

OFC Bi-Monthly Touchpoint Call

March 23, 2022

Welcome & March is Social Work Month – Jeff Van Deusen

Good morning, welcome to the March Touch Point call.

Before we get started, I want to take time out to recognize the Social Workers that are on the call today, as well as the ones who have been supporting our work daily.

You have faced many challenges over the last couple of years while dealing with COVID and the impact it has had on our families and children. You are the backbone to the work being done with children and families and your work is often overlooked. However, I want to sincerely thank you for all you do.

I hope the new meeting cadence of every other month will continue working for you.

The next meeting is scheduled for **May 18th at 11:00 A.M.** The agenda and a reminder e-mail with the M.S. Teams link will be sent out the week before the next meeting and can also be found on our website under [Upcoming Events](#).

Please, do not hesitate to reach out to any of our staff as needed. We want to make these meetings as meaningful as we can, while being respectful of everyone's busy schedules.

As always, the items discussed or presented today, including the questions and answers will be included in the notes we send out after the event. I encourage you to share the notes with all appropriate staff within your agency to ensure they also receive the information.

As you can see, we have moved these meetings from Microsoft Events to Microsoft Teams Meetings. If you would please mute your microphones unless you are presenting, it would be appreciated.

Foster Care Recruitment & Retention Funding Opportunity-Jeff Van Deusen

Before I turn this over to our presenters, I wanted to provide a quick update on the Foster Care Recruitment and Retention Funding Opportunity that was announced last month. Agencies that submitted funding applications will be receiving announcements later today.

We were very pleased with the number of applications we received from both the public and private agencies.

However, because of the volume, we had to stick closely to the criteria outlined in the original procedure letter when determining agencies to award.

Certainly, if there was unlimited funding, we would issue funding to all who applied, but to make each award enough to be effective, we had to set criteria.

However, mostly importantly, we are looking forward to seeing the positive results of the innovative ideas for foster care recruitment and retention that will be achieved statewide with this funding.

I will now turn it over to Lindsay Williams, the Executive Director of the Ohio Children's Trust.

April Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month-Lindsay Williams

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and this year the Ohio Children's Trust Fund's (OCTF's) campaign will be centered around Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs). Through this year's campaign the OCTF will highlight the impact that Positive Childhood Experiences have on mitigating the lifelong effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), illustrating how one positive interaction with a trusted adult can have a lasting effect that reaches into adulthood. Individuals throughout our communities can have a positive impact on the life of child. This April we encourage all adults to, ***“Be a Hero in the Eyes of a Child – one simple act of encouragement at a time.”***

The Ohio Children's Trust Fund will be kicking off April Child Abuse Prevention Month with a virtual program on **Thursday, April 7, 2022, beginning at 10:00am**, featuring a live presentation from keynote speaker Mary Kreitz, Trauma Therapist and Training Director at Child and Adolescent Behavior Health. This presentation will focus on how, in a time when so many of us have experienced trauma and ACEs, we can facilitate Positive Childhood Experiences to promote healthy development and resiliency in the face of adversity. During the event we will also be honoring the winners of the Everyday Ohio Heroes Awards and Youth Art Contest. **Click [here](#) to register for this free event on Eventbrite.**

The OCTF will also be hosting a virtual “Lunch and Learn” presentation and discussion with Mary Kreitz **on Thursday April 14th, 2022, from 12 pm to 1 pm**. This event will be held via Zoom and offer a deeper look into Positive Childhood Experiences and demonstrate how, Positive Childhoods lead to Promising Futures. **Click [here](#) to register for this free event on Eventbrite.** In addition to the Lunch and Learn, the OCTF will be developing a resource guide containing ideas for free and inexpensive activities that parents and families can do to create opportunities for Positive Childhood Experiences. This resource guide will be made available in the coming weeks. For more information on April Child Abuse Prevention Month activities, please visit us at OCTF.Ohio.gov .

Best Practice Incentives-Vince Ciola:

We are nearing the first award period of the Best Practices Incentives. As a reminder, The Best Practice funds incentivize two measures fundamental to Children Services mission:

- Timely Assessments/Investigations
- A composite visitation score of all required face-to-face visits with children and parents

There are two Children Services Best Practice Incentive Program Categories: **Most Improved** and those **Achieving 95% Compliance**.

The first measurement period for Achieving 95% in these measures will conclude on March 31, 2022. The deadline for entering data to be counted towards these awards is April 30, 2022. The chart below provides a quick reference for important Best Practice Incentive dates.

