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I ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICE DELIVERY

State Administration

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) is led by a director, appointed by the Governor and serves as a member of the Governor's Cabinet. The Director has statutory responsibility for supervising the administration of human services in the state, while much of the day-to-day operation and coordination is delegated to other staff within the department.

The Office for Children and Families (OCF) is overseen by a deputy director and has responsibility for the development and supervision of service programs to meet the needs of children and families at risk of abuse/neglect or in need of protective services and child care (See Appendix for the ODJFS/OCF Table of Organization.) The OCF also has responsibility for the supervision of Title IV-B, subparts 1 and 2; Title IV-E, including section 477; Title XX; and Title XIX, in part.

Ohio's child protection program is a state-supervised/county-administered program. ODJFS/OCF is the designated state agency responsible for overseeing the operation of the 88 public children services agencies (PCSAs) which provide direct services to children and families. Fifty-eight (58) PCSAs are located within the administrative body of the county departments of job and family services and thirty (30) are separate children services boards.

As the supervising agent of Ohio's child protection program, OCF ensures that PCSAs operate in compliance with state and federal statutes and regulations through the following activities:

1. The assignment of a Technical Assistance Manager who provides the linkage between the state office and the county PCSA. Regional technical assistance teams, housed in three field offices, provide oversight and technical assistance to PCSAs, county departments of job and family services (CDJFS), and child support enforcement agencies (CSEA). Field office staff perform a wide range of child welfare functions, including: Child Protection, Oversight and Evaluation (CPOE); specific case review in response to complaints of agency action/inaction; on-site technical assistance and program development; and licensing inspection.
2. The promulgation of rules under the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) to govern the PCSAs and CDJFS' provision of services to families and children.
3. Increasing child welfare funding for PCSAs through the draw down of federal funds, identification and development of alternative funding sources, and support of state funding issues.
4. Providing training to ensure that staff who work with families and children have the necessary knowledge and skills to perform their jobs by providing a competency-based in-service training program for child welfare staff, substitute caregivers, and service providers.
5. Developing working relationships with other state agencies and professional organizations to promote interdisciplinary cooperation at the statewide level. Ongoing training and organizational efforts focusing on the development of interdisciplinary approaches are an integral part of the ODJFS child protection program.

Technical Assistance

In support of Ohio's goals and objectives ODJFS has adopted a participatory management approach to the provision of technical assistance. PCSAs and ODJFS are both responsible for identification of technical assistance needs. If ODJFS does not currently have the capacity to provide the level of technical assistance needed by the PCSA, it is the responsibility of ODJFS to secure the needed technical assistance. The state's role is primarily directed at providing appropriate tools and frameworks to support counties' ability to provide child welfare services. This is accomplished by developing the organizational capability to collect and disseminate best practices; providing data that counties need to assess performance; and, providing on-site technical assistance in the areas of management, administration and service delivery.

Local Service Delivery

A wide range of prevention, intervention and supportive services are provided to families that come to the attention of PCSAs from independent or self-referral sources. In all cases, PCSAs provide services directed toward ensuring the safety of the child while maintaining the family unit intact, whenever possible. For those children for whom family preservation is not a viable option, all efforts are directed toward finding a safe and permanent home. Each PCSA has responsibility for the development of a child protection program in its respective area of jurisdiction.

The powers and duties of the PCSA are identified within the Ohio Revised Code (ORC), Section 5153 with respect to the care of children needing, or likely to need, public care or services. Each PCSA must have the capacity to provide families with necessary information and referral services and to provide or secure any service on behalf of children under its care which is identified as necessary to the child's continued well-being. In addition, each PCSA must ensure the proper administration and management of minimum mandatory services and programs.

PCSAs offer a continuum of services which include child abuse and neglect prevention, early intervention and treatment services; supportive services focusing on child safety and permanency, child and family well-being; family preservation and reunification; kinship care services; substitute care services; services to unmarried parents; independent living services; adoption services; post-adoption services; and other services designed to provide permanency for children. PCSAs must make available: adoption, case management, counseling, diagnostic, emergency shelter, information and referral, therapeutic, unmarried parent, substitute care, homemaker and home health aide, and protective day care services. PCSAs must also make available a minimum of three of the following services: community education, crisis services, emergency caretaker, employment and training, environmental management, parent aide, parent education, crisis nursery, day treatment or volunteer service.

When families and children are identified as multi-need and require services from other community agencies, the PCSA refers the family to the local Family and Children First Council (members include the PCSA, a representative of the regional office of the Department of Youth Services, the superintendent of the county board of mental retardation and developmental disabilities, the executive director of the community alcohol, drug addiction and mental health services/community mental health board or the alcohol and drug addiction board, the health commissioner of the board of health of each

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city or general health district in the county, and the superintendent of the city, exempted village, or local school district with the largest number of pupils residing in the county). The local council may also invite the juvenile court, or any other public or private agency or individual that provides services to children, to become a permanent or temporary member of the council. The goal of the Family and Children First Council is to ensure that through the state's education, health and social service systems policy, funding and management efforts focused on all Ohio's children enter school ready to learn.

The PCSA is only one agency involved in Ohio's child protection system. All governmental agencies at the state and local level (e.g., boards of education, Head Start, county mental health and retardation boards, boards of health, hospitals, county department of job and family services, child support enforcement agencies, drug and alcohol departments, department of youth services, juvenile courts) and private agencies which provide social services, substitute care services and adoption services are equal partners in assuring the health, safety and well-being of Ohio's families. Additionally, it is the neighborhood where the family lives that can truly achieve the goal of assuring the health, safety and well-being of Ohio's families. Refer to Section VII, Page 73, "Additional State Initiatives Toward Meeting Goals and Objectives," for further details.

Service Delivery Affecting Native American Families

While there are no federally recognized Indian Tribes in Ohio, OCF collaborated with the North American Indian Cultural Center (NAICC) and American Indian Services, Inc. on the development of Ohio's Indian Child Welfare Plan. Refer to Section X, Page 81, "Update On Measures Taken To Comply With Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)" for more information.

II SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

This section provides a discussion of Ohio's Social Security Act Title IV programs and services including: Title IV-B, Subparts 1 and 2; CFCIP, and CAPTA. Although not included as formalized components of Ohio's Comprehensive Child and Family Services Plan, Title XX and Title XIX of the Social Security Act are program and service supports to Ohio's child protective services system and are so identified in this section.

Title IV-B, Subpart 1

The Title IV-B, Subpart 1 program provides a broad base of direct and indirect child protective services, including adoption, foster care, protective services, staff development and training. These services cannot be denied solely on the basis of financial need, legal residence, social status, or religion and the determination of service need is the responsibility of the PCSA.

Title IV-B, Subpart 2

The Title IV-B, Subpart 2 program provides family preservation and family support services. OCF's practice instructions for family preservation activities presently funded under Title IV-B, Subpart 2, allow "family preservation activities" to include services in support of maintaining adoptive placements and services in support of time-limited reunification goals. The program's aim is assuring the safety of the child; promoting healthy child development; assisting children and families to resolve crises; preventing unnecessary out-of-home placement of children; helping children already in out-of-home care to be returned to and maintained with their families; and prevention activities designed to alleviate stress and promote parental competencies and behavior that will increase the ability of families to successfully nurture their children.

CAPTA

OCF develops statewide policy and program initiatives to address the problem of child abuse and neglect. Program goals include: promoting inter-agency coordination to protect children from abuse and neglect; allowing more effective delivery of services to families; providing strength-based, family-focused casework practice with an emphasis on child safety, permanency, and child and family well-being; and promoting statewide child abuse and neglect prevention through public education and public awareness campaigns. Additionally, the CPS program provides leadership in policy development to address the problem of child abuse and neglect. Refer to Section XIV, Page 90, Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) for additional information regarding CAPTA and the Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR).

CFCIP

OCF's implementation of the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (Independent Living Program) provides services to assist youth preparing to live independent, self-sufficient lives upon leaving substitute care. Services include: outreach; individual and group counseling; preparation for GED or higher education; job search assistance and placement programs; instruction in basic living skills; parenting; health care; transportation; housing; self-esteem and self-confidence counseling; and interpersonal and social skills training and development. Refer to Section XV, Page 106, "Chafee Foster Care Independence Program" for additional information regarding CFCIP and the APSR.

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Title XIX

The Title XIX program permits the availability of childhood medical care programs. Medicaid funds are claimed for health-associated child welfare services.

Title XX

The Title XX program offers a wide range of services directed at improving the quality of life for families and their children. More than 32% of the Title XX funds provide services to children known and unknown to the PCSAs. The Title XX program also supports ODJFS' statewide child welfare and adult services training programs.

Partnerships

The activities identified and implemented in Ohio's Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) are guided by Ohio's Family and Children First (OFCF) Initiative. The Ohio General Assembly, pursuant to ORC Section 121.37, created the Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council in 1992. The Council is composed of the superintendent of public instruction and the directors of the departments of youth services, job and family services, mental health, health, alcohol and drug addiction services, mental retardation and developmental disabilities, and budget and management. The chairperson of the council is the governor or the governor's designee. As defined by statute the purpose of the Cabinet Council is to help families seeking government services. The council strives to streamline and coordinate existing government services at the state and local level, thereby improving the state's social service delivery system and achieving better results for children and their families.

In 1999, a draft of the CFSP was sent to a variety of community stakeholders for review and comment. The stakeholders represented various perspectives that included mental health, juvenile corrections, United Services for Effective Parenting, Franklin County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board, Southern Ohio Consortium for Children, and statewide advocacy associations such as PCSAO and OACCA. Comments and suggestions from individuals representing these entities were incorporated into what became the final plan.

In addition, many of the activities and programs in Ohio's CFSP are the result of implementation of recommendations from the Governor's Task Force on Investigation and Prosecution of Child Abuse. This multi-disciplinary gubernatorial appointed Task Force was established to review and evaluate the state's handling of child abuse and neglect cases and to make recommendations to the Director of the ODJFS. Members of the Task Force represented:

- Ohio Department of Health
- County & City Prosecutors
- Pediatricians
- Psychologists
- Ohio Department of Public Safety
- Health Care Providers
- Law Enforcement
- Attorneys
- National & Ohio CASA/GAL Associations
- Forensic Training Institute
- Ohio Attorney General's Office
- County Public Children Services Agencies
- Child Advocacy Centers
- Ohio Senate
- Child Abuse Prevention
- Local Public Defender's Office
- Judges (Juvenile, Probate, Municipal)

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Some of the activities that are planned and/or have been implemented as a result of recommendations from the Governor's Task Force are:

- Expedited Appeals - Continuation of a court rule for expedited appeals of termination of parental rights.
- Establishment of Family Drug Courts - HB 484 (1999), Ohio's implementation of the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) reinforced the need for the state to better coordinate child welfare and substance abuse intervention efforts. The tightened permanency time frames handed down by ASFA, as well as, HB 484's specific language regarding coordinated efforts, required new approaches on behalf of families involved in the child welfare system who are challenged by substance abuse and/or addiction.

ODJFS and ODADAS identified Family Drug Courts as one option available to address this difficult issue. A Family Drug Court has a specialized docket which focuses on parents who abuse or neglect their child(ren) as a result of substance abuse or addiction. ODJFS and ODADAS initially provided financial support to the development of Family Drug Courts in three counties: Lucas, Lorain and Delaware. All three courts now have completed the initial planning stages and have accepted clients for at least one year. Ohio currently has seven Family Drug Courts in operation and six more in the planning stages.

