Welcome- Jeffery Van Deusen
Good morning and welcome to the April OFC monthly touch point call.

I hope you are having a great week and start to Spring.

Today is Wear Blue Day! As you know, this is the day set aside each year to wear blue in support of child abuse and neglect prevention.

Once again, in partnership with PCSAO, we hope you wear blue today and post photos on social media using the hashtags #EverydayOhioHeroes and #OhioWearsBlue. Please also tag the Ohio Children’s Trust Fund on Twitter @OhioCTF.

If you would like to participate but are not on social media, you can also submit photos for posting to OCTF@octf.ohio.gov.

We received the House Sub Bill on Tuesday and OFC reviewed and provided comment on a few of the areas. Stay tuned for further updates.

As a reminder, if you have questions, please post. We will also send the talking points and answers by the end of the week.

OFC continues to be busy as we implement the various initiatives throughout the office. As we have communicated previously, we continue to work on the implementation of the CST recommendations. This work has been imbedded into the office and assigned to various leads to begin the plans for implementation. We will continue to update you on the progress of each as they become available.

Additionally, we continue to work diligently on the implementation of FFPSA. The team will be discussing more in a moment, but I want to thank the pilot counties again for volunteering for this first phase of implementation. As I’ve mentioned, serving in a pilot for any project can be challenging because you are going into it without some of the details.

I will turn it over to Angie for more details on the great work happening around FFPSA.

FFPSA & COE - Angie Hughes
ODJFS, in partnership with seven counties and one IV-E Court, began piloting prevention services on April 1, 2021. The pilot counties include Butler, Fairfield, Knox, Licking, Lucas, Stark, Trumbull, and Ashtabula’s IV-E Court. The pilot counties will be utilizing the five evidence-based practices services identified in Ohio’s Prevention Services Plan: Multisystemic Therapy, Functional Family Therapy, Ohio START, Healthy Families America, and Parents as Teachers.

The counties will pilot prevention services in children services casework practice from April 1, 2021 through go live on October 1, 2021. Throughout this time, counties will provide feedback on prevention services implementation, system functionality and assessment monitoring tools in their work with families through the prevention services case category. The pilot will inform any modifications needed prior to full, statewide implementation in October.
In preparation for the pilot, OFC held three pilot trainings, individual meetings with pilot counties, and a webinar with the Center of Excellence vendor for pilot counties. Other resources and updates were provided via email. During the pilot, OFC staff will meet with the pilot counties biweekly to hear about their experiences and answer any questions. The OFC team also created resource documents for the pilot counties to utilize and provide feedback on. The feedback shared by pilot counties will allow us to tweak our readiness activities for statewide implementation.

Moving on to QRTP Updates:

ODJFS and OhioMHAS staff, in partnership with The Buckeye Ranch, will be hosting a Lunch and Learn on the QRTP Family Engagement Requirement on April 28 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Information on registration will go out to all agencies later this week. This event will be recorded for those who are unable to attend the live event. As a reminder, all of the recorded QRTP lunch and learns are published on the bottom right of the Ohio Certification and Licensing Management Community User page at Home (force.com) under Training and Technical Assistance Videos.

ODJFS will be conducting an updated QRTP Readiness Survey in May. On May 5th, Residential Agencies will receive an email that contains a link with a survey to complete.

The Trauma Informed Collaborative QRTP Workgroup continues to meet monthly to discuss Trauma Program Applications submitted to the workgroup. So far in 2021, three new programs have been approved and added to the Approved Trauma Program list that can be viewed on the Family First Webpage: https://jfs.ohio.gov/ocf/Family-First.stm

**Expedited Fingerprint Process – Colleen Tucker**
A few years ago, OFC staff worked with the Attorney General’s Office to develop an expedited fingerprint process. This process is still available. Prospective foster or kinship caregivers (or recommending agency staff) can request expedited processing of their criminal checks from the Ohio Attorney General’s Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) by sending an email to FosterCheck@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov. There is not an additional charge for this expedited processing. Please note that though the email address has foster check in it, this is also available when needing to expedite prints for kinship caregivers.

**Mandated Reporting of Animal Abuse –Christine Dobrovich**
On April 9, 2021, OFC issued Policy and Practice Guidance Document #007 which provides guidance and resources related to new legislation concerning mandated reporting of animal abuse by social services professionals. HB 33, which became effective on April 12, 2021, establishes new requirements for social services professionals, including county child protective services and adult protective services employees, to report maltreatment of companion animals to local animal cruelty authorities. PPGD #007 includes a tip sheet for recognizing signs of animal cruelty, examples of the type of information to be included when submitting a report of animal abuse, and a listing of resources for identifying local animal cruelty agencies as well as resource for companion animal care and veterinary assistance for families.

