Summers seem so much shorter now than when I was young! Of course, I was always a kid who looked forward to the start of a new school year. Even now, I feel the anticipation of a new beginning when the armada of yellow school buses starts making the rounds again.

The recent passage of the federal Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) gives us all the opportunity for a new beginning. Now is the perfect time to sharpen our pencils, put on our thinking caps and work together to implement this groundbreaking change. Several of us from OFC— as well as PCSAO, the Ohio Family Care Association (OFCA), the Ohio Children’s Alliance (OCA), the Supreme Court of Ohio, and county and judicial representatives—had two opportunities over the summer to hear from Jerry Milner, acting commissioner of the U.S. Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF). The first was at a series of federal grantee meetings in July in Washington, D.C., and the second was at a Casey Family Programs meeting on FFPSA in August. These were the key takeaways:

- FFPSA should challenge us. If it feels comfortable, we’re missing the mark on the intent of the law.
- FFPSA is much more than a change in how federal funding is aligned. We have an opportunity to use FFPSA as a tool to advance a strategic vision for our child welfare system.
- None of us can make this work on our own. It will take a collaborative effort among all of us to develop a plan that will work for Ohio’s families and children.

With that in mind, I hope to see you in October during the upcoming
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regional FFPSA Exploration and Design Forums that we’re cohosting with Casey Family Programs, PCSAO, OFCA and OCA. (See below for registration info.) These sessions, facilitated by Casey’s technical assistance experts, will provide opportunities for you to hear an overview of FFPSA and also to voice questions, hopes and concerns. I am eager to hear your thoughts on how FFPSA can help advance a shared vision to support and strengthen families, prevent unnecessary placements, and promote the safety, health and well-being of children and families.

Before I get ahead of myself and leap into October, however, I would be remiss if I didn’t note that in September we’re joining the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute (NCWWI) in recognizing Workforce Development Month. To celebrate Worker Recognition Day on Sept. 20, NCWWI and the Children’s Bureau are cohosting a live virtual event titled “One Heart Can Make a Difference: Impacting Lives through Dynamic Service Excellence.” For resources, toolkits and daily stories to support the challenging work you do, go to MyNCWWI.org/CWworkforce or #CWworkforce.

On the topic of workforce, Ohio is also actively working with the national Quality Improvement Center on Workforce Development to identify ways to support Ohio’s child welfare workforce. Who better to inform this process than the workforce in our nine partnering PCSAs? The nine sites have been busy participating in surveys and focus groups, and staff have been eager to share information. After months of site visits, planning and data review, the team will design an intervention tailored to Ohio’s identified priorities. There is much more work ahead; we’ll keep you posted.

Throughout the past year, we have taken time to “get back to basics” and focus on the fundamentals of quality child welfare practice through our Practice Profiles webinar series. All OFC staff are participating in a series of “CAPMIS Infusion” trainings that bring together the fundamentals of our Practice Profiles with our foundational assessment and planning tools. Experiencing the CAPMIS Infusion training has reminded me once again of how many decisions and external forces our caseworkers and front-line staff need to consider when engaging families and assessing child safety. I cannot begin to express my extreme gratitude for our child welfare workforce!

We must be steadfast in our pursuit of excellence, using all the tools available to us and focusing on our best resources – our workforce, families and communities – to keep moving forward. They inspire us to be better and do better, every day.

Register Now for an FFPSA Forum!

If you have not already done so, please identify your key senior leadership – we suggest up to three per agency – and register as soon as possible for the upcoming FFPSA Exploration and Design Forum in your area. You and your community partners are invited to learn more, share your insights, and identify opportunities to improve our systems for children and families. The registration deadline is Sept. 26.

**Oct. 4:** FFPSA Exploration and Design Forum - Central

**Oct. 5:** FFPSA Exploration and Design Forum - Southwest

**Oct. 9:** FFPSA Exploration and Design Forum - Northwest

**Oct. 10:** FFPSA Exploration and Design Forum - Northeast

**Oct. 11:** FFPSA Exploration and Design Forum - Southeast

**Fostering Pathways Conference Marked 10th Anniversary**

Once again, OFC partnered with Ohio Reach to host the Fostering Pathways to Success Conference for youth ages 14 to 24 and their adult supporters. This year’s conference was held Aug. 6 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, and it represented Ohio Reach’s 10th year of supportive programming to improve post-secondary outcomes for foster care youth and alumni.

