and Ohio's University Partnership Program also fall within the bureau's responsibilities. It is a busy place, but Christine comes well-prepared to step into this role.

Christine joins BCAPS from OFC's Bureau of Fiscal Accountability, where she supervised the office's Title IV-E Policy Unit. Before working in OFC, she supervised the Policy and Interstate Central Registry Unit within the ODJFS Office of Child Support. Christine also brings significant direct service experience to her work, both as a child welfare worker and as an attorney. She spent 13 years at Franklin County Children Services, first as a caseworker in the abuse and adoption units and later, after she earned her law degree, as a child protection and custody litigator. She also worked as an attorney for the Delaware County Child Support Enforcement Agency.

Christine has a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling from Ohio University and a law degree from Capital University Law School. Congratulations, Christine!

Principle of the Month
There is urgency and importance to our work.

Missed an issue?
No problem. All First Friday updates are posted on the OFC website under the Partners for Ohio's Families button. **Click here** to check them out!

New OHIO YAB Officers Elected

The fall meeting of the Overcoming Hurdles in Ohio Youth Advisory Board (OHIOYAB) is always special because it involves the election of new officers for the upcoming calendar year. Youth are advised of the OHIOYAB Code of Conduct, the election process, and the duties, responsibilities and commitment that each position entails. Interested applicants explain why they wish to hold the position, say why they believe they are qualified and ask for members' votes.

The speeches are as individual as the youth themselves: Some are boisterous and free-wheeling, others quiet and reserved. Some are meticulously planned, others off-the-cuff. But regardless of the delivery or content, all speeches have one thing in common: the desire to have a voice, to improve circumstances for their foster

"brothers and sisters," and to make a difference in a system that for too many – but not all – felt impenetrable.

A small table of adult supporters from the Supreme Court of Ohio and OFC sit at the back of the room. Their only role is to listen and to note how the thoughts, stories and ideas presented can be used to improve state-level policies and practices.

To any OHIO YAB members who happen to be reading this issue of First Friday, here is a message from the back of the room: Congratulations to the newly elected officers, to everyone who showed the courage to step forward and ask for their peers' votes, and to every youth in the room who attended. Your voice has meaning, and you are changing the system

in ways you might never know. Change takes time, and sometimes can't be accomplished in the way you envision, but rest assured: We're all listening.



Melissa Stroud of Ashtabula County was elected vice president.

Foster to 21: From the Mailbox

Each month we share a few emails sent to the fosterto21@jfs.ohio.gov mailbox. Thanks so much for everyone who has taken the time to share their opinions, ideas and concerns. Your thoughts help us with our planning!

Q: Will participants who are currently attending college be eligible for the program after they turn 21?

A: This program is available only to youth up to age 21. The goal is to help young adults ages 18 to 21 gain self-sufficiency while they engage in educational or work activities. Ideally, by age 21 (or earlier if the young adult chooses to leave the program), the housing and case management services provided will have helped the young adult feel capable of living independently.

Q: Will the youth be required to have a roommate if they are enrolled in the program?

A: There is no expectation that roommates will be required. Living situations will vary depending on the young adult's wishes and capabilities, and the availability of housing. The young adult's case manager will work with him/her to identify the living situation he/she is best suited for and most comfortable with. While specifics have yet to be determined, we are considering a range of options, including single housing, shared living arrangements, grouped single housing in which young adults could live close to others they have connections with, host homes in which adults provide guidance and support, and/or living arrangements appropriate for particular educational or employment opportunities. It should be noted that a young adult in campus housing may be required by the educational host to have a roommate.

Q: Who will receive the payment for housing?

A: We hope to build flexibility into the program and are considering a menu of options, including payment to a landlord, host home, university or educational entity, or directly to the young adult. We recently asked a group of current and former foster youth how they felt about directly receiving housing payments. Several expressed concern for young adults who may not have had an opportunity to handle money or practice fiscal responsibility. They suggested a graduated system with benchmarks. For example, ODJFS would provide payment initially to an adult or landlord but later to the young adult, after he/she demonstrated the ability to remain in the program and take on more responsibility.