**KSP Update – Letters and Payments Sent – Cathy Ghering**
Kinship Support Program payments, for the December 29, 2020 - March 31, 2021 placement time frame, were created in Ohio SACWIS and sent through fiscal processing on Saturday, April 10th.
Payments may be sent to caregivers through an electronic funds transfer (EFT) or a physical check mailed to their primary address, depending on the payment method selected in Ohio SACWIS. Caregivers will receive the funds relatively quickly if they have requested a payment method of EFT, similar to adoption subsidy and KPIP payments. If the payment method is by check, caregivers will receive the payments in five to seven days depending on mail delivery. If your agency needs assistance with changing the payment method for future payments, please use the steps outlined in the knowledge base article titled, *Adding Payment Information for a Provider*, SACWIS Knowledge Base - *Adding Payment Information for a Provider* (jfskb.com). If additional help is needed to update the records, please reach out to the SACWIS help desk for support.

Our office technical assistance staff is continuing to work with your agency employees to identify pending kinship assessments outstanding for more than 30 days to offer guidance in preparing for the issuance of payments. Just a reminder from previous communication, notifications will be sent the week of April 19 - 23, 2021 to kinship caregivers who are identified in Ohio SACWIS as having a pending kinship assessment which are older than 30 days, explaining the process for ODJFS to issue KSP payments. As many assessments continue to show a pending status within Ohio SACWIS, it is our hope that the communication will encourage cooperation of kinship caregivers with staff conducting the kinship assessments.

An Ohio Benefits communication was issued on Tuesday April 13th to county agencies, identifying action for approximately 1,800 children who will be eligible for KSP that are also in receipt of Ohio Works First (OWF) and/or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. The Ohio Benefits Project Team will be executing EDBC on impacted program blocks through today to terminate with the April benefit. Reports of impacted cases will be sent to the county income maintenance agencies by the end of the week. As children are added to the KSP program, additional reports will be shared with county offices so workers can take appropriate action on program blocks.

**Council on Accreditation – Alicia Allen**

This is a reminder that ODJFS reimburses 50% of the costs public agencies incur for accreditation. The reimbursable costs include accreditation fees, re-accreditation fees, site visit and maintenance fees. Once an agency has incurred the costs, they simply need to submit an invoice to OFC along with back-up documentation of the expenses. This information may be sent to Alicia.Allen@jfs.ohio.gov.

**Title XX County Profiles - Alicia Allen**

Agencies should be preparing for and conducting their public hearings throughout the month of April. The SSBG Title XX Reporting Portal will be available to receive profile submission on May 15, 2021. The public notice and hearing summaries will be due by the end of May and should be submitted to OFC_SSBG_Title_XX_County_Profile_Reports@jfs.ohio.gov, and the County Profiles are due on June 15, 2021.

**Future Agenda Topics**

I just want to thank you all for your partnership and we will leave the webinar open for a few minutes to continue receiving questions.

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, so we can ensure these calls continue to provide the information you most need.
Also, I’m curious to hear your feedback about inviting other agencies like ODH or DODD to share some of their program updates or current initiatives.

Finally, 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. The mailbox set up for this purpose is OFC_Creative_Corner.

Questions and Answers

1) Is the expedited criminal check process for adoptive parents?
   This expedited process is specific to foster and kinship caregivers. However, if there is a need for expedited checks for an adoptive home, a recommending agency can contact BCI to explain the situation and request that these specific checks be expedited.

2) Are we able to have access to the Resource Documents being used by the Pilot counties?
   Following feedback from the pilot counties, the documents will be modified in preparation to share with additional stakeholders.

3) We were told counties were to send letters to the Kinship providers in February with the new rules and choice of becoming a Foster Parent. Can we have access to this letter? How would we know these letters were actually sent to Kinship providers?
   The Sample Kinship Letter and all KSP published documents can be found here: https://jfs.ohio.gov/ocf/kinship_care.stm

4) Are accreditation reimbursements for privates and public agencies or public only?
   Public Agency eligibility for reimbursement is outlined in ORC 5101.141 so this is only available to public agencies. A separate funding opportunity was provided to our private agency partners to assist with costs to assist in preparing for QRTP requirements, including accreditation costs.

