

Office of Families and Children
Webinar
May 27, 2020
PCSA and IV-E Courts (10:30 am - 11:00 am)
Private Agencies (11:30 am - 12:00 pm)

Webinar Overview-Jeff Van Deusen
(Public and Private)

Good morning. I hope you are doing well and had a great holiday weekend.

My name is Jeff Van Deusen, Assistant Deputy Director in the Office of Families and Children. We hope these updates are useful and we appreciate you participating with us today.

We are happy to have Lakeisha back and I will give her an opportunity to introduce herself.

Hello and welcome. I am Lakeisha Hilton, Assistant Deputy Director in the Office of Families and Children and I am happy to be able to join you today.

We appreciate you joining us today and as a reminder, if you have questions, please submit them 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 specialist, TAS, or help desk.

At this time will have several of our senior managers share updates.

OFC Reminders

ToolKit-Colleen Tucker
(Public and Private)

As each of your organizations have experienced first-hand, the COVID-19 pandemic has presented unique challenges to child and adult protective services staff charged with protecting our most vulnerable citizens and responding to reports of suspected maltreatment. The Office of Families and Children has developed a guide designed to help protective services staff overcome some of these challenges and keep at-risk children and adults safe throughout this emergency.

The 'COVID-19 Child and Adult Protective Services Toolkit,' should feel familiar as a lot of the information, resources, and links included mirror the guidance we have provided you and your agencies over the past few months. This information has been combined into one document for ease of use and hopefully to assist you in finding what you are looking for. The document is divided into 11 subject areas, such as Intake/Assessment, Congregate Care Settings, COVID-19 Result Notification, Adult Protective Services, and Important ODJFS Links. Staff have been working on this toolkit since April, but with competing priorities, were just able to finalize the document late last week.

The link to the tool kit can be found on the OFC Website under [Coronavirus and Children Services](#).

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Virtual Neighborhood Connections Forum-Kari Akins

(Public and Private)

Thank you and good morning everyone. My name is Kari Akins and I am the Policy Manager with the Office of Children Services Transformation.

Our office and Governor DeWine's Office of Children's Initiatives is partnering with Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association and Casey Family Programs to hosting bi-weekly Zoom meetings (1 hour) for any non-profit and community provider organizations to highlight innovative practices and strategies to support children and families during COVID-19.

Our first call was May 12th and we focused on faith-based initiatives. The Director of the Governor's Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives kicked us off and then we heard from CarePortal who presented information on their platform which included their new disaster relief feature.

Our second call was on May 26, 2020, and the primary focus was behavioral health. We had three speakers:

- **Ohio Guidestone:** Assistant Director of Clinical Impact and Innovation, Reinhild Boehme
 - Adaptations to the Pandemic: Making telehealth work in behavioral health.
 - Telehealth specific interventions and strategies
 - Showing empathy, creating connection in telehealth.
- **Integrated Services for Behavioral Health: The Hive program,** Dottie Fromal
 - Brief introduction about The Hive of Nelsonville- a children's drop-in program.
 - Programming and project objectives-How the Hive can be flexible and grow and change with the needs of the children.
 - How the Hive is responding to children's needs during COVID-19: How the Hive is adapting and continuing to engage children.
- **Hopewell Health Centers:** Director of Early Childhood Programs, Erin Lucas
 - Maintaining relationship-based approach to treatment virtually.
 - The power of self-care for providers and families.
 - Tools & strategies to support family social-emotional health during a pandemic.

We have had excellent attendance during the calls and as of yesterday, there are 325 people registered for the calls.

We anticipate the conversations will evolve over time throughout our COVID-19 recovery and our goal is to continue this platform for as long as the participants find it helpful.

The next call is June 9th and our topic area will be Childcare.