- As a concurrent activity, ODJFS, ODADAS, Ohio Judicial Conference (OJC) and the Ohio Association of Juvenile and Family Court Judges instituted a series of workshops entitled "Partnerships for Child Safety," to strengthen working relationships among local public agencies, with emphasis on the courts, substance abuse treatment providers and public children services agencies. These day long workshops are held upon request of local courts and focus on strengthening teamwork and communication skills of staff working with families experiencing child abuse and neglect and problems with substance abuse and addiction. Workshops have proven to be springboards to counties initiating exploration of Family Drug Courts.
- ODJFS is working closely with the Ohio Network of Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) to develop a state system of these multi-disciplinary service centers. These Centers provide a comprehensive, child-focused program based in a facility that allows law enforcement, child protective services professionals, prosecutors, and the mental health and medical communities to work together to handle child abuse cases. The over-arching goal of all CACs is to make sure that children are not further victimized by systems designed to protect them.
- Current efforts focus on the institution of minimum operating standards for all Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)/Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Programs, mandatory training hours for CASA/GAL volunteers and increased collaboration between the child welfare and CASA/GAL programs.
- Converting the Investigative Mentor Program from a contracted national program to a state-run program. OCWTP (Refer to Section IV, Page 61 "Training" for further details.) was the vehicle used for the conversion. Instructors used by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to nationally train the course *Child Abuse & Exploitation: Investigative Techniques* mentored Ohio professionals who had been recruited through a statewide project effort. National trainers worked directly with Ohio trainers to develop presentation content,

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audiovisuals and handouts that were consistent with the overall program format. At least one training session was held in each of Ohio's eight child welfare Regional Training Centers. Evaluations were excellent and many sessions filled to capacity with waiting lists of representatives from multiple systems at the local level.

ODJFS has worked to ensure that all activities undertaken to support the work of the Governor's Task Force on Investigation of Child Abuse:

- Are multi disciplinary in focus
- Strengthen regional response
- Work toward long-range system reform, rather than simply funding services

Another partner in the development of Ohio's CFSP is the Supreme Court of Ohio. The Court and ODJFS work collaboratively to plan and develop activities and programs that are funded by both the Court Improvement Program and the Children's Justice Act. These two entities also work collaboratively to improve family law procedures particularly around the issues of dependent, neglected and abused children.

Under a Community-based Family Resource Support grant, six Family Resource HUB Networks represent Ohio's strategy to develop and strengthen family support and prevention services on a regional basis. Each HUB is expected to engage and involve parents, volunteers, advocates and community members in the governance, planning, implementation and evaluation of HUB activities. Each HUB has a regional council or advisory board made up of various community members and family support and prevention providers.

Local constituent involvement has been encouraged in the peer review process and the development of each HUB's regional strategic plan for coordinating resources and addressing unmet needs. A great deal of interaction was involved in development of the inventories of resources by establishing relationships with potential providers and users of resource data. Other activities have also incorporated input from community members. For example, while in the process of developing a family-friendly website, the HUBs held focus groups to obtain input from those who would potentially be utilizing the website. Three separate groups were conducted with parents, adolescents and seniors to obtain their suggestions before moving toward implementation.

The department is completing the fourth round of its child welfare monitoring process called CPOE. Each PCSA in the state must participate in the CPOE process at least one time every 18 months. A major component of CPOE centers on ODJFS staff interviews with local community partners that may include juvenile court judges, private child placing agencies, foster parents, prosecutors, mental health, family services and drug and alcohol treatment providers. This input is shared with PCSAs and ODJFS to assist in program and policy development and to improve service coordination.

Three additional groups have been identified which will provide consultation from community stakeholders to aid in future planning efforts and annual reporting.

- In 1999, three Community Evaluation Teams (CET) (Ohio's fulfillment of the CAPTA requirement for Citizen Review Panels) were established in Stark, Athens, and Logan Counties. In 2001, three additional teams were established in Lorain, Marion, and Scioto Counties. All six teams were developed in cooperation with PCSAs and Ohio's Family-to-Family Initiative. This initiative is the state's effort via local agencies to provide child protective

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services that are family-centered and neighborhood-based. All CETs are charged with reviewing agency data, policies, procedures and practices as they relate to both child protection and coordination of the child protective services program with foster care and adoption programs. They are also responsible for developing semi-annual reports containing the team's findings with regard to their agency's child protective data, policies, procedures and practices and make recommendations for improvements in addressing the issue of abuse and neglect in their communities.

- ODJFS is spearheading the coordination of a new statewide, cross-system initiative to bring increased focus and effectiveness to the prevention of child abuse and neglect on a year-round basis. The Prevention Partners Leadership Group was designed to have broad-based representation from both the public and private sectors. Public sector participants include the departments of: Job and Family Services, Mental Health, Education, Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, and Health, Ohio Family and Children First, the Fatherhood Commission, Ohio Head Start, The Ohio Children's Trust Fund, law enforcement, and the PCSAO. Private sector partners include: Parents Anonymous, The Coalition Against Family Violence, Interfaith Association of Central Ohio, Ohio Council of Churches, The Humane Society of the United States, Prevent Child Abuse Ohio, Ohio Association of Child Care Providers, The Center For Effective Discipline, American Academy of Pediatrics-Ohio Chapter, parents whose children have been abused, and adult survivors of child abuse.
- A 13-member task force appointed by Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas Moyer has been assembled to develop statewide standards for GALs. The task force's charge is to develop uniform standards and financial accountability for the GAL programs across the state. Topics under consideration include: qualifications, training, scope of responsibilities, payment, and possible standards for attorney-guardians and lay-guardians. The task force subcommittees are: Funding and Payment, Monitoring and Enforcement, Reports, Service and Duties, and Training.

In May 1999, former ODJFS Director Romer-Sensky convened the Child Welfare Reform Shareholders Group and invited parent advocates, foster parents, representatives from the General Assembly, state agencies, county commissioners, public and private child serving agencies, child care providers, juvenile court judges, and statewide advocacy organizations to participate. 43 advocates were appointed to the group. The purpose of the Child Welfare Reform Shareholders Group was to assist the Department and family serving agencies in improving quality services to children and families and to establish priorities and develop innovative strategies to enhance the safety, growth and development of children, support families and strengthen communities. The Group created the following nine subcommittees in order to focus its work on the complete spectrum of children services: Prevention; Child Care and Early Education; Foster Care and Adoption; Juvenile Court and Child Welfare; Customer Input; Protective Services; Finance and Legislation; Governance; and Interagency Collaboration.

An important component of the Shareholders process was community input. In addition to the 43 members of the Shareholders Group, more than 400 Ohioans participated on the nine subcommittees. For those individuals who could not participate on the subcommittees, the department conducted a series of events in order to obtain their feedback:

- The department created a quarterly newsletter, FOCUS, that updated the community on the progress of the Shareholders Group and other child welfare reform initiatives.

