Welcome-Jeffery Van Deusen, Deputy Director

As a reminder, if you have questions during the call today, feel free to include them in the question section on the screen.

The items discussed or presented today, including the questions and answers will be included in the notes we send out later this week.

I encourage you to share the notes with all appropriate staff within your agency to ensure they also receive the information.

As you may have seen, September has been recognized as Grandparent/Kinship Month by Governor DeWine and Lt. Governor Husted.

- They created a Resolution that also recognizes the work of the grandparents and kinship caregivers and the agencies serving them.
- Follow It Takes Heart on Facebook or Instagram for continued updates on Kinship Care throughout the month!

I’d like to thank Director Damschroder who posted a message via SACWIS giving thanks for the Children Services Workforce and recognizing Children Services Worker appreciation month.

- I too would like to acknowledge our workforce for facing all the challenges of this important work.
- We recognize the many complex challenges with the workforce and we will continue partner with you on ways to help address those challenges.
- However, please know, your work does not go unnoticed and I appreciate all the advocates for children and families in Ohio.

As always, we have a full agenda today. We are happy to have a couple of our colleagues from the Ohio Department of Medicaid with us today.

- We appreciate the partnership we have with our sister agencies, but especially with our Medicaid partners.
- I will allow them to introduce themselves but Marisa Weisel and Kelly Smith will be sharing some updates on OhioRISE.
- This may be repetitive for some of you, but we wanted to ensure the information was shared on the call today for anyone that may have missed it.

OhioRISE- Marisa Weisel, ODM (power point is attached)

- Goals of the OhioRISE Transition Program
  - Prepare for a successful full launch of OhioRISE in July 2022, with the rest of the Next Generation of Managed Care program
    - Promote Governor DeWine’s Children’s Initiative and recognize the Administration’s extensive work to better serve Multi-System Youth
    - Take action to address Ohio children’s urgent behavioral health needs, many of which have been caused or exacerbated by the pandemic
    - Actively address workforce challenges within the behavioral health provider network to ensure new OhioRISE services are accessible to children who will enroll in the program in July 2022
    - Ensure a strong launch of OhioRISE to support the overall successful implementation of the Next Generation of Managed Care
  - Elements of the OhioRISE Transition Program
    - Soft Launch Select Services
    - Workforce & Provider Development
Link to Ohio Medicaid Managed Care: OhioRISE (Resilience through Integrated Systems and Excellence) | Ohio Medicaid Managed Care

FFPSA- Update- Hannah Knies

QRTP Regional Meetings

- In conjunction with PCSAO, OFC hosted five regional meetings around QRTP last week. Thank you to everyone who participated in one of those meetings!
- We had between 35-60 people attend each session, with a wide variety of topics and questions to address, which I’ll go over in the next slide.
- The goal of the regional meetings was to provide a forum for PCSAs to ask any questions related to QRTP implementation ahead of October 1. OFC and PCSAO provided some high-level information to start the conversation, then opened up the rest of the time for questions and discussion.
- Region 1 focused on the CANS assessment and qualified individual requirements, Region 2 focused on the role of the court, Region 3 focused on the CANS assessment and aftercare supports, Region 4 focused on the role of the court and the CANS assessment, and Region 5 focused on the IV-E reimbursement requirements and the qualified individual.
- Each meeting was a robust and unique conversation. There was a lot to cover in 90 minutes, so we will be publishing a compiled list of questions and answers from the meetings within the next week.
- As you can see from the list of topics, many of the questions and answers will focus on the CANS assessment and qualified individual requirements. Please take a look at those when they come out and let us know if you have any additional questions.
- We also heard feedback that it would be helpful to have another round of regional meetings after October 1. Many of the discussions last week focused on the beginning parts of the QRTP requirements, like the CANS assessments and judicial determination. We know that as we get further into implementation, there will be questions around other parts of the process that we will need to address.

QRTP Updates

- Three communications have gone out recently around QRTP to provide Title IV-E agencies with a status update as we approach October 1st.
- The first communication went out on August 2 and provided information on our QRTP readiness work, a reminder that residential needed to submit their documentation by August 20th to ensure our licensing team could review prior to October 1st and information on how the QRTP requirements will impact IV-E reimbursement and a reminder of the CANS training opportunities.
- OFC has been sending out a list of residential agencies that have submitted their documentation to our licensing team for review and where they are in the review process to Title IV-E agencies weekly. This report was created at the request of our Title IV-E
agencies and we continue to modify the report to include information that will be helpful to planning for October 1st.

