Welcome-Jeffery Van Deusen, Deputy Director

Good morning and welcome everyone. Thank you so much for taking time to join us in advance of your Thanksgiving preparations.

Before we get started, as a reminder, if you have questions during the call today, feel free to include them in the question section on the screen. The items discussed or presented today, including the questions and answers will be included in the notes we send out after the event.

I encourage you to share the notes with all appropriate staff within your agency to ensure they also receive the information.

We will have a presentation today by Fawn Gadel on Ohio START. However, before I turn it over to Fawn, I want to point out a couple updates.

You may have heard, that last week, two new Ohio Administrative Code sections became effective, establishing the rights of foster youth and resource caregivers.

- The Foster Youth Bill of Rights and the Resource Family Bill of Rights were recommendations of the Governor’s Children Services Transformation Advisory Council.
- Our Office of Families and Children engaged multiple stakeholders, including current and former foster youth, in the development of both bills.

They ensure that youth have a voice in their care and an opportunity for a normal childhood. They also ensure that both kinship and foster families are heard, supported, and valued.

ODJFS eManuals > Families and Children > Family, Children and Adult Services Manual > Foster Care Licensing > 5101:2-5-35 Foster Youth Bill of Rights (ohio.gov)

As I said, Fawn Gadel is with us today to provide a presentation about Ohio START. Fawn serves as the Director of Ohio START at PCSAO. In her role as Director of Ohio START, she has provided oversight to the program as it expanded from 14 to 52 counties in Ohio. She began her career at the Family and Youth Law Center where she most recently served as the Associate Director and Clinical Supervisor. She started her work with the center during her first year of law school in 2004 as a legal intern, transitioned to a staff attorney in 2007 and became the Associate Director in 2014.

Fawn, thank you for joining us today and for your strong partnership with our office.

Fawn Gadel-Director of Ohio START
Jeff Van Deusen: Thank you Fawn, and we appreciate the presentation.

Just a reminder to everyone listening that if you have an idea for future topics and/or speakers, please let us know by sending your request to the OFC Creative Corner mailbox. ofc_creative_corner@jfs.ohio.gov

- We want to give all of you an opportunity to highlight your great work.
- We also want to provide more information about topics you’re interested in.

Cross-referral Notification – Stevie Romano
Prior to the pandemic, county agencies would send cross-referral intake notifications (both screened-in and screened-out) through whatever platform they chose. That could have included email, US mail, fax, etc. Because we continue to work remotely from our home offices, there is no opportunity to receive US mail daily at the field offices. Moving forward, we’re asking that you please direct your proper personnel to forward cross-referral notifications to our foster care licensing supervisors directly through email. This will ensure we receive each intake timely as opposed to them collecting in a field office location unattended.

Once you forward to the proper supervisor, they will in turn share with the assigned licensing specialist. For reference, we’re included a link to our Agency Master List, identify the manager for each agency. I will share with you that we currently have one vacancy, so if in doubt, feel free to send to me and I’ll forward to the assigned manager. Thank you for this slight shift in communication to ensure we receive the cross-referral notifications timely.

QRTP Bed Update - Stevie Romano
As of November 22, 2021, we have reached 1701 JFS QRTP certified bed count. From our 2289 JFS licensed bed count, that brings us up to 74% QRTP compliant bed count. In addition, we have 16 pending studies for agencies that have submitted to be QRTP compliant but have yet met all criteria. Some of these are completing their accreditation verification or hiring clinical staff or continuing to train their staff on their trauma informed model. Should all 16 pending studies be completed and approved, we would reach 80% compliant bed count. JFS licensing team continues to communicate with those agencies not yet compliant and those agencies who have yet to submit a QRTP study to be considered.

QRTP Provision and the QI Waiver – Hannah Knies
On November 18, Ohio received official approval of our QRTP plan amendment from the Administration for Children and Families. As part of this plan approval, we also received official approval of our Qualified Individual waiver request. This waiver allows for Title IV-E agencies to act as the qualified individual per rule 2-42-12.

On November 19, the Children’s Bureau published updated guidance on one of our most asked questions regarding Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTP) and IV-E reimbursement. The guidance specifies that for youth placed into a residential facility that becomes QRTP compliant after placement, the placement can become IV-E reimbursable. The 30-day and 60-day timeframes for CANS assessment and judicial determination will begin on the date the placement becomes QRTP compliant.