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- The department organized and conducted 11 community forums across Ohio. The first round of community forums was held during the work of the subcommittees in order to gain input into the process, and the second round was held after the recommendations were created in order to gather feedback specifically on the recommendations.
- The department initiated a quarterly meeting with the Directors of the PCSAs designed to share information and gather input.

The nine subcommittees submitted 58 recommendations to the Shareholders Group for consideration. The Group spent one weekend analyzing the recommendations in the context of the current child welfare environment and produced a report of 21 recommendations that was forwarded to the Director in June 2000. In addition to the 21 recommendations, the department automatically accepted 10 recommendations from the Shareholders Group and accepted 10 recommendations from the ODJFS Performance Audit conducted by the Auditor of State. The department has been able to move forward on a number of these recommendations.

After submitting its recommendations, the Shareholders Group was disbanded and one year later, the department convened the Child Welfare Reform Advisory group to ensure the continued implementation of the 58 recommendations. The Advisory Group met many times and initiated the development of a Strategic Communication Plan, folding in communication related to the Child and Family Service Review and the proposed strategic planning process. In January 2002, the Advisory Group determined that the strategic planning process and the creation of the Executive Leadership Group proposed by Director Hayes is the next evolution of the continuous improvement process within the child welfare system and replaces the need for the Shareholder's Advisory Group.

In November, 2001, the Office for Children and Families (OCF) embarked on a two year strategic planning process in order to identify and address the changing needs of our constituents. The planning process will result in a statewide plan to address the needs of Ohio's most vulnerable children and families. OCF is being joined in this statewide child welfare effort by the PCSAO. Through this partnership, OCF and PCSAO are challenging state and county, as well as, public and private agencies to consciously accelerate the capacity of the public children services system to deliver the most effective services possible to children and families.

In January 2002, OCF hosted fifteen environmental scans across the state to gather input into the planning process. Over 500 people attended these scans and provided data that was used by the sixty-five member, cross-system Guiding Group which met for three days in February to develop a mission and vision for the Public Children, Family and Adult Service System and to prioritize the issues areas that will be worked on during the next two years. One initiative highlighted for work is Leadership, Infrastructure and Funding. This initiative contains information about the formation of the Executive Leadership Group.

In March 2002, OCF went back to the fifteen e-scan groups to assess if they felt their concerns had been heard and addressed in the plan. During the drafting of this report, the Guiding Group was planning to meet in June 2003 to revise the plan based on this input. Guiding Group meetings will occur quarterly for the next two years.

In summary, Ohio has been and continues working on multi-pronged efforts to consult and coordinate with external community stakeholders in development of the State's Child and Family Services Plan.

Concerns of stakeholders are typically addressed in a variety of forums that include formation and

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meetings of Executive Leadership Councils, written correspondence to the department, quarterly meetings between public children services agency directors and the Deputy Director of the Office for Children and Families and other senior level office staff, regular meetings between the agency Director and management staff in the Office for Children and Families with the Executive Directors and staff of statewide advocacy associations.

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III PROGRESS TOWARD MEETING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Since the Office's design and submission of the Five Year Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) in 1999, numerous changes have been initiated in the area of child welfare. Changes were made in the areas of: state legislation; cross-system partnerships; approaches to child welfare practice and court practices; and, evaluation and monitoring.

[The Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 \(ASFA\)](#)

The Adoption and Safe Families Act prompted the most fundamental changes in the way Ohio's, foster care system is managed. Under the amended provisions, Ohio is required to find children in foster care a safe, permanent home more quickly. In response to the passage of ASFA, Ohio enacted on December 17, 1998 its own enabling legislation, HB 484 of the 123rd General Assembly and developed administrative policies and procedures. In fact, Ohio's law is more stringent than the federal law. Ohio has shortened the time frame for initiating the process of terminating parental rights for foster children from the 15-month limit established by ASFA to 12 months. Ohio has also exceeded the federal standards by specifying that child abuse or neglect associated with parental substance could be the grounds for termination of custodial rights. HB 484 further emphasized the need to provide timely and appropriate treatment necessary to facilitate family reunification and to develop a statewide plan to prioritize substance abuse services for families involved in the child welfare system. See Appendix for the "Implementation of House Bill 484: A Joint Report."

[Ohio's Child and Family Services Review \(CFSR\)](#)

During May 20 - 24, 2002, Ohio's CFSR On-site Review was conducted in three counties - Clark, Franklin and Washington - and stakeholder interviews were conducted at the state level. Prior to the onsite review, the OCF engaged in the following activities to prepare:

- **Education** - Extensive communication was coordinated and delivered to the PCSAs to educate them on CFSR and the impact the reviews would have on the State of Ohio. Fact Sheets were developed that described the three federal outcomes, identified the Ohio specific requirements and publicized training opportunities for state and county staff. As part of the communication and education campaign, a four month CFSR videoconferencing and teleconferencing series was held in Calendar Year 2001.
- **Linkage with Health and Human Services (HHS)** - Monthly conference calls were conducted with HHS Central and Regional Office staff to receive technical assistance and keep HHS informed the OCF's progress.
- **Finalization of Ohio's Data Profile** - AFCARS (Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System) was used for the permanency data and Ohio's Family and Children Services Information System (FAC SIS) was approved as the Alternate Data Source for the Safety Profile.
- **OCF ELC (Executive Leadership Council)** - An Executive Leadership Committee was formed specifically to provide leadership to ODJFS/OCF staff in the development of the CFSR Statewide Assessment, implementation of the CFSR On-site Review, and creation/implementation of the CFSR/PIP. ELC members included state agency staff,

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juvenile court representatives, PCSA/CDJFS staff, association and trade group representatives, and all other advocates with a stake in Ohio's child protection system. The ELC began meeting in Calendar Year 2001 and sunset with the submission of the draft PIP to HHS.

- **Ohio's Statewide Assessment** - Ten subcommittees of the OCF ELC compiled the Statewide Assessment. Drafts of the document were reviewed by Ohio's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Executive Leadership Committee and disseminated to PCSAs, other state Departments and stakeholders for review and comment.