- The second communication was sent out on August 25 providing an update on where we are after the August 20th deadline. As of September 17, we have 89 agencies that have submitted documentation for review, 67 JFS agencies and 22 OMHAS agencies. We now have 36 QRTP compliant agencies, 25 JFS agencies and 11 OMHAS.
- The third communication was sent on September 9. This was a joint communication from OFC and FCFC regarding the impact of the OhioRISE date change on FCFCs and Title IV-E agencies. The communication also included updated qualified individual language to provide clarity.
- Finally, OFC is excited to announce that we have submitted our Title IV-E State Plan QRTP amendment to the Administration for Children and Families for review. We will continue to provide updates as we hear back from ACF.

**QRTP Next Steps**

- Our team has continued to meet with Title IV-E agencies individually and regionally to answer questions and discuss the QRTP requirements. These meetings also help us understand where there are still questions.
- Our team also continues to provide technical assistance to IV-E agencies around the qualified individual requirement. We realized that some of the language we had been sharing was from our original Level of Care workgroup. Our team has worked to update this language to make it clearer and has been working with counties to identify their qualified individuals as needed.
- As I mentioned, this updated qualified individual language was sent out with a joint communication from OFC and FCFC on September 9th regarding the impact of the OhioRISE date change on FCFCs and Title IV-E agencies.
- As we continue to have agencies determined QRTP compliant, our team has begun pulling data on beds to provide a better understanding of our capacity in QRTP compliant placements. We have begun sharing this data in our weekly reports, with the caveat that this capacity is what the facility is certified to serve, not open beds or IV-E spots.
- We are finalizing our plans for the next round of Transition Act Funding that we have previously discussed with this group. This funding opportunity will be similar to what we released last year.
- Residential agencies that are not yet QRTP compliant can utilize the funds to become QRTP compliant and agencies that are QRTP compliant can use the funds to maintain compliance.
- We know that many of these requirements are new for agencies and want to provide as much support as we can to help them maintain compliance.
- Finally, we know that there are a lot of moving parts around QRTP and we committed to providing ongoing technical assistance. We are planning to host a second round of regional forums and will continue looking for ways to communicate new and updated information as we receive it.
Tiered Treatment Foster Care Update - Christine Dobrovich
We are working to expand the existing model of foster care (family foster homes/treatment foster homes) with the goal of creating a tiered structure of foster care. It would be based upon child characteristics and needs to be aligned with corresponding foster caregiver skills and abilities. This would also include consistency for caregiver training, supports and payment to be incorporated into treatment foster care tiers for consistency in meeting the needs and challenges of children in their care.
Currently we have an internal OFC team working to develop a framework, and our next steps will be reaching out to external stakeholders soon for input and collaboration. The goal is to complete development of this new system of Tiered Treatment Foster Care in October 2022, and we will begin the external stakeholder engagement process during the next month in October 2021. As this work progresses, we will continue to communicate updates in future monthly calls.

Title IV-B Visits – Kristine Monroe
As you are aware, the Administration for Children and Families requires the Office of Families and Children (OFC) to submit data on caseworker visits with children in agency custody each Federal Fiscal Year (FFY), which is October - September.

Since FFY 2015, states have been required to visit 95% of children in custody each month. Ohio has met the 95% goal each year since the requirement was implemented. However, currently Ohio is not meeting the 95% goal for the current FFY.

Several issues are likely impacting the lower-than-expected visitation percentages:

- Face-to-face activity logs are in draft status. These activity logs can be identified by generating the SACWIS administrative report, Case Draft Activity Log report. Please work with staff to update draft activity logs to a completed status.

- Activity logs have not been entered into SACWIS. Please utilize the Comprehensive Visitation Report to identify children in custody who are missing visits, focusing on 10/1/2020-present, and determine if the visits were missed or activity logs have yet to be entered.

