

**Office for Children and Families
Executive Leadership Committee
June 16, 2005
ODJFS Performance Center, 32nd 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		Michael Trivisonno	
Fred Williams	X	Jim Smith	X
Rick Smith	X	Chip Spinning	
Crystal Allen	X	Donald Wake	
Buzz Long		Terry Miller	X
Loretta Adams	Judy Chavis	Dean Sparks	Dave Ziegler
Suzanne Alexander		Bruce Anderson	X
Kim Newsome		Jim Beard	
John Saros	X	Jim McCafferty	X
Rhonda Reagh	X	Hamilton DJFS	Moira Weri
Kevin Holt		Tom Schied	
		Julie Mogavero	X

ODJFS Staff Representatives

Joan Van Hull, Office for Children & Families
 Jessie Tower, Office for Children & Families
 Randi Lewis, Legal Services (afternoon only)
 Kristin Sacco Smith, Legal Services (afternoon only)

Office for Children & Families Staff Presenters

Carrie Anthony	Fran Rembert
Dennis Blazey	Leslie McGee
Doug Oxenford	Kathy Bartlett
Vanessa Tower	Sharon Griffith
Lyn Bissonnette	Cindy Scanland

Welcome and Introductions

Rick opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed committee members. Rick asked for addition of agenda items, there were two: (1) PCSA access to SET and (2) the role of the Helpdesk in Child Abuse Investigations.

Kinship Care

Rick Smith and Carrie Anthony were the discussion leaders for this agenda item. This initiative is the result of House Bill 66 and is on a fast track to have Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rules effective January 2006. OCF staff distributed a copy of the draft work plan and asked for comments and feedback. The program is capped at \$10M dollars per year for a maximum of 3-years. Therefore, the program must be designed to support funding for the 3rd year of eligible providers as well as new and 2nd year providers also receiving funding by year three. The incentive being discussed is \$1,000.00 initial and \$500.00 for every 6-months up to a maximum of [\$3,500.00 per child}. These are one-time payments in addition to the OWF payments. This

program is a non-assistance program, and it is something that people will have to apply for. The program will be administered by the children services boards (CSBs).

There are six issues, as points of further discussion for consideration of eligibility:

1. Must be a court adjudication of abuse, neglect, dependency, or unruly {discussion – whether we should consider those children of whom the PCSA was initially given custody and “approved” a relative for placement};
2. the child meets the definition of “Special Needs”;
3. the relative home has been approved by the PCSA in accordance with OAC rule 5101:2-42-18 again {discussion – whether we should consider a specific time frame in which child is living with the relative for consideration of stability};
4. reunification is not in the child’s best interest as reflected in the child’s case plan {point of discussion in looking at what the case planning is for the child – but not specifically required by H. B. 66};
5. the relative was awarded legal custody or guardianship of the child on January 6, 2006, or thereafter, in response to the PCSAs petitioning the court, {point of discussion since the program must have a start point}; and
6. the gross income of the relative caregiver does not exceed 200% of the federal poverty guidelines

PCSAO commented that the criterion of “custody” is not in the law. PCSAO rules committee will meet on June 24th and Kinship Care is on their agenda as a major issue. Carrie will attend that meeting. Carrie also stressed that the draft work plan is not written in stone, but that we will need to come to a consensus fairly soon in order to meet the January 2006 implementation date. It was also discussed that in order to meet the January 2006 implementation date the rules will need to be emergency filed.

Comments on the draft work plan were as follows:

- PCSAO Kinship Advisory Board, it was clarified that this is in error, and should be the Advisory Board to ODJFS as stipulated in the law.
- It was recommended that we include the Juvenile Court Judges in the process.

