Ohio | Department of Job and Family Services

Ted Strickland, Governor
Douglas E. Lumpkin, Director

October 22, 2009

To: Directors, Public Children Services Agencies

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

Subject: SACWIS Update

The SACWIS Project Team continues to move forward with critical initiatives to improve system responsiveness and compliance. During this time of difficult budget challenges, we especially appreciate the continued contributions your staff makes to partner with us to support statewide implementation.

Please find below a current summary of critical SACWIS updates/reminders:

Ohio's 2009-2010 Advance Planning Update and Project Priorities

- Ohio submitted the annual APDU to federal partners October 16 for review and approval. As stated in prior communications, state leadership prioritized the completion of the financial roll out, Alternative Response (AR), data fix issues, increased local updating capability and the platform upgrade as the most critical initiatives during this biennium. Additional vendor support is currently partnering with state staff to complete AA/Medicaid and critical Foster Care Maintenance (FCM) enhancements.

- SACWIS program staff are also running comparison reports of AA/Medicaid data in SIS and SACWIS to determine county readiness for the pending AA/Medicaid financial roll out phase, which is currently targeted to begin in the Spring of 2010. Additional financial roll out plans will be discussed at the upcoming Statewide User Group Meeting.

Expansion of Alternative Response SACWIS functionality for Pilot Counties

- Additional functionality was introduced October 1 to support expansion of the AR initiative for pilot counties. Agencies can now document reports, dispositions and

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activity logs in SACWIS for AR cases. A special thank you to Franklin County for partnering with state staff during JAD activities to complete this critical work.

- SACWIS modifications to support statewide implementation of AR are expected upon completion of the formal evaluation of Ohio's AR initiative and any applicable revisions to state requirements.

Revamping the Ohio SACWIS Knowledge Base

- The Project Team, led by Gary Stought, has been working on revamping the Ohio SACWIS Knowledge Base to improve user capability based on feedback from county staff. The new site is currently hosted on an independent site, but will be established within SACWIS soon. If you have ideas/suggestions/concerns, please share them with Gary at e mail: "Gary.Stought@jfs.ohio.gov".

SACWIS Confidentiality Issues

- An initial review of confidentiality issues in SACWIS identified concerns about the visibility of social security numbers (SSN's) in the application. The Project Team has been reviewing all aspects of the application to determine how SSN's are displayed and utilized in SACWIS. Enhancements to mask visibility of SSN numbers in the system are underway and are expected to be completed in December 2009.

- The Office of Families and Children is also reviewing other confidentiality issues, such as central registry and expungement rules, to ensure consistency in laws and SACWIS functionality.

Revised AFCARS Report Mapping and Upcoming JAD sessions

- The SACWIS business team is revising the AFCARS federal mapping documentation and report code to improve overall data accuracy. It is important to note, AFCARS populates most county and state CFSR permanency outcome measure results. Representatives from Athens, Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Marion, Muskingum and Summit counties will join SACWIS program and ODJFS policy staff October 28 to review how temporary stays and AWOLS are handled in AFCARS/SACWIS. Additional reviews of how client categories are entered and mapped in AFCARS will be forthcoming.

- A Knowledge Base Article, "Creating a Placement Discharge", was also posted October 5 to alert counties of the critical need to discharge a child's placement properly to ensure the child is accurately discharged from the AFCARS population when he or she exits agency custody. Thank you to the many county

staff who have entered missing data when error message reports have been sent to counties.

Changes in Release Date Cycles

- Several upcoming build release date cycles are being modified to accommodate items associated with the Masking Social Security Number Initiative and the Christmas holiday. Release 1.89 is scheduled for November 12, Release Build 1.90 is scheduled for December 10 and Release Build 1.91 is scheduled for January 7, 2010.

Upcoming Meeting Reminders

- A Statewide User Group Meeting will be held November 6 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Rooms A118/A119 of the Air Center, 4020 East Fifth Avenue in Columbus. If you plan to attend in person or via video conference, please contact Gaye Crawford at e mail: "Gaye.Crawford@jfs.ohio.gov".

- The Private Agency Council will meet November 6 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Room M146 of the Air Center, 4020 East Fifth Avenue in Columbus.

- The Ad Hoc Reporting Workgroup will meet November 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Room M115 of the Air Center, 4020 East Fifth Avenue in Columbus.

We continue to thank you for making the SACWIS implementation a priority in your county. The welfare of Ohio's children benefit greatly from this effort and we look forward to our continued relationship with you in making Ohio SACWIS one of the best in the nation.

Your continued feedback is both needed and appreciated as we make improvements to SACWIS. Please report any concerns or questions to the SACWIS help desk or feel free to contact me directly.