

Office of Families and Children  
Webinar Cancelled due to Technical Difficulties  
December 15, 2020  
PCSA and IV-E Courts (10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)  
Private Agencies (11:45 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.)

**Webinar Overview, Jeffery Van Deusen**

Good morning. Thank you for joining this month's call.

I want to take this opportunity to provide recent leadership updates within the Office of Families and Children (OFC). Effective Monday, December 7th, Gina Speaks-Eshler was permanently named as Assistant Deputy Director. As you know, Gina has been serving in an interim role for this position. The Bureaus of Foster Care Licensing, Child and Adult Protection, and Systems and Practice Advancement report to Gina. Gina brings over 24 years of knowledge and expertise in child protective services.

I also want to welcome Kari Akins to OFC as the other Assistant Deputy Director over the Bureaus of Automated Systems, Special Projects, and Multi-System Support. Kari has over 18 years' experience in the field of child protection in both county and state government. Most recently she was the Policy Manager with the Office of Children Services Transformation.

As a leadership team, we are committed to continuing and further enhancing the great partnership with you and working together on the shared goal of protecting children and strengthening families in Ohio.

As a reminder, if you have questions, please submit in the question box on the right of the screen.

We will answer the questions at the end, however, if we are unable to answer, we will get the answer to you when we send the final talking points and Q/As.

If you need additional clarification, please do not hesitate to reach out to your licensing or technical assistance specialist, or the help desk.

**OFC Updates and Reminders**

**FFPSA Updates, Angela Hughes**

- FFPSA- Prevention Services rules 5101:2-01-01 Definition of terms, 5101:2-36-10 PCSA requirements for responding to family in need of services reports, 5101:2-40-02 Supportive services for prevention of placement, reunification and life skills, 5101:2-40-05 PCSA requirement for providing family first prevention services, have been posted for internal and external clearance comments on 12/9/2020 for 7 days.
- MORRPHs for the Prevention Services tools Have been scheduled to occur in the beginning of January to address the Prevention Services tools and the design of this functionality in the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS). A notice of the upcoming MORRPHs with the registration information was released to PCSAs and IV-E Juvenile Courts on 12/9/20. The MORRPHS will be held on 1/7/21, 1/12/21, and 1/15/21.
- An Accreditation Forum will be held in February or March. Staff are working with representatives from the three accrediting organizations to select a date.
- The next Brown Bag Session has been scheduled for January 15, 2021 from 12-1 pm and will focus on the Nursing and Clinical Support Requirements. More information and an appointment will be released in the near future.
- We are asking for volunteers to assist with development of the session. We are also requesting that agencies share their nursing and clinical support MOUs, contracts or position descriptions with us, so

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we can create a few samples to provide to agencies. All identifying information will be removed. If you are interested in helping to develop the Brown Bag Session or you have samples you are willing to share, please email Gina Velotta at [Gina.Velotta@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Gina.Velotta@jfs.ohio.gov).

- IV-E Policy will have rules in Clearance by the middle of January and are also hoping to have the Agreement between the IV-E Agency and Providers ready for clearance in late January.
- The Residential Treatment Information System has been created for the documentation of discharge plans, aftercare services, and monthly contacts for agencies who have congregate care facilities. The design of the Residential Treatment Information System (RTIS) is more than halfway complete and we need input/feedback from those who will be using the system. If your agency would like to participate in a meeting reviewing the functionality and offering feedback, please email Liz Holzworth at [Elizabeth.Holzworth@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Holzworth@jfs.ohio.gov).
- The Prevention Services pilot will begin 4/1/2021. Counties can still opt in to participate. OFC will be announcing a training schedule at the December 17 kick off meeting.

#### **OCWTP Update, Angela Hughes**

ODJFS announced on November 16th the University of Cincinnati (UC) as the vendor awarded the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program (OCWTP) and Ohio Human Services Training System (OHSTS) contract. The contract with the Institute for Human Services ends on December 31st. The contract with UC was effective December 4th. The office is working tirelessly to ensure a seamless transition in this short period of time. Staff have been meeting with both vendors daily to transition the work, associated accounts, and administrative responsibilities. The office will continue to work closely with UC over the next several months to ensure prioritization of essential program operations. Any questions, please contact your RTC Director/Coordinator.