During January 2003, Ohio received the results of its first CFSR from HHS titled, Final Report, Ohio Child and Family Services Review. The report pointed out strengths, as well as areas needing improvement. A key finding of the CFSR of Ohio's child welfare programs was that Ohio did not achieve substantial conformity with any of the seven safety, permanency, or well-being outcomes. In addition, Ohio did not meet national standards for measures relating to repeat maltreatment, maltreatment of children in foster care, foster care re-entries, stability of foster care placements, the length of time to achieve reunification, or the length of time to achieve adoption. Although Ohio did not meet the requirements for substantial conformity with the CFSR outcomes, the case review process and stakeholder interviews identified several areas of strength.

With regard to the seven systemic factors, the CFSR determined that Ohio was in substantial conformity with statewide information system, quality assurance system, training, service array, agency responsiveness to the community, and foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment, and retention. Ohio did not achieve substantial conformity with the systemic factor of case review system, primarily because of the findings that Ohio was not consistent in the development of case plans or in the involvement of parents in the case planning process, and that permanency hearings were not being held in a timely manner.

OCF welcomed this review as a valuable tool to help improve Ohio's child welfare system. The results will be used in tandem with continuous quality improvement initiatives that OCF is already engaging in to attain the goals of safety, permanency, and well-being for all Ohio children who come into contract with our PCSAs.

In response to the CFSR Final Report, OCF submitted its Program Improvement Plan on April 8, 2003 which involved various stakeholders from local communities in developing action steps to enable Ohio to be in conformity with national standards as they pertain to child welfare outcomes.

For Safety specifically, Ohio will be working to increase the timeliness of initiating non-emergency reports of child maltreatment, reduce incidents of repeat maltreatment, provide services to protect children in home and prevent removal and improve the assessment of risk of harm. Specific activities are detailed in Ohio's proposed Program Improvement Plan and include, but not limited to review and revisions to Ohio Administrative Code Rules, development of supervisory support tools, data collection, consultation with National Resource Centers, review and analysis of data and technical assistance to county agencies.

For Substitute Care specifically, Ohio is working on improving the stability of foster care; advocating for permanent placement arrangements with relatives; preserving children's connection with family and community; enhancing foster parents' capacity to provide for their children's needs; improving assessment of children's health care needs and service coordination; and working to improve the timeliness of permanency hearings in accordance with Ohio law.

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OCF has been reviewing its administrative rules governing public and private children services agencies in regard to placement and data entry procedures to determine whether revision is appropriate to clarify expectations. Currently under revision are three Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rules: 5101:2-42-05, "Selection of a Placement Setting," 5101:2-42-18, "PCSA and PCPA Approval of Placements with Relative and Nonrelative Substitute Caregivers," and 5101:2-42-90, "Information to be Provided to Caregivers, School Districts, and Juvenile Courts; Information to be Included in Individual Child Care Agreements." Revisions will clarify that in the selection of a placement setting, both maternal and paternal relatives should be considered; that placements with nonrelatives who have a relationship with the family, when approved by a court, are not required to become certified foster care providers; and that agencies should share pertinent information with respite care providers to allow them to determine whether they can properly care for the child. These rules have been through the requisite statewide clearances and will be moving to public hearing in the next couple of months. They are projected to become effective by the end of the Year 2003.

FACSIS (Family and Children Services Information System) staff will be reviewing applicable OAC rules and procedures relative to data entry to determine whether revision or additional training is in order. ODJFS will continue to review data as part of the Child Protection and Oversight Evaluation (CPOE) reviews to monitor whether counties are properly entering placement data into FACSIS and correcting the data when errors are found. FACSIS events related to health care will be monitored and technical assistance to counties needing improvement.

OCF will coordinate the sharing of best practices at the local level that fosters stability of child placements. OCF will encourage PCSAs involvement with the kinship navigator program which could lead to the identification of kinship resources. OCF proposes to increase the percentage of timely reunification, guardianships or permanent placements with relatives within 12 months of entry into foster care and to increase the continuity of family relationships and connections by increasing the percentage of children placed with relatives or kinship care providers. OCF will also work with the Supreme Court of Ohio to jointly address any barriers to holding timely permanency hearings for children in placement.

For Permanency specifically, Ohio is conducting analysis of the Finalized Adoptions Within 24-Months measure and will provide technical assistance to PCSAs and PCPAs that are not meeting the measure. Furthermore, Ohio will produce data reports regarding the Finalized Adoptions Within 24-Months measure and disseminate those reports to PCSAs, PCPAs and the ODJFS Children's Justice Act Program Administrator. This information will assist agencies, local courts and the Supreme Court in exploring the reasons for delay to permanent commitment involving the court system.

To ensure diligent recruitment of potential foster and adoptive families that reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of children in the state for whom foster and adoptive homes are needed, Ohio must work to increase the number of African-American parents who apply and ultimately adopt until the overall pool of family resources reflects the ethnic and racial diversity of children in the state for whom foster and adoptive homes are needed. In order to do such, Ohio has:

- Implemented procedures to better assure child and family information in FACSIS is accurate and up-to-date;
- Initiated development of market analysis information for counties to assist counties in driving effective recruitment campaigns;
- Enforced the implementation of the Comprehensive Recruitment Plan requirement and MEPA Bi-Annual Recruitment Report through administrative code;
- Set-aside a portion of state-available funds to help counties in their recruitment and retention

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- efforts of minority families through Faith-Based and Child-Specific venues;
- Promoted “Best Practices” relative to recruiting and retaining African-American families; and
- Offered training and technical assistance to counties, their networks and mental health providers serving adoptive families.

OCF eagerly awaits feedback from HHS regarding Ohio’s PIP. Once feedback is received, Ohio will have approximately two weeks to review feedback and prepare a response which incorporates the elements of the PIP into the goals and objectives of Ohio’s CFSP, which will ultimately reflect changed circumstances for Ohio’s APSR 2004 and CFSP 2005 - 2009.

Strategic Planning

In November 2001, the Office for Children and Families embarked on a two year strategic planning process in order to identify and address the needs of Ohio’s most vulnerable children and families. OCF is being joined in this strategic planning effort by the Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO). Through this partnership, OCF and PCSAO are challenging state and county, public and private agencies to consciously accelerate the capacity of the public children services system to deliver the most effective services possible to children and families.