OFC is currently working to revise our rule to reflect this update in guidance. We will also be working on updates to SACWIS.
KSP Recoupment & Home Studies – Becky Murray

KSP payments, which began in April of 2021, are made by the state of Ohio directly to kinship caregivers. While every effort has been made in the state process and procedure for issuing accurate payments to kinship caregivers, there is a potential for overpayments to occur. The Office of Families and Children has an obligation to attempt to recoup overpayments that have been made and therefore has developed a process to identify KSP overpayments and to notify kinship caregivers of the overpayments and their right to request a state hearing when it is determined that they are required to repay the state.

When a KSP overpayment is identified, OFC will notify the caregiver via the JFS 4065 (Prior Notice of Right to a State Hearing). This notification will include:
- The amount of the overpayment; and
- The right to request a state hearing if the caregiver does not agree with this action.

Whenever possible, recoupment of the overpayment will occur within the established payment system in Ohio SACWIS so that it can be reduced from future KSP payments. However, if the caregiver does not have future KSP payments, the Bureau of Fiscal Operations will send the caregiver an invoice with instructions on the remittance of the overpayment to the state.

KSP payments are issued and terminated through an automated process that relies on the accuracy of child kinship placement information entered in Ohio SACWIS. Therefore, it is critical that PCSAs ensure that information is entered as timely and accurately as possible to document the beginning and end dates of kinship placements. This will help reduce the number and amount of overpayments that occur.

Beginning in January, an Ohio SACWIS report identifying repayment plans will be available for PCSAs to use to monitor overpayments.

Exit Survey-Cynthia Ricketts

The Office of Families and Children (OFC) continues to collaborate on ways to address the struggles of recruiting, training, and retaining children services front line and supervisory staff. One of these ways is through the development and implementation of a PCSA exit survey.

We are pleased to announce the Exit Survey will be available for use through an online platform beginning December 1, 2021. The exit survey is available to all 88 PCSAs.

The exit survey provides a streamlined, online process for PCSAs to submit a notification when one of their employees resigns or is terminated. The point of contact or (POC) will complete a short online form, entitled “Exiting Employee Intake”, notifying OFC of a staff member's resignation or termination.

Once this notification occurs, the PCSA exit survey link will be automatically emailed to the resigning employee two weeks prior to their last day. If the employee does not complete the survey, reminder emails will be sent until it is completed at seven days, five days, three days and one day prior to their last day. This survey will track the reasons workers are leaving the workforce to determine if there are any regional or statewide trends and it will also track reasons staff liked working for their PCSA. I do want to note that the link to the survey will not be sent to staff who are terminated; however, statistics on the number of staff terminated will be collected. The information gathered from the exit surveys will be shared with the applicable PCSAs in aggregate form and will assist the Office of Families and Children and the PCSAs in gaining a better understanding of workforce challenges with the goal of improving retention and recruitment efforts regionally and across the state.
Office of Families and Children  
M.S. Teams Event – Touchpoint Meeting  
November 24, 2021- 11:00 A.M.  
PCSA, Private Agencies and IV-E Courts

We can’t collect this data without our PCSA partners. Thank you to the 63 PCSAs who have provided a point of contact for the exit survey, we appreciate your partnership in this exciting project. Any agency still wishing to participate in the exit survey process can designate a point of contact (POC) who will be responsible for entering information for exiting employees. Agencies that have not already submitted their point of contact for the exit survey may do so by sending a request including the new POCs name, email address and OHID to the exit survey mailbox - pcsa_exit_survey@jfs.ohio.gov. After November 30th new users may be added or changed by submitting a digital 7078 for the newly designated user. The user role is: PCSA Exit Survey – Exit Survey Point of Contact.

If you have any questions after this meeting about the Exit Survey, please contact our team by sending an email to the exit survey mailbox at - pcsa_exit_survey@jfs.ohio.gov

Closing- Jeffery Van Deusen

I want to thank our guest speaker once again from the PCSAO.

Next month we will be forgoing a monthly update and we will assess the best method or format to continue our dialog with you in the new year.

