

**Office of Families and Children**  
**M.S. Teams Event**  
**October 27, 2021 11:00 A.M.**  
**PCSA, Private Agencies and IV-E Courts**

**Welcome-Jeffery Van Deusen, Deputy Director**

Good morning and welcome to the October touch point call.

As you know, these calls are one of several ways that our office provides you with updates.

The team has several areas we want to address, but before that, I want to remind you that Adoption Recognition and Recruitment Month is being celebrated in November.

I will also be sending an email with the signed proclamation from the Governor on Friday.

As you know, the Ohio Adoption profiles were created to help individuals and families learn more about adoption and the children waiting for forever families in Ohio.

These profiles are on the It Takes 100% Heart website and includes information for prospective adoptive parents.

In the November edition of First Friday, you will see more information about Adoption Month.

And finally, thank you to those who attended the Children Services Forum on October 18<sup>th</sup>. We had over 350 in attendance.

As you heard in the Forum, there is a lot moving in the Children Services space.

The forum was another means to show the overall vision of our agency, how the work is being categorized, and how it fits in the overall vision.

I mentioned in the Forum, some of you may have heard the information during other presentations or meetings, but many of you had not heard the overall picture.

Following the Forum, we sent an email with a survey link for feedback and to give you an opportunity to ask questions.

We have received around 55 responses so far. So please complete the survey or ask questions by 11/5.

For questions received, we will address specific questions individually or globally in an FAQ.

Also, during the Forum, Director Damschroder introduced our new Assistant Director Mindy Kowalski, overseeing Health and Human Services, which includes the Offices of Family Assistance, Child Support, and our Office of Families and Children

Mindy has been with ODJFS since 2014 and most recently as the Assistant Deputy in the Office of Family Assistance. Prior to joining ODJFS, Mindy served as a prosecutor in the Attorney General's Office. Please welcome Mindy Kowalski.

**Melinda (Mindy) Kowalski, Assistant Director - Health and Human Services**

Hello everyone, I just wanted to say thank you for that warm welcome from Jeff and I look forward to working with each one of you in my new role as assistant director and if you have any questions

or suggestions feel free to reach out to me. You are the feet on the grounds and what you have to say and what you do is very important. I look forward to hearing from you and working with you.

**Jeffery Van Deusen, Deputy Director**

Thank you, Mindy. Finally, as a reminder, if you have questions, please include in the chat feature. We will also be sending the talking points and answers by the end of the week.

During the forum, you heard us talk a lot about data.

As you know, data is important for various reasons in this work, and it is important for us to make data available that can be useful for you.

The Snapshot Dashboard Reports were created as resource to provide a quick snapshot of data at the county and statewide level for comparison.

I will turn it over to Maquel Scites to provide an overview of this dashboard.

**Presentation: Maquel Scites - Snapshot Dashboard Reports**

**The Snapshot Dashboard Reports** were created as resource to provide a quick snapshot of data at the county and statewide level for comparison. The three dashboard reports are updated and shared monthly on the 15th with PCSAs. The Dashboard Reports are also used to respond to media and public records request when possible.

**The Children in Care Report** provides the count of children in custody and their placement setting on the last day of the month for the last 15 months. The report includes an About tab, along with 4 additional tabs which display Statewide and county level breakdown. The About tab allows you to learn the logic behind the report. It's helpful to review the About page for each report in the Snapshot Dashboards. Normally, if you have a question regarding a Snapshot Dashboard report, you can find the answer in the About tab.

**TAB 2** displays statewide point in time counts and placement type percentages.

**Table 1** on this tab includes a monthly breakdown of the children in custody by the placement setting. The percentage of each placement setting is also included. The final column in Table 1 displays the total monthly counts of the children in care statewide.

**Table 2** on this tab displays the 15-month trend for the total count of children in care statewide. The totals counts are calculated on the last day of the month.

