Ohio | Department of Job and Family Services

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

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TO: PCSA/PCPA Directors and SACWIS Coordinators

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

SUBJECT: SACWIS Update

__Federal SACWIS Monitoring Visit__: will occur during the week of April 22, 2013. A small (4-5 members) federal team will review current system functionality and Ohio's progress in meeting federal SACWIS compliance standards since the last review (May, 2009). Significant development work in many areas was accomplished over the past budget biennium. We look forward to sharing these accomplishments and moving forward with additional enhancements (report improvements, MITS & SETS interfaces, intake/adoption functionality & navigation upgrades). We especially appreciate Butler and Summit County staff members who are participating in the review. **Thank you for your ongoing work to ensure SACWIS supports local child welfare practice.**

__Training:__ The SACWIS team is working with several counties to create a new training environment. The "Training Gold" environment has been created and validated to allow for fictitious "seed" data to be created by county agencies. The model enables counties to customize their own data to ensure specific training needs are addressed. Seed data will be available to all counties to assist those who do not have training units/resources. The team is working with 12 to 14 counties who are providing seed data (thanks to Warren County who met the initial target goal). A follow-up conference call to assess progress is being scheduled. If your county is interested in participating, please contact Kevin Bullock at Kevin.Bullock@jfs.ohio.gov. Efforts continue to better incorporate SACWIS training into caseworker CORE training (stay tuned).

__NYTD Follow-Up Survey Sample Youth__: We continue to monitor Ohio's progress in meeting NYTD survey target goals for youth who emancipate from foster care. **We are at risk of losing Chaffee Independent Living funding if we cannot achieve the federal survey sample return rate (60%)**. Based upon data entered so far, we are not on target to meet the goal. All surveys must be administered and marked as completed by March 31st if the youth's 19th birthday falls in the date range October 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013. We know the target is ambitious and efforts to stay connected with emancipated youth are challenging – **if you have ideas/thoughts about successful initiatives to stay connected with emancipated youth and/or**

have any questions, please contact Cathy Ghering (614) 752-5211 or Elaine Hall (614) 752-0080.

**AFCARS Update**: We have not yet received the official federal AFCARS review report, but implemented some modifications based upon onsite feedback: race/ethnicity mapping changes, additional exception error notices, streamlining of client characteristics values, modification of AWOL, detention, and extensive (more than 15 days) hospitalizations as placement moves, exclusion of placement moves less than 24 hours in duration, and modification of how foster care maintenance/veterans benefits are reported. The team is currently working on longer term/more complex items: validations to prevent age/date-of-birth data entry errors, changes to better capture mother's marital status at the time of the child's birth, prompts to clarify whether a child with a PPLA case plan goal has a "significant adult relationship", linkages of medical/educational information to diagnosed characteristics/streamlined data entry, and case closure validation to ensure initial removal record is "discharged". Counties should expect notice to discuss these plans in greater detail*. **If you are interested in participating and/or have additional questions, please contact Kristine Monroe (614) 752-5210 or Tim Doyle Wenger (614) 387-8883.**

**Phase II Court Module Enhancements**: Efforts to implement SACWIS court module improvements continue.   In build 2.5, modifications were introduced to streamline/eliminate redundancy. Enhancements to group legal actions by child, as well as additional editing/copying ability, will be introduced in build 2.7 (February 7, 2013). Enhancements to record ruling appeals, as well as the date and person who filed the appeal, will be deployed in build 2.8 (March 7, 2013).

**ProtectOHIO**: The SACWIS team has sent multiple test files to Westat/HSRI to support key grant initiatives (Kinship, Differential Response and ProtectOHIO/IV-E Waiver). We appreciate these ongoing efforts. Multiple Counties (Richland, Franklin, Fairfield as well as IHS and HSRI along with state policy/SACWIS staff) piloted the Kinship Manual Training on January 10, 2013 (materials are available at http://ocwtp.net/ProtectOHIO.html).   All ProtectOHIO kinship coordinators and staff will be trained by June 2013.