#### **Ohio START, Angela Hughes**

The Ohio START program is excited to announce plans to add 14 more counties to the program in early 2021. PCSAs interested in joining Ohio START should fill out an application to join the 4th cohort. The application for cohort 4 opened, November 20th. PCSAO sent out the link to the application via its executive listserv and it can be found on the Ohio START website, [www.ohiostart.org](http://www.ohiostart.org). Applications will be due on January 8th and PCSAs will be notified of acceptance by January 15th. If you have any questions, please contact Fawn Gadel at [Fawn@pcsao.org](mailto:Fawn@pcsao.org).

#### **Citizen Review Panel Update, Denielle Rittinger**

Citizen Review Panels are charged with evaluating the impact of child protective services policies and practices upon children and families in the community, providing public outreach and evaluating the extent to which a state is adhering to its CAPTA state plan. This evaluation involves examining policies, practices, and procedures of state child welfare agencies. CRPs then make recommendations via an annual report to the state child welfare agency with the goal of improving the child protection system. Following the submission of these recommendations, the state has six months to respond in writing to the recommendations. The Child Protective Services (CPS) unit, under Denielle Rittinger took over this project two years ago. The CPS unit is now working on the responses for the State Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Report. PCSAs received the Final 2020 Review Panel Annual Report back in September of this year. There are five panels located throughout Ohio each panel selects a specific topic for review each year. This year the five regional panels identified their topics and provided recommendations to ODJFS.

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As we have been working on providing the CRP Panel their responses this year, we have been mindful of the work and recommendations the Children Services Transformation (CST) Advisory Council provided in November, under Governor DeWine's leadership. PCSAs have received these recommendations as well, which focus on innovative strategies to strengthen children services and the foster care system. Both the CRP Panels and the CST Council share similar goals and objectives; working to improve outcomes for the children and families we serve in Ohio. In recognizing this, the CPS team and CST team have been working together to ensure the Children Services Transformation Advisory Council Recommendations and the Citizen Review Panels Recommendations support and mirror one another. The joining and collaborative efforts of these two teams will provide a strong commitment to the success of each moving forward with the outcomes benefitting the future of the populations we serve.

**PL 363, Colleen Tucker**

House Bill 197 signed by Governor DeWine on March 27, 2020 included language to allow extension of foster home recertifications and adoption updates through December 1, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Guidance regarding this flexibility and extension of time is summarized in the previously issued FCASPL 359.

Governor DeWine signed House Bill 404 further extending state licenses and certifications scheduled to expire by April 1, 2021. On December 2, 2020, the Office of Families and Children issued the attached FCASPL 363 to align with House Bill 404, which allows homes to remain certified during this period and extends the deadline to complete all recertification and update requirements until July 1, 2021. The SACWIS team will continue implementing data fixes to extend affected foster care and adoption spans that expire between March 1, 2020 and April 1, 2021.

If you have questions about certification extension, feel free to contact the Office of Families and Children Help Desk at 1-866-886-3537 (option 4) or your Licensing Specialist.

**Updated COVID Guidance, Gina Speaks-Eshler**

On March 16, Director Hall issued the Practice Considerations During COVID-19 memo in an effort to provide counties with suggested guidance for considerations while working through your service delivery plans during the pandemic. Here we are 9 months later, still battling this virus, far longer than any of us had hoped or expected. We have reviewed the memo and while nothing significantly has changed, we are working to send out updated considerations and suggested considerations from things we have all learned. Basic highlights will include:

- Additional guidance specific to APS; generally aligning recommendations with CPS recommendations
- Suggestions for utilizing the "COVID-19 Home Visiting Screening Flowchart" along with weblink to the document
- Considerations for frequency, documentation, and rationale in utilizing virtual face-to-face visitations for all stages of a CPS and APS cases
- Considerations when make visits in alternative care settings

We continue to be impressed with how resilient and innovative your teams have been under these exigent circumstances and encourage you to reach out to your technical assistance or licensing specialist for county specific questions.

