

**Office of Families and Children**  
**M.S. Teams Event**  
**January 13, 2021**  
**PCSA and IV-E Courts (10:30 am - 11:30 am)**  
**Private Agencies (11:45 pm - 12:45 pm)**

**Webinar Overview-Jeffery Van Deusen**

Good morning and happy new year. Thank you for joining this month's call.

I hope you are enjoying the new year thus far and I am certainly looking forward to a great 2021 as the child protective services system has a lot of exciting projects moving and being implemented in 2021!

We have mentioned in several of the calls, that we continue to evaluate and assess the communication frequency and methods that is forwarded to you.

Last month I sent an email explaining we will begin using the Families and Children Letter (FCL) and Policy and Guidance Document formats which will be numbered to make information easily accessible for later reference.

Also, in this evaluation, we have decided to combine our future touchpoint calls (Public, Private and IV-E courts) starting February 10, 2021 beginning at 11:30 A.M. At one time, it was necessary to have separate calls because there were specific agenda items; however, over the last few months much of the agenda includes information applicable to both groups. Please hold the time on your calendars and save this [link](#).

Before we get started, as a reminder, if you have questions, please submit in the question box on the right of the screen. We will do our best to answer the questions as they come in, 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**

**SB 310/Kinship Support Payments (KSP)-Christine Dobrovich**

On December 29, 2020, Governor DeWine signed Senate Bill 310 which includes new statutory requirements added to the Ohio Revised Code for establishment of a Kinship Support Program. This new legislation requires the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to provide Kinship Support Payments to eligible kinship caregivers who are caring for children placed in their homes.

**Executive Order 2020-43D**

On the following day, December 30, 2020, Governor DeWine issued Executive Order 2020-43D instructing ODJFS to establish the Kinship Support Program to begin issuing the required payments to eligible kinship caregivers no later than June 1, 2021 and retroactively to the effective date of the legislation, which was December 29, 2020.

**New Rule**

Given the immediacy of the statutory changes and the Executive Order, ODJFS Policy staff worked quickly to develop a new Ohio Administrative Code rule being proposed for implementation of the KSP Program.

- OAC 5101:2-42-18.2 entitled Kinship Support Program

This rule is currently posted to Clearance for 14 days (December 31, 2020 through January 14, 2021). The next steps following Clearance will be Original Filing in mid-January, in anticipation of the rule to become final in April 2021, in advance of the effective date for KSP payments to begin issuance from ODJFS to Kinship caregivers no later than June 1, 2021.

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**Eligibility Requirements for Kinship Support Payments are as follows:**

**Custody**-The child must be in the temporary, permanent, or legal custody of a public children services agency (PCSA) or Title IV-E Agency.

**Placement**-The child must be placed by the custodial agency with an approved Kinship Caregiver (this is using the broad definition of “Kinship”, not only relatives of the child).

**KSP Amount**- \$10.20 per day/per kinship child placed in the home.

**Limited Duration**- Eligible kinship caregivers will receive the KSP payments until the caregiver becomes a certified foster caregiver (at which time the caregiver will begin receiving Foster Care Maintenance payments for the placement), or until the child is no longer in the home, but under any circumstances not longer than the following timeframes:

- If the child was placed in the kinship home on or before December 29, 2020, the kinship caregiver will receive the KSP payments for not longer than nine months (through September 29, 2021).
- If the If the child is placed in the kinship home any day between December 29, 2020 and September 29, 2021, the kinship caregiver will receive the KSP payments for not longer than nine months.
- If the child is placed in the home on or after September 30, 2021, the kinship caregiver will receive the KSP payments for not longer than six months.

**Other Requirements-**

**SACWIS system requirements**

- PCSAs will enter custody and placement info into SACWIS to initiate/terminate Kinship Support payments that will be issued from ODJFS to the kinship caregiver. SACWIS modifications are currently being developed to implement the requirements of KSP.
- PCSAs will provide Kinship Caregivers with information about the KSP.
- Kinship Caregivers who pursue Foster Care certification may be considered, on a case-by-case basis, for waivers of non-safety foster home certification standards, as well as waiver of training hours or topics. Recommending agencies will enter these types of waiver requests in SACWIS and submit to ODJFS for consideration.

**OWF-child only OR KSP**

- Relative Caregivers, who would otherwise be able to receive OWF-child only, will not be able to receive both KSP and OWF-child only. Office of Family Assistance is updating their OWF eligibility rule to reflect this requirement.

**House Bill 8 Procedural Letter - Christine Dobrovich**

**FCASPL 365**-Family, Children, and Adult Services Procedure Letter 365 is in process of publication. This Procedure Letter provides updated guidance regarding new foster caregiver training requirements being developed as a result of passage of House Bill 8.

