APPENDIX C

UPDATE ON OHIO’S FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION RECRUITMENT PLAN

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) has made significant progress in implementing the state’s 2015-2019 Foster and Adoptive Parent Recruitment Plan. The recruitment plan consists of five core goals. Ohio does not have any changes or additions to the recruitment plan this year. The accomplishments will be discussed by goal. Some of the accomplishments span across two or more goals; in those instances, the accomplishment will only be discussed once and not repeated. Statewide 1370 new foster homes and 1590 new adoptive homes were licensed/approved in calendar year 2015. Ohio does not have any policies or laws in place that limit an agency’s ability to recruit foster and adoptive families that reflect the diversity of children in care. After the United State Supreme Court’s decision in Obergefell v Hodges, OFC issued a procedure letter and started updating forms giving clear guidance that all requirements, functions, benefits, services and activities pertaining to married couples related to family, children and adult protective services are now applicable to same-sex married couples. The state also does not have any statewide bans, restrictions or limitations to restrict lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) individuals from becoming foster and/or adoptive parents.

Goal I: Continue and Expand Statewide Collaborative Initiatives to Enhance General, Targeted and Child Specific Recruitment for Children and Youth in Care.

The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption (DTFA) Partnership

To keep older children with lengthy placement histories from lingering in the foster care system in Ohio and further assure the population of adoptive families reflects the ethnic and racial diversity of children needing permanency, ODJFS began a partnership with the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption in July, 2012. At that time ODJFS allocated $2.3 million, including $1.1 million in state funding, to hire specialized, child-focused recruiters whose sole mission is to find adoptive families or other permanency (legal custody/reunification) for older children in foster care. In state fiscal year 2013, the amount allocated was increased to just over $3.4 million per fiscal year, and the target population expanded to include children in a planned permanent living arrangement (PPLA) status. The contract has been renewed through state fiscal year 2017. Using the renowned child-focused, Wendy’s Wonderful Kids (WWK) program model, recruiters across Ohio work to match and place children between the ages of 9 and 17, who have been awaiting adoption for more than two years or those who are in the legal status of PPLA. WWK strategies include: an initial referral process; relationship building; in-depth case record reviews; child-specific family search efforts; assessments; child readiness efforts; network capacity building; and child-focused recruitment plans.

Outcomes directly relating to the WWK program continue to be realized. To date, forty-six recruiters under contract work to implement an aggressive, statewide recruitment strategy aimed at moving Ohio’s longest-waiting children from foster care into adoptive families and other types of permanency. The model has been successful in finalizing 74 adoptions from July 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016, bringing the total to 240 finalized adoptions since the inception of the ODJFS contract, including several sibling groups. As of March 31, 2016, 688 children were enrolled in Ohio’s WWK program. From July 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016, 133 children have been matched, bringing the total to 538 since the program’s inception. There are 77 children in pre-adoptive placements as of March 31, 2016. Just over 6% of the children on current caseloads are in the PPLA status.
The program benefits the children who are most at risk of aging out of care. Children referred to the program include:

- older youth (the average age is 14, and 40% are sixteen or older);
- sibling groups (57% are part of a sibling group);
- children with special needs (64% have at least one identified special need);
- children who were in care many years before Wendy's Wonderful Kids (on average, 2,084 days);
- children with multiple placements (10% had 10 or more placements prior to being referred to WWK);
- children in congregate care or the juvenile justice system (42% of the children being served are in a group home, institution or are incarcerated); and
- children who have experienced an adoption disruption or dissolution (11% experienced a failed adoption prior to WWK).

Refer to the Update to the Plan for Improvement (Section III) of the APSR for additional information on ODJFS’ partnership with the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption this past year.

Casey Family Programs Partnership

Casey Family Programs has continued to support Ohio’s Permanency Roundtables (PRT) work through the addition of five counties in 2015. Casey’s support has made it possible for the pilot counties to receive specialized training, expert consultation and peer-to-peer connections with other agencies that have used PRTs successfully.

