

**Office of Families and Children**  
**Webinar**  
**November 17, 2020**  
**PCSA and IV-E Courts (10:30 am - 11:30 am)**  
**Private Agencies (11:45 pm - 12:45 pm)**

**Webinar Overview-Gina Speaks-Eshler**

Welcome and thank you for joining us again on our monthly calls.

I'm Gina Eshler, Interim Assistant Deputy Director of the Office of Families and Children over the bureaus of system and practice advancement (which includes technical assistance), CPS policy and APS, and licensing. Jeff Van Deusen, the Deputy Director of our office is out of town this week and can't be with us; however, he sends his regards and hopes that everyone is staying safe. Since our last call we have had a leadership update we would like to share. Lakeisha Hilton, the other Assistant Deputy Director here at OFC, has transitioned from our office to the Office of Family Assistance. We thank Lakeisha for her time in OFC and wish her well on her new endeavors.

It's hard to believe that we are in the 8<sup>th</sup> month of this pandemic and in the throes of a third wave. The numbers of positive cases reported continue to increase and I just want to take a moment and thank each of you and your staff for continuing to offer services and protection to Ohio's most vulnerable families and children. We continue to be grateful for all of the front-line workers including caseworkers, supervisors, and all the specialists who are working to keep children protected and safe.

Before we begin, we anticipate our audience may have questions during the call today. As a reminder, if you have questions, please submit those in the question box on the right of the screen and we will answer the questions at the end, however, if we are unable to answer, we will get the answers to you when we send the final talking points and Q/As.

Today we are excited to welcome our second Creative Corner special guest presenter, Elizabeth Moore LSW, MSW, who is Foster Care & Community Engagement Coordinator at Marion County Children Services. This month is National Adoption Month, so we wanted to highlight some of the very creative and innovative work Marion County is doing and then follow up with some important updates, brought to you by our senior leadership team.

Thank you for joining us today Elizabeth.

**Marion County Creative Corner, Elizabeth Moore, LSW, MSW**

Thank you and good morning. We know that some of the things we are doing may not be easily translated to other counties and private agencies, but I wanted to share with you what we are doing in Marion County.

**Reduction of Foster Care Utilization:**

- Entered into agreement with Marion County ADAMH to leverage federal SORS funding to support a kinship Support Services worker. Resulted in significant support to overwhelmed caseworkers who are charged with this responsibility. Resulted in just as many if not more children being placed in the TC of kinship as foster care. However, we continued to see increased foster care utilization and therefore implemented 30 Days to

**Office of Families and Children**  
**Webinar**  
**November 17, 2020**  
**PCSA and IV-E Courts (10:30 am - 11:30 am)**  
**Private Agencies (11:45 pm - 12:45 pm)**

Family in May 2020. With both positions working in tandem, we have reduced our foster care population by over 35% since March 2020.

**Permanency:**

- Spa Day: All local donations and the creation of updated adoption flyers. Two of the girls who participated in the spa day have already found their forever families! Worked with local businesses to provide services – they can't say yes if you don't ask!
- Another child the agency had received permanent custody of since the spa day asked for the agency to reconsider her grandmother. The grandmother completed an adoption home study, and the youth was recently placed with her grandmother as another step towards permanency.

**Foster Care Recruitment/Retention:**

- The agency rented billboard space to thank their amazing families that foster and adopt, to promote the amazing work they are doing and to help recruit more families to join the ranks.
- Virtual open houses, CA/N
  - o For virtual open houses it worked best to have a worker watch the live chat so that questions could get answered
  - o CA/N training were offered in both closed and open settings via Zoom with invitation only or Facebook live open to the public
- Utilize closed Facebook group to engage foster parents
- Monthly newsletter – includes info on trainings, “compliance corner,” has featured staff and foster parents, info about activities around town or to do at home

**Community Engagement:**

- Foster Parent Conference – created to connect the faith community and the church, by some standards would have been a bomb, but it began the process for other projects such as Be the Village
- Be the Village
  - o A church reached out to us while they had a family in the process of licensing to find out how to better support their family
  - o Be the Village bought Zoo passes for foster families through a grant written by a church, the church supplemented the remaining amount not covered by the grant and members of Be the Village are creating snack baskets for each family including snacks and a travel cooler.
- Podcast - guests included agency staff, then community members, adoptive parent, adult adopted child w/bio mother

Thank you, Elizabeth, for sharing. All questions and answers will be addressed during the live presentation and captured at the conclusion of the presentation.