AdoptOHIO

Rick Smith, Dennis Blazey and Doug Oxenford were the discussion leaders for this agenda item. Dennis presented information that ODJFS has budgeted five million (\$5.0M) dollars in TANF funds per year for state fiscal years 2006 and 2007. The five million dollars is distributed as follows: approximately \$1.0 million in PASSS related activities, approximately \$3.3 million in county allocations, and the balance of approximately \$700,000 is for AA recruitment activities. Dennis also provided an overview of allowable uses of the funds, and unallowable uses of the funds.

Counties expressed concern regarding the amount of funding available and inquired as to whether the \$5M could be increased. Dennis explained that the \$5M was the amount allocated in the TANF spending plan.

- ACTION STEP: Candace will follow up on the issues regarding the TANF Spending plan (i.e., whether the TANF Spending Plan is approved by the federal government and whether there is an opportunity to amend the plan).

Doug presented a demonstration of the draft model of the formula for distribution of the funds. He discussed the framework utilized in constructing the model. The framework for today's presentation included the following variables: children aged 10 and over, children in permanent custody, permanent surrenders, and a baseline for metro counties. Metro counties based on the model were: Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Lucas, Montgomery, Stark and Summit.

After discussion on the data reflected in the existing model the committee recommended that the model is re-run utilizing the following variables: (i) ages 9 – 18; (ii) children in permanent custody; and (iii) three year average for the calendar years 2002, 2003 and 2004.

- ACTION STEP: Doug will re-run the model with the new variables, we will convene a work group of county directors to look at the numbers and come back to the group with a recommendation. When considering the recommendation, Fred Williams shared that the *state's goal is achievement of the PIP's goal.*

Protect Ohio Expansion

Dennis provided an update on the ProtectOhio expansion initiative. With regards to the evaluation component, 50% will be paid for by the federal government, and 50% will come from other sources.

Foster Care Licensing Subcommittee

Rick Smith led the discussion regarding the proposal to establish a Foster Care Licensing Subcommittee of the ELC. Examples of concerns presented by OACCA were: FRED computer system and how to get reimbursements quicker, reimbursement for excess training payments in the cost report, consistency in application of foster care licensing rules and a number of questions around adoptions and how they can be better engaged in the process. Private agencies expressed concern about having a forum to address their issues.

The counties shared that they have begun to hold discussions with private agencies at their various regional meetings. In addition, PCSAO and OACCA have begun holding periodic discussions. Other opportunities for discussions with private agencies are the Quarterly Child Welfare meeting. Also the OCF Bureau of Accountability and Regulation scheduled its first quarterly Foster Care Licensing Meeting Monday, July 11, 2005.

The Southwestern Region held their meeting yesterday and reported that the meeting was great. They conducted a force field analysis but these were not the types of things that were identified (e.g., role in reunification efforts, communication, and philosophy over permanency). However, the issues that OACCA presents are more of a departmental matter rather than an ELC (i.e., FRED application and the differences in application of rules by state licensing specialists). ***For this reason the ELC did not find a need to establish a subcommittee.***

- ACTION STEP: ODJFS/OCF staff will be invited to the Regional Meetings between PCSAs and private agencies in order to hear the concerns discussed by private agencies. OCF will advise OACCA of the communication opportunity available (e.g., OCF has scheduled a Foster Care Licensing Quarterly meeting for Monday, July 11, 2005, the OCF Quarterly Child Welfare Managers' meeting, etc.).

PCSA Access to SETS

Rick Smith advised that PCSA workers who currently have access to ***SETS will continue to do so until August 1, 2005, effective August 1st however; PCSA workers will no longer have access to SETS.*** John Saros shared that their agency is working with the county CSEA to enter into an agreement for the PCSA to perform the IV-D functions. A copy of the Franklin County draft agreement was presented to Rick for review. Rick will share the draft agreement with Office of Legal Services and the Office of Child Support for input. Rick also cautioned that it is unknown if this type of agreement is permissible, but we will run it by Legal and Child Support for comments.

- ACTION STEP: OCF forward the draft agreement to Office for Legal Services, Randi Lewis and Office of Child Support, Barbara Stafford for review and input.