Just to review, during the November 2020 Monthly Call, we provided an overview of House Bill 8 that had recently passed at that time, and was signed by Governor DeWine on October 20, 2020, with an effective date of January 22, 2021. HB 8 provided removal of the foster caregiver

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training requirements from statute (Ohio Revised Code) to allow for the training requirements to be revised in OAC rules. Implementation of the changes to the foster care training requirements are being approached in 2 phases:

**Phase 1**

- OAC rules being revised with anticipated effective date to be Spring 2021. Completed Clearance on 11/11/2020, BIA submitted to CSIO on 12/23/2020, anticipated Original Filing in late January/early February, and expected to be finalized with an effective date in April 2021.

**Phase 2**

- Work Group to begin early 2021 to determine the contents of 24-hour pre-service, as well as ongoing training requirements topics for family foster homes and specialized foster homes

FCASPL 365 provides updated guidance as we move forward with Phase 1 to bridge the gap between the effective date of the HB 8 changes on January 22, 2020, and the anticipated effective date of amended OAC rules (expected in April 2021). This PL instructs that foster caregiver training requirements can be immediately reduced, as of January 22, 2021, to the hours identified in the amended rules:

Training Type	Current Hours	Proposed Hours
Pre-placement	36	24
Continuing-Family Foster Homes	40	30
Continuing-Specialized Foster Homes	60	45

**QRTP Brown Bag Session-Colleen Tucker**

The Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) Implementation Team is excited to announce the second QRTP session in our brown bag series. The second session will address the Nursing and Clinical Support requirements to be compliant with QRTP standards and will be held from 12:00-1:00pm on Friday, January 15, 2021. Attendees will hear from representatives of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and The Village Network and will have an opportunity to ask questions.

To participate in the webinar, please select the following link to join the webinar:  
[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_MzIyNjk1MDYtZDY4Mi00NzQwLWE0YjMtMTZkZTBiOTk5ZmU2%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2250f8fcc4-94d8-4f07-84eb-36ed57c7c8a2%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%221446516b-3e14-44d4-994c-68307b6b29a3%22%2c%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3atru%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MzIyNjk1MDYtZDY4Mi00NzQwLWE0YjMtMTZkZTBiOTk5ZmU2%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2250f8fcc4-94d8-4f07-84eb-36ed57c7c8a2%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%221446516b-3e14-44d4-994c-68307b6b29a3%22%2c%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3atru%7d)

If you have any questions about this Brown Bag Session, please email Felicia Saunders at [Felicia.Saunders2@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Felicia.Saunders2@jfs.ohio.gov)

**FFPSA-Colleen Tucker**

The Administration for Children and Families provided initial feedback on the IV-E Prevention Services plan. We are reviewing the feedback and will be meeting with ACF this month to discuss and begin making revisions. CPS prevention services rules have been original filed (will need to confirm – Den hoping to file by the end of the week). These rules will be effective April 1, 2021.

MORRPH sessions for the prevention services tools and SACWIS functionality will be held on January 12 and 15. The MORRPH activities are aimed at providing each Public Children Services Agency (PCSA) the opportunity to engage in a collaborative review process and have an opportunity for your input to be heard.

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A kick-off meeting for prevention services pilot counties was held on December 17, 2020. We want to again thank all of the counties that have agreed to participate in the pilot. Training development continues for pilot trainings. The first pilot training will be held on January 27, 2021 and will be recorded for those who cannot attend live. These trainings will be rolled out statewide in the spring.

If you're interested in learning more about the Communities of Support grants, OFC and Ohio Family and Children First are partnering to host a webinar from 2 to 3 p.m. on January 13, 2021. This Teams Live event will answer questions related to the request for grant applications and provide examples of how communities can utilize these funds.

The event will be recorded for those unable to join live.

**OHIO Start - Tequilla Washington (PCSA Only)**

The Children and Family Futures national START model was approved as a promising practice by the IV-E clearinghouse in December. Ohio START is developing a process for certification by Children and Family Futures to move Ohio forward in preparation for implementation of FFPSA.

**COVID Rapid Testing-Gina Speaks-Eshler**

ODJFS has been made aware of an opportunity for rapid antigen testing. The Governor's State Testing Team has recently identified an option for rapid antigen testing that could be a solution for organizations with on-site medical resources. The BD Veritor antigen test is available for purchase in the marketplace with a reliable supply of testing materials.