**OFC Updates and Reminders**

**Office of Families and Children**  
**Webinar**  
**November 17, 2020**  
**PCSA and IV-E Courts (10:30 am - 11:30 am)**  
**Private Agencies (11:45 pm - 12:45 pm)**

**Creative Corner, Cathy Ghering**

- Thank you, Elizabeth, for sharing. Again, if you have any questions, submit them in the Q & A.
- Amazing work is happening throughout the state and we are asking you to share your innovative work to connect and learn from one another.
- The Office of Families and Children (OFC) would like to continue to enhance our monthly OFC Touchpoint calls by highlighting how your public or private agency/court has gone above and beyond to support the workforce; to improve the provision of services, supports and resources to Ohio's families and children and/or strengthen community partnerships.
- **TELL US** about the great ways your agency or court is demonstrating innovation and excellence in the delivery of programs and services to advance improved outcomes for children and families. We want to hear about successful strategies you have implemented to overcome recruitment and retention concerns. ODJFS will select an agency or court to share their innovations during the monthly OFC Touchpoint calls and highlight additional strategies each month in the OFC First Friday bulletin.
- Please submit the [form](#) to [OFC\\_Creative\\_Corner@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:OFC_Creative_Corner@jfs.ohio.gov) no later than the first Monday of the month.

**Partnership with Ohio Department of Education, Gina Speaks-Eshler**

OFC continues to enhance our partnership with the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) since COVID-19 and variations of remote instruction began. Our office and ODE meet routinely to discuss concerns and identify strategies to address the decrease in child abuse and neglect reports. The data teams from both agencies have been working diligently to share appropriate reporting data and continue to identify ways the data can be utilized at the local district and county levels. This past Thursday, November 12, 2020, Kari Akins and I presented to the Ohio School Counselor Association on the basics of reporting, signs and symptoms to look for in virtual instruction, and encouraging partnerships between local PCSA's and local board of education systems. They shared some of the innovative ways they were connecting remotely with students and their families in an effort to learn from one another.

**Funding Certainty Grants to former waiver states, Alicia Allen (PCSA & Title IV-E Only)**

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) will be issuing Funding Certainty Grants to former waiver states whose claiming is markedly less post-waiver sunset than it was during the last year of the waiver. Ohio expects to receive a sizeable amount which will be distributed to each of the waiver counties after their proportionate share of funding loss as compared to the last waiver year is calculated. The grants amounts are expected to be determined and distributed to states in January 2021, and again in January 2022 if the decreases in claiming continue. The funds may be used toward Title IV-B allowable activities, planning and implementation for the Family First Prevention Services Act, and any activities previously funded under the waiver. There are no required spending percentages for the funding and there is no required match. This funding will be sent to the county agencies in the same manner as during the waiver. The funds will be available for use through 9/30/2026.

**Office of Families and Children**  
**Webinar**  
**November 17, 2020**  
**PCSA and IV-E Courts (10:30 am - 11:30 am)**  
**Private Agencies (11:45 pm - 12:45 pm)**

**Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) Update- Angela Hughes**

- Ohio submitted its Title IV-E Prevention Services Plan to ACF on November 2, 2020.
- The Prevention Services rules are currently under review. OFC completed the MORRPH sessions last week and will be integrating feedback received before the rules go into Clearance later this month.
- The Communities of Support Request for Grant Applications was released on November 9. This RFGA was created in partnership with the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Ohio Family and Children First Council to provide support to existing and new community service delivery. These grants allow counties to apply for funding for Care Plans of Safe Care and QRTP Level of Care assessments and aftercare planning.
- Nine Menu of Services applications have been approved and one incentive application has been approved. These funds are dedicated to supporting congregate care facilities in moving toward Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) compliance. For the Menu of Services application, agencies must identify which of the five requirements they plan to spend their available funds on. The Incentive application requires a Compliance Plan Template and a high-level budget.
- The QRTP Assessment rule will be going through the rule process and includes the qualified individual and assessment requirements for placing a child into a QRTP.

