

**Ohio Needs Assessment for Child Welfare Services
May 2016**

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

This Sustainability Plan is submitted in accordance with the April 9, 2015 Agreed Order regarding John and Mary Roe, et al. v. Jacqueline Romer-Sensky, et al. (Roe v. Staples) Consent Decree as modified, Case Number C-1-83-1704, originating in the United States District Court Southern District of Ohio Western Division. It is the Department’s intent to ensure the Needs Assessment for Child Welfare Services is updated on a regular basis and the findings are integrated into future actions to improve the safety, permanency and well-being outcomes of children and families involved with child protective services.

METHODOLOGY EMPLOYED TO CONDUCT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The 2016 Needs Assessment employed a seven-phase methodology. As shown in Figure 1, the seven phases incorporated the: (1) identification of primary and secondary data sources; (2) use of the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) to identify Case Profiles; (3) completion of a systematic literature review to determine evidence-based interventions to address child and family concerns identified in the SACWIS Case Profiles; (4) completion of a survey of national experts to determine effective evidence-based interventions for abused, neglected or dependent children and their families experiencing multiple concerns and to solicit expert judgments on the likelihood families would engage in services; (5) use of SACWIS, Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), and Child Care services data to determine how many services are currently being provided; (6) data analysis; and (7) determination of future service needs.

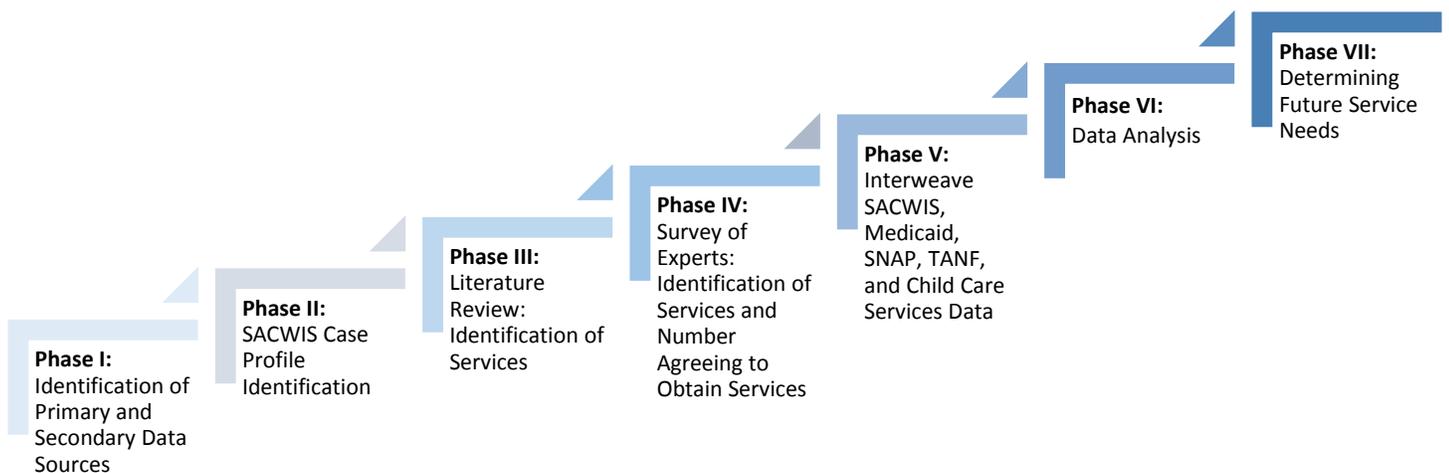


Figure 1

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN PHASES

The Needs Assessment becomes an integral part of ODJFS's planning and continuous quality improvement process by blending the seven phases into the five-year *Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP)* and *Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR)*. The CFSP and APSR are mandated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF). The CFSP is a five-year strategic plan that outlines the state's vision, goals and action steps to strengthen its child welfare system. The APSR is the state's annual report to ACF on its progress in implementing the five-year plan. Through this ongoing planning and reporting process, states are required to examine the populations they serve and demonstrate whether the available service array is sufficient to address the needs of families and children statewide. Given the strong focus on ongoing service planning and resource development in the CFSP, future Needs Assessments will be integrated within this process. The next CFSP five-year plan is due to ACF in June 2019. APSRs are submitted yearly to ACF on June 30. Following is a description of how each phase of the Needs Assessment will be completed on an ongoing basis and aligned with the CFSP and APSR cycle. As such, future Needs Assessments will be a component of the CFSP.

Phase I: Identification of Primary and Secondary Data Sources. Consistent with the *2016 Needs Assessment*, SACWIS, Medicaid, SNAP, TANF and Child Care data will be used as the primary and secondary sources.

Phase II: SACWIS Case Profile Identification. As demonstrated in the *2016 Needs Assessment*, families and children had multiple concerns. At a minimum of every two years, ODJFS will create Case Profiles for at least 70 percent of the population within an identified observation window. As in the current study, the profiles will reflect the leading issues families present. Developing new Case Profiles every two years will provide ODJFS with information about the changing needs of families over time and inform program and policy decisions set forth in the CFSP and APSR.

Phase III: Literature Review, Identification of Services. It is essential for PCSAs to stay abreast of effective evidence-based practices that produce a return on investment (e.g., reduction in the rate of child maltreatment, improved health and mental health outcomes for children and parents). To facilitate the sharing of information about effective practices with PCSAs, ODJFS will update the database developed for the *2016 Needs Assessment* annually and maintain the database on ODJFS's website for public use.

Phase IV: Survey of Experts, Identification of Services and Number Agreeing to Obtain Services. The *2016 Needs Assessment* yielded invaluable information through the survey of national experts, which was central in determining service gaps. Surveying national experts will continue in future Needs Assessments. Specifically, survey instruments will be developed in this phase using the updated and refined Case Profiles, corresponding vignettes, and key services from the updated *Evidence-Based Practices in Children Services* database. The results of this phase will be used in the development of Ohio's five-year CFSP.

Phase V: Interweave SACWIS, Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, and Child Care Services Data. In this phase, case profile data will be interwoven with service data (SACWIS and Medicaid), and extracts from SNAP, TANF and Child Care. Results from this phase provide data on the state's current service array and service provision and will inform the development of the CFSP.

Phases VI and VII: Data Analysis and Determining Future Service Needs. As in the *2016 Needs Assessment*, data collected from the previous phases will be synthesized to obtain a holistic picture of the study population and to quantify the service needs. These results will inform the development of the five-year CFSP.