ODJFS Director Cynthia Dungey welcomed the 333 guests and shared a warm conversation with Franklin County JFS Director Joyce Bivens, who spoke candidly about her experiences as a child in foster care. She encouraged the youth to work hard, stay focused on their goals and never give up on their dreams. She also encouraged them to consider non-traditional careers and gave them information about the Building Futures Pre-Apprenticeship Program.

More than 300 high school graduate names from 51 counties were read, and OFC Deputy Director Carla Carpenter challenged all the youth present to beat the odds and graduate from high school. The national graduation rate for foster youth is 31 percent. Attendees were given T-shirts and bags with this statistic.

Youth were reminded throughout the day that their current circumstances do not dictate their future outcomes and to determine their own destiny. The
lunchtime keynote speaker was Eric Tyler Anderson, also known as “The Magician with a Message.” Anderson shared his experiences as a child in foster care and attributed his success to a simple magic trick his adoptive father taught him when he was 5. Even though magicians are known for keeping secrets, he said, he shared one of life’s greatest secrets: “Regardless of your background and what you have gone through, with the magic of attitude, you can take the cards that you are dealt and still live a magical life!”

This year’s youth workshops included “Making Power Moves at Home and at Work,” “Youth Voice Matters: Increase the Positive People in Your Orbit,” “6 Degrees of Advocacy,” and “Life in the Real World, Resiliency Edition.” Adult supporters and caseworkers attended “Taking Care of Others Requires Taking Care of You,” which focused on secondary trauma and was presented by Deb McMullen from the Institute of Human Services.

New this year were team building and leadership activities hosted by SuperGames, with inflatable obstacle courses, wall climbing and a zip line. Booths featured information about Bridges, voter registration, Educational and Training Vouchers, Medicaid, the National Youth in Transition Database, the Crisis Text Line, the Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program and ApprenticeOhio.

Bridges: From the Mailbox

Each month we share a few questions sent to the Bridges@jfs.ohio.gov mailbox or asked of the Bridges team while they’re in the community. Thanks to everyone who has taken the time to share questions, opinions and ideas. All emails are answered.

Q: What type of assistance can Bridges provide to a young adult enrolled in the program who is attending college?

A: Bridges can help meet the young adult’s basic needs by ensuring they have stable housing, food, clothing and educational supports. For individuals who secure housing through the school and live on campus, Bridges can pay for room and board. The Bridges liaison also will support the participant as they develop a Bridges plan and work toward their short- and long-term goals. However, Bridges cannot pay for tuition.
Congratulations, Graduates!

More than 300 youth in foster care across 51 counties graduated from high school in 2018. OFC's Transitional Youth Programs team was honored to be invited to celebratory events honoring many of them. Here’s a snapshot of events in three counties:

Butler County
Butler County Children Services held its annual graduation ceremony June 21. “This is my favorite work day out of the year,” Abby Sexton, independent living and emancipation coordinator, told a local newspaper. “It’s amazing to see these kiddos come in here and to have watched them over the past couple years grow into the persons they’ve become. To see them here today, having graduated, your heart just swells just to see where they are and where they’re going to go. It’s amazing.” Several caseworkers spoke about the odds the youth overcame and how proud they were of them. Lunch was served, and the teens were given items they’ll need to live on their own. Most of the 10 graduates are attending Sinclair Community College this fall.

Cuyahoga County
The Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services held its annual graduation ceremony Aug. 9 at Cuyahoga Community College. The 67 graduates represented 71 percent of Cuyahoga high school seniors in foster care, a graduation rate higher than the national average (31 percent). The ceremony’s theme was “Constructing Roads to Success.” Speakers included Director Cynthia Weiskittel; Natasha Davis, a former foster youth who is now a senior at Cleveland State University; and Latoya Logan, the keynote speaker, who was adopted from foster care as a child. All the graduates received monetary support and supplies. Seven earned the Sullivan-Deckard Scholars Award, which provides full academic and room-and-board scholarships to Cleveland State University.

