

**Office of Families and Children
M.S. Teams Event
February 10, 2020 11:30 A.M.
PCSA, Private Agencies and IV-E Courts**

Welcome-Jeffery Van Deusen

Good morning and thank you for joining this month's call. This is our first combined public/private/IVE court partners call.

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 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.

My name is Jeff Van Deusen, Deputy Director of the Office of Families and Children. It has been a very busy year for our office, in particular busy the last few months with the state budget planning and the implementation of several important rules, projects and initiatives. I often say, and I truly mean it, that it takes all of us working together to move this work forward. There are a lot of exciting things going on in the children services space, and it is exciting to collaborate with you.

Before we jump into the agenda, I want to let you know we are still waiting on additional guidance from the Children's Bureau regarding the stimulus bill regarding youth aging out. I sent initial guidance, however, as we receive additional information, we will send to you.

Staffing Update - Jeffery Van Deusen

I now want to share a leadership update within the Office of Families and Children. I am happy to announce Vince Ciola has been promoted to Chief of the Bureau of Systems and Practice Advancement (BSPA), effective February 14, 2021. As you recall, this position has been vacant since Gina Speaks-Eshler was promoted to one of the Assistant Deputy Directors.

Vince has been serving as the Project Manager of the Quality Improvement Center for Workforce Development (QIC-WD) project, Helping Ohio Parent Effectively (HOPE), and managing the state's continuous quality improvement efforts. Previously, Vince worked in the Child Protective Policy bureau as well as served as a Technical Assistance Specialist within OFC. Prior to joining ODJFS, Vince served as a caseworker and supervisor at Logan County. Vince brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in policy, training, and technical assistance and we are excited to have him join the senior leadership team within OFC.

Bridges Birthday - Sue Williams

On Monday, February 1st, we celebrated Bridges 3rd birthday. Since its launch in 2018, ODJFS and The Child and Family Health Collaborative of Ohio have jointly ensured the safety and stability of more than 2000 young adults who had emancipated from PCSA custody and facilitated their successful transitions to independence through provision of needed services and supports.

National Youth in Transition Database Survey - Angie Hughes

The first half of the National Youth in Transition Database Survey began October 1, 2020 and will conclude on March 31, 2021. During this period, agencies and courts must ensure that young adults

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in the sample population who have a 21st birthday during the survey period complete the NYTD Survey. The sample population is young adults who were in custody and completed the survey at age 17 within the required timeframe and then were randomly selected to be in the sample population. The young adult is still in the sample population even if the young adult did not take the survey at age 19.

The information submitted is essential to help us identify the needs and outcomes of these vulnerable young adults. In addition, Ohio must meet a participation rate of 60% for any young adult not in care in order to avoid a 2.5% financial penalty against the state's federal Chafee allocation. To increase participation, Chafee or TANF IL payments can be given to those who reach their twenty-first birthday within the reporting period and complete the survey. An incentive of \$50.00 to \$100.00 is suggested and use of a check recommended.

The NYTD Statistical report is available in SACWIS to provide each PCSA with a list of young adults to survey. If you have questions regarding the NYTD Statistical Report, please contact Chris Beach at Christopher.Beach@jfs.ohio.gov. If you have policy questions regarding NYTD, please send your inquiries to the Transition Age Youth Programs mailbox at Transition-Youth-Programs@jfs.ohio.gov.

We appreciate your on-going efforts to better the lives of Ohio's foster youth.

FFPSA - Angela Hughes

As we continue working towards implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), the Office of Families and Children (OFC) has created a number of tools for communities to learn more about FFPSA and begin preparing for implementation of Prevention Services.

An FFPSA Overview power point is available on the Family First website. This presentation was created for communities to use and can be shared with stakeholders to provide high level information about FFPSA. OFC also completed FFPSA Overview and Rules and Tools trainings in October 2020. These trainings provided an overview of Family First and draft Prevention Services rules. The training was recorded and is also available on the Family First website.

The FFPSA Frequently Asked Questions document is now available on the Family First website. We are adding to this document and updating the answers regularly. If you receive questions from our stakeholders that would be beneficial to include, please send them to Hannah Knies at hannah.knies@jfs.ohio.gov.

<https://jfs.ohio.gov/ocf/family-first.stm>

The Prevention Services pilot is scheduled to begin on April 1, 2021. Seven counties and one IV-E Court have agreed to participate. Our first pilot training was held on January 27, 2021 and the second training will be held on February 17, 2021. These trainings will cover FFPSA philosophy, important definitions, implementation considerations, rule requirements, and SACWIS screens.

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In addition to the pilot trainings, OFC is also creating resource documents for pilot counties to utilize. These resource documents are intended to help counties think through implementation considerations, explain FFPSA Prevention Services to families, and communicate the FFPSA changes to their community stakeholders. These trainings and resource documents will be made available to all counties after the start of the pilot.