New Guide for Engaging Fathers Available

Recent studies show that when nonresident fathers are involved in case planning, more children are reunited with their families, children exit foster care faster, and they are less likely to experience future maltreatment allegations. To help agencies better engage fathers, a new resource is available: the JFS 01444, "Best Practice Guide for Engaging Fathers: A Toolkit for Children Services Staff."

The guide is the result of 19 months of work by the Engaging Fathers Subcommittee, which was formed after state and county partners working on the five-year Child and Family Services Plan realized that agencies were struggling to identify, locate and engage fathers and paternal relatives of children involved in the child welfare system. The subcommittee included representatives from OFC, the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood, and 10 PCSAs of varying sizes and locations, including intake and ongoing caseworkers, supervisors, administrators and an agency attorney. Members met regularly

to identify the skills, values and supports needed not only to locate fathers and paternal relatives, but to achieve a level of engagement that might improve outcomes for children and families. They examined policies and programs that have been effective in other states and in individual Ohio counties, as well as existing resources for fathers in Ohio.

The guide lists actions that can be taken at all stages of a case to identify and involve fathers, and it recognizes that agency needs and resources vary. Three levels of recommendations are offered for each casework activity: "basic," "enhanced" and "ideal." In addition, the appendices include a number of helpful documents, including an "Agency Readiness Tool for Developing a Fatherhood Program," a "Sample Resource Guide for Fathers" and an "Absent Parent Checklist." The guide is available free of charge through Forms Central. For additional information, email Karen.McGormley@jfs.ohio.gov.

Global Emails for October 2016

The following emails were sent in October to PCSA directors and/or private agency directors. They are organized below by mailing date and key words.

10/6/2016 – Visitation Incentive Fund

10/26/2016 – APS Regional Meetings

Thanks for Your Time!

Thank you to the many agencies across Ohio who shared staff, time or expertise to help develop the "Best Practice Guide for Engaging Fathers: A Toolkit for Children Services Staff." A special shout-out to each of the hard-working members of the Engaging Fathers Subcommittee for their excellent work:

Seth Bowerstock,
Allen County Children Services

Arvella Fike,
Cuyahoga County Division of
Children and Family Services

Toni Gillette, Ohio Department of
Job and Family Services

John LaRoche, Belmont County
Department of Job and Family
Services

Jesse Looser, Co-Chair
Franklin County Children Services

Renee Lupi, Morrow County Job
and Family Services

Monica Mahoney, Ohio
Commission on Fatherhood

Karen McGormley, Ohio Dept. of
Job and Family Services

Ann-Marie Mendenhall, Trumbull
County Children Services

Jason Moore, Mahoning County
Children Services

Staci Nichols,
Allen County Children Services

Ann Ream, Co-Chair, Ohio Dept. of
Job and Family Services

Heather Spencer, Ohio Dept. of
Job and Family Services

Kimberly Stewart, Ohio Dept. of
Job and Family Services

David Thomas, Ohio Dept. of Job
and Family Services

Earvin Thomas Cuyahoga County
Div. of Children & Family Services

Colleen Tucker-Buck, Ohio Dept. of
Job and Family Services

Tyler Van Drei, Lake County Dept.
of Job and Family Services

Jenni Watson, Ohio Dept. of Job
and Family Services

Every Student Succeeds Act Update

Starting on Dec. 10, schools and child welfare agencies will be jointly accountable for ensuring the educational stability of students in foster care, maintaining the students' connections with peers and adults, and helping them attend college or prepare for careers.

These are some key provisions of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which Congress passed in December 2015 as a reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (aka "No Child Left Behind"). ESSA enhances existing mandates put in place by the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act. It requires collaboration among school districts, individual schools and child welfare agencies to ensure that foster youth have equitable opportunities for academic achievement and social development.