Montgomery County
Montgomery County Children Services held its annual graduation ceremony June 18 at the Kroc Center in Dayton, to honor 18 youth who had completed their independent living training courses. The event had a carnival theme and was titled “The Greatest Graduation of All Time.” Highlights included a keynote presentation from Caroline Nichols, a former foster youth who is now a Montgomery County caseworker. Montgomery JFS Director Tom Kelley and OFC Transitional Youth Programs Manager Sonia Tillman also provided inspirational messages. The honorees received monetary support and supplies for the next stage of their life journey. Several youth reported looking forward to entering the Bridges program.

Citizen Review Panel
Research Underway

The federal CAPTA legislation requires states to create citizen review panels to meet quarterly and report annually on efforts to ensure that they are complying with child protection requirements. Panels review policies, procedures and practices. State agencies must respond to panel recommendations for system and practice improvement.

During the past month, Ohio’s panels have submitted data requests to ODJFS, reviewed literature, and researched other states’ best practices. For SFY 2019, they are concentrating their efforts on three areas: recruitment and retention of foster and kinship homes (permanency), timing of supervisory training (safety), and the timeliness of connections to behavioral health and educational services (well-being).

The Permanency Panel is focusing on managing cases involving opiate use. The Safety Panel is focusing on caseloads. The Well-Being Panel is focusing on leveraging and maximizing resources.

OFC has worked closely with a project team from The Ohio State University to develop panels in Athens, Franklin and Hamilton counties. The team also has begun recruiting for Northwest and Northeast Ohio panels, which are scheduled to begin in the spring.
HOPE: Increasing Parent Engagement Through Peer Advocacy

By Montgomery County Children Services Division Manager Lesley Keown and OFC Strategic Initiatives Administrator Tequilla Washington

Montgomery County Department of Job and Family Services – Children Services Division recognizes the importance of increasing parent engagement in the child welfare system through peer advocacy. To increase parent engagement, Montgomery County applied for and was awarded the Helping Ohio Parent Effectively (HOPE) program grant in 2016. HOPE is a statewide family engagement initiative designed to utilize primary parents’ experience with the child welfare system to serve as peer mentors to engage and advocate for parents involved with the child welfare system.

The first year of the HOPE grant was used to plan and design our parent partner program. To do so, we began by engaging the community, staff and other key stakeholders in listening sessions about agency engagement. The sessions revealed that our areas needing improvement were parent engagement, communication, cultural sensitivity and meaningful targeted support for primary parents, foster parents and caregivers. Equipped with this information, we then joined the Succeed program to work in conjunction with HOPE to assist with parent partner recruitment in 2017.

Succeed is a statewide program designed to provide hope, support and empowerment to current child-welfare-involved families through parent support groups facilitated by parent mentors with lived experience. Subsequently, two parent partners were recruited and trained to facilitate parent support groups. Our first parent support group was held in April. Although the group’s membership is small, attendance has been consistent, and parent partners remain committed.

In addition to Montgomery County, Athens, Cuyahoga, Richland, Stark, Trumbull and Fairfield counties also are current HOPE grant recipients. Parent partners in these counties support and advocate for parents in family team and team decision-making meetings; orientations for families and employees; addiction recovery; relationship building with foster parents, caseworkers and other community partners; and in other ways as deemed necessary.

Succeed county program participants include Richland, Stark, Cuyahoga, Hamilton (Beech Acres), Mahoning, Summit and Montgomery. While the Succeed parent support group meeting format is consistent across counties, venues for meetings vary and can include public children services agencies or private community agencies and other locations that best meet the needs of the parents. Some agencies find that attendance is higher when support group meetings are held either immediately before or after parenting classes. After attending a recent support group meeting in Montgomery County, a parent wrote, “I feel positive about coming to this group. I was able to open up and express some of the feelings I was feeling and not being able to share with anybody else. Thanks for having me and I look forward to coming back.”