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**Federal Parent Locator Services (FPLS)**

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services has purchased access to the Federal Parent Locator Service (FPLS) for Title IV-E Agencies. The FPLS is an assembly of systems operated by the Office of Child Support Enforcement to assist states in locating noncustodial parents, putative fathers, and custodial parents. The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act expanded the information the child support program can share about parents and putative fathers. Through the use of the FPLS, Title IV-E agencies can use the FPLS to locate information on the parents and relatives of children on their children services caseload, as well as former foster care youth who have to be located for the National Youth in Transition Database. For children who are in foster care or receiving in-home services, the FPLS can assist agencies in locating: a person who has, or may have, parental rights to a child and relatives. A webinar is in the process of being posted to the knowledge base to demonstrate how agencies can access the FPLS.

**Equifax E. Port**

Starting at age 14, or before the first SAR for children who come into foster care after age 14, custodial agencies must check each child's credit report one time /year.

- Equifax E port recently completed a platform upgrade.
- Each county and title IVE court user should have received instructions on how to complete the migration.
- There have been several “glitches” during the migration that are causing some users to not be able to sign in after the migration.
- The new link for Equifax E port is <https://cloud.eport.equifax.com/>
- Please reach out to Laurie Valentine at [Laurie.Valentine@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Laurie.Valentine@jfs.ohio.gov) for assistance logging in to the new system.

**Fiscal Updates**

**Child Support Collections, Alicia Allen**

On November 23rd, the SACWIS/SETS Interface went live in SACWIS. Now, for the first time, we are able to accurately calculate the portion of child support collected that should be retained and sent to our federal partners as reimbursement for Title IV-E eligible children placed in reimbursable placement settings. We are also able to accurately calculate the non-federal share owed to our county partners. The first calculated amount will be for the July – September 2020 quarter and will be sent to each IV-E agency from OFC. Information is forthcoming on the amount each agency will be receiving and it is important to note that not all agencies will receive funds. A non-federal share amount will only be calculated for cases where the child support amount collected exceeds the child's cost of care in a reimbursable setting. The non-federal share will be calculated for October 2020 and will also be sent by OFC. Beginning with the November 2020 collections, SACWIS will calculate the non-federal share, and this will be sent to each agency as part of the monthly reimbursement process.

**Communication of Support, Alicia Allen**

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The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services is offering this grant opportunity in coordination with the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Ohio Family and Children First Council (OFCFC) to continue supporting existing and new local community planning and coordinated service delivery efforts.

The opportunity is being offered to help build partnerships that will support local efforts in moving three very important priorities forward. These are:

1. Comprehensive Addiction and Recover (CARA) plans of Safe Care
2. Qualified Residential Treatment Program level of care assessments, and
3. Community Based Aftercare Planning for children discharged from residential treatment settings.

**The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act** of 2016, known as “CARA”, is the first major federal addiction legislation in 40 years, and the most comprehensive effort undertaken to address the opioid epidemic.

The plan of safe care is an arrangement that addresses the:

- Immediate safety of the infant
- Safety and treatment need of the infant
- Health and substance misuse treatment needs of the affected parent
- Treatment needs of all household members having routine caregiving responsibilities for the infant (i.e., father, grandparent, roommate, etc.)

#### **QRTP Level of Care Assessments & After Care Planning**

On February 9, 2018, President Trump signed into law the landmark bipartisan Family First Prevention Services Act, as part of Division E in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (H.R. 1892). Family First includes reforms to help keep children safely with their families and avoid the traumatic experience of entering foster care, emphasizes the importance of children growing up in families and helps ensure children are placed in the least restrictive, most family-like setting appropriate to their special needs when foster care is needed. These reforms include the following for residential facilities:

1. **Level of Care Assessment:** Within 30 days of a child being placed in a QRTP setting, a qualified individual must assess the child’s strengths and needs using an age-appropriate, evidence-based, validated, functional assessment tool to determine if the child’s needs can be met with family members or in a foster family home, or in one of the other approved settings (i.e. facilities for pregnant or parenting youth or independent living facilities) consistent with the short- and long-term goals of the child and their permanency plan. H
2. **After Care Planning:** Provides discharge planning and family-based aftercare supports for at least 6 months post discharge.