We can connect you with the SharePoint site which will house announcements, meeting highlights, and resources provided during these calls. If you need access to the SharePoint site,

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please email us at virtualneighborhoodconnections@ocerra.org. If you wish to register for the bi-weekly calls, once you have connected to the SharePoint site, you may register here:

<https://occranet.sharepoint.com/sites/virtualneighborhoodconnections>

You may also submit written testimony here:

<https://governor.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/governor/priorities/foster-care-forums/testimony/>

Children Services Transformation Advisory Council Updates: Kari Akins
(Public and Private)

- As many of you know, Governor DeWine created the council late last year and tasked members with creating recommendations to better the state's children services and foster care system.
- The Children Services Transformation Advisory Council met in person twice before all of us were impacted by COVID-19.
- On May 20th, the council had its first virtual meeting since the onset of COVID-19 to review progress to date and planning for the work moving forward amid the pandemic.
- The council also reviewed initial recommendations for the action areas of Prevention, Practice and Workforce.
- Due to COVID-19, our timeline has shifted a bit because of the intense small group work needed to draft recommendations.
- We have planned multiple small group meetings in the same day, so everyone is participating in each action area.
- Our original goal was to have the final recommendations by May of this year, but we are now looking at the final recommendations coming out in the fall.
- Our timeline includes:
 - June 8th will be our next meeting where we will focus primarily on the Kinship action area.
 - July 27th: Foster Care
 - August 24th: Adoption & Justice System
 - September 21st (if needed)
 - Submit: September 30th?
- (PCSA Call) I want to thank the children services representatives on the Advisory Council:
 - Robin Reese-Lucas County Children Services Director
 - Nicole Caldwell-Guernsey County Children Services Director
 - Liz Merringer-Fairfield County Protective Services Caseworker
- We appreciate your commitment to this work.

Ohio Inspector General (OIG) Audit - Lakeisha Hilton
(Public Agency Specific)

- Ohio Did Not Ensure the Accuracy and Completeness of Psychotropic and Opioid Medication Information Recorded in Its Child Welfare Information System for Children in Foster Care.

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- 70 Kids reviewed, in 31 counties, Resulted in 20 CAPs
- Thank you to the 31 counties who participated. Audits can be complicated – this one has been no different and has been two years in the making.

The OIG had five recommendations:

1. Improve monitoring to ensure that the county agencies maintain the required documentation in the Ohio SACWIS for the medications prescribed for children in its custody;
 2. Continue its efforts to obtain access to Medicaid claim data for children in its custody;
 3. implement procedures for the monitoring of opioid medications prescribed for children in its custody;
 4. Review and update the medication list in the Ohio SACWIS on a regular schedule, at least once a year and as medications are approved or discontinued, to improve the reliability and relevancy of the list; and
 5. Provide training and technical assistance to county agency workers who input medical and medication information into the Ohio SACWIS.
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- After the OIG audit exit conference in September 2019, ODJFS took several steps to address the areas of concern.
 - ODJFS drafted a letter to the agencies that were subjects of the audit to share the results, and began internal meetings and discussions with OFC and the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) staff regarding systems changes, interfaces and record sharing in response to audit, updates to list of psychotropic medications in SACWIS, and the psychotropic medication toolkit.
 - Ohio requested extensions to allow time to adjust to the new way of work and to ensure our county agencies remained focused on child safety. In recognition of this, ODJFS delayed notification of the requirement for agencies to submit their CAP until May 2020. ODJFS agencies that were subject to the audit have until June 19, 2020 to submit their CAP that shall address any deficiencies contained within the child records or their psychotropic medication policies.
 - This Spring, pharmacists from ODM worked with ODJFS to identify medications that should be added or deleted from the list in Ohio SACWIS.
 - ODJFS and ODM have a mutual commitment to solidifying our state and stakeholder practices and policies around information sharing on medications for children in custody. ODJFS will be working with ODM to build on this foundation to support better treatment outcomes for children.

CFSR PIP Extension Request Update – Angie Hughes (Public Agency Specific)

Since the virtual CFSR review in April 2020, ODJFS has had continued conversations with HHS- CB specific to the CFSR PIP extension request related to the on-site case review scheduled to commence June 2020. HHS recognizes concerns of the state, counties, and stakeholders with moving forward.

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In a recent call ODJFS shared some of the barriers that the counties and state are facing as a result of COVID-19 and provided some information to justify delaying the case review. ODJFS shared that an assessment of the counties' capacity to conduct remote reviews and a canvass for peer reviewer availability is needed. Additionally, there are concerns about the availability of case participants in the event that additional information is needed to support ratings in the event that documentation is not available in case records or data system.

