

Office of Families and Children
M.S. Teams Event
March 17th, 2020 11:00 A.M.
PCSA, Private Agencies and IV-E Courts

Welcome-Jeffery Van Deusen

It is hard to believe it has been a year now that all state offices and many of you began working remotely. This morning, I was thinking about words and phrases that we have used more over this year than we have ever used before.

For example:

- Pandemic
- Unprecedented
- You are on mute
- Zoom, Teams
- I'm having problems with my internet

I could go on and on. Our new colleagues have included, pets and kiddos. We have tried juggling work, while serving as your child's teacher and taking breaks to answer the door for the Amazon package. However, even with these adjustments, it is important to recognize and pat yourself on the backs that the children services work did not stop during this time. In many ways, it has enhanced as we partnered with you to start the implementation of FFPSA, the CST recommendations, and initiatives to address the workforce.

Thank you for the great work you do every day!

Before moving into bureau updates, I want to touch on a couple items:

- Please note that since we combined the two calls into one, the time of the meetings was revised to 11 am – 12 pm. However, each month, pay close attention to your calendars for any adjustments.
- As many of you know, ODJFS Interim Director, Matt Damschroder began March 8th after Kim Henderson announced that she would be stepping down for a move to North Carolina. She will serve in an advisory capacity until May as she relocates to North Carolina. Although we hate to see her go, we are happy to welcome Director Damschroder to ODJFS and we are excited about his vision and perspective.

Race Equity Report- Jeff Van Deusen

- In August 2020, Governor DeWine released *Ohio's Executive Response: A Plan of Action to Advance Equity*. In this report, Ohio's children services system was highlighted due to the disparity in the experience of African American Children and families who come into contact with children services.
- In response to the Governor's directive to address this issue, ODJFS partnered with The Columbus Foundation and ChiByDesign to begin a human-centered design study. The study utilized in-depth analysis, stakeholder input, insights from those with lived experience, and has really provided a solid starting point for change.
- OFC is 100% committed to addressing the racial injustices that lead to inequities and disproportionality for children and families of color.

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- It is important that we use data to tell stories, measure access and outcomes, create meaningful benchmarks, monitor progress, and promote transparency and accountability.
- An email was sent with the press release and the Race Equity Report which summarizes consistent themes heard from children, parents, and system practitioners.

Additional Masks- Colleen Tucker

- In the fall of 2020, OFC partnered with FEMA, who provided OFC with 156,000 non-medical grade KN95/90 masks to be distributed specifically to foster, adoptive, and kinship families as well as youth and young adults involved with children services across the state. Through this partnership, OFC was able to distribute over 100,000 masks to 100 different agencies.
- We will still have close to 50,000 to distribute. Masks are in boxes of 500 and we can have them shipped from our warehouse directly to your organization. If your agency is still in need of masks or need additional masks, please email Felicia Saunders at Felicia.Saunders2@jfs.ohio.gov. Please include Masks in the subject line of your e-mail request.

Transition Act Funding- Colleen Tucker

- As mentioned in previous monthly calls, FCASPL 357 and 358 released on September 15, 2020 offered financial supports to fund two Transition Act Funding Applications, Incentive and Menu of Services. Since October, ODJFS and OhioMHAS have reviewed.
- Since October, ODJFS and OhioMHAS have reviewed 130 applications; 81 of these have been approved (34 Incentive and 47 Menu of Services)
- As a reminder, agencies must submit applications by March 31st to be considered for transition act funding. As of March 15th, 29 applications were in draft status. If you have questions about your submission or what is expected in a submission, please reach out to your licensing specialist or surveyor with questions.

FFPSA - Angie Hughes

- The FFPSA Prevention Services pilot kicks off on April 1. The third pilot training will be held on March 24 at 1pm. Registration information was emailed to pilot participants last week.
- OFC continues to work with the pilot counties to prepare for implementation, including meeting with each county individually to discuss outstanding questions and provide implementation support.
- OFC will also work with the Center of Excellence (COE) vendor to provide additional resources to pilot counties on evidence-based practices, service availability, and payment structure. We are working with the COE to provide resources documents and presentations on the available EBPs.
- OFC originally submitted the Prevention Services Plan on November 2, 2020. We received feedback from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) on the plan and had a

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call with ACF on January 26, 2021 to discuss their feedback. OFC is finalizing revisions to the Plan based on ACF's feedback and will resubmit soon.

