

**Office for Children and Families
Executive Leadership Committee
Meeting Notes – June 18, 2003**

Members	Present	Members	Present
China Widener	-	Julie Mogavero	X
Barbara Riley	X	Jim Smith	-
Rick Smith	-	Chip Spinning	-
Michael Ring	X	Crystal Allen	X
Buzz Long	-	Terry Miller	X
Loretta Adams	Judy Chavis	Dean Sparks	-
Suzanne Alexander	-	Mike Trivisonno	X
Kim Newsome	-	Jim Beard	-
John Saros	X	Jim McCafferty	-
Rhonda Reagh	X	Suzanne Burke	-
Kevin Holt	X	Tom Schied	X
Bruce Anderson	X		
OCF Staff:	Present	OCF Staff	Present
Terrie Hare	-	Sally Pedon	-
Joan Van Hull	X	Dennis Blazey	X
Nancy DeRoberts	-	Ronald Browder	X
Evelyn Bissonnette	X	Jessie Tower	-
Candace Novak	X	Rich Bitonti	-
Kristin Gilbert	X		
Linda Ciciretto			
Carrie Anthony			

CSB/DJFS Sharing of Information:

Mary Jo Kilroy, Franklin County Commissioner, did a PowerPoint presentation on the work of the Franklin County Child Care Task Force. To date the Task Force has had the following impact on the sharing of information between child care staff and child welfare staff:

Shaken Baby Syndrome – Franklin County JFS customers receive education regarding appropriate discipline and shaken baby syndrome. In addition, JFS child care staff are trained on this topic.

Criminal Background Checks – JFS is now using web check and are accessing the county criminal justice database. Conviction statements are required for all providers and this is made easier to obtain through the revision of the old form.

Parent Access to Complaints – Parents can access a database of complaints made against providers.

Legislation – Legislation is being proposed in three areas: sharing of abuse information, strengthening the background check process, and the addition of four disqualifying offenses (theft/fraud, falsification of information, DUI and Perjury).

*Handout titled “Legislative Executive Summary”.

Title IV-E Flexible Funding Option:

President Bush's budget includes a proposal to allow States the option to receive their foster care funding as a flexible grant for a period of five years or to maintain the program as it is currently funded. The grant will encompass Federal funding for the existing Title IV-E foster care maintenance payments program and the associated administrative costs including SACWIS and training – approximately \$5 billion for FY 2004. State allocations will be based on historical expenditures in consultation with the States. States that choose the option must maintain their existing level of financial investment in child welfare programs. Dennis Blazey, Barbara Riley and other OCF staff participated in a conference call with Dr. Susan Orr, ACF, about this flexible funding option. ACF is going to release the potential dollar allocation and the numbers/methodologies associated with the dollars within the next month. Upon receipt of this information, OCF will begin analyzing the impact of the funding option on county agencies. There was considerable discussion and a number of questions raised.

In order to review all of the tasks associated with deciding whether to accept and how to implement the Title IV-E option, a workgroup was convened including the following volunteers:

John Saros, Franklin County CSB
Rhonda Reagh, Greene County CSB
Mike Trivisonno, Scioto County CSB
Crystal Allen, PCSAO
Judy Chavis, OJFSDA

OCF will identify potential involvement on the workgroup by additional county agencies, other state agencies (ODMH, ODYS), other offices within ODJFS (OHP), and representatives from the Judiciary.

*Handouts included ACF's "Child Welfare Program Option" summary and Barbara Riley's testimony on the funding option to the Congressional House Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Human Resources.

CSB Screening/Alternate Response:

The Home Schooling Association (HSA), located in Virginia, has contacted Ohio Representative Fessler regarding how parents of home schoolers are being treated by children services agencies. The HSA feels that home schoolers are being "picked on" with child abuse/neglect charges. Representative Fessler has gained an interest in this issue and on protecting "parental rights". Several incidents have occurred to highlight Ohio's screening/alternate response system including the following:

- ✓ CFSR/PIP
- ✓ News media interest from various case situations
- ✓ General Assembly
- ✓ American Bar Association research that indicated that disposition categories vary across Ohio and that the statute is very vague.

The ramifications of this issue are broad including possible statutory/rule changes. The Office needs to do research on how this affects home schooling, what is the interface with the Erie County v. Walsh court case, implications of confidentiality section on Representative Fessler's intent, parents' due process rights, consistent use of risk (particularly consensus model v. actuarial model) assessment across Ohio, and the implications of federal court. Other issues

discussed include inter-rater reliability studies and impact on consensus model actions, threat of lawsuit, and incorporation of this issue with CPOE Stage 5 (request for copies of screening procedures, copies of screening log, and to pull sample of log to do review) and the CFSR PIP. Given the CPOE Stage 5 begins in July and spans 18 months, immediate actions include releasing a survey/request for county agencies' screening policies and conducting a qualitative analysis of the data. Again, there was a broad ranging conversation and the ELC agreed that the Risk Assessment pilot and the Performance Center must be factors considered in this discussion.

To further analyze this situation a workgroup is being convened including the following individuals:

Rhonda Reagh, Greene County CSB
Julie Mogavero, Hocking County CSB
Bruce Anderson, Licking County DJFS
Mike Trivisonno, Scioto County CSB
Max Bucey, PCSAO

*Handout titled "Report to the Bureau of Family Services, ODJFS: Policies/Practices on Screening Out Reports for Investigation, and Definitions/Categories Used for Classifying Report Outcomes after Investigation/Assessment".

ELC Evaluation:

Given that the ELC has been meeting since July 2002, the Office wants to conduct an evaluation of the purpose/progress of the ELC. The ELC members requested that a survey be sent. Several members requested more dialogue in their meetings; versus just information sharing. Members also expressed an interest in hearing about other programs that don't "get much attention" including APS and child care. Finally, the members felt that they come across many issues during their daily business and they'd like to discuss these at the ELC meetings. One method of resolving this issue is to allow for a Q/A period at the end of each ELC meeting. This was supported by the ELC.

To Do:

One issue raised during this conversation was the prohibition of services to illegal alien children. OJFSDA heard from county agencies that this phenomenon is on the rise as parents cannot afford to provide/obtain services for their children; therefore are relinquishing custody. The problem with this is that these children are not IV-E eligible and the county agencies must rely on their general revenue dollars and/or levy dollars to provide services. OCF will work with the OJFSDA in following-up with this issue.

Requested future agenda items:

Program/budget analysis including child care, APS and Head Start
Foster Care Training – Model Training clarification
Q/A period with other agencies and ODJFS/OCF
Due Process and Central Registry
Title IV-E Funding Option