The State Testing Team can provide education and consultation regarding whether the test can be effectively deployed and how testing can be obtained. Any organization interested in learning more should contact State Testing Team member Phil Ennen at [Philip.ennen@insurance.ohio.gov](mailto:Philip.ennen@insurance.ohio.gov).

**Resource Home Recruitment and Assessment Request for Proposals-Gina Speaks-Eshler**

Several months ago, our office posted an Assessor Registry RFP with the purpose of increasing resource home assessors to conduct home studies. We did not receive any bids at that time and shared with you we would rework this proposal. Through ODJFS's Office of Contracts and Acquisitions, the Office of Families and Children (OFC) will be reposting a Request for Proposals hopefully very soon with the following two components.

First, to support regional and/or state-wide activities to recruit foster and adoptive homes to assist public children service agencies, private child placing agencies, private noncustodial agencies, and Title IV-E Juvenile Courts in finding homes for children living in out of home placements.

The second component is to create a regional pool of certified Tier I and Tier II Assessors to assist in the initiation and completion of foster care and adoption home studies for public children service agencies, private child placing agencies, private noncustodial agencies, and Title IV-E Juvenile Courts.

With the recent passage of Senate Bill 310, the Office of Families and Children recognizes the urgent need to begin licensing kinship homes as foster parents and therefore that work has become one of the main focuses of this RFP. Our focus is on identifying a vendor who can assist with these home studies and

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recruitment. The process of posting the RFP and reviewing the proposals should occur within the next month and a half. Additional information about this work also will be shared as it moves forward.

**RFP Onboarding -Gina Speaks-Eshler**

Onboarding Training for New Children Services Caseworkers and Supervisors coming soon.

If you recall, several months ago we talked about another RFP The Office of Families and Children (OFC) released after we received feedback from counties requesting support with onboarding Children Services new caseworkers and supervisors. In response to this feedback, OFC met with the Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO) and several Public Children Service Agencies (PCSAs) to gain specifics regarding onboarding needs and gather ideas of topic areas for an onboarding training. The Request for Proposals process is now complete, and the “Just in Time” online, on demand contract for creating this onboarding program has been recommended and an award letter should go out by the end of this week. Once that is complete, we will be able to share additional details.

Just as a reminder, this “Just in Time” online, on demand onboarding training will be for use by PCSAs upon hiring new caseworker and supervisor staff. The training will not replace the requirement of caseworkers and supervisors attending CORE, and counties will not be required to implement the onboarding training; however, it will be an available resource for each PCSA’s training process. As this work moves forward, we will keep you informed and hope to have an announcement soon.

**Motivational Interviewing MESA - Gina Speaks-Eshler**

Through our partnership between ODJFS and OMHAS we have another MESA/Motivational Interviewing training series starting soon.

70 of the 150 slots remain available for this virtual training series.

Highlights of the training series include:

January- April

Motivational Engagement Strategies Training: A Primer (Supervisors & Caseworkers, 8 hrs., 8 CE) The Primer courses (recorded) focus on the neurobiology of addiction and trauma, opioid use disorder and other substance use disorders, and evidence-based treatment including medication-assisted treatment (MAT).

Coaching & Virtual Instructor Lead Training (VILT) during Primer & Next Level Training (Supervisors & Caseworkers, 8 CE) Caseworker live interactive coaching focuses on the skills and practices needed to operationalize the information and transform knowledge into practice.

April- May

Motivational Engagement Strategies Training: Next Level (Supervisors & Caseworkers, 4.5 hrs., 4.5 CE) Next Level training (recorded) is an opportunity to take your skills to the next level by practicing and applying what you have learned.

June- August

Supervisor Training (2 hrs.) Supervisors will be trained on skill evaluation practices as well as coaching strategies to use with those they lead.

➤ Link [2021 MESA Training Registration](#)

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**FISCAL UPDATES**

**Funding Certainty Grants - Alicia Allen (PCSA Only)**

The Funding Certainty Grants authorized under the Family First Transition Act are expected to be received from our federal partners sometime this month. The grant is intended to help fill the gap in funding experienced by counties after the title IV-E waiver sunset on 9/30/2019. At that time waiver counties returned to traditional title IV-E maintenance claiming and many counties experienced significant decreases in funding.

The grant funds will be distributed based on each waiver county's proportionate loss in funding as compared to an established baseline. The baseline represents 90% of the capitation amount during the final waiver year. Counties who's traditional IV-E claims exceed the baseline capitation amount will not receive any grant funding. Once received, the funds will be distributed as quickly as possible.

**Title IV-E Master Contract - Alicia Allen**

The title IV-E Master Contract workgroup has been working on updating the contract language to incorporate all of the new QRTP requirements under Family First. The goal is to have the new contract language in place effective July 1, 2021.