In January 2002, OCF hosted fifteen environmental scans across the state to gather input into the strategic planning process. More than 500 people attended the environmental scans and provided data that was used by the sixty-five member, cross-system Guiding Group to draft the strategic plan. The Guiding Group met for three days in February to develop a mission and vision for the Public Children, Family and Adult Services System and to prioritize the initiatives that will be targeted during the next two years. The initiatives include: Measuring Outcomes and Information Management; Leadership, Infrastructure and Funding; and, Kinship, Placement and Adoption.

In March 2002, OCF conducted 12 “communicate the plan” sessions for the same participants as the environmental scans to assess if they felt their concerns had been heard and addressed in the plan. The Guiding Group will meet quarterly for the next two years in order to revise the plan based on this community input.

Council on Accreditation

In order to assist PCSAs in providing quality services to families and children, OCF is financially subsidizing PCSAs for a portion of costs incurred for accreditation of their programs by the Council on Accreditation for Children and Family Services. The Council on Accreditation promotes national standards (aligned with the Adoption and Safe Families Act and the Child and Family Services Review), highlights the importance of quality control and continuous quality improvement processes, and overall quality general management. Every PCSA is required to be accredited on COA’s general management standards and at least one of COA’s 38 service standards. Nine PCSAs are already accredited - Franklin, Greene, Hamilton, Lorain, Montgomery, Trumbull, Richland, Summit. To date, 9 PCSAs have submitted their applications to the Council on Accreditation and have signed participation agreements with OCF. Thirteen PCSAs have volunteered to pursue accreditation in the Fall of 2002.

The OCF is also pursuing accreditation and, if successful, will be one of the first state supervised, county administered states to achieve accreditation.

As a result of these changes, OCF continues refining its original goals and objectives in order to

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achieve safety, well-being and permanency for all of Ohio's children and families.

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This section reports the accomplishments made over the past year and the progress the state has made in meeting identified goals and objectives of the current CFSP.

Goal 1: Protection To protect children by providing screening, timely assessments/ investigations, inter-agency assessments and comprehensive supportive services to families coming to the attention of public children services agencies (PCSA) and other child care systems. (CAPTA)

Objective 1: To increase state collaboration on child abuse and neglect prevention activities.

Objective 2: To implement a screening model.

Objective 3: To have all child abuse and neglect assessments/investigations completed within 30-45 days of receipt of the report.

Objective 4: To promote inter-agency coordination to protect children from abuse and neglect and to encourage more effective delivery of services to families in all counties.

Objective 5: To provide coordination of the ProtectOHIO, Title IV-E Wavier Project.

Objective 6: To promote strength-based, family focused children's protective services casework practice.

Objective 7: To provide leadership in policy development to address the problem of child abuse and neglect.

Objective 8: To promote statewide child abuse and neglect prevention through public education and public awareness campaigns.

Progress/Accomplishments:

Protection of children starts prior to the receipt of a report of child abuse and neglect by PCSAs or local law enforcement agencies. It is at that point in which the community has sufficient resources and services available to families to prevent the occurrence of child abuse or neglect where protection of children first occurs. However, when a report of child abuse or neglect is received by the PCSA it is now the agency's responsibility, along with the community, to determine risk to the child for further abuse or neglect and to ensure adequate support and services are made available for families in order to reduce future risk to the child.

In 2002, PCSAs received 71,258 reports of alleged child abuse and neglect. Since 1996 there has been a steady decrease in the number of child abuse and neglect reports received. The following table presents information over the past six years on the number of reports received by year.

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REPORTING YEAR	NUMBER OF REPORTS RECEIVED
1996	94,815
1997	90,440
1998	84,398
1999	79,261
2000	73,729
2001	72,227
2002	71,258

In 2002, child neglect has consistently been the most prevalent type of report received followed by physical abuse, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse. However, there has been a slight increase in the number of reports of emotional maltreatment. An increase in the number of reports of emotional maltreatment may be attributable to a state statute now providing a definition of "mental injury." The following Table presents data on a number of reports received by allegation type.

INCIDENTS	NEGLECT	PHYSICAL ABUSE	SEXUAL ABUSE	EMOTIONAL MALTREATMENT	OTHER
1996	44,015	32,295	15,470	3,014	21
1997	41,460	31,333	15,000	2,619	28
1998	38,787	28,737	14,223	2,323	328*
1999	36,476	26,330	13,217	2,867	371*
2000	32,352	24,983	13,085	3,296	13*
2001	31,646	24,089	12,970	3,490	32*
2002	31,174	23,001	12,918	4,150	15*

* Also included some missing data from counties

The following activities have occurred to accomplish **Goal 1: Child Protection** and to continue to reduce the incidents of abuse and neglect of children in Ohio.

Collaboration: House Bill 448 requires that every county (or region) in Ohio create a Child Fatality Review Board (CFR) to review the deaths of all children in the county (or region) less than 18 years of age. Rules and procedures for CFRs were developed by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) in consultation with the Ohio Children's Trust Fund and existing Child Fatality Review Boards and other interested parties. ORC 3701.045

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and OAC 3701-67-02 are used as a framework for organizing the CFRs conducting reviews.

The purpose of the CFR is to make recommendations for how future deaths may be prevented based on their reviews of child fatalities. Local CFR Boards are multi-disciplinary teams chaired by the health commissioner (or designee), and include the county coroner, local law enforcement, public children services agency, public health official, ADAMH board member, physician and others as deemed appropriate. In 2002, 264 local CFR board members from 82 counties received training on the CFR law and rules, the data collection tool, confidentiality of records, CFR Web site and database development, and annual reporting requirements.

CFRs submit data to ODH, electronically or by hard copy, throughout the year for each child fatality reviewed. A final report concerning all child deaths for the year is submitted by each CFR to ODH by April 1 and ODH compiles and produces the statewide annual report by September 30.

The second Child Fatality Review Annual Report included data from 82 of the 85 Ohio counties that have established and are operating CFRs. The report described the progress in continuing to develop county/regional CFR Boards; provided data on the numbers and causes of child deaths in Ohio; presented the local CFR Boards' findings, including their recommendations to prevent other child deaths; and provided recommendations for state level support of the local review teams (See Appendix for Ohio Child Fatality Review: Second Annual Report).