For example, schools and agencies must work together to do the following:

- Maintain a foster child's school placement after his or her removal from home or a substitute care disruption, when it's deemed to be in the child's best interest to do so,

- Transport the child to the school of origin, or
- If a transfer is necessary, immediately enroll the child in the new school "without delay, regardless of whether relevant records are available" in order to facilitate consistency of educational programming.

ODJFS is working with our partners at the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), PCSAO and the Ohio School Board Association to effectively implement ESSA-related enhancements. Here are just a few of the many ways we're preparing:

- Through PCSAO, each PCSA has identified a local point of contact who school systems can work with to develop procedures and address student-specific needs. These contact names will be shared with representatives of all public school districts, community schools and public preschools in Ohio.
- OFC's Sue Williams has been designated as the point of contact for ODJFS.
- ODE sent a letter to all superintendents informing them of the new requirements. The letter also noted that all school districts must provide points of

contact to ODE by Nov. 10. ODE will then share this information with the PCSAs.

- ODE has posted a position for an ESSA foster care point of contact.
- ODJFS and ODE are finalizing a joint guidance document that will include information about how schools of origin are defined, factors to consider when making best-interest determinations, communication protocols, transportation options and potential funding streams to support those options, immediate enrollment, and record transfers.
- ODJFS will be adding information about educational stability for foster youth to its website. Watch for it!
- ODE has established an email box for questions about ESSA foster care provisions fostercare@education.ohio.gov.
- ODE will be launching a web page to share updates about the ESSA foster care provisions.

Much work will be completed within the next few weeks; stay tuned for updates. For additional information or questions, email Susan.Williams@jfs.ohio.gov.

Crisis Text Line Now Available

Ohioans in crisis now have access to free, confidential assistance via text on mobile devices. The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, in partnership with the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, has contracted with the national Crisis Text Line to provide this service 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to all ages. While not a replacement for therapy, the line is staffed by trained volunteers and supervised by a degreed behavioral health professional. Communication is anonymous and secure.

Those in need of assistance simply type "4HOPE" to 741 741. They will receive a reply from a trained crisis counselor within five minutes. An algorithm reviews texts for severity. Messages determined to be from someone at imminent risk are placed at the top of the queue. Data usage is free, and the number will not appear on a phone bill with the mobile service carrier. In addition, all data is auto-scrubbed for personally identifiable information, and no personal information of the texters or crisis counselors is shared.

If you or someone you know is in crisis, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255), use another local resource, or reach out for help to a trusted friend or family member. If you're over 18 and interested in being a Crisis Text Line counselor, visit crisistextline.org. You will be required to complete a background check and 34 hours of web-based training.

As of July 2016, 1,541 trained crisis counselors responded to approximately 50,000 texters per month.

Rule Review Update

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

From Sept. 9 through Oct. 9:

- 5101:2-42-18, "PCSA and PCPA approval of placements with relative and nonrelative substitute caregivers"

From Sept. 15 through Oct. 15:

- 5101:2-25-01, "Uniform definitions of Title XX services and other definitions of terms used in Chapter 5101:2-25 of the Administrative Code"
- 5101:2-25-02, "Title XX administration"
- 5101:2-25-03, "Title XX county profile"
- 5101:2-25-07, "Title XX reimbursement dependent upon correct determination of recipient eligibility"

From Sept. 22 through Oct. 22:

- 5101:2-1-01, "Children services definitions of terms"
- 5101:2-40-02, "Supportive services for prevention of placement, reunification and life skills"

From Oct. 13 through Nov. 12:

- 5101:2-33-11, "Multiethnic Placement Act (MEPA) agency administrative requirements"
- 5101:2-33-70, "Statewide automated child welfare information system (SACWIS) access"
- 5101:2-48-05, "Agency adoption policy and recruitment plan"
- 5101:2-48-09, "Application process and preservice training"
- 5101:2-48-12, "Completion of the adoption homestudy"
- 5101:2-48-13, "Non-discrimination requirements for adoptive placements"

Please continue to visit the site periodically for new postings. We welcome your input and hope you use this opportunity to share your feedback and experiences.

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.