From OFC Deputy Director Carla Carpenter – 4/7/17

I am honored and excited to step into my new role as OFC deputy director. I know I have some big shoes to fill!

My thanks to all the OFC staff and stakeholders who have given me such a warm and supportive welcome. Many of you have asked about my plans for the future. That’s easy! I want to continue to focus on the five strategies targeted through Partners for Ohio’s Families (see the sidebar at right) and to build on the foundation we’ve been assembling the past several years.

I consider OFC’s attention on partnership—internally among OFC’s various program areas, as well as externally with the public and private agencies we serve—critical to improving performance. While there always are “next steps,” I think we have some solid mechanisms in place to take us in the direction we want to go.

OFC’s continuous quality improvement (CQI) work, regional technical assistance teams, predictive analytics and—of course!—the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) all offer ways for us to get to know each other better, enhance our understanding of system drivers, and proactively anticipate ways to best serve Ohio’s families and children.

April’s Principle

Partnerships and collaboration enhance the quality of outcomes.

April marks the “boots on the ground” beginning of Ohio’s CFSR onsite review, but we rolled up our sleeves many months ago to reach this point.

My sincere thanks to the OFC staff, county partners and volunteer peer reviewers who have invested so much time and brain power in this effort. It will be worth it! In addition to the knowledge and relationships we gain, the development of state-based peer reviewers will be a valuable resource to our CQI efforts and CFSR Program Improvement Plan work.

April also is Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month. Last week’s kickoff was my first opportunity to get involved with this as deputy director, and I join the Ohio Children’s Trust Fund in urging everyone to engage in simple acts of kindness to make our communities a better place for families and children. For more on this year’s campaign, see page 2.

Five Strategies

Since its start in 2010, Partners for Ohio’s Families has evolved from a grant-funded initiative to an ongoing commitment to sustaining innovations linked to successful outcomes for children and families. The following five strategies are the foundation:

1. Building a team approach
2. Building institutional behavior
3. Establishing structured communication
4. Building a knowledge base
5. Supporting agencies to self-assess
OCTF Leads Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Programming

The mission of the Ohio Children's Trust Fund (OCTF) is to prevent child abuse and child neglect by investing in strong communities, healthy families and safe children. As Ohio’s sole public funding source dedicated to child abuse and child neglect prevention, the OCTF is at the forefront of prevention activities throughout the state. Since its creation in 1984, the OCTF has funded both local and statewide prevention efforts, all of which are designed to strengthen families and prevent abuse and neglect.

Starting in state fiscal year 2016, the OCTF prevention efforts shifted from county-based administration to a regional model. Each region is led by a regional prevention council. Each council is directed by a regional prevention coordinator in partnership with county prevention specialists. Together, the regional prevention coordinator and county prevention specialists conduct a comprehensive needs assessment at least every four years and implement a regional prevention plan.

The following are Ohio’s eight prevention regions:

- Central Ohio Region: Crawford, Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Knox, Licking, Madison, Marion, Morrow, Pickaway, Richland and Union counties
- Eastern Ohio Region: Belmont, Carroll, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Jefferson, Monroe, Muskingum, Noble and Tuscarawas counties
- Great Lakes Region: Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga and Lake counties
- Northeast Ohio Region: Ashland, Columbiana, Holmes, Lorain, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit, Trumbull and Wayne counties
- Northwest Ohio Region: Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca, Van Wert, Williams, Wood and Wyandot counties
- Southeast Ohio Region: Athens, Gallia, Hocking, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Morgan, Perry, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Vinton and Washington counties
- Southwest Ohio Region: Adams, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton, Highland and Warren counties
- Western Ohio Region: Allen, Auglaize, Champaign, Clark, Darke, Greene, Hardin, Logan, Mercer, Miami, Montgomery, Preble and Shelby counties

Meet the Ohio Children's Trust Fund staff: Eric Campfield, Kristen Rost, Nicole Sillaman and Dave Monder

#InTheNext30Minutes

According to SACWIS data, substantiated or indicated reports of child abuse or neglect occur in Ohio approximately every 30 minutes. During Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month, the OCTF reminds all Ohioans that simple acts of kindness can help prevent abuse and neglect. You can help by using social media to share the message. Here’s how:

- Pledge your support and tag OCTF on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.
- Share ways that you are strengthening families by simple meaningful acts.
- Tag your friends on social media. Ask them to show support within the next 30 minutes by posting to social media using #InTheNext30Minutes.
- Take a selfie using this year’s campaign hand gesture (shown below). Post it to social media using #InTheNext30Minutes.