Fiscal Year	Measure	Measurement Period	Deadline for Data Entry	Payment Being Made
2022	Achieving 95% Compliance: Timely Investigations	October 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022	April 30, 2022	May 2022
2022	Achieving 95% Compliance: Visitation	October 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022	April 30, 2022	May 2022

Thank you for all the great work that’s been done as we strive to meet these measures. There have been a lot of great outcomes demonstrated.

FMAP Rate-Alicia Allen:

The Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAPs) are used in determining the amount of federal matching funds for state expenditures for assistance payments for certain social services (including title IV-E) and state medical programs. This rate was increased by 6.2% and the increase was to be in effect through the last day of the quarter in which the Public Health Emergency was declared to have ended. The Public Health Emergency was last extended on January 16, 2022, for a 90-day period through April 16, 2022. If the emergency is not extended again, the enhanced FMAP rate will expire effective June 30th, 2022. At that time the FMAP rate would be reduced from 70.30% to 64.10%. If the emergency period is extended again for an additional 90-day period, the next date the enhanced FMAP rate could end would be September 30, 2022. The new FMAP for FFY23 has been calculated and effective October 1, 2022, will be 63.58%

Maintenance Payments:

While we are on the topic of federal participation, it was recently brought to our attention that at least one foster care network was withholding a portion of the contracted foster care maintenance payment from the foster caregiver’s per diem amount. We would like to take this opportunity to convey that it is a federal requirement that the entire contracted amount for the maintenance portion of the daily per diem be passed along to the foster family. We respectfully request that when our county partners are contracting for purchased foster care that this be reiterated. Should there be any questions or additional clarifications needed, please feel free to reach out to me at Alicia.Allen@jfs.ohio.gov

Title IV-E Training

Our title IV-E policy folks have been working on creating some new training that may be accessed at any time. The training sessions will cover IV-E Foster Care Maintenance Eligibility in Part One and Reimbursability in Part Two. The Eligibility Part One training was posted to the Knowledge Base this past Friday. A PowerPoint will also be added to the Knowledge Base article entitled [Determining Title IV-E Eligibility](#) The link for the training will be included with the talking points <https://youtu.be/QboWuFIy-BY> and is entitled, “Title IV-E FCM Foster Care Maintenance Policy and SACWIS Training - March 2022.”

Title XX Plan Submissions

OFC sent a communication out to our agency partners in February which included the timelines for Title XX activities. Each agency's Title XX County profile will be due on **June 15, 2022**. The county profile must be submitted to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services through the SSBG Title XX reporting system.

The public notice and hearing process will be the same as in the past. During the month of March or April, agencies should be preparing the public notice and holding the public hearing on the proposed services listed within the agency's Title XX County Profile. Please submit the public notice, list of attendees, and summary of the comments made at the public hearing by **May 31, 2022**.

Please submit all required information to the Office of Families and Children within the timeframes indicated to: [OFC SSBG Title XX County Profile Reports@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:OFC_SSBG_Title_XX_County_Profile_Reports@jfs.ohio.gov)

CarePortal Growth Continues-Katina Bays:

I wanted to take a few minutes today to remind everyone about the continued growth of CarePortal here in Ohio. Created by The Global Orphan Project, the CarePortal technology platform connects families in need with local faith-based organizations who want to help ease some of the stress on child-serving professionals by providing resources to families in the community.

In the summer of 2021, I had the opportunity to present on the August Touchpoint call where we discussed OFC's commitment to expand CarePortal statewide. We also heard from partners from Fairfield and Montgomery counties during that call regarding their experience with CarePortal.

Well, am pleased to update you that since that call, we have expanded CarePortal to an additional 7 counties (which bring us to 10 active counties) and we have several others who are engaged in the enrollment process now. CarePortal has also recruited 117 churches/organizations throughout Ohio to help meet the needs of families, and they have met 83% of all requests entered into the portal. Some of the need requests that have been filled by CarePortal include bedding, appliances, clothing, dentures, coats, car seats, strollers, utility payments, car repair, ballet slippers, alarm clocks, and land line phones, to name a few.

This service is offered at no cost to child-serving partners. OFC remains committed to providing supportive services to children services professionals who are on the front lines working with families every day. In the coming months ahead, as our expansion plans continue, your county or court will be receiving an email correspondence from OFC to begin to discuss how CarePortal can assist you in your day-to-day work.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Katina.Bays@jfs.ohio.gov.

Child and Family Services Review (CFSR)-Angie Hughes:

The Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs) enable the Children's Bureau to:

- Determine states conformity with federal child welfare requirements.
- Learn about the experiences of children, youth, and families receiving child welfare services.
- Assist states in enhancing their capacity to help children and families achieve positive outcomes.

