



Department of
Job and Family Services

Ted Strickland, Governor
Douglas E. Lumpkin, Director

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To: Directors, Public Children Services Agencies

From: Sandra T. Holt, Deputy Director, Child/Adult Protection
Office of Families and Children
SACWIS Executive Sponsor

Subject: SACWIS Update

As we begin the New Year it is important to take time to recognize some SACWIS achievements and upcoming activities:

2009 Advance Planning Document Update (APDU) Approval and Waiving of Prior Denied \$4 Million Federal Claims ~ Join me in congratulating the SACWIS team in successfully receiving full federal approval of the 2009 APDU and support of critical work to continue financial development; expand Alternative Response and upgrade the SACWIS platform. I am especially proud of the persistence and success the team achieved in negotiating the waiver of prior ACF denied claims (totaling approximately \$4 million FFP). ACF noted Ohio's significant improvement in multiple areas throughout the year. Maintaining a positive federal/state partnership directly impacts our ability to ensure funding is available to sustain SACWIS through the ever changing reality of child welfare practice. *I appreciate the contributions of many who assisted with this critical work.*

Ohio Achieves FFY 2009 Target Goal for Completing Monthly Caseworker Visits ~ Thanks to the hard work of many state and county staff who worked late during the busy holiday season, Ohio successfully avoided lost Title IV-B revenue by surpassing the 65% FFY 2009 goal. Efforts to successfully provide counties with individualized child specific data reports throughout November and December helped us to better understand report code needs, local data entry discrepancies/issues and to take shared actions to improve data accuracy. At this time, the SACWIS team is running new reports for first quarter FFY 2010, as well as specifying requirements to enable counties to run their own reports through BIC. A brief technical assistance overview for entering visit information in SACWIS is planned for the upcoming February 19th Statewide User Group Meeting. As Ohio's FFY 2010 target goal is 80% to avoid Title IV-B penalties, we will need all collective efforts to continue improvement progress. In FFY 2011, Ohio will need to meet 90% to avoid penalties.

30 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
jfs.ohio.gov

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Financial Roll Out Underway ~ Significant development work to improve the financial module and assist counties in uniformly utilizing Medicaid and Adoption Assistance (AA) functionality is underway. The SACWIS team is analyzing county specific data comparison reports to understand potential risks and support needs for each county. We also appreciate state/federal funding to engage vendor support in completing critical financial development work. Stay tuned for more details as Wave 1 completes AA roll out in April.

Completion of New AFCARS (Foster Care/Adoption) Report Mapping and Report Code ~ One contributing factor impacting Ohio's successful deployment of credible Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) baseline data and ongoing county Child Protection Oversight and Evaluation (CPOE) reports is the result of poor data quality issues when multiple year files are linked. In addition, new mapping documentation to align all federal requirements with SACWIS values and new report code were required to successfully meet AFCARS and CFSR submission thresholds. Thanks to the leadership of several data analyst staff (Tim Doyle-Wenger, David Hubble, Kristine Monroe and Roger Ward) as well as key county staff at Franklin, Licking, Marion, Muskingum and Summit Counties, we expect Ohio will successfully establish CFSR baseline goals. In addition, the SACWIS team expects to release some new drill through reports on the Business Intelligence Channel (BIC) for further county feedback/review of local performance in meeting federal measures. ODJFS leadership continues to partner with the Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO) to review potential vendor report products but must also ensure solutions are in alignment with federal SACWIS compliance standards.

H.B. 371 CHIPS/SACWIS ~ At this time, the SACWIS team is partnering with policy staff to complete a cursory review of the application modules and existing functionality that would need to be created and/or modified to support the intent of H.B. 371 (CHIPS). Risks / Concerns have been noted in the current language requiring ODJFS completion of system enhancements within a 1-year time frame.

National Youth Transition Database (NYTD) Outcome Survey Joint Application Design (JAD) Sessions Completed ~ Participants from Cuyahoga, Montgomery and Franklin Counties joined state staff on January 19th and 20th to develop system requirements documentation to capture long term outcome survey data for older youth who leave foster care/independent living settings. As you know, NYTD is a new federal requirement and we look forward to working with counties as full implementation continues. Stay tuned for updates as we move toward ensuring the survey is available online for applicable youth in October 2010.

Revised Sensitive Data Fix Policy Evaluation of Progress to Date ~ State policy staff are proposing a revised procedure to increase local discretion in authorizing/reviewing sensitive data fix requests (stay tuned for additional details). SACWIS leadership is also reviewing historical data fix trends, current and recent efforts to improve county updating capacity and evaluating other critical enhancements to ensure project priorities are understood and

supported by county leadership. Further discussion is scheduled to occur at the upcoming February 19th Statewide User Group Meeting.

New Pilot Sites for Expanding Alternative Response ~ Thanks to a federal grant, additional Ohio Counties (Clark, Champaign, Madison, Montgomery, Richland, and Summit) are in the process of piloting Alternative Response. The SACWIS team is putting together a plan to ensure these counties can utilize existing functionality by the spring target date.

Meetings Recently Held and Upcoming ~

2/1 ~ Interstate Compact for Placement of Children (ICPC) JAD sessions to better understand local service delivery and reporting needs.

2/19 ~ SACWIS Statewide User Group Meeting: 9:30 – 1:00; Air Center 4020 E 5th Ave. Building, Room A118/A119 & Video Conference. Agenda is forthcoming.