

**Office for Children and Families  
Executive Leadership Committee  
March 16, 2005**

**ODJFS Performance Center, 32<sup>nd</sup> floor, 30 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio  
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>
Barbara Riley	-	Jim Smith	-
Rick Smith	X	Chip Spinning	X
Crystal Allen	X	Donald Wake	-
Buzz Long	X	Terry Miller	X
Loretta Adams	Judy Chavis	Dean Sparks	-
Suzanne Alexander	-	Bruce Anderson	-
Kim Newsome	-	Jim Beard	-
John Saros	Katherine Canada	Jim McCafferty	-
Rhonda Reagh	-	Suzanne Burke	-
Kevin Holt	-	Tom Schied	-
Michael Trivisonno	X	Julie Mogavero	X
<u>OCF Staff:</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>OCF Staff</u>	<u>Present</u>
Terrie Hare	-	Sally Pedon	-
Joan Van Hull	X	Dennis Blazey	-
Nancy DeRoberts	X	Fran Rembert	X
Evelyn Bissonnette	-	Jessie Tower	X
Cara Pasqualone Lee	X	Kristin Gilbert	-
Linda Ciciretto	X	Randi Lewis	X
Carrie Anthony	X		
Yvonne Gray	X		
Senerath Abeyratne	X		

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Rick Smith opened the meeting at 10:10 a.m. Introductions were made. The following changes were made to the agenda:

- Adopt Ohio discussion was deleted;
- APS update was added;
- NVRM re: unlicensed relative care was added;
- Clarification of child care rules was added.

**New Strategic Visions for Youth:**

Carrie Anthony, OCF, provided an update on a new Department of Labor initiative, the New Strategic Visions for Youth. The initiative will focus on youth in the following four groups: foster care; juvenile justice, children of incarcerated parents; and migrant youth. To date, ODJFS, the Department of Youth Services, Partnership for Success and the Ohio Association of Behavioral Health Care Authorities have been involved, and more state and local partners will be identified. An Ohio-specific state plan will be developed as part of the initiative.

**Program Improvement Plan (PIP):**

OCF received approval for the amendment. Joan Van Hull will be sending out the approved amended plan. Areas for continued improvement include the 24 hour investigation response and the case plan requirement. More details will be given at the next ELC meeting.

**Stability Survey:**

OCF staff presented results of the stability survey recently released electronically. The federal standard for stability is the 86.4% of cases will have two or fewer placements in twelve months. Twenty counties were surveyed – ten that had NOT met the national standard for three consecutive years, and ten that had met the national standard for three consecutive years.

Conclusions of the survey included that the following were significant in meeting the national standard:

- Unruly / delinquent adolescent youth had the most moves.
- Team decision placement processes enhanced placement stability.
- Use of a Foster Care Specialist (whose job it is to support the foster caregiver) increased placement stability – this finding showed up multiple times.
- Lower caseload sizes increased placement stability.
- Higher number and faster case transfers negatively impacted placement stability.
- Frequent parent-child visits enhanced placement stability (as did earlier initial visits).
- Informal strategies for resource family recruitment (word of mouth, “Foster Care parties, billboards, etc.) were more common among PCSAs successful in placement stability outcomes

Limitations of the study:

- Survey completed only by staff members.
- Small sample size
- Brief survey
- Sampling method design

Franklin County PCSA had two suggestions in meeting the stability goal:

1. When the county receives custody from an institution like a hospital or juvenile detention center, the institution counts as the first placement. Would be easier to meet the standard if this did not occur.
2. Franklin county’s payment system is tied to its database, so if the status of the family switches, it’s counted as a move, even if the physical location of the child did not change.

**SACWIS**

Nancy DeRoberts presented a brief update on SACWIS. After the February 2005 ELC, PCSAO and OCF convened a workgroup of county pcsas to continue discussion regarding the SACWIS application’s Security Approach. SACWIS Security remains an outstanding issue, specifically what public agency access should look like. The workgroup will meet again to further discuss

and finalize recommendations. The workgroup's recommendations will be provided to ODJFS and the ELC. ODJFS Legal will weigh in on the final decision.

The SACWIS Joint Application Design (JAD) Sessions will continue through July 12, 2005.

The selection process is underway to identify the county that will pilot SACWIS implementation. Approximately 25 counties met the minimum criteria for consideration (the county must be within 120 miles of the SACWIS Project's primary site in Columbus and actively employ between 25 and 75 caseworkers). Eligible counties received letters inquiring about their interest in being a pilot and county responses are due by March 18, 2005.

The SACWIS Storyboards will be completed this week and will be in Powerpoint. These presentations will "tell the story of SACWIS" and will be available in two versions: one geared toward county commissioners and boards and the other for agency staff.

#### **APS update**

The date reporting project continues to move forward. Four counties were trained and tested the database last week and a total of thirteen will participate in the pilot. The remainder of the state will be trained by the end of June 2005 for a July 1, 2005 implementation. Training can occur over the phone with the county agency staff at their computer. The legislative requirement to submit data will be included in an OCF "clean-up" bill currently being drafted.

#### **NVRM re: unlicensed relative care**

OJFSDA and PCSAO requested that ODJFS take a firm position against the HHS proposed rule changes on Title IV-E admin claiming. OCF is currently finalizing background research to prepare written comments to HHS. Until this research is completed, OCF will remain neutral on the issue.

#### **Child Care Rule clarification**

OJFSDA voiced concerns with timeline for proposed rule changes re: child care reimbursement. They have concerns with the counties' abilities to adjust their contracts and systems in time for a July 1, 2005 implementation. These concerns will be taken into consideration with the rest of the comments made during the clearance process. As of now, a July 1, 2005 effective date is still planned for the rule package.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

#### **Next Meeting:**

April 21, 2005  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
OCF 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Video Conference Room  
255 E. Main St.  
Columbus, Ohio 43215