SACWIS has finished design sessions for the first phase of Prevention Services which will be deployed on March 18th. The items in the first phase include: Evidence-based practice services, adding functionality to document which providers are approved to provide which EBP, Prevention Services Case Category and ability for agencies to maintain the case category, updates to Family Assessment for transferring a case to Prevention Services, Family Case Plan updates to incorporate a Prevention Services Plan and document youth who are in custody and parenting, allowing EBP to be associated to a child when the parent is the one receiving the service, Prevention Services Eligibility tool, and updating Activity Logs for Prevention Services cases. The development of these items is currently on track for the scheduled deployment.

The Center of Excellence vendor has been chosen. The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) is notifying the vendor and will begin working on the contract. Once the contract is in place, we will make an announcement. This vendor will be responsible for building and maintaining capacity for Evidence-Based Practices (EBPs), fidelity and evaluation monitoring, processing Transition Act payments to EBP providers, and providing training and technical assistance. We are confident that our work with this vendor will strengthen our Prevention Services work and our cross-system collaboration efforts.

The Title IV-E QRTP rules are in pre-clearance until February 10, 2021. These rules will be effective on October 1, 2021.

The substitute care QRTP rule is in Pre-Clearance until February 10, 2021. That rule will be revised to reference the QRTP assessment rule 5101:2-42-12 and require that QRTP agencies enter relevant information into the Residential Treatment Information System (RTIS) daily. Substitute Care will enter the assessment rule into Pre-Clearance in the next two weeks. Both of these rules will be effective by October 1, 2021.

SACWIS continues working on system changes for QRTP and will deploy around early fall of 2021.

ODJFS will need to submit an amendment to the Title IV-E State Plan to include the QRTP requirements. We have begun work on this plan amendment and are planning to submit to ACF over the summer. The QRTP plan amendment must also be submitted before the Prevention Services plan can be approved. Ohio submitted a waiver for the Qualified Individual requirement on January 14, 2021. The waiver outlined the four options that the FFPSA Leadership Committee voted on to meet the Qualified Individual requirement. More information on the four options can be found in FCL #002. The Children's Bureau has acknowledged receipt of our request but has not provided feedback yet.

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Trauma Certificate - Colleen Tucker

The Ohio Departments of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS), in partnership with the Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association (OCCRRA), recently launched a Trauma Certificate. The Ohio Professional Registry (OPR) allows professionals to document and track their training and skill development in Trauma Competencies as established by ODJFS and OhioMHAS, and is designed to move professionals across three certificate levels from being trauma aware to trauma informed to trauma competent.

As you are aware, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and developmental trauma are highly correlated with an array of issues including serious emotional problems, substance abuse, and an increased likelihood of domestic violence, to name a few. Professionals and caregivers such as caseworkers, foster and kinship caregivers, residential facility staff, childcare employees, and therapists interact daily with children and families who have experienced trauma. Therefore, the two-year Trauma Certificate can improve a professional's response to children and families who have experienced trauma and the impact of the ACEs.

All of the e-based academy trainings pre-populates into OPR are free. Agencies can also upload documentation of other trainings held to receive credit. For agencies working towards QRTP compliance, this Trauma Certification will not replace the need for an agency to either implement a Trauma Model or be approved via the SAMHSA Review Tool. However, the **Trauma Informed (level 2)** and **Trauma Competent (Level 3)** certificate can be implemented instead of non-clinical staff being trained in the QRTP Trauma Competencies [FFPSA-Competencies.stm \(ohio.gov\)](https://ffpsa.com/competencies.htm). If a staff is covered by this certificate, they will have met their trauma training for the 2-year certificate timeframe; instead of, the required annual training.

- Trauma Aware (Level 1) Certification is at least 5 hours of content
- Trauma Informed (Level 2) Certification is at least 10 hours of content
- Trauma Competent (Level 3) Certification is at least 15 hours of content

For more information regarding the certificate, you can visit the OCCRRA website at <https://occrra.org/our-resources-page/>.

Accreditation Forum - Colleen Tucker

The Family First Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) Readiness Workgroup has been diligently working to develop learning opportunities for child-serving residential agencies certified by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS). We will be hosting a third accreditation forum on March 18, 2021 from 9:30am to 4pm Existing and prospective residential agencies will receive information and have an opportunity to answer questions about the accreditation requirements outlined in the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018. Participants will also have an opportunity to attend separate breakout sessions with each of the accrediting bodies and with staff from ODJFS and OhioMHAS, as well as representatives from the QRTP Agency Readiness Workgroup. An invitation will be sent to agencies today.

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RFP Updates - Gina Speaks-Eshler

Onboarding

We are excited to announce 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 sent. Next steps include cementing the contract, and then the work of developing the curriculum can commence. Once the contract has been signed, we will 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.