**Title IV-E Family First Prevention Services Rules**

The title IV-E Family First Prevention Services rules came out of pre-clearance on 01/02/2021. These new rules are for FF Prevention Services administration, eligibility, reimbursement, and also traditional foster care candidacy will be available for comment in Clearance by mid-January. Our office will be coordinating with the Bureau of County Finance and Technical Assistance to have the IV-E and fiscal rules effective at the same time.

**Supporting Foster Youth & Families through the Pandemic Act (H.R. 7947) (PCSA Only)**

The Consolidated Appropriations Act became law on 12/27/2020. The law provides additional funding for child welfare, especially for older youth and those aging out of foster care during the pandemic. Funding is also being provided for Adult Protection Services.

Funding increases will be provided for Chafee and Education and Training Vouchers (ETV), Title IV-E Family First Prevention Services and Kinship Navigator programs, Title IV-B, and Court Improvement Planning and there is no required match for these funds.

Additional flexibilities have been provided for Chafee funds by removing the requirement that only 30% of the dollars be used toward room and board through 9/30/2021. These funds may also be put toward the additional costs incurred for youth re-entering foster care who had previously aged out of care. In addition, up to \$4,000 is available per year to youth age 15-26 for driving and transportation assistance. ETV amounts are also increased from \$5,000 to \$12,000 through 9/30/2022 and are available to young adults until age 27. There is an exemption from NYTD penalties during the pandemic period.

The Act also provides protections for youth aging out of foster care by not permitting any youth's title IV-E foster care maintenance eligibility to be ended through 10/1/2021. Youth who exited foster care during the pandemic can voluntarily re-enter care and work and education requirements are waived. States are required to provide notice of this change to any youth exiting care and must conduct a public awareness campaign to get the word out.

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Beginning in FFY 2022, the federal grants for the Court Improvement Program will be reduced from three separate grants to one. The new grant will have a 30% cap on collaboration and data sharing and a new formula will be used to calculate the amounts received. There will be a baseline amount of \$255,000 and additional funds will be added based upon statistics related to youth in the state below age 21.

We expect additional announcements from our federal partners very soon. These will include details on grant award amounts as well as guidance on how the funds may be utilized and how the expenditures must be reported.

**In conclusion - Jeffery Van Deusen**

Thank you for your partnership. We will leave the webinar open for a few minutes to continue receiving questions.

Remember, 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.

**Questions and Answers**

1. Will ODJFS be producing a summary of the Kinship Support Program that PCSAs can use to inform kinship caregivers? Agencies are already getting calls from interested kin. **ODJFS issued Families and Children Letter #003 on 12/30/2020. This FCL summarized the KSP and included a brief FAQ. ODJFS is working on developing multiple technical assistance tools, including a Procedure and Policy Guidance Document and an article to be added to the It Takes Heart Website.**

**We are working to get these out to agencies as soon as possible. Please continue to let us know if there is a need for additional documents once these are available.**

2. Can the relative choose to stop OWF in order to receive the Kinship payment? **Yes, the relative can select to receive KSP instead of OWF. However, for OWF, any change in the source of earned and unearned income, including new employment, loss of employment, changing of jobs and initial receipt of unearned income must be reported within 10 calendar days of the date that the change occurs. (OAC rule 5101:1-2-20) Therefore, when the individual begins receiving the Kinship Support Payment, this information will need to be reported to their Ohio Works First (OWF) case worker as an income change and OWF will be discontinued for the child for whom the KSP is being received.**

**Why either or for OWF eligibility for relative kin? The Office of Families and Children is working with the Office of Family Assistance to draft a joint response. This will be answered in future guidance on the OFC website.**

4. Will the kinship support payments be included in SNAP/Medicaid eligibility? **For SNAP, the KSP payment is to be treated the same as a foster care payment; meaning, the assistance group has the option to include or exclude the children for whom the KSP is being receiving in the assistance group. If the children are included in the SNAP assistance group, then the KSP payments for those children are included as well. Conversely, if the children are excluded, then the KSP payments are excluded.**

5. Should an individual become approved as a FC provider with a "waived" requirement status, will that provider be limited to only fostering children placed in kinship -OR- will that individual be able to foster

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other children under a "waived" requirement status? If the home is approved via a waiver, then the home will only be available for the kin placed in that home. However, through an amendment the home can be approved to accept non-kin if all licensing requirements are met. This clarification is being added to 5101:2-42-18.2.

