

**Office of Families and Children**  
**Webinar**  
**June 24, 2020**  
**PCSA and IV-E Courts (10:30 am - 11:00 am)**  
**Private Agencies (11:30 pm - 12:00 pm)**

**Webinar Overview-Lakeisha Hilton, Assistant Deputy Directors**

Good morning. Thank you for joining this week's call.

My name is Lakeisha Hilton and I am one of the Assistant Deputy Directors in the Office of Families and Children, along with my counterpart Jeff Van Deusen. Jeff is attending to other duties so he could not join us today, but he is hoping you all are safe and well. I'll be guiding us through our call today, and you'll also hear from our leadership team about other important updates.

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.

**FFPSA-Prevention Services Implementation Workgroup-Lakeisha Hilton**

OFC finalized the Prevention Services Plan, which was submitted Deputies Planning Group on June 22nd.

Members of the OFC team met with the PCSA representatives to discuss prevention services caseloads in Ohio. Thanks to Patti Jo Burtnett, Julie Gilbert and Lara Laroche for your flexibility and sharing your thoughts and ideas. Our team is pulling data in preparation for additional conversation and dialogue.

Last month, Ohio submitted three applications for the Evidence Building Academy offered by the Administration for Children and Families' Office of Planning, Research & Evaluation. The Academy aims to increase child welfare administrators and their evaluation partners' capacity to do rigorous evaluations that provide critical information on program effectiveness and meet the design standards for child welfare clearinghouses. The field increasingly requires more and better evidence about what works to help children and families. This Academy will help program administrators and evaluators build this critical evidence for child welfare programs and services. Applications were submitted on behalf of the Ohio Kinship and Adoption Navigator Program, the Ohio START Program, and the OFC FFPSA Data Section. All three applications were approved, and the teams will participate in the first session on June 25th.

- OFC has had multiple conversations with COA and CARF regarding specific questions we have received, or they have received from residential agencies.
- OFC provided information about the QRTP Implementation activities during the monthly Ohio Children's Alliance Residential Meeting.
- OCALM Design Sessions continue to support review tools to address QRTP Compliance.

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- SACWIS Design Sessions and development continue to support documentation of QRTP Compliance and Discharge and After-Care Supports.

**Updates**

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- OFC has had multiple conversations with COA and CARF regarding specific questions we have received, or they have received from residential agencies.
- OFC provided information about the QRTP Implementation activities during the monthly Ohio Children's Alliance Residential Meeting.
- OCALM Design Sessions continue to support review tools to address QRTP Compliance.
- SACWIS Design Sessions and development continue to support documentation of QRTP Compliance and Discharge and After-Care Supports.
- The QRTP Rule was sent to the *Common Sense* Initiative office on June 18th. The QRTP Rule will be original filed no later than July 17th.
- The Trauma-informed Application and Application Process was sent to the Implementation Team for feedback on June 15th and feedback was requested to be sent to Jennifer Kobel by COB on June 19th.
- OFC met internally to begin drafting a proposal for the QRTP RFP to assist agencies to meet QRTP compliance requirements.
- The agenda for the ODJFS and OhioMHAS combined licensing meeting has been finalized and will be held on July 14th.

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**Action Items**

- The OFC leadership team will be reaching out to subject matter experts to prioritize and select identified prevention services to fund through the Transition Act Funding. The Executive Committee is scheduled to convene on July 8th to review a proposal to spend the Transition Act dollars. Once approval is granted, more information will be shared with the Prevention Services Implementation and QRTP Workgroups.
- OFC is working with Communications on the first one-pager, which will address the Trauma Informed Programming requirements.
- The Agency Readiness Survey went out to licensing staff and they are actively working to complete these by the June 26th deadline.