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.
Meet Eric Campfield

As one of OCTF’s three program managers, Eric Campfield works with state and local OCTF grantees to ensure that Ohioans have access to high-quality parenting and family-strengthening programming. Through his daily interactions with OCTF regional prevention councils, human trafficking grantees and child-serving organizations across Ohio, Eric puts April’s guiding principle, “Partnerships and collaboration enhance the quality of outcomes,” into action.

“Eric is committed to the success of our regional work and values our partners’ expertise in working with children and families,” said Linda Holmstrand, coordinator of the Eastern Ohio Prevention Council. “He is open to suggestions and feedback regarding the work.”

Kristen Rost, Eric’s supervisor, agrees: “Eric genuinely values the ideas and opinions of our stakeholders,” she said.

We talked with Eric to learn more about him and his approach to work.

How do you collaborate with the regional prevention councils?
I work very hands on with the regional prevention councils in the eastern part of the state, specifically the northeastern, eastern and southeastern regional prevention councils. The regional model is new, and we are working through the process for the first time, so I want to be sure and fully understand the needs of each region. I attend all council and workgroup meetings and am able to work with the council coordinators to collaboratively anticipate and address obstacles. I also assist each council with its prevention planning, grant process, April planning [for Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month] and outreach plans.

What work do you do with the OCTF’s other partnerships?
We are a small team, so we all work together on most initiatives. I provide technical assistance to our grantees, assist with data collection and help in the promotion of prevention month activities. I will take credit for the design and implementation of this year’s inaugural “Kids Bake for Kids’ Sake” fundraiser (see page 4). The OCTF staffs and supports the work of its board; I work with the finance committee and legislative members researching issues relating to child abuse and neglect prevention. I also am the grant manager for one-half of OCTF’s human trafficking prevention programs.

What is important to you?
Family is the most important thing to me. As the oldest of 15 children, the importance of family was instilled in me at a young age. I specifically remember the birth of my younger brother with Down syndrome and the positive impact he had on our family. As a caregiver for my brother, I get the dual perspectives of being a human services programmer and a consumer of human services programming. In my spare time, I enjoy listening to podcasts and spending time at my family’s lake house.
Kids Bake for Kids’ Sake

The OCTF is housed within OFC and receives most of its funding from a federal grant, as well as surcharges on birth and death certificates and divorce and dissolution decrees. However, it also can accept donations. This year, as part of its Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month activities, OCTF staff coordinated a new, first-ever fund-raising event: Kids Bake for Kids’ Sake.

Six community organizations across the state have volunteered to host baking classes for children, and the products of those classes will be sold at four Columbus-area bake sales: on April 5 at the Ohio Statehouse and the Riffe Center and on April 12 at 4200 E. Fifth Ave. and 4200 Surface Road. All sales will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

“What’s better than eating delicious baked goods and knowing you’re doing it for a good cause?” said OCTF Executive Director Kristen Rost. “Knowing that these goods were baked by kids for kids!”

OCTF staff solicited donations of baking utensils and ingredients from local food markets, corporations, religious organizations and other agencies. Donors included a Giant Eagle in Canton and the Angry Baker in Columbus. Both the Ohio Senate and House of Representatives conducted ingredient drives in March.

The community organizations participating in the event are the Toledo Muslim Community Center, the Bellefaire JCB in Cleveland, Calvary United Methodist Church in Canton, the Zanesville Civic League, the Athens Parks and Recreation Department, and the Run the Race Club in Columbus. All have agreed to recruit child participants and host baking classes. Run the Race Center is encouraging parents to participate along with their children. Athens Park and Rec also is providing a week of nutrition and safety information.