- The third Accreditation Forum will be March 18, 2021 from 9:30-4:00pm. Existing and prospective residential agencies will receive information and have an opportunity to ask questions about the accreditation requirements outlined in the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018. Individuals can register via this link at the bottom of this document.
- OhioMHAS and ODJFS staff have been providing individualized technical assistance to residential agencies to assist them in preparations for QRTP Compliance.
- As of March 5, 2021, 135 Transition Act Applications have been submitted to ODJFS and OhioMHAS. 80 of these have been approved (33 Incentive and 47 Menu of Services) and the other 55 were sent back for revisions.
- Nine Communities of Support applications have been approved and are currently going through our contracting process.
- Applications are due on December 31, 2021 and will be reviewed on a rolling basis.
- Communities can receive up to \$10,000 for Prong 1 and up to \$60,000 for Prong 2 based on county size. This one-time funding can be spent into the next state fiscal year if it is not fully expended in the fiscal year it is awarded.

Center of Excellence- Angie Hughes

- The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services has announced that the Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) Center for Innovative Practices at the Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education, a part of the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences (CIP/Begun/MSASS), has been awarded a two-year, \$3.6 million contract to coordinate a new statewide Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Center of Excellence (COE).
- OhioMHAS partnered with other state agencies, which include Job and Family Services, Medicaid, Youth Services, Developmental Disabilities, Health and Ohio Family and Children First, to develop and issue the RFP.
- Among its primary responsibilities, the COE will be responsible for building and sustaining a standardized assessment process, evaluating the effectiveness of services, and expanding service and care coordination capacity for children with complex behavioral health needs and their families. The Center will also provide orientation, training, coaching, mentoring, and other functions/supports as needed to support Ohio's statewide child caring provider network.
- The new COE will bolster Ohio's ongoing system transformation and improvement efforts, which to date, have included: expanding the behavioral health continuum of care to better serve youth and families; implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act (Family First); and development of OhioRISE.
- The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) is dedicating up to \$10 million in Family First Transition Act funds to build capacity and provide evidence-based

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prevention services to alleviate the need to place children in foster care and support children and families in community-based settings.

HB8 Update-Christine Dobrovich

The House Bill 8 workgroup is meeting every other week to determine hours and topics for both preservice and foster parent ‘core’ training during the first certification span. Preservice topics and hours have been reviewed and the group is now concentrating on the foster parent core series and strengthening the Individualized Training Needs Assessment, or ITNA.

Adoption Rules Webinar - Christine Dobrovich

- OFC adoption policy staff will host an Adoption Rules Update webinar from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 24, 2021. The adoption rules updates include 7 rules from 5101:2-48 that were effective 2/1 and 10 rules from that chapter that were effective 3/1.
- Attendees will have an opportunity to hear about Ohio’s revised adoption rules, as well as ask questions.
- A recording will be made available for those unable to join on March 24th.
- The link to the registration form is listed at the bottom of this document.

Ohio Children’s Trust Fund Updates - Lindsay Williams

The Ohio Children’s Trust Fund (OCTF) team has been busy preparing for April Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month. During the month of April, the 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.

The April Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month Kick-Off Event will be occurring virtually this year on Thursday April 1st from 10 to 11:30 am. During the event, the 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 OhioGuidestone. Throughout the month of April, the OCTF will be using social media to highlight the work of prevention partners throughout the state in additional Prevention Spotlight presentations. For more information please visit our website at OCTF.ohio.gov or email us at OCTF@OCTF.ohio.gov.

The OCTF will also be working with Origo Branding Company to secure media and marketing opportunities throughout the state. This will include public service announcements and social media advertisements, as well as earned media opportunities.

FISCAL UPDATES

Communities of Support – Alicia Allen

The one-time **Communities of Support grant opportunity** is still available to assist in collaborative cross system work in three priority areas:

- Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) Plans of Safe Care;

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- Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) level of care assessments, and;
- Community based aftercare planning for children discharged from residential treatment settings.