During SFY 2003, the Ohio Children's Trust continued collaboration with the Ohio Department of Health to improve the functioning of the child fatality review board in each of Ohio's 88 counties. Toward this goal, a multi-disciplinary Advisory Council was convened in July 2002 to:

- Provide expertise and consultation in understanding the data collected by review boards;
- Make recommendations for law, policy and practice which will prevent child deaths;
- Support local teams and recommend improvements in protocols and procedures; and,
- Review and provide input regarding the content for the Annual Report.

The Ohio Children's Trust Fund, co-sponsored the 1st Annual CFR Conference in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Health in August 2002 which drew more than 150 participants from county review boards throughout the state. The 2nd Annual CFR Conference is slated for late October 2003.

House Bill 484, Ohio's implementation of the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) reinforced the need for Ohio to better coordinate child welfare and substance abuse intervention efforts. Clearly the tightened permanency time frames handed down by ASFA, as well as House Bill 484's specific language regarding coordinated efforts, required new approaches on behalf of families involved in the child welfare system and challenged by substance abuse and/or addiction.

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ODJFS and the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) identified Family Drug Courts as one option available to address this difficult issue. A Family Drug Court is a specialized docket that focuses on parents who abuse or neglect their child(ren) as a result of substance abuse or addiction. Family Drug Courts are based upon the concepts of traditional adult drug court: frequent and regular oversight by the court; specific and strictly enforced conditions to diversion; regular drug testing; and, accessible and mandated ancillary treatment services. Currently, ODJFS, the Supreme Court of Ohio and ODADAS are providing second year support for three communities engaged in the establishment of a Family Drug Court: Franklin (Columbus), Erie (Sandusky), and Sandusky (Fremont) Counties. Because of a joint, concentrated effort by the ODJFS, Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS), and the Ohio Judicial Conference (OJC), Ohio currently has more operational Family Drug Courts than any other state.

As a concurrent activity, ODJFS, ODADAS, OJC and the Ohio Association of Juvenile and Family Court Judges have joined together to co-sponsor a series of interbranch workshops entitled: *Building Partnerships for Child Safety*. This one-day workshop brings together the local juvenile justice communities, local alcohol and drug treatment providers and local child welfare advocates to discuss and share insights into the problems related to helping families impacted by addictions.

Overall, these workshops are designed to strengthen communication skills, to increase mutual understanding and cooperation between the courts and service providers, and to increase public confidence in the state's courts and child welfare systems. Judicial leadership is a key component to this task. The local juvenile judges invite the participants to these workshops. It is in the courtroom where the interests of child advocacy and family drug addiction intersect, with the judge as the lynchpin of the process. While each county in Ohio has at least one judge with juvenile court jurisdiction and a single PCSA, treatment providers and child advocacy professionals sometimes cover multiple counties. Each workshop has included teams from the multiple counties under the jurisdiction of the treatment provider.

The workshops represent a commitment from all parties to collaborate for the restoration of families. The state agencies provide expert facilitators, coordinate logistics and handle any administrative needs, such as educational credits by field. The joint nature of the program is essential since the workshops are conducted locally for the benefit of the participants away from central offices.

While strengthening teamwork and communication skills, the workshops also provide staff from the ODJFS and ODADAS the opportunity to discuss funding and treatment priority requirements mandated by state law. The need to understand ASFA requirements and H.B. 484's impact on the operations of the courts and the local communities is the genesis for this effort. It is hoped that this type of workshop can be used by other state agencies to meet the needs of local communities whenever issues arise that cut across agency lines.

Community Evaluation Teams (CET) - ODJFS provided funding to support three Community Evaluation Teams (Marion, Scioto, Lorain) during the year. Teams were provided with technical assistance in recruiting members, team development, goal

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setting and data analysis. ODJFS staff have shared information from national and other state sources with the teams. The collaboration between the State of Ohio, the local PCSA and Family to Family coordinators has provided the teams with additional support, resources and technical assistance. The teams conducted recruitment efforts for team members and presented data to review at team meetings. Each team has helped to educate the community regarding children services and issues of child abuse and neglect. The teams reviewed local child protective services (CPS) policy, procedures and issues in their communities which enabled them to identify unmet needs in their communities. The teams analyzed data regarding custody, school placements and provided recommendations to CPS regarding program development, enhancement and policy revisions. Activities of each CET are described as follows (See Appendix for complete Team Reports):

The Marion County CET - Analyzed the reasons why children enter and leave custody. It was found that many of the adolescent boys entering and leaving custody have dual involvement with child protection and juvenile court. The team also determined that the agency needed review strategies for the recruitment of foster and child specific adoptive homes. In order to address the identified issues, the team recommended:

- conducting a forum for at risk teens with a focus on boys ages 12-15 who have had involvement with juvenile court;
- expanding recruitment efforts for child specific homes; and,
- organizing a community supervised visitation center for parents and children.

Due to the efforts of the team, the community is more informed and has a better understanding of the issues facing children in the CPS system.

The Scioto County CET - Continued to educate their team members on CPS policies, procedures and Family Centered Neighborhood Based practices. They reviewed issues and policies dealing with lice and drug exposed infants and recommended that CPS coordinate efforts with the Health Department to address problems with lice. The team recommended that CPS focus recruitment efforts for foster/adoptive homes in targeted communities by publishing Foster/Adopt articles in the following:

- Scioto Children Services newsletter;
- Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services paychecks;
- Head Start paychecks;
- Pastoral Counseling mass mailing

The Lorain County CET - Conducted a survey and found that a large percentage of children placed in foster care changed school districts in the placement process. Community agencies participating in the CET learned about the trauma children experience as a result of placement. The team focused some of their efforts on keeping children in their home school by recruiting foster homes in areas where higher numbers of children are being removed, and on improving foster care students' success in school by supporting a program to give computers to foster care students in Elyria. In addition, the team discussed the impact of the disparity between the

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child-only TANF grant and the foster care board rate for grandparents, and expressed their concerns with youth emancipating.

The team recommended that CPS continue working to increase recruitment of foster homes in specific areas and also recommended expansion of the program that provides computers to include children in the city of Lorain.

