



Department of
Job and Family Services

John R. Kasich, Governor

Michael B. Colbert, Director

July 6, 2012

TO: PCSA/PCPA Directors and SACWIS Super Users

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

SUBJECT: SACWIS Update

Federal AFCARS Review ~ Efforts to prepare for the upcoming August 20, 2012 through August 24, 2012, Federal Adoption Foster Care Analysis Reporting System "AFCARS" review continue. At this time, state staff are sharing updated mapping documentation and code with federal reviewers, as well as completing test case scenarios. Approximately 32 counties and a few courts were notified of the 110 cases included in the onsite record review sample (see attached map of sample review counties). State team members are in the process of contacting counties to finalize record pick-up plans. Like all other states, Ohio will complete a corrective action plan to improve timeliness and accuracy of AFCARS data. For your convenience, a new knowledge base article clarifying AFCARS data entry requirements is attached. Additional modifications (highlighted fields on SACWIS screens and an updated exceptions report) are also currently underway and will be introduced in coming months. Thank you to everyone who continues to work on improving the quality and timeliness of child welfare information. If you have questions about the AFCARS review, please contact by e-mail Joan Van Hull at Joan.VanHull@jfs.ohio.gov, or Tresa Young at Tresa.Young@jfs.ohio.gov.

Monthly Visitation Reminder ~ Please continue efforts to ensure monthly visits for youth in placement are entered timely (we are performing a few points above the goal at this time). The federal fiscal year ends on September 30, 2012, so keep up the good work. We must achieve 90% compliance to avoid penalties. If you would like to review your status, please check monthly and annual visitation reports on the Business Intelligence Channel and/or ROM reports. Please note ROM also includes a pending visitation report which enables counties to easily view visits not recorded but expected in the current month.

SACWIS Infrastructure Upgrade ~ Congrats! To SACWIS and county staff members who assisted in the successful migration of the SACWIS platform onto the new production environment on Memorial Day. System performance has remained stable and greater efficiencies are being realized. Close-out activities included resolution of Near Real Time access issues and finishing/creating with four additional environments: report development; training; financial; and validation testing.

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SACWIS Build 2.0 & Testing Schedule ~ The next release (SACWIS 2.0) is large, open testing activities for county participants is occurring in two phases: June 26, 2012 through June 28, 2012; and July 10, 2012 through July 12, 2012. Many important enhancements (CRIS-E interface, Family Team Meetings, Adoptive Placement Prior to Finalization and Dual Licensed Provider) are included in the build. Deployment is planned for July 19, 2012. If your county has never participated in testing and/or would like an additional opportunity to actively prepare and understand anticipated changes, please contact by e-mail Iroabuchi Arum at Iroabuchi.Arum@ifs.ohio.gov.

CRIS-e Interface ~ County and state staff are currently testing the interface which is currently targeted for Build 2.0 on July 19, 2012. Initial county feedback has been positive. While some testing issues have been identified, the team remains hopeful the release will occur as expected and remaining issues will be resolved in a later release. These issues are currently under discussion with agency leadership.

Adoption Placement Prior to Finalization ~ Enhancements to enable case workers to record the actual date when a child is placed adoptively (the date from the adoptive placement agreement) and gives agencies the opportunity to continue to pay the foster care rate in lieu of an adoption subsidy. The enhancement also permits the foster care payment provider to be different from the adoptive placement provider to accommodate the entry of information when unmarried couples are adopting.

ProtectOHIO Family Team Meetings ~ Enhancements to record Family Team Meetings "FTM" in SACWIS will be deployed in Build 2.0 targeted for July 19, 2012. A FTM link was added to the left-hand navigation to enable end users to record all FTM's. ProtectOHIO counties currently enter FTM data in a data system HSRI (Human Services Research Institute) developed called PODS (Protect Ohio Data System). SACWIS functionality was designed to replicate paper forms historically utilized for ProtectOHIO evaluation needs. Many fields will pull automatically into the FTM form and once created, significantly reduce data entry time. We appreciate county efforts to ensure FTM data are entered into SACWIS correctly. At this time, the team is developing extract file requirements to ensure data are submitted to HSRI as needed. If you have questions about this functionality, please contact by e-mail Kim Keyhoe at Kimberleah.Keyhoe@ifs.ohio.gov.

Dual Provider License Changes ~ Enhancements to streamline functionality for agencies licensed by more than one state agency will be deployed in Build 2.0. A new provider category titled, "Agency Contract", is being introduced into the application. The two provider types available under this category are "Network" provider and "Public Agency" provider. These two provider types are still utilized for recording agency placement and non-placement contracts. If two agencies currently exist in the system to represent one agency (e.g., Applewood and Department of Mental Health-Applewood), the provider ID that will be retained is the ODJFS agency's provider ID. The facility Master Spreadsheet has been updated and will be available prior to the build being released into production. All provider IDs for residential providers will be retained. Contracts will be consolidated in the provider contracts area and users will no longer need to end placement settings when a facility is transferred from one certifying entity or agency to another.

Child Welfare Data Mart & Results Oriented Management "ROM" ~ A new "services" report is now being tested and will soon be available on the Business Intelligence Channel. The report will provide summary information to assist staff in monitoring availability, need and barriers related to service activity. If you would like to assist with testing/reviewing the report, please contact by e-mail Joan Denman at Joan.Denman@ifs.ohio.gov. We also appreciate active participation from Directors in the ROM overview at the PCSAO Executive Membership Meeting; we continue to make improvements and appreciate all feedback.

Online Report Form Templates/Performance/Onsite County Visits ~ All the online application reports have been converted to COGNOS 10, the new supported version. Planning and deployment efforts are underway to implement the upgraded reports with SACWIS Build 2.1 in August. Performance and load testing efforts will focus on the critical reports (case plans, home study, semi annual reviews, intake forms) conveyed in the seven onsite county visits (Montgomery, Summit, Portage, Cuyahoga, Lucas, Hamilton and Butler). As with all SACWIS builds, County staff testing assistance will be encouraged to ensure successful deployment.

New Financial Workload Functionality ~ Initial financial workload functionality was originally introduced in SACWIS in 2008, to assist counties with managing adoption subsidy eligibility assignments. Additional filtering capability, case links, and auto assignment features were added. The team is currently working on additional enhancements to support similar functionality in the Foster Care Maintenance "FCM" workload (targeted for Build 2.1 - late summer). Financial Workload Functionality is optional and makes it easier for workers/supervisors to manage eligibility records in SACWIS and assess when annual reviews are due. Additional sort capability, informational hyperlinks and notification assignment options will be available. Management functions to view/assign records, editing existing assignments and transferring work items will also be addressed. Efforts to alleviate current manual processes for recording financial work will be introduced. Stay tuned for more information about these changes.

Next Build Release Call ~ If your county is not participating in the regular SACWIS build release calls, please join us. The next call is scheduled for July 10, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. Please dial the conferencing access number at 1-877-820-7831, when prompted enter pass code: 697258#. Active county participation ensures counties are aware of pending changes and strengthens our user community/collaboration. Thanks to those who already do participate.