The opportunity consists of two prongs.

Prong 1 provides up to \$10,000 in planning funds to establish and determine sustainable support for Family and Children First Councils and community networks to provide comprehensive community services. To receive these funds the applying entity must identify and receive a letter of commitment from community partners and develop a sustainability plan.

Prong 2 provides funding dependent upon county size for targeted support to plan, provide and pilot specific practices and services to inform future funding and regulation and to meet state and federal requirements.

Small counties may receive up to \$20,000

Medium counties may receive up to \$40,000

Large counties may receive up to \$60,000

We have received a lot of questions about this opportunity and there is some confusion still out there. The original deadline to apply was March 31, 2021. We did extend the deadline to December 31, 2021. Applications are being processed and awarded as they are received. Early applicants will be able to receive funding in this fiscal year. In the event an agency does not use all of the available funding in the current SFY, they may receive the remainder in the next fiscal year.

Stimulus Bill

Ohio has received an additional \$13.2M in IV-E Chafee funding. The Bill provides additional flexibilities regarding how the funds may be used that are in effect through 9/30/21. The funding may be for several purposes which will be included in the talking points such as to:

- Provide unrestricted one-time or monthly direct financial assistance to youth/young adults to assist them in meeting their needs during the pandemic.
- Provide targeted payments and supports to allow youth/young adults to remain at home during the COVID-19 pandemic and public health emergency, when needed to ensure their health and well-being.

Individuals requiring such assistance may include youth with medical conditions, pregnant or parenting youth, and youth who need to quarantine due to exposure to COVID-19.

- The funding may be used to assist youth in meeting living expenses, including rent, groceries, grocery or meal delivery, and utilities. Such assistance may include helping youth pay back payments and fees and/or paying for expenses for youth/young adults who need to stay home for extended periods of time.

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- Purchase cell phones, tablets, laptops, internet service, cell phone plans or other technological tools for young people.
- Provide respite care services and additional support for parenting or pregnant youth.
- Help pay salaries of agency staff who administer and oversee emergency assistance for youth, including fiscal staff responsible for generating and issuing payments paid for the Chafee program.
- Partner with national and state organizations to assist young adults, including for activities relating to locating youth, outreach, and marketing.
- Hire youth/ young adults with lived experience in child welfare to provide navigation services to fellow youth/young adults. Navigation services help to connect youth to services and support them as they apply for or engage in those services.
- Employ youth/young adults, at the agency level and/or as part of contractor staff, to provide outreach and support to fellow youth and young adults. This could include paid internships for youth/young adults to help prepare them to re-enter the job market.
- Assist youth in paying medical expenses, including COVID testing and treatment, if these expenses are not already covered by other health insurance or Medicaid.
- Purchase or reimburse youth for personal protective equipment (PPE), including cloth masks.
- Provide services and support to combat young peoples' social isolation during the pandemic. This could include sending gift boxes, cooking kits, puzzles, art and hobby supplies, or other interactive items to connect youth/ young adults.
- Provide outreach and offer any needed assistance to youth who experienced foster care after attaining age 14 and were subsequently reunified and to youth who exited foster care to adoption or guardianship after attaining age 16.
- Expand contracts with service providers who are currently working with youth and young adults formerly in foster care to provide services through the agencies to which such youth are already connected (e.g., supportive housing providers and Runway and Homeless Youth (RHY) grantees).
- Establish websites, hotlines, and other mechanisms to track and provide information on assistance requests.
- Agencies may also use this funding to provide up to \$4,000 per year in driving and transportation assistance for youth age 15-26 for the period 10/1/2019 - 9/30/2021. Eligible uses include vehicle insurance costs, driver's education classes and testing fees, practice lessons, practice hours, license fees, roadside assistance, deductible assistance, and assistance in purchasing an automobile.

Stimulus funds may also be used toward traditional Chafee activities through 9/30/2022.