**Virtual Neighborhood Connections Forum**

- Thank you and good morning everyone. My name is Kari Akins and I am the Policy Manager with the Office of Children Services Transformation.
- I am providing some quick updates on our Virtual Neighborhood Connections Forums.
- As I mentioned last month, 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 host 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.
- The forums have been very successful. We have over 400 people registered for the series.
- A survey was sent out a month ago to those who are registered.
- We asked if they felt the forums were beneficial and we asked what topic areas they are most interested in.
- 95% of the respondents felt the forums were beneficial.
- The top three areas of interest were:
  - Kinship/Foster Care/Adoption Services- June 23<sup>rd</sup>
    - Fostering Love
    - Adoption Network Cleveland
    - Kinnect
  - Disparities/Race equity/Working with marginalized populations-July 7th
  - Access to Health Services-July 21st
- 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.
- Toward the end of July, we will survey the group again to check in and make sure the forums are still beneficial and if we want to extend them into August and beyond.
- In the minutes for this call, we can add in the link to register for the bi-weekly calls.

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- You can register through the link below: [https://casey.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0sc--hpzIvG9JR1E\\_0tBAeRA5bbIWTWxtS](https://casey.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0sc--hpzIvG9JR1E_0tBAeRA5bbIWTWxtS)
- We have a SharePoint site:  
<https://occranet.sharepoint.com/sites/virtualneighborhoodconnections>
- This SharePoint site which will house announcements, meeting highlights, and resources provided during these calls. If you need access to the SharePoint site, please email us at [virtualneighborhoodconnections@ocorra.org](mailto:virtualneighborhoodconnections@ocorra.org)

**Procedure Letter 348 - Christine Dobrovich**

We are aware that Procedure Letter 348 states that adoptive and foster home spans scheduled to expire in March through June would be extended to September 30, 2020 as a result of Executive Order 2020-02D issued by Governor DeWine on March 9, 2020.

We have received questions from agencies asking what happens to homes scheduled to expire on July 1<sup>st</sup> and after. We are aware of the language in the Procedure Letter and are working to determine how to address homes scheduled to expire in the next few months. We hope to have communication available in the next week.

**ODAPS Enhancements - Christine Dobrovich**  
**(Specific to Public Children Services Agencies)**

On June 12, several enhancements to the Ohio Database for Adult Protective Services (ODAPS) were implemented, including updates to the following functions: referral/intake, case closure validation, assessment, search functionality, allegations and alleged perpetrators. ODJFS received a federal grant in 2018 to enhance the ODAPS user experience and allow Ohio to report more accurate data to the National Maltreatment Reporting System. The enhancements will reduce duplication, improve reporting capability, and allow the public to submit referrals online. All ODAPS users received a user guide to help with the transition, and things seem to be going well so far!

**APS Grant Applications - Christine Dobrovich**  
**(Specific to Public Children Services Agencies)**

The APS section submitted to the Administration for Community Living's (ACL) request for proposals for "Grants to Enhance State Adult Protective Services" demonstration provides states funding to enhance their APS systems statewide, to include innovations and improvements in practice, services, and data collection and reporting. The current grant opportunity requests projects that will maximize services for APS clients impacted by the opioid epidemic. Available funding for this opportunity ranges from a minimum of \$700,000 to a maximum of \$1,000,000 for a 2-year (24 month) budget and project period. Ohio's proposal has objectives that are intended to: 1) improve data collection and quality in the Ohio Database for Adult Protective Services (ODAPS); and, 2) educate county agencies, community members and program stakeholders regarding opiate/substance abuse and how it effects our aging population through ongoing training and access to resources and information such as a one-day conference and a

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toolkit/handbook. Should funding be received, anticipated outcomes include: increased availability of quality, detailed data to support case management activities and access to resources for opiate/substance abuse, program advocacy and NAMRS reporting; better informed community members and stakeholders regarding elder abuse, neglect and exploitation, and how opiate/substance abuse can and has affected our aging population; and expanded coordination and support for elders in need of services.

**Traverse/EDMS - Gina Speaks-Eshler**  
**(Specific to Public Children Services Agencies)**

In response to ongoing feedback, especially as counties have moved to remote work environments during the pandemic, ODJFS recognized the need to support additional training with the Traverse/Electronic Document Management System (EDMS). We have also heard and understand that counties are various different phases of implementation and EDMS utilization and have requested access to additional training and technical assistance. To support these needs, Northwoods, the vendor for the Traverse EDMS, will provide **50 three-hour training sessions** to our public children service agencies which began last Thursday, June 18, 2020 and will go through July 8, 2020. The sessions will train caseworkers, supervisors and other staff on Traverse to assist with performing day to day functions and delivering client services.