PRTs give PCSAs a structured process for identifying individualized and realistic strategies for overcoming the obstacles to permanency that youth in their care may be facing. The three goals of each PRT are to:

1. expedite legal permanency for the child;
2. stimulate thinking and learning about ways to accelerate permanency; and
3. identify and address systemic barriers to timely permanency.

The 11 participating PCSAs — Athens, Butler, Clark, Fairfield, Guernsey, Hamilton, Mahoning, Montgomery, Summit, Stark and Trumbull — are partnering with OFC, Capital University’s Family and Youth Law Center and the Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO) to lead the implementation of this practice model.

The Ohio PRT project focuses on youth 12 and older who have been in care for at least 17 months. The process is two-part and youth-centered. It begins with an internal agency meeting to discuss the youth’s history, identify future goals and create a permanency action plan. This plan is shared with the youth for input. The youth’s involvement is considered vital to the process, and no meeting after this point occurs without the youth’s participation. The second phase is a facilitated conversation (or conversations) between the youth and the professionals who seek to achieve the PRT goals. The following questions are explored:

- What will it take for this youth to achieve permanency?
- What can we do that has been tried successfully before?
- What can we do that has never been tried?
- What can we do concurrently to help this youth achieve permanency?
- How can we engage the youth in permanency planning?
An evaluation of the initial six-county pilot is looking at such outcomes as time to permanency, placement stability and reduction in restrictiveness of placement. The pilot continues to be successful, and Casey Family Programs and ODJFS will expand the pilot to additional counties in state fiscal year 2017.

Refer to the Update to the Plan for Improvement (Section III) of the APSR for additional information on ODJFS’ partnership with the Casey Family Programs including YCPRTs this past year.

Family and Youth Law Center – Capital Law School, Columbus, Ohio

ODJFS utilizes the Family and Youth Law Center (FYLaw), formerly known as the National Center for Adoption Law & Policy, for additional recruitment purposes. FYLaw is responsible for staffing the Ohio Adoption Photolisting website (OAPL) in concert with AdoptUSKids.

OAPL highlights waiting children who are in the permanent custody of Ohio public children services agencies and for whom families are being sought. A photo and brief profile is posted for each child as well as caseworker contact information. FYLaw reviews new profiles as they are added to the photolisting to ensure all information provided about the children is appropriate and safe and also arranges for Spanish translations of profiles as they are added to the site. FYLaw’s other OAPL responsibilities include responding to questions from OAPL administrators regarding use of the site, setting up usernames and passwords for new users, and maintaining monthly site usage statistics.

General information such as who may adopt, the adoption home study process, adoption subsidies available, costs associated with adopting, access to adoption records and information on interstate adoptions can also be found on this website. In addition, OAPL provides links to ODJFS publications such as the Ohio Adoption Guide and the Adoption Subsidies Guide and lists information about ongoing events, trainings and meetings, which FYLaw updates regularly.

FYLaw continues to prepare monthly sets of profiles of waiting children from OAPL for circulation within the ODJFS internal broadcast network, an initiative that started in September of 2014. On June 2, 2015, FYLaw held a webinar for OAPL administrators. The webinar covered the following topics: general introduction to the site and how to get started; writing effective profiles/enhancing profiles; how to increase the exposure of kids listed on OAPL; how to properly include health information/diagnoses while balancing privacy; how to update and remove profiles; and other miscellaneous technical assistance issues.

As of March 21, 2016, there were 400 total individual child listings (297 active) and 71 total sibling group listings (26 active) posted on OAPL.

FYLaw responds to all new Ohio AdoptUSKids inquiries about adoption or foster care and continues to regularly follow up with individuals with pending cases. A FYLaw staff attorney also serves as a direct resource for clients who contact AdoptUSKids directly with specific questions and conducts research to respond to these inquiries and provides appropriate referrals as needed. From June 1, 2015 to March 21, 2016, 460 new Ohio AdoptUSKids inquiries were made.