For more information about the HOPE or Succeed programs, email Tequilla.Washington@jfs.ohio.gov.

Practice Profiles Webinar Update

The Statewide CQI Community Subcommittee continues to host a monthly Practice Profiles Webinar Series to support OFC’s 2018 theme of “Back to Basics.” Child welfare professionals across the state have come together monthly via GoToWebinar to learn about 10 foundational worker skill sets that guide best casework practice: engaging, assessing, partnering, planning, implementing, evaluating, advocating, demonstrating cultural and diversity competence, communicating, and collaborating.

In August, more than 100 participants tuned in to learn more about “Advocating” and to hear from Jennifer Alberts, a HOPE parent-partner, who shared her personal story. Jennifer now advocates for other parents involved with the child welfare system through her role as a HOPE parent partner and has recently published a book sharing her powerful story.

This month’s Practice Profile webinar will be held Sept. 26, and the topic is “Demonstrating Cultural and Diversity Competence.” To register, click here. Recorded webinars, practical application tools and other resources can be found on the Ohio Child Welfare Learning Collaborative website. For more information about the webinar series, please email Lindsay.Williams@jfs.ohio.gov.
Prevention Month Campaign Roundup

In the time it takes to eat your lunch, revise a document, commute to work or even watch another episode of The Office, another child is abused or neglected in Ohio. Once again, the Ohio Children’s Trust Fund (OCTF) used this eye-opening statistic as the inspiration for its April 2018 Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month campaign, asking partners and friends to be #30MinuteHeroes through small acts of kindness. The results were very positive.

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”
–African Proverb

The Trust Fund kicked off the month with an event at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium, where winners of a youth art contest and an Everyday Ohio Heroes contest were honored. Many of the prevention regions also held events throughout the month, including one at a Cleveland Cavaliers game (see photo at right).

April fund-raising events also were successful. ODJFS employees contributed $7,926.60 through two weeks of dress-down days, and ODJFS employees and other organizations donated $1,000 for “Kids Bake for Kids’ Sake” bake sales, which offered baking classes to children and donated the products to local bake sales.

The Trust Fund is thankful to all its partners, followers and donors who helped make the #30MinuteHeroes campaign and fundraisers so effective. Planning already is under way for next April. If you’re interested in participating in a steering committee meeting this fall, email Nicole.Sillaman@jfs.ohio.gov.

The Great Lakes Region’s kickoff event was held April 11 at Quicken Loans Arena during the last Cleveland Cavaliers regular season game, which was attended by more than 16,000 fans. The Cavaliers offered discounted tickets to the Cuyahoga County JFS, honored a foster family on the court prior to the game, and read a public service announcement to the crowd. The Great Lakes Regional Coordinator, University Hospitals, had a table in the lobby where kids could color and cut out superhero masks. They also provided T-shirts and information to families.

Grantee Spotlight: Gracehaven

By Brooke Pollard
Gracehaven Resource Coordinator

Gracehaven was founded in 2008 to care for the growing number of victims of domestic minor sex trafficking. With a mission of eradicating sex trafficking in Central Ohio and to provide rehabilitative, trauma-informed care to survivors, Gracehaven serves minors via its comprehensive approach to combating domestic sex trafficking through prevention education, community collaboration, intervention training, and survivor care and support.

In January, Gracehaven was selected as a grant recipient by the Ohio Children's Trust Fund to implement a human trafficking prevention project aimed at educating and training Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) in Franklin County in recognizing and identifying youth who may be at risk of human trafficking. Many of the youth served are high-risk and need as many advocates as possible to make their journey the most impactful it can be while navigating multiple systems. As part of this grant, Gracehaven is providing training to two groups of CASA volunteers on the reality of human trafficking, as these CASA volunteers will support juveniles at risk of human trafficking.

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Campaign Spotlight: Keep A Promise

The Northwest Ohio Regional Child Abuse and Child Neglect Prevention Council selected Thread Marketing to develop an ongoing public awareness campaign called “Keep A Promise.” The intent of the campaign is to educate the public about substance abuse and its relationship to child abuse and neglect and to encourage people to speak up and protect children. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimates that as many as two-thirds of child maltreatment cases involve substance abuse.