For now, please hold the third Wednesday at 11:00 AM on your calendars until we finalize our plans.

Thank you and Happy Thanksgiving.

Questions and Answers:

Question 1
Can you tell me how many counties now enrolled in START have a IV-E Dependency/Drug court docket?
I am not sure of the exact number, but many of our current counties have both START and a dependency/drug court docket.

Question 2
Is there supposed to be a (.) in the youtube link? The correct link is below: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p9gO4NMQIAo

Question 3
Can you put the link to the master list in the chat? The correct link is below: https://jfs.ohio.gov/OFC/Agency-Masterlist.stm

Question 4
If there is a KSP overpayment, will that result in the family being ineligible for TANF until the overpayment is corrected? Or can the benefit recovery plan include offsetting TANF benefits to get it corrected? A KSP overpayment has no effect on eligibility for OWF funds.

Question 5
How are families informed of the timeline for their KSP payments? We have talked to several families who seem quite surprised when the payments run out. This information is provided in the letter that is sent to kinship caregivers when the kinship placement is entered into Ohio SACWIS. Additionally, it is recommended that county agencies discuss with the kinship providers the ability to become certified foster caregivers and that KSP payments are temporary.
Office of Families and Children
M.S. Teams Event – Touchpoint Meeting
November 24, 2021- 11:00 A.M.
PCSA, Private Agencies and IV-E Courts

Question 6
Do we know what the primary reasons are right now for child welfare workers to resign? Information will be provided in the letter that will be sent to kinship caregivers when the kinship placement is made. Great questions. We do not know as each county collects information during the exit interview differently. We look forward to collecting additional data and will share aggregate data when possible.

Question 7
Can you put in the link for qualified individual policy? Yes, see below

https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/rule-5101:2-42-12

Summary of additional links that were shared:
ODJFS eManuals > Families and Children > Family, Children and Adult Services Manual > Foster Care Licensing > 5101:2-5-35 Foster Youth Bill of Rights (ohio.gov)
If you have an idea for future topics and/or speakers, please let us know by sending your request to the OFC Creative Corner mailbox. ofc_creative_corner@jfs.ohio.gov

https://jfs.ohio.gov/OFC/Agency-Masterlist.stm

Agencies that have not already submitted their point of contact for the exit survey may do so by November 30, 2021 by sending a request including the new POCs name, email address and OHID to the exit survey mailbox- pcsa_exit_survey@jfs.ohio.gov
Dear Caregiver:

As a kinship caregiver, you may be eligible for the Kinship Support Program (KSP). This program was established on December 29, 2021 and requires the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to pay eligible kinship caregivers upon placement of a child when the child is in the custody of a public children services agency (PCSA). These KSP payments are provided by ODJFS to the kinship caregiver to allow the caregiver time to work with the agency to become licensed as a foster parent. Once licensed, the caregiver will receive foster care payments for the child for the duration of the placement.

How do I know if I am eligible for the kinship support payment?
You are eligible for KSP payments when:
- The child is in the temporary, permanent, or legal custody of the public children services agency (PCSA),
- The child is placed by the PCSA as a kinship placement in your home, and
- You are not licensed as a foster caregiver.

Do I complete an application to receive the KSP payments?
There is no application process for the KSP payments.

How long will I receive KSP payments?
If eligible (see above), you will receive payments for up to six months from the date the child was placed in your home. You will receive KSP payments until you become a licensed foster caregiver, until the child is no longer placed in your home as a kinship placement, or until the end of six months that the child is placed in your home, whichever happens first.

When should I expect to receive the KSP payment?
When the PCSA completes and documents approval of your home assessment for the child placed in your home by the PCSA, you will receive payment in the amount of $10.20 per day, per kinship child placed in your home. These payments will be effective the date the child is placed in your home and will be paid to you by check or by direct deposit. The first payment will be made to you after the 10th of the month following the date of placement. For example, if the child is placed with you in January of 2022, your first payment will be made in February of 2022. You will receive a monthly payment every month thereafter as long as you remain eligible for KSP.

What if I receive KSP payments that I do not think I am eligible for?
If you receive KSP payments and you do not believe you meet the eligibility requirements listed above, please contact your PCSA caseworker to determine if the payment should be returned. If ODJFS determines that you received KSP payments to which you were not entitled, you will be required to return the payment.