It is expected ODJFS will continue to collaborate with FYLaw, whose mission is to work within child welfare, adoption, and juvenile justice systems to support positive outcomes for children, youth, and families.
County Adoption Incentive Payments

The Ohio Adoption Incentive Program was created in 2012. This program provides up to $1.5 million per year in financial incentives to Public Child Welfare Agencies. The agencies become eligible for the incentive money when they finalize adoptions for the target populations of youth under 9 and youth who are 9 and over. Each county’s finalizations for the target populations are averaged for the previous three-year period to establish the baseline. Any county exceeding its baseline will receive an incentive payment for each finalized adoption over the baseline. The county must then reinvest the incentive money received to support adoption activities during the SFY.

During SFY 2015, Ohio provided $1,036,750 in county incentive payments. A total of $692,250 was split among thirty-eight counties for their work in finalizing adoptions of children under the age of 9 years old. The incentive payments for this younger target population ranged from $3,250 to $91,000. For finalizations of children ages 9 years and older, a total of $344,500 was split among twenty counties. The counties who exceeded the baseline for the older population received payments ranging from $6,500 to $39,000. In total, forty-five PCSAs received an adoption incentive payment in SFY 2015.

Communication was sent to all county directors on April 15, 2016 stating that the amount of the adoption incentive payments will be calculated differently moving forward if the entire $1.5 million is not spent each year. Furthermore, beginning in SFY 2017 incentive funds will not be used to draw down additional Title IV-E Adoption Administrative funds.

Goal II: Increase the Use of Effective Recruitment Tools at the Local Level

Adoption and Foster Care staff at ODJFS have worked with local agencies as well as statewide and national partners to increase effective recruitment at the local level. In August 2015, ODJFS updated the Ohio Adoption Guide. The guide is a resource for potential adoptive families that helps give them the information needed to locate the right agency for them and that discusses the entire adoption process from inquiry to home study completion, searching for a child, being matched with a child, adoption subsidy information and post adoption services. ODJFS has been collaborating with the Ohio Family Care Association (OFCA) to develop the Guide for Ohio Resource Families. This guide will provide a variety of information and resources for foster, adoptive and kinship families in Ohio, and is scheduled to be published by OFCA in 2016.

ODJFS continues to work with AdoptUSKids in a variety of ways this year. ODJFS receives monthly reports from AdoptUSKids of children registered on the photolisting website who are in need of their profiles being updated. Adoption staff examines the list and forwards it on to the applicable local agencies, in an ongoing effort to ensure Ohio children on the adoption site are kept up to date. ODJFS invited adoption contacts to attend a webinar on February 25, 2016 entitled Recruiting, Developing and Supporting Resource Families in Rural Communities. Several counties as well as ODJFS staff members participated. The training offered peer to peer support regarding how to obtain and maintain families in rural settings.

In addition to utilizing the services listed in Goal I, Ohio agencies employed several other strategies to recruit families for waiting children during this past year. Some of these included:

- Registering children with FYLaw and the U.S. Health and Human Services’ AdoptUSKids Website;
- Placing information on waiting children on the local agency’s website;
- Distributing child specific recruitment flyers at adoption events;
Participating in the Statewide Matching Expo on July 17, 2015 hosted by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services;
Hosting online virtual mixers designed to provide information to potential adoptive families about children available for adoption;
Partnering with faith-based organizations to recruit families;
Conducting searches for significant adults noted in the child’s case file;
Sponsoring “Foster and Adoption Parties” designed to provide information to potential families about foster care and adoption programs and the need for resource homes;
Hosting foster and adoptive parent recognition banquets and other honorary events;
Participating in adoption fairs;
Profiling waiting children in newspapers, and on television and radio spots; including linking PCSAs with the organization Grant Me Hope, which creates professional videos of waiting children to air on local television news programs;
Publishing agency calendars which feature harder to place youth who are available for adoption;
Collaborating with community partners (e.g., schools, churches, libraries, service organizations) to promote recruitment events;
Working with foster parent associations to identify recruitment strategies and ensure retention of existing resource families; and
Hosting family-centered, child-friendly events including movie nights and game nights in order to recruit new families and help retain current foster and adoptive families.