OCWTP RFP Update

Lyn Bissonnette provided an update on the work of the RFP Sub Committee. The Subcommittee was established by the ELC last year. The RFP Subcommittee was chaired by Lyn Bissonnette and Max Bucey; Lyn indicated the RFP the Subcommittee had completed its work. The Institute for Human Services was the successful bidder and will receive the contract. The contract will go to Controlling Board in July for approval, and it is expected that the contract will be effective in August 2005. They wrote the contract such that it can be renewable for up to three biennium if there is a statute change to allow this. In October 2005 the OWCTP State Steering Committee will begin their strategic planning process to prioritize the deliverable. This will result in an amendment to the contract. Lyn also asked for input regarding the composition of the strategic planning group. Discussion involved including representatives from PCSAs that do not host RTCs as well as the members of the State Steering Committee. The ELC recommended that the OCWTP Steering Committee review its bylaws regarding membership (non-host RTC agencies should be members). Also, the ELC agreed that non-host RTC agencies should be included in the strategic planning process for the current OCWTP contract.

MEPA

Julie Mogavero shared that many of the foster care and adoption policies were returned for correction, the requirements are very prescriptive and the department should have provided a model or template for counties to use. Vanessa Tower advised that many of the policies were returned because they were not in compliance with the new rules that went into effect on February 1, 2005 and that the JFS Form 01611 "Non-discrimination Requirements for Foster Care and Adoptive Placements" was not included with the policies. Much of what is required is due to federal laws and CARP requirements. For example, agencies cannot delay or deny foster care and adoptive placements based upon race, color, or national origin (RCNO), so any such references to RCNO must be removed from the adoption policies and replaced with the JFS 01611. As it relates to standard of conduct, the department decided that we will not prescribe a standard of conduct for counties. Each county would have the flexibility to develop the standard

of conduct that addresses the needs of their county. Vanessa advised that during this time period for which we're under the CARP, the feds have to approve all of our foster care and adoption rules.

CAPMIS/SACWIS Training Plan

Rick Smith introduced Sharon Griffith, SACWIS Training Supervisor. Effective July 1, 2005 the SACWIS Automated Training Systems will be reassigned from MIS to the Office for Children and Families, and they will report to Lyn Bissonnette.

Fran Rembert and Leslie McGee were the presenters for the CAPMIS Training Plan. Rick indicated that the proposed time frame for training is September/October 2005 through July 2006. During the discussion, Crystal Allen, PCSAO, suggested that the time frame for training should be extend past July 2006. More than 3,600 workers and supervisors will need to be trained on the model. Four days of training proposed in 2-day increments. The Supervisor training will be one day with Day 1 and Day 2 to be the discussion surrounding the philosophical issues and the new terms. Day 3 and Day 4 will be the application of the tool. Class sizes will be between 25-30 people.

Kathy Bartlett and Sharon Griffith were the presenters for the SACWIS Training Plan. The schedule for User Acceptance Training will begin this Fall and the pilot will begin in February 2006. SACWIS classroom training will be 30 days prior to rollout. Regarding training locations: the Findlay Training Center recently moved to Bowling Green, and the Cambridge Training Center will be moving to Zanesville. Jim McCafferty recommended that the County Technical Partners continue to meet and dialogue regarding the SACWIS issues. The ELC indicated that if additional training space was needed, OCF/SACWIS should utilize the local one-stop centers.

Next Meeting: July 28, 2005

- The ELC agreed to change the date of the July meeting. Since Cuyahoga County will be sponsoring a symposium on July 21st which will include many of the counties as well as PCSAO representatives, instead of the ELC meeting on July 21st as originally scheduled, it was agreed that the next meeting date will be:

**July 28, 2005
from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.,
OCF - 3rd Floor Video Conference Room**

- Boxed Lunch will be available for purchase.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.