5) Could the informational sheet 007 be attached to the minutes? (Re: animal cruelty)
   Yes, we can attach the PPGD #007 when issuing the minutes and Q/A from today’s meeting.

6) When a county does not have a County Humane Officer, to what agency should suspected animal abuse reports go? Dog warden only investigates issues with dogs.
   The Policy and Practice Guidance Document (PPGD) #007 includes a link to Ohio animal cruelty organizations by zip code.

Comments/Feedback

1) Private Agencies really need to be part of the Tiered Foster Care Work Group and all the changes being made as they are serving a large number of the States’ youth.

2) There was a lot of interest in including updates from sister agencies in future monthly meetings.
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
Office of Families and Children

Policy and Practice Guidance Document #007
Mandated Animal Abuse Reporting
April 9, 2021

Background

This Policy and Practice Guidance Document expands upon House Bill 33 signed by Governor DeWine on January 6th, 2021. The bill establishes animal abuse reporting requirements for protective services and social services professionals. This law will become effective April 12, 2021.

Procedure

Social service professionals are required to immediately report maltreatment of a companion animal when that person has knowledge or reasonable cause to suspect that such maltreatment has occurred or is occurring. "Companion animal" means any animal that is kept inside a residential dwelling and any dog or cat regardless of where it is kept, including a pet store. A companion animal does not include livestock or any wild animal.

A report of animal cruelty is to be made to the local animal cruelty reporting agency. When in doubt on where to report, contact local law enforcement or the local County Humane Officer. The following links provide contact information for animal cruelty reporting agencies:


The social services professional is to make a report verbally or in writing to the local animal cruelty reporting agency and provide the following information:

1. Name and contact information as a mandated reporter.
2. A description of the companion animal involved.
3. If known, the name of the companion animal.
4. The date the animal was observed.
5. The address where the companion animal is located.
6. The address and telephone number of the owner, or other person responsible for care, of the companion animal, if known.
7. The nature and extent of the suspected abuse.
8. Any other information which may be useful in establishing the existence of the suspected violation involving a companion animal or the identity of the person causing the violation involving a companion animal.
Attachments

1. Tip sheet regarding recognizing animal cruelty and steps for making an animal cruelty report.
2. Resource directory for animal cruelty reporting, low cost spay/neuter services, pet safe haven locations, and pet food pantries.
3. Emergency vet expense resources.

Resources

National Link Coalition – National coalition addressing the link between animal and human violence.

Ohio Animal Welfare Federation - Home

Ohio Animal Advocates: Ohio's Voice for Animals

Contact

If you have questions, you may contact your Technical Assistance Specialist or the OFC Help Desk at 1-866-886-3537 option 4 or HELP-DESK-OCF@jfs.ohio.gov.
ASSISTING OHIO FAMILIES & THEIR PETS
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OHIOANIMALADVOCATES.ORG

GO TO "STATEWIDE RESOURCES" FROM OUR HOMEPAGE, OR GO TO: OHIOANIMALADVOCATES.ORG/OAA-DEVELOPED-RESOURCES

Informing Ohioans what agencies in their area to report cruelty to.

Animal Cruelty Reporting

Informing Ohioans which clinics in their area offer low-cost spay-neuter services.

Low Cost S/N

Informing Ohioans what organizations, domestic violence and humane shelters in their area provide safe havens for pets exposed to abuse in domestic violence situations.

Safe Havens

Informing Ohio's challenged families what pantries in their area provide free pet food.

Pet Food Pantries

QUESTIONS? (614) 600-2041
Emergency Vet Expense Resources

**Red Rover** - Statewide
redrover.org/relief/urgent-care-grants/

**Honey Ferlin Foundation** - Statewide
Information@HoneyFerlinFoundation.org
honeyferlinfoundation.org
Cases must be referred through the Great Lakes Veterinary Specialists.

**Valley Save-a-Pet** - Statewide
valleysaveapet.org
440-232-9124

**Jake Brady Memorial Fund** - Statewide
myjakebrady.com

**Bummer Fund** - Columbiana, Mahoning, and Trumbull Counties
www.bummerfund.org
bummerfund@bummerfund.org

**Black and Orange Cat Foundation** - Central Ohio, for cats only.
bandocats.org
bandocats@gmail.com

**MedVet Charitable Foundation** - Central Ohio
medvetfoundation.org

Please check each organization's website for full terms and eligibility.

info@ohioanimaladvocates.org