As of March 10, 2016, Ohio had over 13,700 children residing in foster homes or other out-of-home placement settings. Of that number, nearly 2,400 children are waiting to be adopted. Many of the approximately 1,000 young adults who “age-out” of care each year are without permanent connections. The data is significant in that it demonstrates the need to continually raise the public’s awareness, to recruit additional foster and adoptive families who are willing and able to meet the significant needs of the children who are in need of homes in Ohio, whether permanently or temporarily. Additionally, Ohio is working to support existing families, so that experienced foster and adoptive families are able to continue providing much needed services to children in care.

Ohio has annually recognized May as National Foster Care Month and November as National Adoption Month. The purpose of the recognition is to acknowledge the efforts of child welfare practitioners and caregivers across the state responsible for providing care to children that have been abused, neglected or dependent. Public service announcements were prepared to recognize and celebrate both months. PCSAs, PCPAs, and PNAs are encouraged to continue to support their resource families. The Governor acknowledged adoptive and foster families and kinship families for the work and service provided. Across the state, events were held to honor foster and adoptive parents for their dedication to vulnerable children.

In addition to special recognition during the months of May and November, agencies implement strategic recruitment plans aimed at promoting public awareness and/or foster and adoptive parenting. Pursuant to OAC 5101:2-5-13 and 5101:2-48-05, each foster care and adoption agency is required to develop and implement a comprehensive recruitment plan that describes diligent recruitment of families which reflect the diversity of the children for whom homes are needed. These recruitment plans are submitted and reviewed by ODJFS to ensure compliance with the Multiethnic Placement Act, 42 U.S.C.A. 1996 (B), as amended by Section 1808 of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996 (MEPA), and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI) to ensure that Race, Color, or National Origin does not interfere with foster care and
adoption processes. In addition, ODJFS requires that agencies conduct child-specific recruitment efforts when prospective adoptive families cannot be identified within their own agency.

In circumstances of non-compliance, ODJFS provides technical assistance to the agency which includes, but is not limited to: the issue of noncompliance and needed revision(s) to their plan, discussions about the basis of the regulation, and sharing information about other agencies’ successful recruitment efforts. ODJFS also monitors MEPA compliance via onsite agency visits and recruitment plan implementation reviews. During SFY15, technical assistance specialists and foster care licensing specialists conducted MEPA/recruitment plan implementation reviews with 41 PCSAs and 41 PCPAs/PNAs that had contracts with PCSAs for foster care/adoption services.

ODJFS has aligned the foster care and adoptive home study rules to promote dual licensure/approval of foster and adoptive homes. In the past, though each set of rules was similar, as were the processes, they did vary in some ways. Local foster and adoptive agencies expressed an interest in having both processes aligned. Adoption policy staff within OFC started the process of aligning the rules in July 2014. In order to ensure the rule changes have maximum benefit to the agencies as well as the families they serve, ODJFS solicited input at a variety of meetings as well as through email communication with local agencies most impacted by the revisions. In addition to revising the rules, the alignment brought about the need for several form revisions as well. The revised rules and forms took effect November 1, 2015.

Goal III: Tailor local recruitment plans to customize general, targeted and child-specific recruitment efforts based on need.

MEPA Biennial Comprehensive Self-Assessment Report

PCSAs, private child placing agencies (PCPA) certified to perform the foster/adoption function, and private non-custodial agencies (PNA) certified to perform the foster/adoption function are required to submit a MEPA Biennial Comprehensive Self-Assessment Report by March first of every even numbered year. One of the components of the self-assessment requires the agency to address the following:

- Whether its foster care and/or adoption recruitment plan includes information on efforts to diligently recruit foster caregivers and/or adoptive parents that reflect the racial and ethnic backgrounds of the population of children in foster care and available for adoption.
- Methods for targeting individuals as foster caregivers/adoptive parents where there is a disparity between the racial and/or ethnic groups of children in care and the racial/ethnic groups of foster or adoptive parents certified/approved currently.