HHS-CB has requested feedback from each CFSR county regarding the barriers they are experiencing to conducting the case review due to COVID-19 and their timeframe for moving forward with the CFSR process. Based on this request, the team created a survey and sent it to the counties on May 20th, with a response requested by COB on May 26th.

ODJFS held a call with CFSR counties on May 26th to provide an update and obtain additional information about the specific barriers and proposed plan of actions to support Ohio's request and identify plans to mitigate the identified barriers. HHS- CB has offered additional supports that can be utilized during this negotiation process and to prepare for the case review.

ODJFS is scheduled to meet virtually with the HHS- CB team on May 29th. Survey information from the counties will be compiled and sent to HHS-CB prior to the scheduled meeting time.

Fiscal Updates for Public Agencies

Children's Justice Act (CJA) - Tequilla Washington (Public Agency Specific)

In response to requests for child welfare law and practice training resources, OFC is offering \$10,000 in Children's Justice Act Funding to PCSAs and IV-E Courts. PCSAs and IV-E Courts can use this funding to cover the cost of any or all multiple activities/items provide through the National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC). These items include Child Welfare Law and Practice virtual training, hard copies of the training manual, NACC membership, the NACC virtual conference, and the Child Welfare Law Specialist Certification. While only PCSAs and IV-E courts are eligible to apply, the funds can be used to cover the cost of these activities for PCSA attorneys, prosecutors, Judge, Magistrates, CASA/GAL, and additional non-attorney staff if funding permits. Request for funds must be emailed to me by June 10th at Tequilla.Washington@jfs.ohio.gov.

FMAP Reminder - Alicia Allen (Public Agency Specific)

As you will recall, our federal partners increased the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) by 6.2% during the COVID-19 crisis period. This increased Ohio's rate from 63.02% to 69.22%.

Reimbursements received for May reflect the increased amounts as well as adjustments for the period retroactive to January 1st. Payment to agencies for the decreasing adoption assistance local share were made this past Friday, May 22nd.

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The increase in the FMAP rate will remain in effect through the last day of the quarter in which the emergency period is ended.

If the crisis period ends before July 31, 2020, the FMAP will revert to the previous rate of 63.02%.

If the crisis period ends September 30, 2020, the FMAP rate will be 63.63% (new rate for FFY22).

If the crisis period extends beyond September 30, 2020, the FMAP rate will be 69.83% until the last day of the quarter in which the crisis is ended.

Future Agenda Items-Jeff Van Deusen

As you recall, we began these calls as a response to COVID-19. Now that we have moved away from some of the immediate COVID-19 topics, we have started to include other OFC updates.

We have received a lot of positive feedback regarding these calls, but we want to hear from you and ask for your suggestions on future topics. What topics do you want included on the agenda to meet your needs?

We will take a moment for you to type in the question box suggestions.

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Q & A with Public Children Service Agencies and IV-E Court

Question 1: Can Alicia repeat the FMAP percentages and dates again please?

Current FMAP rate including the 6.2% increase is 69.22%. The new FMAP rate for FFY22 is 63.63%. If the 6.2% increase in FMAP stays in effect past September 30, 2020 the FMAP will be 69.83%

Question 2: Any update regarding the state approving the Family Preservation Foster Care Model rules? Is implementation date still June 1st?

It is anticipated that the Foster Care Model Standards rules will be final filed on June 5, 2020.

Feedback and Suggestions

- More written links and support information for follow-up please. For example, more information around the training that Tequila is referencing, would be helpful.

Q & A with Private Child Welfare Agencies

Question 1: For QRTP's is the list of trauma informed care models fully approved?

Yes, the Approved Trauma Program List is published on the Family First Page within the OFC Webpage: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/ocf/FFPSA-TraumaProgramIntervention.stm>

Question 2: Please recap your response on virtual training in the minutes.