6. Could you repost or resend last month's notes? Thank you. All of the monthly call notes can be found here: <https://jfs.ohio.gov/ocf/CoronavirusAndChildServices/>

7. Sorry if I missed this, did you share the date of the February call? Will it still be on Wednesdays at the same time? Next month's meeting will be held on February 10th starting at 11:30 A.M. We will be looking at future meeting availability and hope to start them earlier. Would 10:30 or 11:00 work better for you? Let us know by contacting [Joanna.Valentine@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Joanna.Valentine@jfs.ohio.gov).

8. Can you please put the new kinship rule in the chat, I was not able to catch the full rule number? OAC 5101:2-42-18.2 Kinship Support Program

9 What are the ORC rule numbers for the kinship as just mentioned?

Senate Bill 310 and Executive Order 2020-43D

New OAC rule being developed is 5101:2-42-18.2

O.R.C statutory changes resulting from SB 310: R.C. 5101.88, 5101.884, 5101.885, 5101.886, 5101.887, 5101.889, 5101.8811, 5103.0329

10. When do you expect post placement visits to have to be in person rather than virtual? We are unable to answer at this time, however we will notify you as soon as we possibly can.

11. If agencies continue to require foster parents to obtain the 36 hours of preservice training, and 40 or 60 hours of ongoing training, will the agencies still be fully reimbursed for the training hours? Or will reimbursement be limited to the new training requirements of 24 preservice hours, and 30 or 45 ongoing training hours? We apologize for the incorrect information provided during the call. Per PL365 issued January 13, 2021, effective January 22<sup>nd</sup>, continuing training during a certification period is being reduced to 30 hours for family foster caregivers and 45 hours for specialized caregivers for training hours received on or after January 22.

12a. To make sure I understand, if a Treatment Foster Family recertifies February 1st, they would only be required to have 45 training hours to be in compliance with the recert. Is that correct? Yes, if the agency opts into only requiring 45 hours of continuing training for recertification.

b. Or as they have a signed ITNA that says 60 hours are they held accountable to 60 hours? It is understood that any additional requirements that are no longer required effective January 22<sup>nd</sup> per HB8 will not be required. It is suggested that agencies notify their homes of the new training hour requirements in writing and put a copy of this notification in the home's record.

c. Do we have to sign new ITNA's for each family? It is understood that any additional requirements that are no longer required effective January 22<sup>nd</sup> per HB8 will not be required. It is suggested that agencies notify their homes of the new training hour requirements in writing and put a copy of this notification in the home's record.

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13. Do we have an anticipated date for the second phase of the training changes? Like when the reimbursements will be reduced? **A statewide workgroup will convene in early spring with plans to have recommendations within a few months. A timeframe will be identified based on these recommendations. As mentioned in Q11, per PL365 issued January 13, 2021, effective January 22<sup>nd</sup>, continuing training during a certification period is being reduced to 30 hours for family foster caregivers and 45 hours for specialized caregivers for training hours received on or after January 22.**

14. Will there be virtual trainings available for assessors soon? **We are unable to answer at this time, however we will notify you as soon as we possibly can.**

15. Were the dates for the different phases of the training shared? My current understanding is that we are able to complete 2 year recert safety audits virtually with the stipulation that we will need to go back and complete them in person at some point. Has there been any discussion about how long we will have to complete them in person? **Flexibility was provided to agencies during the COVID-19 pandemic. PL363 is still effective and an end date has not been issued. Agencies will receive communication prior to the end date.**

16. When will the talking points be sent for this session? **We hope to have the distributed by COB Friday. You are listed as anonymous. If you received this invitation you should get a copy. If it was forwarded to you, please check the website.**

17. Will training plans due date be extended? **FCASPL 362 was issued on October 6, 2020. This extended the training plan due date to April 15, 2021.**

18. Will there be virtual trainings available for assessors soon? **We are unable to answer at this time, however we will notify you as soon as we possibly can.**

**Links:**

- [QRTP - Nursing/Clinical Staff Requirements](#)
- [2021 MESA Training Registration](#)

**Point of Contacts**

Rapid Antigen testing contact State Testing Team contact Phil Ennen at:  
[Philip.Ennen@insurance.ohio.gov](mailto:Philip.Ennen@insurance.ohio.gov).

QRTP - Nursing/Clinical Staff Registration Information  
<mailto:Felicia.Saunders2@jfs.ohio.gov>

**FYI and Suggestions**

FYI- The Brown Paper Bag Test in African-American oral history was a form of racial discrimination practiced within the African-American community in the 20th century, by comparing an individual's skin tone to the color of a brown paper bag allowing only people lighter than the bag to participate. **Thank you for that insight.**

Suggestion to pause and review the Q&As between speakers for questions relevant to the topic just presented. **Thank you.**