The MEPA Biennial Comprehensive Self-Assessment Report is discussed during MEPA reviews of public and private agencies, which occur on a 24-month cycle. The discussion of recruitment efforts with PCSAs includes a presentation of data on children in the temporary and permanent custody of the agency by race and ethnicity as well as data on foster/adoptive parents by race and ethnicity. ODJFS staff and agency staff then determine if a disparity exists between the racial and/or ethnic groups of children in care and the racial and/or ethnic groups of foster or adoptive parents. If a disparity exists, further discussion occurs on what recruitment efforts will be used to reduce the disparity.

MEPA reviews conducted with private agencies (agencies that have contracts with PCSAs to provide foster and/or adoptive services) include a discussion of statewide data on the number of children in the temporary and permanent custody of the PCSAs by race and ethnicity as well as data on foster/adoptive
parents by race and ethnicity licensed/certified by the agency. ODJFS staff and agency staff then determine if a disparity exists between the racial and/or ethnic groups of children in care and the racial/ethnic groups of foster or adoptive parents. If a disparity exists, further discussion occurs on what recruitment efforts will be used to reduce the disparity.

As noted above, child-specific recruitment efforts are required when the custodial agency has yet to identify a family for the child. MEPA Cycle 5 commenced on March 1, 2014 and concluded on February 28, 2016. During MEPA Cycle 5, 912 child case records were reviewed to determine if there were families presented at the most recent matching conference. If there were no families presented, the reviewers assessed whether the agency engaged in child-specific recruitment efforts prior to the most recent matching conference. Failure to engage in child-specific recruitment efforts would require the agency to develop a Corrective Action Plan (CAP). Seven PCSAs were required to develop a CAP to address how they would come into compliance with the requirement to engage in child-specific recruitment efforts prior to the next matching conference. Child-specific recruitment efforts noted during reviews included:

- Registering children with FYLaw and the U.S. Health and Human Services’ AdoptUSKids Website;
- Placing the child’s information on the agency’s website;
- Distributing child-specific recruitment flyers at adoption events;
- Distributing child-specific recruitment flyers to other agencies;
- Conducting searches for significant adults noted in the child’s case file;
- Sponsoring “Foster and Adoption Parties” designed to provide information to potential families about foster care and adoption programs and the need for resource homes;
- Profiling waiting children in newspapers and in television and radio spots; and
- Publishing agency calendars which feature harder to place youth who are available for adoption.

Goal IV: Include a Focus on Diligent Recruitment in Statewide CQI Efforts

In 2014, the Deputy Director invited staff from Ohio’s 88 public children services agencies (PCSA) to participate in a variety of CFSP workgroups. One of the workgroups was the adoption group. In an effort to determine the practices that most impact timely adoptions, the group was charged with developing a survey to determine the practices that positively impact adoption, as well as recognizing some of the barriers to timely adoptions. The workgroup began meeting in January 2015 and consisted of staff from PCSAs as well as ODJFS. The survey was sent out to all adoption contacts in August 2015, and 58 counties responded. Information gained through the survey will be used to help determine future policy and programmatic changes.

To highlight a few of the findings from the survey:

- 54 of the 58 counties who responded agreed that the access to post-adoption resources, such as counseling, respite, and PASSS funding, made a significant impact on adoptions.
- 67% of the counties who responded agreed that having a dedicated adoption recruitment unit or person greatly impacts an agency's ability to have successful adoptions.
- Well over half of all respondents feel that appeals and court delays represent the top two barriers to timely adoptions.
- Only 13 of the 58 counties who responded felt that subsidy negotiations represented one of their top 5 barriers to adoption.
Over 60% of the counties who responded feel that the pre-adoptive staffing updates are not an effective tool in establishing permanency for children in agency custody.

The adoption workgroup has reconvened in 2016 to begin looking at and revising the regulations and forms surrounding pre-adoptive staffing updates.

