

*Ohio Department of Job and Family Services*  
*Office for Children and Families*  
**EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE**  
*Meeting Minutes*

**To:** Directors, Public Children Services Agencies  
Members, OCF Executive Leadership Committee  
Crystal Allen, Executive Director, PCSAO  
Judith Chavis, Assistant Director, OJFSDA  
Fred Williams, Assistant Director, ODJFS  
Rick Smith, Office for Children and Families, ODJFS  
Thomas Roelant, Office for Children and Families, ODJFS

**From:** Jessie Tower, Office for Children and Families, ODJFS

**Subject:** Executive Leadership Committee Meeting Notes from April 20, 2006

**Date:** May 15, 2006

**I. Welcome and General Comments**

Rick Smith, OCF Deputy Director welcomed the committee members and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The following individuals were in attendance:

|                 |                  |               |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------|
| Bruce Anderson  | Christina Hurr   | John Saros    |
| Dana Charlton   | Kim Linkinhoker  | Rick Smith    |
| Judith Chavis   | Leslie McGee     | Jessie Tower  |
| Deborah Clayton | Julie Mogavero   | Fred Williams |
| Mary Eck        | Tom Roelant      | Sue Williams  |
| Crystal Allen   | Director Ritchey |               |

**II. MMRD**

- The workgroup presented for discussion a copy of the draft Interagency Agreement between ODJFS and Ohio Department Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.
- Attached is a copy of the draft agreement.

**III. SACWIS Update**

- The project is in the User Acceptance Testing (UAT) phase. There are a number of counties participating in UAT. However, due to making sure that critical fixes are completed timely, DRC and CompuWare have halted the UAT with counties until they get the errors fixed. The vendor is continuing to work to resolve the errors and have proposed a revised date of May 30<sup>th</sup> for the pilot. It is too early to tell whether that will be the actual date. As more information becomes available, we will advise the counties of such.

- The reporting system is not working properly. There are 178 different reports and a hand full (30 or 40) have gone through systems testing and passed. The vendor has shared their action steps for correcting the errors and moving this forward, which includes hiring a systems engineer, and have committed to hiring additional staff as well.
- It is unknown whether the system will be ready on May 30<sup>th</sup> for go live pilot. Until we get that issued resolved and moved forward, it is difficult to discuss when SACWIS and CAPMIS training will occur.
- OCF shared that the testing environment will address both Protect Ohio and non Protect Ohio counties.
- OCF staff attended data analysis meeting last week in Washington D. C., and gave a demonstration of SACWIS. Other states were impressed with Ohio's approach.

#### **IV. CAPMIS**

- In light of the SACWIS delay, the CAPMIS schedule dated 4/10/06 has been suspended. Counties have shared that their preference is "just in time" training. Thus, once the SACWIS schedule is finalized OCF will modify the CAPMIS schedule to provide "just-in-time" CAPMIS training. Counties can expect that the CAPMIS training will occur approximately six to twelve weeks before they get SACWIS.

#### **V. Legislative Update**

- Adoption Bill: Sponsors are interested in taking input from experts. There was a recent meeting on the bill. The meeting went well.
- Policy issues requiring further clarification include:
  - Notification: (i) when someone does a home study and the child is placed, what kind of notification is given to the agency, (ii) need to share relevant information, (iii) privates indicate that the information is in SACWIS, so why the need for notification and (iv) need clarity surrounding the PCSA's responsibility.
  - Access to this information: (i) who has access to the information (ii) concerns about misuse of information, and the need to develop internal OCF and ODJFS procedures for investigation and enforcement where action involves misuse of the information.
  - Users will only have access to the information stipulated in the user agreement. Violations will not be tolerated and will be taken seriously. There will be zero tolerance for misuse of information.
  - Adoption Assessors: not all adoption assessor would be mandated reporters because they could be on the PCSA side or not be a licensed social worker and therefore not a mandated report. Does this affect private attorney adoptions? Yes.
  - Age of consent: proposal to put language in the bill that would allow 12 year olds the option to veto an adoption. However, others do not want that option to be completely gone.

## **VI. KPI**

- It is necessary that the “best interest” language be included in the court order. Some courts are not including this language. OCF court liaison will work with judges regarding the need to include “best interest” in the court order for KPI.

## **VII. Ohio Children’s Trust Fund**

- Rick Smith is currently serving as the interim Executive Director for OCTF. Current plans are to have a new interim Executive Director on board, who will work through the end of December 2006. The position is currently posted on the ODJFS web site.
- OCTF activities:
  - currently reviewing the statute with the intent on making changes to address areas that need to be corrected.
  - CBG: There are 2003 CBG funds that have to be encumbered and services rendered by September 30<sup>th</sup>. We currently have \$800K available. We have an intern working with DHHS to see if we could roll the funds out to local trust funds as a one time grant. The goal is to have the federal plan amended and ready for OCTF June meeting.

## **VIII. Town Hall Meeting**

Last week Rick attended a Town Hall meeting in Pemberville, Ohio that was sponsored by Representative Latta and Senator Gardner. The meeting was a result of a recent incident involving one of our licensed foster care residential centers. It is expected that legislation will be introduced to address the issues presented in this case. The ELC has recommended that we considering developing a system (e.g., ABC) to provide treatment to children who have committed sex offenses. To be proactive on this conversation, OCF will make a contact with Rep. Gardner's office and offer meetings with our staff, PCSAO, county agencies, & DYS.

## **IX. OACCA Conference:**

- OACCA wants to establish a workgroup to review the reasons that children are placed out of state for reasons other than relative placement. There were about 70 cases. While, public agencies have found that in many instances the private agencies indicate that they cannot provide the services needed, ELC recommended that a sampling of cases be selected and reviewed with OACCA.

## **X. Other Information**

- OCF continues it work on the SSA. Generally speaking, we want to make sure the table of organization for OCF helps provide the appropriate aid to all of our customers. The table of organization will be aligned functionally as opposed to in silos. As such, like functions will be grouped together into one work unit (e.g., contract management, personnel, computer systems, technical assistance, policy development, and rules development).