The CFSR is comprised of the following four Stages:

- Statewide Assessment (family & youth voice, stakeholders, courts, agencies)
- On-site Review (Identify sites & method for reviews)
- Child and Family Services Review Final Report
- Program Improvement Plan

Part of the CFSR requires states to look at their AFCARs and NCANDs data to see if they are meeting all National Performance Standards for Permanency and Safety. Two times a year the Children's Bureau provides a score card on how states are doing based on the data submitted to them.

In February 2022 the Children's provided Ohio with information on the **5 Permanency measures and we met all five.**

These include:

- Permanency in 12 months (entries)
- Permanency in 12 months (12-23 months)
- Permanency in 12 months (24+months)
- Reentry in Foster Care
- Placement Stability

Achievement could not have been possible without the joint efforts of public agencies, private agencies, and the courts.

Conclusion: Jeff Van Deusen

As a follow up to Angie's comment about celebration, it is important for Ohio to celebrate the great work we are doing. I speak with many other states and a lot of them are looking to Ohio to see how we are implementing transformation in our state. Give yourselves a pat on the back! Job well done!

I also want to take a moment to discuss workforce. We understand that workforce challenges with both the public and private agencies is a real challenge. Children services has always had workforce challenges, but certainly not like it has been over the last couple of years. Helping to address workforce challenges is a priority for ODJFS and our Director, as well as the Governor. There isn't one method that will solve the challenges, so it is crucial that we all work together to find solutions.

PCSAO recently issued a workforce study conducted by OSU. I encourage you to read the report. The report provides recommendations for both counties and the state for addressing workforce challenges. We have convened an external workgroup of PCSAs to start reviewing the recommendations to continue strategizing solutions. We have also convened an internal workgroup to review those strategies, as well as review the challenges for the private agencies.

We recognize there has been many initiatives and changes to our system over the last two years. Many of you have commented that all of this is needed, but it is difficult to implement when you have workforce challenges. Please know we recognize that issue and are currently in the process of reviewing each of the initiatives to determine if any can be extended to provide some relief. Director Damschroder recently conveyed at the PCSAO Executive Meeting that we cannot cease these initiatives, but we will evaluate how to provide relief.

I want to provide an update on the Ombudsman Office. As you know, Governor DeWine signed into law the creation of the youth and family ombudsman office. The Director's office is actively working to stand up this office, which will need to be in place by the end of May. Be on the lookout for more information.

If you have topics that you would like for us to discuss, please let us know. Or, if you have a best practice that you want to share on one of the calls, we would love to have you present. One topic that wasn't on our agenda, but we have provided updates during PFOF and First Friday is Family First. Family First continues

to move forward and the team continues to work on capacity building and implementing Phase 2 prevention services.

Finally, today is Governor DeWine's State of the State address at noon. This will be the first since 2019 due to the pandemic. If you would like to see his address, you can go to the Ohio Channel.

Thanks everyone and remember the **PCSAO Wear Blue** day is April 13, 2022!

Links, Comments, Questions and Answers

Kristen Wilcox: I had the opportunity work with Mary on the Multi-Disciplinary Team in Stark County. She is amazing! I highly recommend attending!

Thank you, Kristen. We agree she is amazing!

Scott Britton: Thanks for promoting Wear Blue!

You're welcome, Scott.

Jessica Thompson: We have had great experiences with Care Portal, it is a great resource. Is there a list of the counties involved that we could access?

Thanks for sharing, Jessica. The counties that are currently active with CarePortal are: Ashland, Delaware, Fairfield, Hamilton, Knox, Madison, Montgomery, Perry, Union & Warren.

Cassandra Freeland shared the link to the **Report: Solving CPS workforce shortage requires comprehensive, coordinated approach:**

<https://www.pcsao.org/news/152>

Title IV-E FCM Foster Care Maintenance Policy and SACWIS Training - March 2022:

[Link to YouTube Training](#)

Title XX link to submit all required information to the Office of Families and Children within the timeframes indicated: OFC_SSBG_Title_XX_County_Profile_Reports@jfs.ohio.gov



**Department of
Job and Family Services**

Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor
Matt Damschroder, Director

Health & Human Services
Office of Families and Children

Public and Private Agencies Touchpoint Call

March 23, 2022

March is National Professional Social Work Month!
"The Time is Right for Social Work."

Agenda -

- Welcome - Jeff Van Deusen
- Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month - Lindsay Williams
- Best Practice Incentive - Vince Ciola
- Title XX Plan Submissions and FMAP Rate - Alicia Allen
- Care Portal – Katina Bays
- Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) - Angie Hughes

March is National Professional Social Work Month! "The Time is Right for Social Work."

Welcome

Jeff Van Deusen, Deputy Director

April is Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month!