Goal V: Enhance Training and Information Resources for Prospective Foster and Adoptive Parents and Agency Staff

The Ohio Revised Code (ORC) requires training for prospective foster parents and adoptive parents and requires ongoing training for foster parents. The table below identifies these key requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Preservice Hours</th>
<th>Ongoing Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infant-only foster care</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>24 hours of training within a two-year certification period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family foster care</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>40 hours of training within a two-year certification period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialized foster care</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>60 hours of training within a two-year certification period</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Addressing Basic Skills and Knowledge for Foster and Adoptive Parents

The OCWTP determines the basic skills and knowledge needed by foster and adoptive parents through:

- Key informant interviews with foster and adoptive parents, caseworkers, assessors, and ODJFS staff.
- A review of state law and administrative code.
- Literature reviews, presentations by content experts at conferences.
- Feedback from OCWTP trainers, RTC onsite visits, and a Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Work Team.

Preservice Training

The ORC requires prospective foster parents to attend 36 hours of “preservice” training. ORC identifies the topic areas to be covered in Preservice training for foster parents, and OAC identifies the topic areas to be covered in Preservice training for adoptive parents. Preservice training consists of 12 three-hour modules. It was revised in June 2015. The identified elements are addressed in the following modules:

- Importance of encouraging the parent/child relationship is addressed in modules 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12
- Necessity of participating in the case plan goal of reunification is addressed in modules 1, 2, 4, 9
- Mentoring biological parents in the process is addressed in modules 1, 2, 9
- Module 9 is entirely devoted to working with primary families

Between July 2015 and June 2016, over 100 rounds of Preservice training were delivered.
## Module Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th># of Times Delivered</th>
<th># of Times Scheduled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orientation to Foster Care, Kinship Care, and Adoption</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Child Protection Team</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Development</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trauma and Its Effects</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Sexual Abuse</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimizing the Trauma of Placement</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transcending Differences in Placement</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helping the Child Manage Emotions and Behaviors</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understanding Primary Families</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effects of Caregiving on the Caregiver Family</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-Term Separation</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Adoption Issues for Families</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>1184</strong></td>
<td><strong>420</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Foster Parent and Adoptive Parent Specialized and Related Trainings

Foster parents and adoptive parents can choose from over 850 different trainings in the E-Track system designed to address their skill and knowledge needs.

Although not required, the OCWTP works with Ohio’s county agencies to encourage newer foster parents to attend the OCWTP’s Foster Care Fundamentals series. This series builds on the learning provided during Preservice training to help foster parents go beyond an awareness level and gain deeper knowledge, understanding, and caregiving skills. While Foster Care Fundamentals focuses on foster parents early in their foster care careers, it can also benefit seasoned foster caregivers who display training needs in any of the competencies trained in the Foster Care Fundamental series.

This past year Foster Care Fundamentals was expanded to include courses on working with birth parents and other specialized training curricula that support quality visitation between parents and children:

- *Relating to Primary Families: Challenges, Issues, and Strategies* was offered six times across the state in FY16. It is scheduled six more times between April and June 2016. One session was cancelled.
- In addition to *Relating to Primary Families: Challenges, Issues, and Strategies*, twelve other trainings have been offered 21 times to support quality visitation between parents and children:
  - How to Deal with the Baggage of Visits (1 session)
  - Working with Birth Parents: Making it Positive for Everyone (1 session)
  - Helping children Before and After Birth Parent Visits (5 sessions)
  - Impacting Visitation for Success (3 sessions)
  - Professional Boundaries (2 sessions)
  - Effectively Dealing with Children’s Issues in Visitation (3 sessions)
  - Enhancing Visitation (1 session)
  - Using Nemo and Pinocchio to Build Attachment During visits (1 session)
  - Visitation: Helping Youth Transition (1 session)
  - Promoting Sibling Visitation (1 session)
  - Fostering Birth Family Connections (1 session)
The NRCYD Independent Living series and/or the Fundamentals of Fostering course, “Roots and Wings” continue to be scheduled in all RTCs. To date, 28 sessions have been offered with another thirteen scheduled to be completed by the end of FY 2016. However, there was a decline in the number of times these courses were delivered due to low registration. Low registration was attributed to scheduling factors and competing training priorities.