**The remaining tables** display the 15-month trend for the children in care counts by placement setting.

**TAB 3** displays the county level breakdown of children in care on the last day of the month. A percent of change is provided that is calculated based on the previous month to current month. When the change percentage is calculated as an increase, the value is displayed in red. The last 2 columns in this table provide overall trend direction based on the last 15 months.

**TAB 4** displays the county level breakdown of children in care by placement setting. This table also provides a percent change value based on the previous month to the current month, as well as the trend direction.

**TAB 5** provides a further breakdown, which includes age and race per placement setting type. Again, this table also provides the same percent change calculations for the previous month and current, along with the overall trend direction.

This report can be very useful for tracking increases and decreases in the number of children coming into care, as well as providing trend data on the type of placements setting. If you are interested in seeing the detailed records behind the data found in this report, you can find this report in ROM as the Foster Care Counts report and the Placement Type report.

**The Foster Home Report** provides the number of foster homes, by county and certifying agency. This report also includes an About tab with the brief description of the data set.

**TAB 2** displays a point in time count of Foster Homes statewide over the last 15 months, along with the percent of change from the previous month to the current. Decreases are indicated in red. This tab also includes a visual representation of the trend for the count of foster home statewide and percent change.

**TAB 3** displays a breakdown of the counts of foster homes by the county of the certifying agency. The county of the certifying agency is based on the primary address of the certify agency. In this table, there are two percent change calculations. The first change calculation is a comparison of the previous month to the current month. The second calculation is a comparison on the first month of the period to the current month. Decreases are indicated here in red, and well as a decrease in overall trend here in the last column.

**TAB 4** displays similar data for foster home counts by individual public and private agency. You will also find the same percent change and trend data.

**The final tab** on this report displays a breakdown of the count of foster homes by the county of the provider address. Again, this table provides the same percent change and trend data.

This report is useful for identifying increases and decreases in the number of foster homes available statewide. It can be useful for identifying opportunities for recruitment strategies. There is not currently a report available to look at the detailed records for your agency, but you can simply contact the reporting team and we will send you details at your request. A similar report found in SACWIS though is the Provider Directory Report found in SACWIS.

**The Racial Disproportionality Report** provides information for all intakes and screened-in referrals broken down by race for the last 12 months. The reports provide statewide and county level data. The report utilizes the US Census data for Ohio to compare the demographics served to the overall population to depict where over and under representation exists.

The about tab provides a description of the report's calculations, with an example of the disproportionality calculation. This tab also includes a list of the race groups presented in the report.

**Tab 2** displays a Statewide trend of race disproportionality for all child reports in the prior 12-month period for each race group presented in the report.

**Tab 3** displays the same data for all accepted referrals over the prior 12 months.

**Tabs 4 and 5** displays the county level breakdown of the disproportionality index and percentage for all child reports and accepted referrals.

The data on this report are not meant to serve as casual report to drive policy and case decisions. They can be used to present a baseline perspective to assist in efforts to improve practice and policy, guide training

needs and evaluate change. You can access similar Racial Disparity and Racial Disproportionality reports in ROM.

**The Dashboard Reports** are shared with PCSAs and are used to respond to media and public records request when possible. If you have any future reporting questions or needs, please contact me at: [Maquel.Scites@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Maquel.Scites@jfs.ohio.gov).

### **Update on Independent Living Survey**

The Office of Families and Children surveyed PCSAs about how Independent Living services are provided at their agency and how OFC could offer better program support at the local level. 81 responses were received with 76 responses from Public Children Services Agencies and 5 from Title IVE Courts. The survey responses demonstrated agencies are more familiar with the Independent Living requirements than confident their agency is meeting those requirements. It also suggests common barriers agencies are experiencing is lack of sufficient staff, resources, and knowledge.

The survey prompted agencies to share what support they would like from ODJFS to assist their agency with their Independent Living Program. Most common responses included additional training for staff, additional guidance on using Independent Living funding and additional technical assistance.