**New Visitation Reports**: The SACWIS team is developing new BIC visitation reports to assist counties in monitoring whether all children are visited (regardless of custody status).   An additional report to assess whether caseworkers visit participating case plan adults is also in development. **If you and/or your staff are interested in testing, please contact Kristine Monroe at** Kristine.Monroe@jfs.ohio.gov.

How Does ROM Data Differ From BIC's? As several counties have inquired about differences between reports and/or environments, we are including a short summary on this issue. Additional dialogue/work to build upon these systems is needed at multiple levels to ensure counties have meaningful data (thanks to those who remain committed to work through these issues.)

Ohio's ROM data is pulled from a normalized data mart (SACWIS extract) rather than straight from the SACWIS application tables. Though the data mart is in its infancy, it offers the long-term opportunity to create an easier report environment to standardize information for more meaningful uses. For the data mart to succeed, we need counties to assist us in strengthening quality improvement controls and working through problems (inconsistencies with data sometimes created by data fixes/design issues in SACWIS/data entry discrepancies and other issues). **If you are interested in working to improve reports and/or the data mart applicability, please contact Tresa Young at** Tresa.Young@jfs.ohio.gov. At this time, the team is reviewing the longer term design needs of the data mart and additional quality control mechanisms to strengthen the extraction process. In the short term, additional reports/queries are being developed to assist with ongoing report needs and to support several critical grant initiatives.

As discussed in training, ROM measures are slightly different than the federal CFSR measures as counties can modify time frames to monitor performance with rolling review periods (rather than stagnant AFCARS/NCANDS submission periods). In some cases, report logic differs both as a result of deliberate differences to provide more meaningful information (such as counting all mal treatment incidents for a youth during a period rather than only one during a six-month period) and/or Ohio's CAPMIS rules/county preferences (to consider the completion of the family assessment in the calculation of when an investigation is considered "complete" rather than just the date of the report disposition). In other instances, differences are the result of problems/errors at multiple levels (SACWIS application, data entry, ROM coding and/or the data mart extract language, SACWIS enhancement coding). The SACWIS team is diligently working to analyze data/code at all levels to improve reports. You can expect continued focus on this important priority in the coming year.

SACWIS Online Reports/Form Templates: The team is currently targeting build 2.8 (tentative release date planned for March 7, 2013) to focus on the outstanding backlog of online report "defects/enhancements". While performance metrics are positive and reveal overall improvements, the team hopes to resolve a bulk of outstanding work items. Efforts are also underway to review form/template design to simplify/reduce modifications required when new code is introduced through the ongoing deployment process (stay tuned).

NCANDS Report Submission: Ohio's NCANDS report will be submitted by the end of January 2013. Thank you to the county partners who reviewed and corrected information as listed on their county data exception error report and validated the county child fatality records.

*SACWIS User And Security Reconciliation***:** A list of active users and assigned security user groups for each user was sent to each PCSA SACWIS point of contact for review/approval on December 21, 2012. Instructions were also provided to explain the process for terminating any user records for those no longer requiring access. PCSA's were also asked to review security user group assignments and make any necessary updates to each user's security profile in SACWIS based upon the user's current roles and responsibilities. **PCSA's are required to document/reply with confirmation that user lists and security user groups were reviewed and are up-to-date and/or require changes. Responses were requested by January 21, 2013. To date, approximately 25 PCSA's have completed the request. We appreciate your attention/assistance with ensuring SACWIS access/users are current.**

Private Agency SACWIS Overview Webinar: is scheduled for Friday, February 22, 2013 from 9:00 a.m.to 12:30 p.m. Private agency staff members who have SACWIS access are encouraged to attend. Alicia Allen, Colleen Tucker-Buck, and Heather Spencer will present an overview of acceptance characteristics and usage criteria, recent system enhancements, financial functionality, preliminary steps to expand private agency access and conduct a question and answer session. Invitations will be sent to private agencies in late January.

The Next SACWIS Statewide User Group Meeting: is scheduled for February 11, 2013, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the ODJFS Air Center 4020 E. 5th Avenue, Room A118 & A119 (agenda is forthcoming). If you have suggested agenda items, please share them with Tresa Young at Tresa.Young@jfs.ohio.gov.