**HB 8 Foster Care Training - Christine Dobrovich**

**House Bill 8** -Changes to Foster Care Training Requirement-signed by Governor DeWine on October 20, 2020 to be effective January 22, 2021.

- Legislation resulted from recommendations of the Foster Care Advisory Group of 2017/2018. The Advisory Group identified and recommended best practices to recruit, retain and support foster caregivers. Streamlining and flexibility in training was one of the recommendations, and in order to achieve this, it required removal of the training requirements from statute to allow for the requirements to be revised in OAC rules.
- To allow for immediate flexibility, OFC issued FCASPL 362 on October 6, 2020 to extend training plan submission due dates from October 15, 2020 to April 15, 2021.

**Two-phased Approach** to implementation of changes to Foster Care training requirements

**Phase 1**

OAC rules being revised with anticipated effective date to be Spring 2021. Rules completed clearance 10/28/2020-11/11/2020. Revisions include reduction in training hours required as follows:

**Office of Families and Children**  
**Webinar**  
**November 17, 2020**  
**PCSA and IV-E Courts (10:30 am - 11:30 am)**  
**Private Agencies (11:45 pm - 12:45 pm)**

<b>Training Type</b>	<b>Current Hours</b>	<b>Proposed Hours</b>
Pre-placement	36	24
Continuing – Family Foster Homes	40	30
Continuing – Specialized Foster Homes	60	45

**Phase 2**

Work Group to being early 2021 to determine the contents of 24-hour pre-service, as well as ongoing training requirements.

Goal will be to modernize foster parent training to better support foster parents and children placed in care and streamline the content to improve efficiency for core training and ongoing training.

**Future Agenda Items - Gina Speaks-Eshler**

Our monthly calls will continue to be hosted as MS Team Events. You will receive an e-mail reminder in advance of the meeting and a link will be distributed in our notes from today's meeting that you can add to your calendars. In order to allow enough time for discussion and questions, we recently extended our meeting time to an hour.

**Our next call for the OFC PCSA & IV-E Courts will start at 10:30 a.m. on December 15, 2020.**

**The next Private Agency live event will start at 11:45 a.m. on December 15, 2020.**

**The links to join the December meetings can be found at the bottom of this document and should be saved to your calendar.**

Thank you all for your partnership. We will take a few minutes to answer any additional questions you may have and if you need additional clarification on any of the answers provided, please do not hesitate to reach out to your licensing or technical assistance specialist, or the OFC help desk. We will leave the webinar open for a few minutes to continue receiving questions.

**Questions and Answers**

1. In the beginning of this presentation, did you say that one of your agency goals is to decrease the number of children in care at your agency? **I did say that. It has been a long- standing goal. We know kids do best in their home environment. We are working with Kinship and 30 days to family to promote the reunification and families know they can count on the support. Safe Families for Children are another resource where churches work support local children to hopefully make a permanent connection. Those are just some of the things we strive to do to keep kids out of foster care.**

**Office of Families and Children**  
**Webinar**  
**November 17, 2020**  
**PCSA and IV-E Courts (10:30 am - 11:30 am)**  
**Private Agencies (11:45 pm - 12:45 pm)**

2. Since there are rule around photos of kids in foster care, how did this work with the Billboards? Those were just the licensed families. We highlighted some of the single parent foster parent, some were already adopted and one we waited until the adoption was finalized before sharing. We didn't use kids in foster care at all.
3. In the draft of the training rule the requirement for preservice training to have 2 hours of cultural diversity and 1 hour on the topic of delinquent youth remained in the rule. Has there been any discussion of removing these time requirements with the reduction of required preservice training hours?

