



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
Office for Children and Families
SACWIS Executive Sponsor

Subject: SACWIS Update

The SACWIS Project Team continues to be pleased with the active participation from county directors and staff in the recent SACWIS Partnership Forum. Thank you for your continued efforts to partner with us to work through SACWIS implementation issues. While we know there are challenging resource limitations and system enhancements which must be achieved, we also recognize significant progress has been made. We appreciate the active involvement of your staff in enhancing the financial application, improving reports, correcting provider data and improving county updating and error correction processes. We appreciate all of you who are working with us to resolve these ongoing technical and resource issues.

As most of you know, the primary SACWIS vendor recently transitioned off of the project. During this time, the Project Team has focused on data integrity, assessing the status of the 14 financially live counties, managing and modifying current data fix/defect approaches to increase county correction capabilities and the review of several critical implementation and functionality issues in collaboration with Cuyahoga and Franklin counties.

A brief summary of these and other initiatives is described below:

County Updates

Additional onsite support is being provided in Cuyahoga County with a focus on the financial module. The Project Team conducted an onsite review of Cuyahoga's roll out. Data fixes, ancillary systems, payment disbursements and end user concerns are being assessed. The County and State have made progress, but recognize several key issues related to report access, placement data fixes/updating functionality and duplicate data must be resolved to ensure the long term success of Ohio's SACWIS.

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The Project Team met with Franklin County staff April 2 to better understand data correction needs, financial disbursement back log, investigation and intake work flow, application issues and data reporting needs. The Project Team is reviewing these issues and prioritizing suggested enhancements. Several high priority enhancements related to how counties update or correct errors, particularly placement date changes, have also been identified and are currently in development.

Financial Updates

In the first quarter of 2009, the Project Team held weekly conference calls with 12 of the 14 financially live counties to assess reimbursement targets, outstanding tickets, cash flow, ancillary systems, reporting needs and ongoing support needs. The Project Team is making additional financial enhancements, improving fiscal reports and planning to address the SACWIS reconciliation of paid claims requirement. JAD sessions to improve FCM and AA functionality are scheduled throughout May and June 2009. Thank you to those counties who are actively participating in the financial JAD sessions!

The Financial Roll Out has been delayed and will likely resume, in a scaled down version, between July and August 2009. The financial roll out schedule is being reviewed and negotiated in collaboration with federal partners and county agencies. Information obtained from the financially live counties reveals a need for greater support, training and collaboration from the entire Project Team in preparing counties for their financial roll out. Reviews of the provider, placement, court, adoption and eligibility aspects of the application will need to occur as remaining counties prepare for roll out. Unresolved data entry or conversion errors will be assessed in collaboration with each county prior to scheduled roll outs.

Private Providers

The Private Provider Council has met several times to review federal SACWIS requirements. The finalized dates for the provider roll out have yet to be determined. Platform upgrades need to be completed in multiple areas of SACWIS along with application changes to accommodate providers. The Project Team is currently assessing dependencies in the financial and provider modules to determine the optimal roll out time period. A revised project schedule will be submitted as required in the annual APDU.

Data Integrity

Several initiatives are underway to assess and improve data integrity. As a result of conversion challenges associated with county legacy systems, duplicate person and provider records were generated as each county implemented SACWIS. In January 2009, the Project Team successfully implemented the online Provider Merge utility to assist counties and ensure proper alignment of duplicate provider records. The team is now piloting several initiatives to assist counties in identifying potential duplicate records and devising a statewide work plan to partner with counties to correct duplicate records. A pilot initiative with three private agencies has also begun and requirements definition work is underway to support greater updating capability at the county level.

SARGe

The Project Team has been reviewing all issues identified in the prior 2006-2007 SARGe review. Enhancements in the activity log and intake person records are high priority items. Preliminary planning is underway for potential solutions to meet the reconciliation of paid claims requirement. An additional review of budget needs to meet this requirement will need to occur to see it come to fruition. This requirement will be discussed with federal partners during the onsite visit in May.

A Federal On-Site Monitoring Visit is scheduled for May 5 – 7 in Hamilton and Warren Counties. Four federal analysts will review existing SACWIS functionality, federal compliance requirements and county implementation issues. The Project Team will utilize the monitoring visit as an opportunity to learn and continue making SACWIS improvements. Thank you to everyone who is working collaboratively to address federally identified priorities and concerns.

The Project Team continues to be appreciative of suggestions and feedback and is committed to working toward making SACWIS a success in Ohio. Please report additional concerns or questions to the Help Desk or feel free to contact me or SACWIS leadership staff directly.