“Keep a Promise” encourages parents to keep promises to their children by being present in their lives, providing safe home environments, and stopping child abuse and neglect before it happens. It also encourages community members to refer struggling parents to local resources and to take ownership of their role in helping all children grow up safe and healthy.

At a kickoff press conference in May at Mercy Health Children’s Hospital in Toledo, members of the press and community learned about the campaign’s goals and website, KeepAPromise.org. The website has information about the link between substance abuse and child abuse, the warning signs of child abuse and neglect, how to recognize abusive behavior in yourself, county resources and a page dispelling common worries about reporting child abuse.

Social media posts are placed several times a week on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, a public service announcement is airing on 17 local radio stations, and a brochure has been distributed throughout 16 northwest Ohio counties. In addition, the regional coordinator and council members have done multiple and TV and radio interviews.

Grantee Spotlight: Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Central Ohio

By Beverly Pearch
BBBSECO President and CEO

Service is on the rise at a small agency based in New Philadelphia. Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Central Ohio (BBBSECO) has been an active agency since 1973. Since its inception, the agency has served over 7,500 children in their community and currently serves both Tuscarawas and Carroll counties.

Two primary programs make up the mission of the agency. The first is the community-based program, where Littles in need of a role model and positive influence are matched with an adult volunteer who serves as their Big. Community-based mentoring relationships involve one-on-one outings and activities, doing things the Big and Little enjoy together. This can include going to museums, playing sports, crafting, seeing movies and many other activities. Some Bigs meet their Littles on the weekends, while others get together on weekday evenings. Each match is unique and develops a schedule that

(Left to right) Northwest Ohio Regional Prevention Council members Gagendeep Brar, Diane Worcester, Melissa Klorer and Jeffrey Dempsey spoke at the “Keep a Promise” media event in May at Mercy Health Children’s Hospital.

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works for them.

When asked about the importance of the community-based program, BBBSECO Board President Todd Dennison, states, “Our communities face many obstacles. If we are to overcome these obstacles, we need good men and women to step up and act. The Big Brothers Big Sisters organization is a very effective and practical way for each and every one of us to do just that. By giving just four hours a month, we can help change a child’s life forever.”

The agency also has a successful school-based program. BBBSECO currently partners with eight local school districts to offer mentoring at the school sites. These programs utilize adults and high school students as Bigs and elementary or middle school children as Littles. Results from the 2017-2018 school year surveys show that the program continues to prove a success. Surveys collected from our children funded by the OCTF reported that 100 percent of all Littles in the school-based program felt close to their Big and valued their relationship. Additionally, 100 percent of Littles saw an improvement in at least one of nine major areas reported on. These areas include social acceptance, scholastic efficacy, educational expectations, academic performance, attitudes toward risk behaviors, parental trust, truancy, relationship with a special adult and juvenile justice involvement.

“For many of our Littles, we are impacting the areas of their lives that change their future. We are breaking the cycle of addiction, poverty and low education,” states President and CEO Beverly Pearch. “We are giving children the strength to make good choices and to see their future in a positive light.”

Overall, the children served are 46 percent less likely to use drugs, 27 percent less likely to drink, 52 percent less likely to skip school, and 33 percent less likely to act violently. Also, 33 percent report feeling more supported, and 37 percent perform better in school. As an affiliate of a nationally recognized organization, the programs have a reputation of success and are based on foundational mentoring studies completed by Public/Private Ventures in Philadelphia. These studies are the standard for how the agency makes, sustains and supports matches for maximum success rates.

“These programs work,” states Director of Development and Marketing Olivia Scally. “These kids value the time and attention dedicated to them by their Bigs. It’s amazing what just a few hours a month does for the child’s confidence. The relationship gives them an outlet to talk about things they are going through and gives them a trusted and caring adult they can go to.”

Little Brother Jimmy and Big Brother Dustin enjoy the end-of-year party at their school-based program.