Resource Home Recruitment and Assessment

This RFP was posted as of yesterday and has two components. The first is 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. A primary goal of this RFP is to help with the certification of kinship caregivers as foster parents, including the cost of completing home studies. Additional information about this work also will be shared as it moves forward.

Ohio Children’s Trust Fund Updates - Lindsay Williams

Ohio’s annual Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) report was submitted to our federal partners on January 29, 2021. The report summarizes OCTF’s programs and activities funded by federal CBCAP dollars in FFY 2020. Federal CBCAP funding is authorized as part of Title II of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), which provides states with funding to support community-based efforts to develop, operate, enhance, and coordinate initiatives and programs to prevent child abuse and neglect.

The OCTF team has also been busy preparing for April Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month. During the month of April OCTF will be promoting the ‘Everyday Ohio Heroes’ Awareness Campaign which emphasizes that all Ohioans have a role to play in preventing child abuse and neglect. The campaign taglines, “Not all heroes wear capes,” and “Be a hero in the eyes of a child – one simple act of encouragement at a time,” are intended to emphasize that one trusted adult supporter can make all the difference in the life of a child.

In recognition of adults throughout Ohio who are “Everyday Heroes,” the OCTF established the Everyday Ohio Hero Awards to honor individuals who dedicate their time, efforts or lives to preventing child abuse and child neglect. An Everyday Ohio Hero is an individual or group who has made a significant impact on child abuse and child neglect prevention through their everyday

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acts. Nominations for OCTF’s Everyday Ohio Heroes Awards are currently open and nominations can be submitted through our website at OCTF.ohio.gov. The deadline for nominations is at 3pm this Friday February 12, 2021.

The April Child Abuse Prevention Month Kick-Off Event will be occurring virtually this year on Thursday April 1st from 10 to 11:30 am. During the event OCTF will honor eight Everyday Ohio Heroes, representing each of Ohio’s eight prevention regions as well as kicking-off our first Prevention Spotlight Presentation which will be presented by Ohio Guidestone. Throughout the month of April, OCTF will be using social media to highlight the work of prevention partners throughout the state. For more information please visit our website at OCTF.ohio.gov or email us at OCTF@OCTF.ohio.gov

FISCAL UPDATES

Stimulus Bill - Heidi Stone

**Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021:
Grants to Enhance Adult Protective Services (APS) to Respond to COVID-19**

1. These grants are intended to enhance, improve, and expand the ability of APS to investigate allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation in the context of COVID-19 and to respond to the needs of adults experiencing abuse, neglect and exploitation.
2. The funding is considered “one-time funding” in that it was made available through emergency legislation to support Americans during the COVID-19 crisis. Because this funding comes through a supplemental funding bill and is not considered a part of the annual federal budget, grantees should have no expectation that there will be additional, similar funds available in the future.
3. It is anticipated that Ohio will receive \$3,319,395.000 (which will be passed directly to the 88 county APS agencies). The project period is 18-months, with an estimated start date of April 1, 2021, and an estimated end date of September 30, 2022. Grant activities must be completed within the project period timeframe (i.e., spend it, incur an expense against it, and/or obligated it).
4. Funds are to be spent in accordance with Elder Justice Act Section 2042(b), and APS programs must expend funds on allowable activities as defined by the Elder Justice Act, state, and local policy. Suggested uses for the funding include -
 - a. Improving and supporting remote work, such as the purchase of communications and technology hardware, software, or infrastructure;
 - b. Costs associated with establishing new or improving existing processes for responding to alleged scams and frauds, especially related to COVID–19 vaccine or cure scams;
 - c. Costs associated with community outreach;
 - d. Costs associated with providing goods and services to APS clients related to COVID–19;
 - e. Acquiring personal protection equipment and supplies;

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- f. Paying for extended hours/overtime for staff, hiring temporary staff, and associated personnel costs;
 - g. Training costs related to COVID-19;
 - h. Funds for travel related to or required by COVID-19.
5. States must apply for the grant by March 3, 2021, and ODJFS/APS is currently pulling together the required documents. ODJFS/APS staff are also developing guidance for county APS agencies regarding how the monies should be spent and how reports are to be made. Once it is clear that Ohio will receive funding, official written guidance will be provided by ODJFS.