As an additional outreach activity, OCTF hopes to compile the recipes into a cookbook, which would include baking safety tips, nutrition information and resources for parents.

Learn the Signs. Act Early.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s “Learn the Signs. Act Early.” website has a variety of free, parent-friendly materials, including developmental milestone checklists, children’s books, a popular Milestone Moments booklet and growth chart, and tips for helping a child when there are developmental concerns. The website also has a free training for early care and education providers. To learn more, visit cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly.

March 2017 Global Emails

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

3/8/17 – PCSA Communication Regarding Media Request
3/14/17 – Payment for Pharmacy and Medical Services through Managed Care Plans
3/15/17 – OIG Audit PCSA Communication
3/20/17 – Private Workforce Survey questions
3/22/17 – Regional Trauma Training
3/27/17 – Transition of Child Medicaid Eligibility from OIES to SACWIS
OCTF to Release Regional Needs Assessments

Ohio’s eight regional prevention councils are required to conduct periodic comprehensive needs assessments, and the OCTF will release the results of the most recent one later this month.

The criteria used to create the assessments were adapted from a framework developed by the National Alliance of Children’s Trust and Prevention Funds. The OCTF tailored that framework to fit Ohio’s needs and linked the criteria to data indicators and outcomes that all regions are required to track. Each assessment documents the occurrence of child maltreatment in a region, quantitative and qualitative data analysis, existing prevention strategies, and prevention gaps in services.

The regional prevention coordinators and councils spent months researching and collaborating with the OCTF to conduct the assessments. They will undertake this task again in 2020 to track their progress in mitigating families’ risk factors and increasing their protective factors.

Below is a summary of the priority needs that each region identified. Complete assessments for all regions will be available this month at jfs.ohio.gov/octf.

**Southeast Region Priorities**
- Unemployment
- Housing
- Food
- Substance abuse
- Physical and mental health disabilities
- Unmet basic needs
- Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
- Substantiated allegations of child maltreatment

**Northeast Region Priorities**
- Child care
- Children in poverty
- Changing household composition
- Parent behavior

**Great Lakes Region Priorities**
- Substance abuse treatment
- Concrete supports for caregivers
- Social support networks
- Parenting stress
- Unemployment
- Substantiated child maltreatment rates

**Western Region Priorities**
- Trauma
- Teen births
- Intimate Partner Violence
- Adult substance abuse and/or mental illness
- Physical, cognitive, social development of children
- Emotional and behavioral problems experienced by children

**Eastern Region Priorities**
- Child care
- Unemployment
- Poverty
- Physical and mental health disabilities
- School readiness
- Limited resources
- Substance abuse

**Southwest Region Priorities**
- Parent stress
- Substance abuse
- Physical and mental health disabilities of children
- Child care

**Northwest Region Priorities**
- Preschool and child care
- Transportation
- Mental health and substance abuse services

**Central Region Priorities**
- Substance abuse; the heroin/opioid epidemic
- Population growth

**Northwest Region Priorities**
- Preschool and child care
- Transportation
- Mental health and substance abuse services

**Central Region Priorities**
- Substance abuse; the heroin/opioid epidemic
- Population growth
Youth Art Contest Spreads Awareness

In February and March, the OCTF invited student organizations, classes and sports teams of public, private, community and charter high schools and career-tech centers to enter an art contest to spread awareness about the importance of child abuse and child neglect prevention and win prize money for their schools. Students were encouraged to develop a powerful and creative drawing or canvas painting, a clay work or 3-D sculpture, or a photo conveying that everyone has a role in child abuse and neglect prevention.

The OCTF received 20 entries. All were displayed in the Statehouse Atrium during the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month Kickoff event on March 31. The seven finalists were recognized at the event; together they earned $3,250 for their schools.