Infant Mortality Awareness Month

September is National Infant Mortality Awareness Month, a stark reminder that infant mortality is an ongoing challenge in the state and nation. The OCTF partners with the Ohio chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics to help prevent infant mortality through pediatrician-based education, awareness and engagement. It also partners with the Ohio Department of Health to gather data that can be used to improve Ohio’s infant mortality rate.

To raise money for these efforts, the OCTF is hosting a fundraiser at the Chipotle at 224 Euclid Ave. in Cleveland. From 4 to 8 p.m. on Sept. 8, Chipotle will donate 33 percent of all purchases made by customers who present the cashier with the image above, either on paper or a smart phone.

To learn more about the OCTF’s infant mortality prevention efforts, email octf@octf.ohio.gov.
SACWIS Updates

OFC’s Bureau of Automated Systems has been partnering with the ODJFS Office of Information Services (OIS) on several enhancements to SACWIS that will take effect over the next several months. Here’s a summary:

Electronic Document Management Pilot
From Sept. 1 through Nov. 30, five counties – Athens, Auglaize, Butler, Carroll and Summit – will pilot the ability to use SACWIS on mobile devices. Eighty-seven out of 88 PCSAs have expressed an interest in this, and the statewide rollout is planned for Dec. 10-31. Staff training will be provided.

Single Sign-On Capability
OIS is updating the technology at MyOhio.gov to permit users to sign on to all their installed applications with a single password. In May, SACWIS users received a state user ID and password. Be sure to change it by Sept. 21; after that, you will receive reminders to change it every 60 days. Also be sure to set your security questions to enable the password reset functionality. If you are unable to reset your password or have issues logging in, email OIS_SERVICE_DESK@jfs.ohio.gov or call (800) 686-1580, option 2. For general questions or concerns, email sacwis_access@jfs.ohio.gov or call (800) 686-1880, option 3 and then 5.

Payment Request Processing
The SACWIS team is working on streamlining the payment request processing functionality. This will resolve outstanding defects, update the design and incorporate automated rostering. A webinar was conducted on Aug. 8 and will be posted to the SACWIS Knowledge Base.

Kinship Home Studies
SACWIS Build 3.18, implemented Sept. 6, allows public agency workers to complete kinship assessments in the system. SACWIS automatically converts current kinship provider types into child-specific entities and creates a shell “Approved Kinship Assessment” for each placed child that can be used for future amendments or annual updates.

Users are guided through the questions found on the JFS 01447, “Assessment of Relative or Nonrelative Substitute Caregiver.” After supervisory approval, the report may be generated for signature.

The provider types “Kinship – Relative” and “Kinship – Nonrelative” are now child-specific, which means users must create a new inquiry for each child or group of children the agency seeks to place. A referral source is now automatically populated for easier completion, eliminating the need for Inquiry Activity Log entry. Screening in this new inquiry creates a pending provider type and pending assessment for each child identified.

Users can copy information from one assessment to another within the same inquiry. After approval, SACWIS will automatically populate an “ODJFS Approved Service for Kinship Care” that can be used for placement. The completed assessment can then be copied and amended for any change in the provider’s circumstances (such as a new household member, relocation, etc.) or annual review.

Kinship Child Care
Ohio’s new Kinship Child Care Program (KCCP) helps alleviate costs for kinship caregivers while maintaining children’s family ties. New SACWIS functionality helps kinship providers complete the JFS 01499, “Pre-Screening Tool for Kinship Child Care,” to determine the most appropriate subsidized child care based on family size and income. To become eligible for publicly funded child care, a family’s income must be below 130 percent of the federal poverty

Global Emails Sent in July and August

These emails were sent in July and August to PCSA directors and/or private agency directors.

