



Department of
Job and Family Services

Ted Strickland, Governor
Douglas E. Lumpkin, Director

April 2, 2010

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

Financial Roll Out Update: Phase 1 (AA/Medicaid) of the Financial Roll Out is going well! Wave 1 Counties (Champaign, Hocking, Paulding, Seneca, Clark, Lake, Perry, Shelby, Darke, Madison, Tuscarawas, Gallia, Mahoning, Putnam, Washington, Geauga, Marion, Scioto, Wayne, Harrison & Wood) successfully administered April AA/Medicaid payments. Wave 2 counties (Auglaize, Fulton, Lorain, Trumbull, Carroll, Hancock, Medina, Van Wert, Coshocton, Highland, Mercer, Williams, Fayette, Jackson Sandusky & Wyandot) have been working hard to ensure required data elements are accurate/up-to-date and should process their first payments in June. Counties in Waves 3 & 4 are currently receiving discrepancy reports and are beginning initial data preparation activities. Some counties indicate they are finding increased efficiencies (this is good news!).

New Financial Functionality Webinar Training Recordings Released: Two new technical assistance recordings on “How to Record and Offset Client Benefits” and “How to Record Payment Adjustments and Replacements” have been released and are now available on the Q drive Public SACWIS folder. Please take time to review the training tools with your staff to better understand recent financial enhancements. Specific instructions for accessing the files were sent to the Financial Point of Contacts. If you need assistance, please contact Joan Denman at (614) 387-8908 or e mail: Joan.Denman@jfs.ohio.gov.

Financial Development Work Progress & Need for County Involvement: As Phase 1 financial development work nears completion (please check out financial enhancements going into this month), finalization of system design requirements documentation for Phase 2 work is underway. You may recall critical enhancements to accommodate leave days and automation of placement change adjustments at the county level are contained in this body of work. *We are asking for county volunteers to provide feedback / testing of interim builds for each release.* Specifically, we need involvement from staff who utilize SACWIS AA/FCM eligibility and payment processing, service authorization and contract functions. County involvement is critical to ensure system functionality ultimately meets your needs. While time commitments will vary, we expect

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

An Equal Opportunity Employer and Service Provider

staff will need 1-3 days in Columbus to learn test environments. In addition, some time in preparation for each release will be needed. If you are interested, please contact Joan Denman at (614) 387-8908 or e mail: Joan.Denman@jfs.ohio.gov.

Data Fix/Updating at the County Level: State staff along with county representatives from Butler, Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Lucas, Medina, Montgomery, Portage & Seneca have participated in two initial meetings to review historical data fix trends and discuss underlying causal factors contributing to local concerns about updating data at the county level. The group noted one of the most critical issues impacting this problem should be addressed when the automation of placement change/leave day functionality is introduced in Phase 2 of the financial development work plan. The group noted other factors impacting this issue include: federal requirements to “freeze” data in the screening, intake, court documents and contact areas of the application. The team is reviewing potential areas of the application that can be “freed up” or “unlocked” if possible without creating other data risks and/or policy compliance problems. In addition, the team has identified the following critical areas to focus on at this time: search functionality, data duplication, screening process/screens and the intake linking processes. *Thanks to those counties who are engaging in honest dialogue to improve ease of use at the local level.*

Platform Upgrade: As the underlying platform of SACWIS is aging, significant work to ensure the system is upgraded is now beginning. As the project continues, additional updates will be provided. It is important to note however, that completion of the project will involve a 4-6 month period where no new code can be introduced into production. The Project Team is negotiating this time frame based on vendor availability, resources, costs and other project priorities. Additional detail will be forthcoming as the project moves forward.

State Wideness and SACWIS Compliance: While implementation struggles continue and we have not yet realized full efficiencies at the local level, it is important to remember why state wideness matters. It is understandable that some local agencies still wish to operate independent systems, but there is also a cost when data from surrounding counties are not available as families move from county to county. In addition, greater consistency across agencies in how data are entered and measured will eventually lead to more informative and meaningful statewide information as well as influence funding on multiple levels. We appreciate your continued participation and the involvement of your staff in working through difficult issues. We may not always have the flexibility to meet all local requests for changes in SACWIS, but we continue to make significant progress and your staff are making a difference in this critical work. *Thank you.*

Visitation and CFSR Permanency Reports: Several new critical and very useful reports are available in the DART testing folders to assist agencies in understanding their own county performance and drilling down information at the case level. While these reports are still in testing, most initial testing county feedback has been positive. The team is currently working on support training tools and exploring ways to increase access/availability of these reports.

SACWIS Update

April 2, 2010

Page 3 of 3

Upcoming Priorities and Meetings:

SACWIS Statewide User Group Meeting on May 14, 2010 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 4020 E. 5th Avenue, Columbus. Video conferencing will be available. By May 5, please advise Gaye Crawford, Gaye.Crawford@jfs.ohio.gov, who and from which location your staff will be attending.

2010/2011 APDU planning/drafting process is currently underway - this process negotiates approval of FFY 2011 federal funding revenue and summarizes Ohio's SACWIS compliance progress and future plans.