September is the final month in the federal fiscal year; therefore, please ensure all children are visited and/or proper documentation is entered intro SACWIS as soon as possible.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) - Lucy Gobble
As Ohio students are returning to school this fall, it is the perfect time to make sure that we are prepared for all the educational needs of our youth. For our youth in foster care, this preparedness ensures continuity of care.
The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was passed in late 2015 and implemented in Ohio in late 2016. ESSA promotes educational stability for youth in foster care to ensure that foster youth have equitable opportunities for academic achievement. ESSA allows a foster youth to maintain in their school of origin, when deemed in the best interest to do so; and transport the child to the school of origin. Should a transfer of school be necessary, ESSA allows for immediate enrollment of the child in the new school without delay. ESSA emphasizes the collaboration and joint decision making between school districts and custodial agencies.

As part of the ESSA provisions, each child welfare agency should have an education point of contact. We are asking each of our Public Children Services Agencies to review the County Child Welfare Point of Contact spreadsheet that can be found on the Office of Families and Children Website under “Educational Stability for Foster Youth.” Each PCSA should make sure that the ESSA contact is current and if a correction needs made, please contact me at Lucy.Gobble@jfs.ohio.gov by October 31, 2021.

OFC: Educational Stability for Foster Youth  https://jfs.ohio.gov/ocf/educational-stability.stm

**Closing- Jeffery Van Deusen**

I want to once again thank our guest speakers from the Ohio Department of Medicaid and our OFC staff for presenting their updates. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Questions and Answers:

**Question 1**
Is it “best practice” to have the CANS assessor be a third Party?
For purposes of QRTP, the CANS assessor (Qualified Individual) requirements are outlined in OAC 5101:2-42-12; however, best practice would be to select a third party not connected to the placing agency, if that resource is available.

**Question 2**
Will a copy of the slides be available?
Yes

**Question 3**
When is the final data pulled to submit to the federal partners?
The final visitation data is due by December 15, 2021. However, we would like all data to be entered by October 1, 2021 if possible.

**Question 4**
Many IV-E Courts use out of state, nationally renowned facilities such as Boys Town, which specialize in delinquency. Some of these providers follow different state requirements and will
not apply for QRTP. Are there exemptions for agencies such as this or will courts lose IV-E funding and access to these facilities.

Ohio recognizes that each state has developed their own process to identify their state’s residential as QRTPs. We are prioritizing reach outs to states that currently have IV-E agency placements to determine their process and communicate what documentation Ohio needs for IV-E purposes. However, Ohio does not have authority to monitor another state’s residential facility so will not be identifying residential facilities as meeting QRTP requirements, if that other state does not identify that they have met these federal IV-E requirements.

Question 5
What is the name of the presenter of Treatment Foster Care Tiers?
Christine Dobrovich, Bureau Chief -Child and Adult Protection Services

Question 6
Best practice is face to face visits, but there are some instances when a virtual visit could be used as we’ve seen successfully implemented during Covid-19. Is there any work being done to continue using telehealth in any child welfare visits similar to mental health telehealth changes?
I have participated in discussions with the Ohio Children’s Alliance recently around this topic. We have reached out to our Federal partners and we are waiting to see if additional guidance will be forthcoming.

Question 7
Do we have any update on COVID-19 safety precautions for child welfare public and private agency staff? Many are having to be quarantined causing staffing issues across the state.
No, there has not been any updated federal guidance issued and as you know the State of Emergency issued by Governor DeWine ended on June 18, 2021. We have reached out to our Federal partners and we are waiting to see if additional guidance will be forthcoming.

Question 8
Will there be flexibility to do virtual visits again soon?
At this time, all face-to-face visitation requirements are in place. As referenced in FCASPL 374, visitation exceptions may be made for those individuals instructed to quarantine due to exposure to, or testing positive for, COVID-19 as verified by documentation. These exceptions will be approved by ODJFS on a case-by-case basis. Please reach out to your Technical Assistance Specialist or Licensing Specialist with questions.