As next steps, OFC will evaluate practice statewide to identify best practices and opportunities to expand models that have proven to be successful and have positive outcomes for youth and young adults. We will also evaluate Independent Living and Chafee funding and expenditures. Lastly, we will enhance our technical assistance and training to support these best practices. For additional questions or feedback, please contact Laurie Valentine at [Laurie.Valentine@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Laurie.Valentine@jfs.ohio.gov).

### **Quality Hearing Court Report SACWIS Knowledge Base Article Released- Tequilla Washington**

In addition to the Quality Hearing toolkit and Quality Hearings in Abuse, Neglect, Dependency (AND) Cases webinar held on June 18, 2021, the SACWIS team developed and released a Knowledge Base article titled “Generating the Court Report in SACWIS.” This article provides a general overview of the report and directions for generating and accessing saved court reports.

The report and toolkit were created as a strategy for the CFSR PIP to increase best practices, improve family engagement in hearings, and ensure that judicial officers obtain all the necessary information needed to determine reasonable efforts and finalize the permanency plan. The objective of implementing these practices is to improve hearing quality and court process and reduce court barriers to timely permanency, which will result in an overall improvement in permanency outcomes for families. In addition, the toolkit and SACWIS report address the Children Services Transformation juvenile justice recommendation to strengthen guidance for all involved systems and parties in children services court cases to reinforce the established 12-month requirement for reunification and permanency.

## **Children Services Hubs**

The Office of Families and Children is partnering with The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA) to create 12 Children Services Hubs throughout the state. The purpose of the Hubs is to provide a regionalized system to assist agencies with strategies to address the workforce, enhance policy and practice improvements, coordinate services and focus on unique needs of each region. Building upon the existing infrastructure already in place with the Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Agencies throughout Ohio, each CCR&R will be required to hire two staff with children services expertise to work on these goals and objectives. Extensive training and support are currently being provided to the CCR&Rs as they begin focusing on a needs assessment/gap analysis and foster care recruitment and retention. We will continue to update, as the children's services hubs was a recommendation of the Governor's Children Services Transformation Advisory Council.

## **Tiered Treatment Foster Care Update (Christine Dobrovich)**

### Vision

Expand treatment foster care by creating tiers of care that more appropriately align with the various needs and challenges of the children requiring such placement, and ensure that the tiers of foster caregiver training, support and payment align with the expectations of care.

### Stakeholder Workgroup

OFC has recently convened a Stakeholder Workgroup to gain input and feedback from a variety of participants representing different perspectives (PCSAO, Ohio Children's Alliance, public and private foster care agencies of various sizes and from different regions, Ohio Family Care Association, foster caregivers from public and private agencies, Ohio MHAS, Ohio Medicaid, etc. ...) with the first meeting held on October 5th.

### Highlights from October 5th Workgroup Kick-off Meeting

- Introductions and purpose
  - History and Objective (FFPSA 2018, Foster Care Advisory Group 2018, TTFC Workgroup and Recommendations 2020, CST Advisory Council 2020, HB 8 2021, OFC TTFC Review Team 2021)
- Identification of Workgroup topics for collaboration
  - Tier definition/refinement
  - Youth needs at each tier level and assessment
  - Caregiver skills/abilities/training at each tier level
  - Agency supports needed at each tier level
  - Rate determination

### Implementation Goal

We have an aggressive timeline with an anticipated implementation date of October 2022. Preparation underway for the next Workgroup meeting, which will be a full day meeting.

## **CST Updates (Karen McGormley)**

Thanks Christine and good morning everyone. Today I'd like to share updates on three of the children services transformation recommendations starting with:

### **Strengthening Family Search and Engagement Efforts**

As all of you are aware, legislation in the Operating Budget requires custodial agencies to conduct ongoing and intensive efforts to search for relatives and kin and to provide updates regarding these efforts at every court hearing and Semi-Annual Administrative Review. The legislation also states that agencies are to utilize search technology engines as a part of these efforts. To support the agencies' in locating relatives and kin using search technology, our office entered into an agreement with Lexis/Nexis for Accurant, an advanced paid search engine. A memo was sent to all PCSA Directors two weeks ago providing them with information on how to access this service. I want to emphasize that our office is picking up the cost of this service at least through this biennium. If your county has not signed up yet, please email Gaye Crawford as soon as possible. Our office is prepared to having Accurant available to users in November.