**If I want to continue to receive payments after the six months of KSP payments what do I need to do?**

To continue to receive payments after the KSP payments end you must become a certified foster caregiver for the child(ren) in your care. You may be able to receive waivers of non-safety related foster care requirements. For information about beginning the process to become a foster caregiver, please visit our website [https://fosterandadopt.jfs.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/ofc/foster-care/becoming-a-foster-parent](https://fosterandadopt.jfs.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/ofc/foster-care/becoming-a-foster-parent). If you are currently in the foster care certification process, you will be eligible to receive foster care per diem payments once you are certified.

If you choose not to become a certified foster caregiver, you may be eligible to receive Ohio Works First (OWF) “child-only” benefits when your KSP payments end. To apply for OWF “child-only” benefits, please contact the county Department of Job and Family Services in the county where you reside.

**What do I do if I do not receive KSP payments or if they were terminated and I do not agree with the termination?**

If you do not agree with an action taken on your KSP payments or eligibility, you have the right to request a state hearing. At the time of any action by ODJFS affecting your KSP payments, you will receive a Prior Notice of Right to State Hearing form (JFS 04065), which includes the instructions, form and process to submit a request for a state hearing. A state hearing lets you or your representative (lawyer, friend or relative) give your reasons against this action. If you receive a state hearing decision in your favor, the action to terminate KSP payments may not be taken and/or your KSP payments may continue. If you receive a state hearing decision that is not in your favor, and it is determined that you received KSP payments to which you were not entitled, you may be required to repay KSP payments or overpayments that you were not eligible to receive. If you would like to request a state hearing, contact the ODJFS Consumer Access Line at 866-635-3748, and follow the instructions for State Hearings, or follow the instructions upon receipt of the JFS 04065 form as referenced above.

Please know that your commitment to providing permanency and stability for your kin is recognized and appreciated. You are an integral part of our community and we are sincerely thankful for the sacrifices you have made to ensure that your kin can experience a familiar and safe home environment.

Thank you,

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
Office of Families and Children

Cc: Caseworker
“Honestly, it [START] was one of the best things to happen to me. At first, I was angry to find out I had a CPS case, but when the counselor at my rehab asked me if I would voluntarily sign up for the START program, and she explained to me what it was, and I was like, "Well, absolutely, anything I can do to make things better." You know what I mean?" “I have my first apartment. I was homeless for about 12 years. So, I have my first apartment away from everybody that I knew, everything.

START Parent
What is Ohio START?

Child Welfare

Family-Centered

Behavioral Health

Transformational

Parent Recovery

Children with Family
The Model

- Early Identification of Families
- Quick Access to SUD Treatment
- Weekly Home Visits
- Shared Decision Making
- Rigorous Evaluation
Children remaining with parents
Reduced child maltreatment
Parental recovery
Permanency for children
Family stability and self sufficiency
Systemic Improvement
Ohio START Team

- Dyad
- Child Welfare Worker
- Family Peer Mentor
- Co-located
- Partnership
- Capped Caseload
BENEFITS OF OHIO START

- Family First Prevention Services
- Best Practice
  - Decrease out of home care
  - Increase sobriety
  - Decrease in repeat maltreatment
- Technical Assistance
- Training
- Coaching and affinity calls
- Funding
- Worker Satisfaction
I feel like START was this big ball rolling along for two years with a diamond in the middle that we kept chiseling away at and we are getting closer to this great thing.

START Supervisor
WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

Ohio START
OH START | Sobriety, Treatment and Reducing Trauma (ohiostart.org)

Kentucky START
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V_hVcfjkkg

Family First Clearinghouse
https://preventionservices.abtsites.com/programs/236/show
Ohio START Video

https://youtu.be/p9gO4NMQIAo
COHORT 5- TIMELINE

19 Nov.
Application Released

7 Dec.
Informational Webinar

25 Jan.
Cohort 5 participants Announced.

1 Dec.
Informational Webinar

14 Jan.
Applications Due
QUESTIONS
Fawn Gadel, JD
Director of Ohio START
Fawn@pcsao.org
614-224-5802