7/6/2018 – 2018 Fostering Pathways to Success Conference and Registration Information
7/6/2018 – Family Search and Engagement Toolkit
7/13/2018 – Title IV-E Adoption Assistance for Children under the age of two enacted under FFPSA
8/1/2018 – OCWTP Feedback and Evaluation Focus Groups
8/2/2018 – SFY2019 Adoption Supplement Allocation
8/13/2018 – Conversion of Kinship Home Assessments in SACWIS Build 3.18
8/17/2018 – APS-Statewide Meeting Notice
8/20/2018 – Elderly Fatality Review Teams
8/21/2018 – Annual Specialized Docket Conference
8/14/2018 – Family First Prevention Services Act
8/22/2018 – SAVE THE DATE - Regional FFPSA Listening Sessions
8/27/2018 – Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency Caseflow Course Invitation - March 21, 2019

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level (FPL). To be eligible for KCCP, a kinship caregiver must have a gross family income below 200 percent of the FPL.

The tool is in the provider module under a separate sub-tab. It can be completed using an existing Kinship Provider ID or within a newly created Kinship Inquiry. It is also available through a left navigation link on individual Kinship Provider records.

Users can track whether applicants obtained child care and, if so, whether the subsidy affected their decision to become kinship caregivers. Agencies also can view a “Pre-Screening Tool for KCCP Statistical Report” to see how many times in a given time period the tool was used at their agency, as well as the recommendations/outcomes.

**Matching Conference and Pre-Adoptive Staffing**

As a result of new rules and the Adoption Workgroup’s recommendations, SACWIS build 3.19 will streamline the Matching Conference/Pre-Adoptive Staffing functionality and create Child Recruitment Plan functionality to allow planned and completed permanency activities to be documented for every child in permanent custody. The recruitment plan will be linked to matching conference records when no families have been identified or matched.

Other build 3.19 enhancements include the following:

- The ability to pull in inquiry records when the child of interest is scheduled for a matching conference
- The ability to choose how provider records are displayed in the matching conference record
- Email notification to the OFC MEPA Monitor when a matching conference has been scheduled
- Modifications to the Post-TPR Activity Report and the JFS 01610, JFS 01689 and JFS 01690 forms
- New Pre-Adoptive and Matching Conference signature pages and Child Recruitment Plan reports

The SACWIS team will post updated Knowledge Base articles and host a webinar to review the new functionality and changes.

**Bridges and AAC**

SACWIS build 3.20 will incorporate the Bridges and Adoption Assistance Connections (AAC) programs into the Expenditure and Statistical Reporting functionality (4280/4281).

**Title IV-E Eligibility**

SACWIS build 3.21 will include enhancements to the Initial Removal, Legal Actions, Eligibility and Reimbursability functionality. In addition to making design and organization improvements, the updates will allow agencies to record removals that occur prior to the agency receiving custody. A webinar was conducted and is posted to the SACWIS Knowledge Base.

**NEICE Interface First in Nation**

Ohio will soon become the first state in the nation to have its SACWIS interface fully with the National Electronic Interstate Compact Enterprise (NEICE). NEICE is a national electronic system for quickly and securely exchanging the data and documents required by the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) to place children across state lines.

Using NEICE, documents required when sending or receiving ICPC requests can be uploaded and stored in SACWIS. These documents can then be attached to communications sent to and received from other states. So far, 19 states are using NEICE, 38 are expected to be using it by the end of the year, and all states must use it by 2027.

When working with states not yet using NEICE, Ohio agencies still can create an ICPC record in SACWIS and mail paper documents. When working with states using NEICE, SACWIS will tell the user the “NEICE program is available for the selected state.”

Since June 30, the ICPC and Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance (ICAMA) records in SACWIS have a clean, new look and feel and are located on a separate ICPC/ICAMA page.

To learn more about NEICE, see this evaluation report.
Rule Review Update

The following Ohio Administrative Code rules were posted to ohiorulereview.org in July and August.

