



Department of
Job and Family Services

John R. Kasich, Governor
Michael B. Colbert, Director

July 18, 2012

TO: PCSA Directors 
FROM: Jennifer R. Justice, Deputy Director
Office of Families and Children

SUBJECT: CFSR Penalty Risk for Recurrence of Maltreatment Performance

Did you know Ohio is now in Quarter 8 July 1 - September 30, 2012, of the Child and Family Services Review "CFSR" Performance Improvement Plan "PIP" period? This is a critical time to continue improvement efforts. The October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013, time period is especially important because improvement goals will be assessed during this time and failure to achieve them could result in significant financial penalties impacting Title IV-E and Title IV-B revenue.

One of the more challenging national standards Ohio is trying to realize is the Absence of Recurrence of Maltreatment standard of 94.6%. Because we did not meet the standard at our last Federal review, the 94.6% benchmark was revised to 93.3%. While we have been close to meeting this benchmark (93.0% in FY2010) the trend has been moving in the wrong direction (92.3% in FY2011). We know Ohio faces unique challenges in meeting this standard. For example, "substantiated" as well as "indicated" dispositions are counted in our results while states that do not have an "indicated" disposition option only count substantiated reports. We also suspect differences in screening, person search, and SACWIS data entry practices could impact whether staff members add information to an open investigation, or enter an entirely new intake (report) creating an increased pool of cases eligible for recurrence. Although these are challenges, we are unable to further negotiate the 93.3% benchmark with our Federal partners.

Many PIP benchmarks target improved safety and risk assessment in order to identify concerns up front and provide effective interventions to reduce repeat maltreatment. These efforts will continue. In the coming weeks, we will be sharing additional information with you to better understand what is impacting Ohio's Recurrence of Maltreatment performance. While the CFSR performance is calculated utilizing the NCANDS (National Child Abuse Neglect Data System) file, current information is also available in the Results Oriented Management (ROM) reporting tool. Our initial analysis reveals many reports that ultimately are counted in the recurrence measure occur within the first 30 days of an ongoing/open investigation (additional information is forthcoming). **We ask that you work with your Technical Assistance Specialist and staff to review local issues impacting recurrence. We are especially interested in ideas counties have to improve performance; please feel free to share these with us, via email to Denielle.Ell-Rittinger@jfs.ohio.gov.**

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