This grant has been created to:

- A. Establish and create community networks and infrastructures to provide comprehensive community services.

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- B. Develop a Sustainability Plan.
- C. Plan, provide and pilot specific practices and services to inform future funding and regulation and to meet state and federal requirements

The grant provides two funding opportunities:

**Prong 1:** Partnering Family and Children First Councils (FCFC) and Public Children Service Agencies (PCSA) can apply for **\$10,000 in planning funds** to establish and determine sustainable support for FCFC councils and community networks to provide comprehensive community services. This includes the **Identification of and commitment from community partners** such as birthing hospitals, PCSA, Departments of Job and Family Services, Behavioral and mental health services, ADAMH Boards to name a few.

Prong 1 also includes the **Development of a Sustainability Plan**. This plan will include how emergency situations will be handled, what services are provided and by whom, if a service is not available locally, how will transportation be provided, and so on.

**Prong 2** – Applying entities must explain how they will provide targeted support to plan, provide and pilot specific practices and services to inform future funding and regulation and to meet state and federal requirements) in the following areas:

- CARA Plans of Safe Care: how will the community of support network participate and ensure plans of safe care?
- QRTP Level of Care Assessments: how will the community ensure the CANS assessment is conducted for children placed in residential facilities within the federally required 30 days? For this grant we are requiring use of the CANS to evaluate how this model can work in different parts of the state by different partners.
- QRTP After Care Planning - Each child discharged from a residential/congregate setting must have a plan for the 6 months after discharge which includes family-based support. Services will be determined by community partners, Title IV-E eligibility, Medicaid eligibility, etc.

The funding available for Prong 2 is dependent on county size. Small counties may receive \$20,000. Medium \$40,000, and large \$60,000.

Grant applications are open until March 31, 2021. These grants allow counties to apply for funding for CARA Plans of Safe Care, QRTP Level of Care assessments and aftercare planning. The RFGA can be found here: <https://procure.ohio.gov/proc/viewProcOpps.asp?oppID=22018>

The grants will commence upon notification of grant and funding approvals and will end on June 30, 2021.

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

If you have topics for future agenda items you would like to have presented, please let us know. You can email [Gina.Speaks-Eshler2@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Gina.Speaks-Eshler2@jfs.ohio.gov) while Joanna Valentine is out.

### **Links**

- Ohio START | Sobriety, Treatment and Reducing Trauma Program

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- <https://ohiostart.org>
- Director of Ohio START, Fawn Gadel, JD
  - [fawn@pcsao.org](mailto:fawn@pcsao.org)
- FCASPL 359 (COVID-19 Pandemic Guidance)
  - <https://emanuals.jfs.ohio.gov/FamChild/FCASM/FCASPL/FCASPL-359.stm>
- FCASPL 363 (COVID-19 Pandemic Guidance)
  - <https://emanuals.jfs.ohio.gov/FamChild/FCASM/FCASPL/FCASPL-363.stm>
- EQUIFAX Eportcloud
  - <https://cloud.eport.equifax.com/>
- RFGA
  - <https://procure.ohio.gov/proc/viewProcOpps.asp?oppID=22018>
- Location of Touch Point Notes (OFC Bi-Weekly Webinar section)
  - <https://jfs.ohio.gov/ocf/CoronavirusAndChildServices/>

### **Questions and Answers, Jeff**

We want to hear about successful strategies you have implemented to overcome recruitment and retention concerns. Maybe you are doing some creative work engaging families during visits during these unprecedented times. ODJFS wants to highlight your agency or court to share your innovations during these calls.

Links to connect to the Wednesday, January 13, 2021 meetings are below:

#### **PCSA & IV-E Courts 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_MDA2MzNIY2YtOTg1ZC00MDcyLTkwYTQtMTc1MjZkZDNiMGRI%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_MDA2MzNIY2YtOTg1ZC00MDcyLTkwYTQtMTc1MjZkZDNiMGRI%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)

#### **Private Agencies 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.**

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_YTBINjZhMTMtNjllMS00NDdhLWI2YzltMmM2MWI4ZDIIN2M4%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_YTBINjZhMTMtNjllMS00NDdhLWI2YzltMmM2MWI4ZDIIN2M4%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)