Ohio | Department of Job and Family Services

November 14, 2012

TO: PCSA/PCPA Directors and SACWIS Super Users

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

SUBJECT: SACWIS Update

**Ohio Surpasses Federal Monthly Visitation Target Goal**: Although data have not yet been reported to the Administration for Children and Families "ACF", Ohio has already surpassed the 90% target goal for ensuring children in foster care are visited monthly. As of November 3, 2012, for FFY2012 (10/1/11 – 9/30/12), _**Ohio achieved a 97% compliance rating**_. Please celebrate this significant accomplishment with your staff and let them know how much their work is appreciated.

**Federal Adoption Foster Care Analysis Reporting System "AFCARS" Review**: Based on preliminary review results, SACWIS staff revised the AFCARS code and submitted it to ACF in late October 2012. Final review results should be released within 90 days. Longer term corrective action will occur in collaboration with county agencies over a 24 month period. I appreciate all efforts to develop, test and deploy new code, as well as considerable local efforts to enter required data elements. Thanks to multiple efforts from local and state staff, we successfully submitted a compliant AFCARS file this week, we appreciate your help and responsiveness.

**Major Activity Log Functionality Improvements**: Long awaited changes to Activity Log functionality are expected to go into production during the evening of November 15, 2012. These changes should ease workflow and reduce data entry burden/time for caseworkers. Enhancements will allow users to select multiple sub categories, generate automatic logs when required letters are documented (Help Me Grow, Dispositions, Mandated Reporter, etc.), move activity logs from one case to another, and more easily edit activity logs.

**National Youth Transition Database "NYTD" Report and Youth Follow Up Surveys**: A compliant NYTD data file was submitted to ACF this week. Please thank caseworkers for entering data elements timely.   As most of you know, NYTD follow up outcome surveys for youth (sample baseline eligible youth who turn 19 between October 1, 2012 and September 30, 2012) must be completed. So far, 16 kids from the sample pool completed the survey. We must achieve a 60% completion rate of the sample pool to avoid loss of Chafee funds. A special thank you to Hamilton and Stark counties who are making significant effort to ensure follow up surveys are successfully completed. NYTD data is critical to our understanding of long term outcomes/needs of youth who leave

foster care. If you are not sure of the youth from your county who are included in the sample pool, please contact Elaine Early-Hall at Elaine.Early-Hall@jfs.ohio.gov or Cathy Ghering at Cathy.Ghering@jfs.ohio.gov.

New Services Report on BIC and New Visitation Reports in Development: A new "services" report is available on the Business Intelligence Channel "BIC" and is located in the OFC Adult/Child Protection/Management Reports/Case Services Report folder. The report summarizes information to assist staff in monitoring service availability, needs and barriers. An overview of the report was highlighted during the September 24, 2012 Statewide User Group Meeting and is viewable online at: http://jfs.ohio.gov/sacwis/pdf/UserGroupPresentation092412.pdf. Many counties are interested in evaluating service effectiveness and relationships to outcomes. Please continue to help staff understand how service information can be used to inform practice/policy decisions. If you have suggestions to improve the report or concerns about results, please share them with Kristine Monroe at Kristine.monroe@jfs.ohio.gov. The team is currently developing new visitation reports for in-home/protective cases, as well as parental visitation, these should be deployed by February/March 2013.

Advance Planning Document Update "APDU" Federal Approval, Federal Monitoring Visit and Upcoming Project Priorities: Congrats to the SACWIS team for achieving recent federal approval for upcoming projects and development work (funding is also dependent upon SFY 14/15 budget approval process). The team is partnering with Child Support and Medicaid teams to discuss high-level interface requirements and schedule/funding dependencies. Other upcoming priorities include: increasing report availability, capturing non-recurring adoption & KPIP funds, replacing Optimal J, introducing private agency homestudies and integrating licensing monitoring activities, improving address and spell check functionality, IV-E court roll out/integration and releasing SACWIS mobile functionality etc. ACF is planning a SACWIS onsite monitoring visit in March/April 2013 and will visit at least two onsite counties (TBD). Thank you to counties who have volunteered or who are considering participation.

Court Master Data Improvements: These are planned for Release 2.5 (currently targeted for December 13, 2012). This new functionality will improve recording and maintaining of court information in a central location and will pull information into appropriate legal actions instead of requiring duplicate data entry on each legal action. As is typical for each release cycle, counties will have an opportunity to participate in planned testing activities during the week of November 26, 2012 if interested/available.

SACWIS Performance Issues: SACWIS online report performance has recently been impacted by multiple issues: a) a county executed a query against production tables during regular business hours that generated hundreds of thousands of times and b) connectivity problems with the LDAP Server and COGNOS. We are monitoring these issues daily and appreciate your feedback and patience in working with us to resolve online report performance issues.