Tips for Helping Stressed Families

During Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month, the OCTF is spreading the word that simple acts of kindness can help prevent abuse and neglect. Here are some suggestions it offers:

- Surprise a neighbor with a meal or two to allow for more quality family time together.
- Offer to hold and rock a newborn to support self-care for a new mother.
- Sign up for local programming to mentor a child in your community.
- Start a neighborhood carpool to support families with busy lives.
- Speak kind words in public when a family appears to be struggling. Your facial expressions, body language and words could affect the situation.
- Continue to be present in the lives of your family, friends and community members so they know they can count on you for support.
- Visit next30.org to learn more and view campaign materials.

Correction

In the March First Friday, we erred in saying that every foster family home must be visited at least once during its agency’s certification span. To clarify, during each agency’s two-year certification period, licensing specialists conduct a foster home record review and choose a sampling of homes to visit.
Rule Review Update

The following Ohio Administrative Code rules were posted to ohioerulereview.org in March:

From Feb. 28 through March 29, 2017:

- 5101:2-42-19, “Requirements for the provision of independent living services to youth in custody”
- 5101:2-42-19.2, “Requirements for provision of independent living services to young adults who have emancipated”

Please continue to visit the site periodically for new postings. We welcome your input and hope you use this opportunity to share your experiences and suggestions. The website received 781 hits in March.

Grantee Spotlight – Ohio AAP

Sleep-related issues are the leading cause of death for infants one month to one year old. The OCTF awarded the Ohio chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (Ohio AAP) a grant to study the best ways to raise awareness of risk reduction strategies. Here’s a look at what they found.

By Hayley Southworth, Director of Program Management

The Ohio AAP, in partnership with the Ohio Children’s Trust Fund (OCTF), is excited to share the results of research on safe sleep messaging that will increase the effectiveness of campaigns targeting families. Beginning in June 2016, the Ohio AAP gathered feedback from families of infants at events around Ohio; this data was analyzed, validated with key informant interviews, and has been used to shape new messaging concepts on safe sleep. A final stage of validation will conclude in May, and the new messages will be shared for widespread use in June 2017.

Preliminary results have shown that families are interested in learning about safe sleep from health care providers, and may need to be clearly made aware of the dangers of unsafe sleep environments to motivate a change in behavior. In addition, the sleep habits and preferred messages for Ohio families are not easily grouped into traditional demographics. Rather, families relate well to messages tailored for the largest stressors and cultural influences in their lives. Using concepts such as parental exhaustion, financial insecurity or lack of social supports as a lens for determining the best messaging on safe sleep may greatly increase the families’ reception of the message and positive change in behavior.

The Ohio AAP and OCTF will share messages developed using this research as part of a targeted media campaign in June 2017. The Prescription for Safe Sleep Campaign will follow a successful partnership between the Ohio AAP and OCTF to raise awareness of safe sleep, SIDS and child abuse over the past two years. Over 100 million media impressions have been made through these joint campaigns, which have achieved coverage on Ohio television, radio and print media. For more information on the Ohio AAP’s safe sleep initiatives, contact Hayley Southworth, director of Program Management, at hsouthworth@ohioaap.org or (614) 846-6258.

Bridges: From the Mailbox

Thanks to everyone who has taken the time to share their opinions, ideas and concerns regarding Bridges. Your thoughts and questions help us with our planning. Recently we were asked about youth in custody at age 19.

Q: What if the young adult stays in children services custody until 19? Does he or she qualify for Bridges, or must the young adult emancipate at 18 to enroll in Bridges?

A: Young adults don’t need to leave custody at 18 to meet program eligibility, but they must be in the custody of a PCSA when they turn 18. They will then continue to be eligible for Bridges enrollment as long as they are not yet 21 and meet at least one of the program’s work or education requirements:

- Completing secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential OR
- Enrolled in an institution that provides post-secondary or vocational education OR
- Participating in a program or activity designed to promote or remove barriers to employment OR
- Employed for at least 80 hours per month OR
- Incapable of doing any of the activities as described above due to a diagnosed physical or mental health medical condition.

Young adults who are in agency custody and approaching their 18th birthdays will need their caseworkers’ help to make sure they meet this criteria. Caseworkers are expected to help youth plan for their transition and apply for Bridges. For more information, visit jfs.ohio.gov/ocf or email Bridges@jfs.ohio.gov. We’d love to hear from you!