### **Reduce Organizational and State Level Red Tape**

Work has started on the recommendation to Reduce Organizational and State Level Red Tape. An internal team is meeting to discuss methods for reaching out for stakeholder feedback from both our private and public agencies. Last week we received great feedback at the Partners for Ohio Families meeting. Stay tuned for more information on how to provide feedback.

### **Bill of Rights Update**

Finally, Efforts to establish both a Foster Youth Bill of Rights as well as a Resource Family Bill of Rights are almost complete. We are on track to final file both rules on November 1<sup>st</sup> and have them effective on November 15, 2021. In addition to finalizing the rules, a poster on the foster youth bill of rights is being created for agencies to post. This is a requirement for residential facilities, but we encouraged displaying the poster at any agency building where youth may be present. A brochure is also being created on the resource family Bill of Rights that both recommending and custodial agencies can share with resource families including foster and kinship caregivers. The office will seek stakeholder feedback prior to finalizing the forms.

I will now turn it over to Kristine Monroe who will share an announcement with you

### **QIC – R Announcement- Kristine Monroe**

Ohio has received notification that it was selected as a Local Implementation Site for The Quality Improvement Center on Family-Centered Reunification (QIC-R), led by a team of from the University of Maryland. This grant will provide support to the state to assist with implementation of the Iowa Parent Partner Approach (IPPA) in Fairfield, Franklin, and Knox Counties. A formal evaluation of implementation of IPPA in those counties will also be conducted as part of the grant. Melissa Palmer will act as the project manager for the program and Kristine Monroe will be the data coordinator.

### **Closing- Jeffery Van Deusen**

## Questions and Answers:

### Question 1 & 2

How can this data be accessed, where can we find these reports?

This data is sent to PCSAs each month to assist in meeting state and federal mandates.

### Question 3

Can Private Agencies also receive this data to assist with recruitment and understanding the need in Ohio?

Great question. We will assess and get back with you.

### Question 4

Will this information (posters ad forms) be sent to the IV-E Juvenile Courts?

We will send out information when the forms have finalized. Agencies will be able to access both the poster and brochure from Forms Central and request hard copies to share and post.

### Question 5

Is there a place to research more about the Children Services Hubs?

As you know, the Hubs are a new concept as a result of the Children Services Transformation recommendations. There is not a particular location to research more about the specific work they will be conducting in the children services space as this continues to evolve. The Hubs will first focus on conducting a needs assessment and foster care recruitment. Follow the link below to learn more about each of the Child Care Resource and Referral agencies and the counties they serve. We will continue to provide information as this work continues.

[Home - OCCRRA](#)

### Question 6

Who will be training the folks at the hubs?

OFC staff is providing extensive training for the Hubs.

Thank you once again for joining us today. The next touchpoint meeting is scheduled for Wednesday November 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 A.M. The link to attend is below:

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_OTg0ODM3NDAtNjFjNy00YjMwLTkyNzktMjI5ZDc2ZGFkZThj%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2250f8fcc4-94d8-4f07-84eb-36ed57c7c8a2%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22b1d80b31-feef-4856-a7c8-5d3110ea89ae%22%2c%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3atrue%7d&bttype=a&role=a](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_OTg0ODM3NDAtNjFjNy00YjMwLTkyNzktMjI5ZDc2ZGFkZThj%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2250f8fcc4-94d8-4f07-84eb-36ed57c7c8a2%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22b1d80b31-feef-4856-a7c8-5d3110ea89ae%22%2c%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3atrue%7d&bttype=a&role=a)

Fawn Gadel, from the PCSAO will be our guest speaker. Additional agenda items will be shared in advance of the meeting.