The draft rule takes the competency and content required for the current 36 hours and includes some of the content to be required for the new 24 hours of preservice, while allowing the remaining content hours to be completed in the continuing education training period. For the second phase of implementation, the workgroup will consider the content/topic requirements that are to be included for pre-service and ongoing training. The topics of disclosure under delinquent youth requirements and cultural diversity will be considered, as well as the related content and number of hours.

4. To confirm, the training hours will officially be reduced in the spring of 2021, correct? Yes. The statutory changes (Ohio Revised Code) resulting from HB 8 will become effective until January 22, 2021, but the rule revisions (Ohio Administrative Code) to actually change the training requirements are being developed now in anticipation of the effective date of the new statute. It is anticipated that these new Ohio Administrative Code rules, reducing the training hour requirements, will be final filed and effective in spring 2021. Since there will be a brief period of time from the effective date of the statutory changes (January 22, 2021) and the spring 2021 effective date of the rule revisions that will define the reduced training requirements, ODJFS will provide an updated Procedure Letter at that time to provide guidance when agencies can adjust/reduce their training requirements.
5. Will this also affect adoption pre-service training? We are having discussions regarding the adoption pre-service rules to assess whether alignment is feasible. Adoption training only has requirements of topics not time (other than 3 hours of culture), and adoption training can be waived (other than 3 hours of culture).
6. Does ODJFS have any data or information on the amount of congregate care options they expect to meet the QRTP deadline? We do not have any concrete data right now but have evaluated agencies and have seen a substantial increase in agency readiness. We are also starting to assess agency's compliance with these requirements with hopes to have data available in early 2021. We have worked with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to ensure that both state agencies have review tools ready and available to start

**Office of Families and Children**  
**Webinar**  
**November 17, 2020**  
**PCSA and IV-E Courts (10:30 am - 11:30 am)**  
**Private Agencies (11:45 pm - 12:45 pm)**

monitoring for compliance. Many agencies are communicating they will be QRTP compliant by October of 2021.

7. What is happening when we submit a positive Covid-19 test result for a foster parent to the help desk? The Help Desk sends the information to OFC Managers (Colleen, Gina, or Sue) who work with the appropriate staff to reach out to TAS or FCLS to reach out to the agency to see how they are doing, if they have questions and then we track that information. We don't share confidential information, just track the information to get an idea of what part of the state and what roles individuals in Ohio must have additional discussions with the governor's office or other administration personnel. In licensing and policy, we have regular conversation about the impact on placement providers to continuously assess if we need to reevaluate procedures or practice.
8. Is there guidance on what agencies are expected to do when a foster parent or foster child or household member tests positive?

All agencies and substitute care providers are instructed to continue to notify the ODJFS helpdesk at [HELP-DESK-OCF@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:HELP-DESK-OCF@jfs.ohio.gov) if any staff, caregiver, household member, or child tests positive for COVID-19 so that ODJFS may provide support and ensure all Department of Health protocols are followed.

**Comment**

A new Leaf commented: Just wanted to say - Great ideas on best supports!

**Link to the PCSA & Title IV-E, December 15, 2020 meeting to start at 10:30 AM Start Time**

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_OWUxZGVjYTkZjUxYy00MTBjLWlYyZWQtMGI0ODY4NGIwZWZh%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](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_OWUxZGVjYTkZjUxYy00MTBjLWlYyZWQtMGI0ODY4NGIwZWZh%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)

**Link to the Private Agency, December 15, 2020 meeting to start at 11:45 AM Start Time**

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_ODgxZmFhMjgtZTFiYi00YWlZLWlYyZWQtMGI0ODY4NGIwZWZh%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](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ODgxZmFhMjgtZTFiYi00YWlZLWlYyZWQtMGI0ODY4NGIwZWZh%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)