Budget - Alicia Allen

Governor DeWine's Budget Recommendation for the 22/23 biennium was presented to the Ohio General Assembly on February 1, 2021. It includes requests for significant investments in children and families, and helps to move the Family First Prevention Services Act work and the recommendations from the Office of Children Services Transformation forward. Some highlights include:

- **Child Welfare Workforce** – identifying new opportunities to engage college students in the protective services system; establishing a statewide onboarding program to ensure consistent integration of new children service staff; creating career pathways for caseworkers to learn and grow in their profession; and providing technological solutions to support caseworkers and better meet the unique needs of children service involved families.
- **Child Welfare Practice** - Creating regional hubs to maximize training, technical assistance and coaching; evaluating screening decision making processes in Ohio to create consistency statewide; and instituting a state-level ombudsman to investigate and resolve complaints made by or on behalf families involved with children services.
- **Foster Care** - Codifying clear sets of rights for foster youth and resource families; strengthening normalcy standards for youth in foster care as well as relationships between birth families and foster parents and, developing trauma-informed training for all involved in the child welfare system
- **Juvenile Justice** - Collaborating with the Supreme Court of Ohio's Advisory Committee on Children and Families to identify strategies to achieve greater accountability and increased communication with guardian ad litem programs to ensure better outcomes for children and families with children services court cases; reviewing the children services legal representation structure throughout the state; and to implementing a more child-centered, family focused alternative to the abuse, neglect, and dependency model currently utilized.
- **Prevention Services** – assisting the state building an evidence-based prevention service array to keep children safe, to help families remain intact, and prevent the entry of children into the foster care system.

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- **Kinship Programming** – providing Kinship Support payments to kin caregivers with foster children placed in their home until such time as the caregiver can become licensed, assisting the state in standing up a federal Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (KGAP), and continuing to support the state’s new Kinship and Adoption Navigator Program.
- **Establishing Statewide Adoption Subsidy Negotiation Standards** – establishing a statewide standardized adoption subsidy negotiation process.
- **Expansion of the Wendy’s Wonderful Kids Program** - supporting additional recruiters who work to find permanent adoptive homes for children.

Additional updates will be forthcoming as the budget process unfolds.

Future Agenda Topics

Thank you all 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.

Save the Dates for future meetings which will begin at 11:00 A.M.:
March 17th, April 14th, May 12th and June 9th

Questions and Answers

1. **When will in person post placement visits resume as a requirement?** Discussions continue but at this time a decision has not been made. It continues to be county and child/case specific. If you have questions or need TA, please reach out to your TAS or Licensing Specialist.
2. **When kinship providers become foster parents, is it just the pre-service training that can be waived, or can on-going training be waived for kinship-to-foster parents as well?** Pre-service and ongoing training can be waived for kinship caregivers that become certified as foster caregivers.
3. **When will adoption assessor post-tier training be available virtually?** Since post-tier training is fairly flexible with just required to be on topics/issues concerning children in placement, there should currently be some of these topics available in virtual format. If you are unable to locate any of the virtual options, please communicate with your OFC contacts.
4. **Regarding Bridges, do we have any data on the number of youth that declined participation in Bridges and/or failed to adhere to their obligations under the requirements of the program?** Good afternoon. We are in the process of conducting more detailed analyses if

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participant outcomes. ODJFS does offer provisional admissions as well as open re-enrollments to former participants.

- 5. Can the requirements for upgrading to treatment level foster parent license be lowered, and can the requirements be broadened in order to increase the number of treatment level foster families available in Ohio?** A group of stakeholders and ODJFS staff are reviewing current training and treatment level foster parent certification requirements. If you have specific suggestions for changes, please share those with your licensing specialist and they will share your feedback with the stakeholder group.
- 6. Can Ohio request budget allocation in the state budget and provide reimbursement for foster parent licensing/recruitment activities in addition to placement reimbursement order to help increase the number of foster families licensed in Ohio?** We are working to allocate licensing support as a result of the increased need for kinship support. We are hoping to have more information soon.
- 7. Which counties are participating in the pilot?** The Seven counties are: Fairfield, Knox, Licking, Lucas, Stark, Trumbull and Butler. IV-E court: Ashtabula
- 8. Where can we find information about the April 1st event? I was not able to write all that down.**
<https://octf.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/octf/what-we-do/National%20Child%20Abuse%20Prevention%20Month/Everyday%20Ohio%20Heroes/Everyday%20Ohio%20Heroes>
- 9. Where can we learn more about the trauma certificate?**
<https://ocerra.org/our-resources-page/>
- 10. Did we skip the 'accreditation forum' section?** Please see the notes on page 4 and contact Colleen if you have any questions.
- 11. Will the APS funding be sent to counties using existing APS funding formula?** Yes, at this time that is how the monies will be distributed to the counties. The monies, although new, are not to supplant current funding, but to supplement and enhance it.
- 12. If a kinship caregiver becomes certified as a foster parent - are they able to take additional placement of children that are not kin without taking ongoing training?** Kinship caregivers that become certified foster caregivers for kin children will not be able to provide placement for other non-kin foster placements without further certification.
- 13. Where can we access the Accessor RFP? I cannot find it on the site you mentioned.**
<https://procure.ohio.gov/proc/index.asp>