The Stimulus Bill also increased Ohio's Chafee Education and Training Voucher (ETV) allocation by \$1.9M. This funding must also be obligated by 9/30/2021. The per youth amount is raised from \$4,000 to \$12,000

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ETV can be used for expenses youth incur that are not associated with the cost of attendance of the youth/young adult. Examples of these expenses include but are not limited to laptops or other technology necessary for virtual education; earbuds/earphones; desks, chairs and other items needed to create a learning space; supplies such as printer paper and ink; and tools for internet access (such as broadband internet access, cell phone data cards, routers and WIFI extenders).

Federal law allows ETV funding to be used for advanced degrees, as well as qualifying vocational education, and Associate's and Bachelor's degree programs. Therefore, funding may be used to assist young people in attending law school, a Master's Degree, Ph.D., or other doctoral programs.

We are working with our partners in the Bureau of County Finance and Technical Assistance on the coding and the allocation and technical assistance from them is forthcoming.

American Rescue Plan Act

This bill provides additional relief to address the continued impact of COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) on the economy, public health, state and local governments, individuals, and businesses. The Office of Families and Children is currently assessing the fiscal and programmatic impact and additional information will be forthcoming.

Conclusion - Jeff Van Deusen

Thank you, team, for the updates. We understand the calls include a lot of information, however, what is shared on the call will be available in the talking points that will be distributed later this week and on the website. If you have follow up questions, please do not hesitate to reach out as we know it is detailed information being shared.

As I've said in the past, we want to ensure we are getting you the information you need in the right format. Therefore, I would ask for your feedback whether the way we communicate is effective and any future agenda topics you would like us to include.

There have been several questions regarding the communities of support grant. I want to reiterate a couple areas Alicia discussed.

- The intent of the grants is that it is a one-time funding opportunity.
- The language included "renewal", which may have caused confusion thinking the funding could be awarded in each SFY.
- However, the funding is one time, but if all the funds are not utilized in one SFY, the remainder can be transferred in the next SFY
- I also want to let you know I will be sending an email today or tomorrow with the updated Policy and Practice Guidance Document regarding the Appropriations Act.
- The document will include additional updates from the Children's Bureau after they sent the final Program Instructions.

Questions and Answers

- 1) I cannot connect to the adoption webinar registration link registration:
The link can be found below under registration links.

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- 2) What is the process to share our local Child Abuse Awareness Events with OCTF?
Please email us at OCTF.OCTF@jfs.ohio.gov with any local Child Abuse Awareness events you would like OCTF to share on social media.
- 3) Will there be any state guidance/ policy on how to handle the American Rescue Plan individual/stimulus payments for current or former foster youth?
We are still reviewing guidance as an agency and we will get that out as soon as possible.
- 4) Who is the point of contact for the IV-E?
Alicia Allen may be contacted by e-mail at Alicia.Allen@jfs.ohio.gov
- 5) Regarding Family First Prevention Act, did I miss specific dates regarding this? I believe I heard that final revisions were being resubmitted?
We anticipate the plan will be ready for internal review by the end of the week.
- 6) Could you review the details on the end of the KSP program? Timing, other resources of support beyond the kinship per diems?
A **KSP Teams Event** is scheduled for March 29th from 1:30 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. The link to register for that event is below.

Suggested Topics for the next Touchpoint Meeting scheduled on April 14, 2021 at 11:00 A.M.

- Provide an overview of KGAP

Registration Links

Accreditation Forum will be March 18, 2021 from 9:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Accreditation Forum Registration Link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=xPz4UNiUB0-E6zbtV8fIomtRRhQUPtREmUxoMHtrKaNUMEozOVZLQVo2TIkzRUtDSDQxN1dZNIIVGVC4u>

Adoption Rules Update webinar will be March 24, 2021 from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

Adoption Webinar registration:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=xPz4UNiUB0-E6zbtV8fIomtRRhQUPtREmUxoMHtrKaNUURDBaQ1Q4RTdUR1JLVTFNMDIXVzIzWTIzWC4u>

KSP Teams Event will be March 29th from 1:30 P.M - 3:00 PM

Overview of Ohio's New KSP Teams Event: The registration Link is here: [Registration for March 29, 2021 Overview of Ohio's New Kinship Support Program \(office.com\)](#)