Question 9
Are these meetings monthly and what is the link to the next meeting?
These meetings are monthly with the next one scheduled for October 27th at 11:00 am. The attendee link is below. A reminder with the agenda will be sent out in advance of the meeting, however, you may copy this link and put it on your calendar and share it with the appropriate staff.
Office of Families and Children
M.S. Teams Event
September 22, 2021 11:00 A.M.
PCSA, Private Agencies and IV-E Courts

Attendee Link to the 10/27/21 OFC Touchbase Meeting:
https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MmU4ZDI3MmYtMTdmOC00M2U3LWJlNTYtOGI2YZE5MjU0YmU4%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22%3a%2250f8fccc-94d8-4f07-84eb-36ed57c8a2%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22b1d80b31-feef-4856-a7c8-5d3110ea89ae%22%2c%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3atrue%7d&btype=a&role=a
OhioRISE Transition
Goals of the OhioRISE Transition Program

1. Prepare for a successful full launch of OhioRISE in July 2022, with the rest of the Next Generation of Managed Care program
   - Promote Governor DeWine’s Children’s Initiative and recognize the Administration’s extensive work to better serve Multi-System Youth
   - Take action to address Ohio children’s urgent behavioral health needs, many of which have been caused or exacerbated by the pandemic
   - Actively address workforce challenges within the behavioral health provider network to ensure new OhioRISE services are accessible to children who will enroll in the program in July 2022
   - Ensure a strong launch of OhioRISE to support the overall successful implementation of the Next Generation of Managed Care

2. Support implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), which begins October 1, 2021

3. Recognize and build on the extensive work of the OhioRISE Advisory Council and Workgroups
Elements of the OhioRISE Transition Program

**Soft-Launch Select Services**
- Transition for CANS assessment billing
- Enhance Intensive Home-Based Treatment (IHBT) availability

**Workforce & Provider Development**
- CANS assessor training and certification
- Select and launch CMEs
- Support and expand MRSS providers
- Technical provider trainings

**Youth, Caregiver, & Community Engagement**
- Regional community listening sessions
- Engage and train community partners
- Trainings for youth and caregivers
Transition for CANS Assessment Billing

• Transition period intended to cover medically necessary CANS assessments completed by Medicaid providers prior to implementation of the new CANS code
  » Key to supporting use of CANS assessments for recommending QRTP level of care with FFPSA implementation starting 10/1/21

• Interim billing will leverage existing behavioral health services / codes performed by both paraprofessionals and licensed professionals.
  » ODM will issue written guidance within the next few weeks

• The new CANS encounter code and provider type-specific rates will be implemented in July 2022.
  » New code will only be billable by practitioners that enroll with Medicaid as certified CANS assessors
  » Once the new code goes live, it will be the exclusive code used to bill Medicaid for CANS assessments
Enhancing IHBT Availability

• Implementing the enhanced IHBT team structures and updated rates will help to build capacity and serve more children and youth

• Building capacity for IHBT services supports:
  » Increased access to care for children and youth who will benefit from IHBT
  » Growth of IHBT providers (number of providers, geographic range) prior to the launch of OhioRISE
  » Alignment with FFPSA Phase One Prevention Services: Multi Systemic Therapy (MST) and Family Functional Therapy (FFT)
    • Note: FFPSA Prevention Service rates for MST and FFT = Medicaid rates for the same services
Workforce and Provider Development

• Continue CANS assessor training and certification

• Select and launch CMEs
  » Establish infrastructure, hire and train staff
  » Begin Hi-Fi Wrap training, technical assistance, coaching, and certification
  » Conduct community outreach and engagement activities, understand community resources, and begin providing new care coordination services to children
  » Provide early CME care coordination services to priority populations, ex: kids in the custody of local PCSAs who are placed in Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTPs)

• Support and expand MRSS providers
  » Support current MRSS providers through July 2022
  » Develop new MRSS providers

• Technical provider trainings
Youth, Caregiver, and Community Engagement

• **Regional community listening sessions**
  » Aetna will host listening sessions later this fall

• **Engage and train community partners**
  » PCSAs, local boards of MHAS and I/DD, judges, physical health providers, etc.
  » Key program elements, roles, responsibilities
  » Opportunities for each type of community partner to support and use OhioRISE

• **Trainings for youth and caregivers**
  » Eligibility and enrollment processes
  » Navigating the OhioRISE system, including child & family team and care planning
OhioRISE Transition Timeline

**BY 10/1/21**
Issue CANS billing reminders

**LATE Q4 2021**
Regional listening sessions (youth, caregiver, community engagement)

**JULY 1, 2022**
Launch of Next Generation of Managed Care + OHR
- Initial and rolling enrollment for OHR, 1915(C) Waiver
- Remaining services go-live (stand-alone CANS, ICC/MCC, comprehensive (in-home) assessment, MRSS, 1915(b) and 1915(c) services)
- IHBT shifts to OhioRISE

**JANUARY 2023**
PRTF Service Begins

### Q1 2022
IHBT enhancements

### Q1 2022 – Q2 2022
- Launch CMEs
- Expand MRSS Providers
- Technical provider trainings
- Engage and train community partners
Family, Children, and Adult Services Procedure Letter No. 374

TO: Family, Children, and Adult Services Manual Holders

FROM: Matt Damschroder, Director

SUBJECT: Requirements Impacted by Ending State of Emergency.