Exploration of virtual training was a goal prior to the onset of the pandemic, and these current circumstances have accelerated the urgency to provide training resources using methods other than in-person/classroom settings. We have expedited the conversion of standardized training to virtual/online delivery methods (Caseworker CORE, Foster Parent College, etc...), and we are continuing to pursue these alternatives for training delivery. We have received a lot of positive feedback regarding the benefits of online training, and have escalated that feedback throughout the training program partnership to continue to explore options for expansion and delivery of virtual training, but we don't know what that will look like in the long-term. The OCWTP website provides continuing updates on the availability of distance learning resources at: <https://www.ocwtpdistancelearning.net/>

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Question 3: Do you have any safety recommendations for residential care facilities with the anticipated lifting of the governor's orders?

The Child and Adult Protection Services Toolkit includes recommendations for steps to ensure child and staff safety within congregate care sites. Please review the document and if you have any additional suggestions, please reach out to your licensing specialist, with any feedback.

Question 4: In previous webinar Colleen referred to possibility of funds to help offset PPE expenses. Any update on that?

Agency administrators should have received an email from the Ohio Children's Alliance yesterday morning with the subject line of "Please Docusign: ODJFS Funding Form." If your agency administrator did not receive the email, please have your administrator check spam and junk folders. If the email is not located, please email Colleen Tucker at Colleen.Tucker@jfs.ohio.gov.

Question 5: Thank you so much for the flexibility in foster home assessment and completion of foster home certification. Has there been any discussion about end dates for Procedure Letter No. 348 guidance? For example, Skype assessments for home study, non-contact medical statements, GSP online training, extension of foster home recertifications.

We have started discussing transition activities and how to ensure that these meet the needs of youth and families, while also taking into account agency's resources. We are open to agency's feedback as we start to discuss the current flexibility and transition activities.

Question 6: Will there be a summary and description of all the rules that will be changing potentially on June 5, 2020?

Yes, there will be a transmittal letter that accompanies the rule summary.

Question 7: It has been suggested that the permissibility of online training in lieu of in person training is going to be long-term. Do you have any definite information on that?

We don't have long-term online training information at this time; however, we will understand the benefits.

Question 8: Is there a timeline for when agency site visits will resume for the purpose of re-licensing?

ODJFS licensing staff have started discussing transition activities and how to ensure that activities are safe for youth, agency staff and licensing staff. At this time, we have not identified a date when recertification on-site visits will commence, but we will notify agencies as decisions are made.

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Question 9: There are a lot of questions about the model standards and when they will be coming out. Also, a lot of questions about how the changes will be monitored and if there will be a grace period for things such as the new pool requirements and carbon monoxide detectors.

It is anticipated that the Foster Care Model Standards rules will be final filed on June 5, 2020. There will not be a grace period, however, we will be working with agencies during the transition. We recommend if agencies have a specific barrier due to COVID-19, please reach out to the licensing specialist so we are aware, and we will assist with transition activities to meet the needs of the families you are serving and your staff. All feedback is appreciated.

Question 10: We are hearing that the licensing specialists do not have clarity on what they will be looking for in regard to pools, so we are not sure what to tell foster parents to build or modify at this time.

Licensing and policy staff are working together to provide technical assistance to ensure agencies are provided with consistent information regarding the pools and other new items within the Model Standards Rule package.

Question 11: Just a point of clarification, when is it anticipated that agencies will have more specific guidance as to activities with kids?

ODJFS recommends that agencies follow the guidance issued by the Ohio Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. If you have additional questions, please reach out to your licensing specialist.

Feedback and Suggestions

- Frequency of Meetings: Move them to Monthly
- E-mail content along with a robust power-point in place of Webinars
- More written links and support information for follow-up please
- Our agency is licensed in three states, Ohio has provided us with the most comprehensive and supportive guidance during this time. It is appreciated. Thank you.
- I want to thank ODJFS for providing the flexibility in licensing, training, and FH visits.

Suggested Agenda Topics

- Family First Updates

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Closing

We want to close by saying again, that we appreciate your work and the partnership we have, with the counties, courts, PCSAO, The Children's Alliance and the Private Agencies.

It takes all of us working collaboratively together to move this important work forward.

I often say we are all working toward the same goal but may have different roles and responsibilities. None of us could accomplish this large scope of work without collaboration.

Thank you for your time and have a great day!