The OCWTP maintains a strong catalogue of non-standardized learnings for caregivers focused on independent living and permanency. The table below provides statewide data on both standardized and non-standardized course offerings between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016 on independent living and related topics for caregivers and adoptive parents, including some joint sessions with agency staff. By the end of FY 2016, 56 sessions will have been offered:

**OCWTP Standardized Courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Independent Living Series/ Fundamentals of Fostering</th>
<th>Sessions Offered</th>
<th>Sessions Scheduled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positive Youth Development</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Long Connections</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engaging Youth in Permanency Planning</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roots and Wings</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OCWTP Non-Standardized Courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Independent Living and Permanency</th>
<th>Sessions Offered</th>
<th>Sessions Scheduled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Permanency sessions for caseworkers (includes caregivers)</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent Living for foster care and adoptive parents</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The OCWTP offers the National Child Traumatic Stress Network’s (NCTSN) companion training for foster caregivers, Caring for Children Who Have Experienced Trauma: A Workshop for Resource Parents. This series consists of four three-hour modules. A total of 25 sessions will have been offered by the end of this fiscal year. Below are the courses with implementation data:

- **Trauma 101 (991-2-NOS):** Five sessions were offered between July 2015 and March 2016. Three sessions are scheduled between April and June 2016.
- **Understanding Trauma’s Effects and Building a Safe Place (991-3-NOS):** Four sessions were offered between July 2015 and March 2016. Three sessions are scheduled between April and June 2016.
- **Feelings, Behaviors, Connections, and Healing (991-4-NOS):** Four sessions were offered between July 2015 and March 2016. One session is scheduled between April and June 2016.
- **Becoming an Advocate and Taking Care of Yourself (991-5-NOS):** Two sessions were offered between July 2015 and March 2016. Three sessions are scheduled between April and June 2016.

As caregivers become trauma informed, their learning needs require more specialized and skill-based trauma training. The OCWTP has responded by offering additional trauma training. Below is a listing of course titles:
- Preservice for Foster and Kinship Caregivers and Adoptive Parents, module IV: Childhood Trauma and Its Effects and module VI: Minimizing the Trauma of Placement (See Preservice report for statistics)
- A Layman’s Guide to Brain Research (1 session)
- Babies' Brains: The Basics for Caregivers (3 sessions)
- Fostering Healing Resilience, and Hope for Traumatized Children (5 sessions)
- RAD: Reactive Attachment Disorder or Really Afraid Disorder (2 sessions)
- The Building Blocks of Trust (1 session)
- Trauma Lab for Caregivers (3 sessions)
- When Aggression is Their Profession (3 sessions)
- GAP: Meeting the Needs of the Newly Placed Child (4 sessions)
- Helping Teens Build Resilience (1 session)
- The Treatment of Sexually Abused Males (1 session)
- Wounded Child Healing Homes: The Impact of Parenting Traumatized Children (5 sessions)
- Trauma Systems Therapy for Foster Caregivers (1 session)
- Effects of Domestic Violence (4 sessions)
- Making Sense of Living with Sensory Processing Disorders (2 sessions)
- Living Out the Essential Elements of Trauma Informed Care (3 sessions)
- Interventions for Children who have Suffered Trauma (4 sessions)
- The Impact of Emotional Abuse (4 sessions)
- Bedtime Behaviors for Traumatized Children (5 sessions)
- Removed: Strategies for Hope and Healing for Youth In Care (6 sessions)
- Understanding Trauma and Trauma Bonding (1 session)
- Becoming a Trauma-Competent Caregiver (Part I and Part II) (2 sessions each)
- Helping Teens Build Resiliency (1 session)
- Overcoming Trauma (1 session)
- Self-Care for Caregivers who are Parenting Traumatized Children (2 sessions)