Ohio Children's Trust Fund

Lindsay Williams, Executive Director

April Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month



The virtual kickoff event will be held **April 7th from 10am to noon.**

Our keynote speaker is Mary Kreitz, Trauma Therapist and Training Director at Child and Adolescent Behavior Health

[Register](#) Today!

April Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month

- The OCTF will also be hosting a virtual “Lunch and Learn” presentation and discussion with Mary Kreitz **on Thursday April 14th, 2022 from 12 pm to 1 pm**. This event will be held via Zoom and offer a deeper look into Positive Childhood Experiences and demonstrate how, Positive Childhoods lead to Promising Futures. **Click [here](#) to register for this free event on Eventbrite.**
- Check out this [article](#) for ideas for free and inexpensive activities that parents and families can do to create opportunities for Positive Childhood Experiences. This resource guide will be made available in the coming weeks. For more information on April Child Abuse Prevention Month activities, please visit us at OCTF.Ohio.gov .
- Remember Wear Blue Day is April 13th!

Best Practice Incentives

Vince Ciola, Bureau Chief

Best Practice Incentives

- We are nearing the first award period of the Best Practices Incentives.
- The first measurement period for Achieving 95% in these measures will conclude on March 31, 2022. The deadline for entering data to be counted towards these awards is April 30, 2022.

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Fiscal Updates

Alicia Allen, Bureau Chief

FMAP Rate

Public Health Emergency Increase 6.2% = 70.30%

- Last extended 1/16/2022 through 4/16/2022
 - If no additional extension – end date 6/30/2022 - reverts to 64.10%
 - If additional extension – end date 9/30/22
- New FMAP for FFY 2023 63.58%
- Entire maintenance amount must go to the foster family

Questions

Alicia.Allen@jfs.ohio.gov

Title IV-E Training

- IV-E Foster Care Maintenance Eligibility – Part 1
 - IV-E Foster Care Maintenance Reimbursability – Part 2
 - PPT on SACWIS Knowledge Base- [Determining Title IV-E Eligibility](#)
 - Link to the training- <https://youtu.be/QboWuFly-BY>
- “Title IV-E FCM Foster Care Maintenance Policy and SACWIS Training - March 2022.”

Title XX Profile

Timelines

- Profiles - due 6/15/2022
- Submitted through the SSBG Title XX Reporting System

- Public Notice and Public Hearing – due 5/31/2022
 - Public Notice
 - List of Attendees
 - Summary of Comments

[OFC SSBG Title XX County Profile Reports@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:OFC_SSBG_Title_XX_County_Profile_Reports@jfs.ohio.gov)

CarePortal Expansion Continues

Katina Bays, Project Manager

CarePortal Update

- Recap of the CarePortal Platform
- OFC's Commitment
 - Statewide Expansion
 - Types of Requests
 - No Cost to Child Serving Partners

Questions

KatinaBays@jfs.ohio.gov

Child and Family Service Review Update

Angie Hughes, Bureau Chief

Child and Family Services Review (CFSR)

CFSR Drivers/Purpose:

- Determine states conformity with federal child welfare requirements.
- Learn about the experiences of children, youth, and families receiving child welfare services.
- Assist states in enhancing their capacity to help children and families achieve positive outcomes.

CFSR Process:

- Statewide Assessment (family & youth voice, stakeholders, courts, agencies)
- On-site Review (Identify sites & method for reviews)
- Child and Family Services Review Final Report
- Program Improvement Plan

Child and Family Services Review (CFSR)

- February 2022, Ohio was found to meet each of the **5 Permanency measures**:
 - Permanency in 12 months (entries)
 - Permanency in 12 months (12-23 months)
 - Permanency in 12 months (24+ months)
 - Reentry in Foster Care
 - Placement Stability

Child and Family Services Review (CFSR)

Data Indicator	National Performance Standard	Ohio Observed Performance	Risk Standardized Performance	Results
Permanency in 12 months (entries)	42.7% ▲	45.5% (19A19B)	44.8%	<u>Better</u> than National Performance
Permanency in 12 months (12-23 mths)	45.9% ▲	49.3% (21A21B)	48.1%	<u>Better</u> than National Performance
Permanency in 12 Months (24+ mths)	31.8% ▲	37.5% (21A21B)	31.8%	<u>Met</u> – no different than National Performance
Reentry in Foster Care	8.1% ▼	7.4% (19A19B)	7.9%	<u>Met</u> – no different than National Performance
Placement Stability (moves/1,000 days in care)	4.44 ▼	3.27 (21A21B)	3.32	<u>Better</u> than National Performance

Thank you!

The next meeting will be
Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 11:00 A.M.

[Click here to join the meeting](#)