BACKGROUND
On March 9, 2020, Governor Mike DeWine declared a State of Emergency by Executive Order 2020-02D due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Following the initial declaration, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) issued several Procedure Letters (FCASPL 348, FCASPL 356, and FCASPL 359) to provide policy and practice guidance related to the pandemic.

On June 18, 2021, Governor DeWine lifted the State of Emergency Order, and ODJFS issued FCASPL 371 on June 21, 2021, which rescinded and replaced the previously issued Procedure Letters (FCASPL 348, FCASPL 356, and FCASPL 359), and provided guidance that ODJFS would continue providing technical assistance through July 31, 2021 as agencies transitioned practices back to requirements prior to the State of Emergency Order.

PURPOSE
This Procedure Letter serves as a reminder of the policy and practice that was reinstated and that Licensing and Technical Assistance Specialists will begin monitoring these requirements beginning August 1, 2021. This Procedure Letter also provides guidance on certain flexibilities that will remain for a period of time.

RETURN TO PRE-PANDEMIC REQUIREMENTS
The following requirements, which allowed for flexibility during the State of Emergency, reverted back on June 18, 2021 when the State of Emergency was lifted. In addition, agencies are no longer required to notify the Help Desk of positive COVID-19 cases. As stated above, Licensing and Technical Assistance Specialists will begin monitoring the following requirements beginning August 1, 2021:

- Caseworker visitation
- Foster Care and Adoption interviews, safety audits and home visits
- Residential staff-child ratios
- Bridges- visit requirements
- Bridges-signature requirements
CONTINUED ALLOWANCES
Flexibility for the following requirements will be permitted to ensure placement stability, adhere to timeframes previously documented in the ODJFS COVID-19 Response Frequently Asked Questions document, and to maintain federal guidance outlined in the Consolidated Appropriations Act for extended foster care:

Foster Home Capacity
Specific placements that were made during the State of Emergency, which were permitted with licensing staff approval to exceed foster home capacity may be maintained to not disrupt stability of those placements. However, no new placements above capacity limits will be permitted, effective June 18, 2021.

Foster Care Training
All foster care training may continue virtually as it did during the pandemic. Live synchronous training will be eligible for foster parent stipends and reimbursements and agency allowance. Online training is eligible for foster parent stipends and reimbursements but is not eligible for agency allowance. This will remain in effect until December 18, 2021 (six months after the State of Emergency being lifted), or upon the implementation of House Bill 8 Phase 2 rules.

CPR and First Aid Training for Residential Agencies
CPR and First Aid training for child care staff may no longer be completed online without certification. Certification for existing employees who had online training must be completed by September 16, 2021, ninety days after the end of the State of Emergency. CPR and First Aid training must also be completed prior to working alone with children effective September 16, 2021, ninety days after the end of the State of Emergency.

Bridges Participants
Federal requirements in the Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act (H.R. 7947), Division X of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Public Law 116-260 will remain in effect through September 30, 2021.

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE
Programmatic eligibility and visitation exceptions may be made for those individuals instructed to quarantine due to exposure to, or testing positive for, COVID-19 as verified by documentation. These exceptions will be approved by ODJFS on a case-by-case basis.

QUESTIONS
Please contact your Licensing or Technical Assistance Specialist if you have questions about the information in this Procedure Letter.

INSTRUCTIONS:
The following chart indicates what materials should be removed from the Family, Children and Adult Services Manual (FCASM) and what materials are to be inserted in the FCASM.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>REMOVE AND FILE AS OBSOLETE</th>
<th>INSERT/REPLACEMENT</th>
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<td>PROCEDURE LETTERS</td>
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<td>FCASPL No. 374</td>
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