Chapter 5101:2-49, IV-E Adoption Assistance (July 3-Aug. 2):
• 5101:2-49-02, “Adoption assistance eligibility criteria”
• 5101:2-49-02.1, “Title IV-E adoption assistance AFDC-relatedness eligibility criteria”

Chapter 5101:2-42, Substitute Care (July 15-Aug. 14)
• 5101:2-49-18.1, “Non-discrimination requirements for foster care placements”

• 5101:2-52-04, “PCSA responsibilities for the interstate compact on the placement of children”
• 5101:2-52-06, “Requirements applicable to interstate placement of children when the PCPA, PNA, or court is the receiving agency”
• 5101:2-52-08, “Interstate placement requirements for Ohio parents, legal guardians, or private enti-
ties when placing a child into another state or ter-
ritory for adoption”
• 5101:2-52-10, “Interstate placement requirements for Ohio courts, parents, or legal guardians when
placing a child in a residential placement in
another state or territory”

Chapter 5101:2-40, Supportive Services (Aug. 11-Sept. 10)
• 5101:2-40-04, “Kinship permanency incentive (KPI) program”

Chapter 5101:2-42 Substitute Care (Aug. 11-Sept. 10)
• 5101:2-42-60, “Placement services for infants of incarcerated mothers”

Chapter 5101:2-5, Child Services Agency Licensing Rules (Aug. 16-Sept. 15)
• 5101:2-5-04, “Recertification of an agency to per-
form specific functions”
• 5101:2-5-13.1, “Disaster preparedness plan
requirements”
• 5101:2-5-27, “Agency procedure for the termina-
tion of a foster home certificate”
• 5101:2-5-29, “Agency requirements for foster
home records”
• 5101:2-5-36, “Additional requirements for an
agency that acts as a representative of ODJFS in
recommending treatment foster homes for certi-
fication”
• 5101:2-5-37, “Additional requirements for an
agency that acts as a representative of ODJFS in
recommending medically fragile foster homes for
certification”
• 5101:2-5-40, “Preplacement and continuing train-
ing programs”

Chapter 5101:2-7, Foster Care (Aug. 16-Sept. 15)
• 5101:2-7-03, “The care and treatment team”
• 5101:2-7-04, “Records and confidentiality”
• 5101:2-7-05, “Sleeping arrangements”
• 5101:2-7-06, “Meals”
• 5101:2-7-07, “Health Services”
• 5101:2-7-09, “Care, supervision and discipline”
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foster home”
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ment foster caregiver and a treatment foster
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• 5101:2-9-05, “Requirements for residential parent-
ing facility and crisis care facility furniture, materi-
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• 5101:2-9-19, “Personal belongings, hygiene, socialization, and education”
• 5101:2-9-20, “Food and nutrition”
• 5101:2-9-21, “Care, supervision and discipline”

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- 5101:2-9-22, “Isolation, seclusion and restraint”
- 5101:2-9-23, “Notification and documentation of critical incidents”
- 5101:2-9-24, “Child and family complaint policy and procedure”
- 5101:2-9-25, “Residential parenting facility and crisis care facility location and programmatic requirements”
- 5101:2-9-28, “Bedrooms”
- 5101:2-9-29, “Bathrooms”
- 5101:2-9-30, “Kitchens and kitchen supplies”
- 5101:2-9-32, “Transportation”
- 5101:2-9-34, “Building approval”

Chapter 5101:2-33, Administrative Requirement (Aug. 16-Sept. 15)

- 5101:2-33-80, “Retained applicant fingerprint database information exchange (Rapback)”

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 1,364 page views in July and August.

Congrats, Katina and Chris!

Katina Bays, formerly a technical assistance specialist working with child welfare agencies and Title IV-E courts in northeastern Ohio, has been promoted to human services program administrator 3 and now supervises the technical assistance specialists in the Akron and Toledo offices. Before joining OFC in 2014, she supervised staff at University Hospitals, Ohio GuideStone and Lorain County Children Services. Christina “Chris” Fendt joined the OFC Bureau of Automated Systems in May and recently became a business analyst on the SACWIS Finance and System Interface Team. She previously worked for 10 years as an IT analyst at Franklin County Children Services and also has experience in the financial services industry.

Urgent: ESSA Contacts Must be Up To Date

With children now returning to school, it is imperative that PCSAs have updated points of contact for local school districts, in keeping with Every Child Succeeds Act (ESSA) requirements. ESSA 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.

To view the current list of PCSA educational contacts, click here. If changes are needed, please email Thomas.Capretta@education.ohio.gov.

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