Additionally, Northwoods will also provide technical support through a help desk supported by former children services workers through December 31, 2020. Each county has been assigned two sessions. There are also several sessions in July available to all counties in need of alternative dates. Additionally, if sessions are not full, others may attend.

Each County was asked to register within your slotted county session time and the links to register are below and additional sessions are open for anyone in July to attend.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/6368474010051287053>  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/2116409657768299788>

**Future Agenda Topics - Lakeisha Hilton**

During our last call on June 10<sup>th</sup>, we shared we would be going to a monthly format where we'll be discussing other OFC updates. Our future call schedule is below:

Day	Date	PCSA & IV-E Courts	Private Agencies
Wednesday	7/22/2020	10:30 A.M.	11:30 A.M.
Thursday	8/27/2020	10:30 A.M.	11:30 A.M.
Wednesday	9/23/2020	10:30 A.M.	11:30 A.M.
Wednesday	10/21/2020	10:30 A.M.	11:30 A.M.
Tuesday	11/17/2020	10:30 A.M.	11:30 A.M.

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As always, we want to hear from you and ask for your suggestions on future topics. We will take a moment for you to type in the question box suggestions

## **Questions and Answers**

**Q1. Can you share the status of the CFSR requested delay?**

*Answer:* After several conversations with our federal partners at the Children's Bureau negotiating our request for a 12-month delay and surveying our CFSR participating counties, per the Children's Bureau, case reviews for the CFSR PIP must begin in October 2020. We have begun working with our CFSR counties that are scheduled to begin reviews to coordinate schedules and provide any necessary assistance.

**Q2. Could that website be given on the Q&A document?**

*Answer:* [virtualneighborhoodconnections@ocrra.org](mailto:virtualneighborhoodconnections@ocrra.org)

**Q3. As a private agency, our foster parents have expressed that they are unable to enroll in online trainings through the RTC. It appears they need to enroll through etrack, which they don't have. How is this to be accomplished?**

*Answer:* Foster care pre-service training through the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program (OCWTP) is limited to public agencies due to the funding stream being for public agencies. Foster Parent College was providing increased access and possibly free access (which might have been for a limited time) early at the onset of the pandemic. However, OCWTP has entered into an agreement to provide access to Foster Parent College to public agency foster providers. Private agencies can pursue a similar agreement with Foster Parent College, or other similar resources.

**Q4. Is it wise to allow overnights for placements with family during this pandemic right now?**

*Answer:* Ohio encourages agencies to assess whether overnight visits with families can be done safely following CDC and Department of Health safety measures. Visits are an important part of reunification and ensuring youth continue to develop and maintain permanent connections while in care. We recommend agencies review the Child and Adult Protective Service Toolkit <https://jfs.ohio.gov/ocf/COVID-19-ChildAdultProtectiveServicesToolkit.stm> for suggestions on questions to ask all individuals interacting with youth, such as do you have symptoms, have you been exposed to someone who has tested positive or is showing symptoms, and have you been tested for COVID-19. If it is determined that in-person visits are not safe at this time, then agencies should be working with families to provide alternative method of communication between youth and family.

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**Q5. If the "free" foster parent college could be clarified through the Q&A that would be appreciated. At this time our prospective applicants are paying out of pocket and we as an agency are reimbursing them. Was not aware that PNAs would be eligible to receive an option to offer "free" training at the foster parent college.**

*Answer:* Foster Parent College was providing increased access and possibly free access (which might have been for a limited time) early at the onset of the pandemic. Since that time, the OCWTP has entered into a paid agreement to provide access to Foster Parent College to public agency foster providers at no cost, which is “free” for public agency foster providers. Foster care pre-service training through the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program (OCWTP) is limited to public agencies due to the funding stream being for public agencies. Private agencies can pursue a similar agreement with Foster Parent College, or other similar resources

**Comments from Participants:**

In response to OCWTP offering some trainings that are online that are not Foster Parent College trainings. We have a contract with RTC to do our Pre-Service and ongoing training. The statement confused me, thank you for clarifying.