Screening:

Caseworker CORE training, which is provided to both CPS and public assistance workers, has several training modules with curricula on child protective services including: Legal Aspects of Family-Centered Child Protection, Family-Centered Child Protective Services, Case Planning and Family-Centered Casework, The Effect of Abuse and Neglect on Child Development, and Separation, Placement and Reunification. The training enables CPS and public assistance workers to more effectively identify, recognize and screen reports of abuse and neglect. During FY '03, the five modules of CORE offered 155 workshops to 2,200 participants.

Upon the request by the Ohio Department of Health, ODJFS presented a two-hour Mandated Reporter training on September 20, 2002 to approximately 100 newly hired school nurses. The training included an overview of the indicators of child maltreatment, the child welfare system, their obligation to report suspected child abuse and neglect and the methods for reporting. Evaluations indicated that this training was very helpful.

One CPS staff member attended the Differential Response National Forum Program held August 13 - 14, 2002 in Minneapolis. The forum included presentations on planning for differential response systems, child welfare assessments, state experiences in implementing a differential response system and structured decision making among others. As a result of the information obtained from this forum, the findings of the Child and Family Service Reviews and the report from the National Resource Center on Legal and Judicial Issues, Ohio is planning to convene a task force to look at issues related to screening reports of alleged child maltreatment.

Ohio Network of Child Advocacy Centers:

Child Advocacy Centers (CAC) are an established and highly effective approach to provide coordinated services to abused and neglected children and their families. ODJFS has been working with representatives of the full and emerging child advocacy centers throughout Ohio to establish a state association and central office. In addition to increasing the number of child advocacy centers available to serve Ohio's children and families, ODJFS hopes to establish a uniform state-wide data collection and case management system which utilizes a multidisciplinary/multiagency case management approach. In general, ODJFS will:

- C Provide technical assistance and support to existing and developing CAC, as well as to communities interested in exploring the establishment of a CAC.
- C Establish membership in the National Children's Alliance, making Ohio eligible to receive national CAC state funding.
- C Develop a state-wide training and education system for CAC.

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- C Promote the development and implementation of a state-wide uniform data collection and case management system.
- C Establish a program to implement and monitor performance standards on a state-wide basis.
- C Develop and implement a standardized forensic interviewing program.
- C Provide a range of membership services such as legislative monitoring, advocacy, and information-sharing.

Ohio Telemedicine Program:

The ODJFS, in collaboration with the pediatric Medical Centers of Excellence, has initiated a project to improve services to victims of child sexual abuse in medically underserved communities through telemedical services. Its objectives are to:

- C Provide child victims of sexual abuse and assault with expert evidence evaluation in a timely manner and within their own community;
- C Ensure expert diagnoses by knowledgeable physicians;
- C Support linkages between the evidence gatherers, medical experts, local children's services and law enforcement.

This is accomplished by:

- C Training Ohio nurses to become expert in evidence collection in sexual abuse and assault cases (Pediatric SANE);
- C Enabling communities in Ohio to provide expert evidence collection in these cases by utilizing the services of the Pediatric SANE.

The preparation tasks for a program to be operational are extensive, requiring not only significant allocation of manpower but often unanticipated investment of facilitation to reach political acceptance. In order for the Pediatric SANE to work within a community:

- C Interested nurses needed to be identified and trained;
- C Medical backup and expert child abuse mentorship must be identified;
- C Procedures for patient evaluations, care and reporting must be created;
- C A facility for patient care delivery must be found;
- C Coloposcopic recording equipment must be purchased; and,
- C Pediatric SANE must learn how to use the equipment and, in some instances, learn how to work via telemedicine with the expert child abuse physician.

During the past year's operation, 11 communities, through rolling recruitment, enrolled and fully participated in this project. The first of the recruits are, for the most part, further along in this process and are functioning more productively than those programs which were recruited more recently. All of the programs still are evolving to become more productive and serve greater numbers, although each has individualized its program to meet community-specific needs. Some of the programs rely on on-site medical expertise and some of them rely on a telemedicine connection with their expert. The Pediatric SANE in some of the sites are assuming more patient responsibility than others. In all cases where the Pediatric SANE program has advanced to providing patient / victim care, access to care has increased and the quality of care has improved.

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Through this project:

- C Eleven programs have been established in 11 Ohio counties.
- C Three one-week training sessions have been conducted in Cincinnati.
- C Forty-one nurses have been trained to be Pediatric SANE (P-SANE).
- C Equipment has been provided to seven programs and ordered for two additional programs.
- C Six peer review continuing education internet-based trainings have been conducted. These sessions are group sessions that include participation by all established programs.
- C Six programs are providing care to child victims by Pediatric SANE trained nurses.

There is great interest from the Centers and other communities to expand the program and ODJFS anticipates continuing the program.

Ohio Family Resource Hub Network:

Ohio has utilized federal Child Abuse Prevention & Treatment Act (CAPTA) funds under the Community Based Family Resource & Support (CBFRS) grant to develop a statewide network of family support and prevention providers. The Family Resource HUB Network (FRHN) is comprised of six regional networks, with leadership provided by HUB Coordinators who are responsible for facilitating the following:

- A web site which houses a database of information about family support and prevention programs in the region;
- Identification of unmet and under-met prevention needs within the region;
- Development of a regional strategic plan that describes how unmet/under-met service needs will be addressed, and how outreach to under served populations will be accomplished;
- Involvement of a broad base of parents, volunteers, advocates and community members in the planning, implementation and evaluation of regional activities and responsibilities;
- Provision of technical assistance and training to network members, and;
- Anticipation in a peer review process to evaluate the effectiveness of regional services and activities.

The regional HUBs also serve as distribution channels for statewide public awareness information and promotional materials such as parent education booklets, blue ribbon lapel pins, and markers imprinted with the prevention theme “*Help Paint Ohio’s Future Bright – Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect*”.

Regional networks meet on a quarterly basis, and maintain connections during the interim through newsletters, Listserv, and outreach/networking by HUB Coordinators. Similarly, the Statewide Network convenes on a quarterly basis, and maintains communication throughout the year via e-mail, phone and a Listserv.

During this reporting period, members of the FRHN Statewide Network participated in a two-day training on the peer exchange and support process (peer review), which is now being implemented on an inter-regional basis.

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An informational brochure containing addresses of the regional web sites is attached in the Appendix of this report.

Ohio's Family Resource HUB Network is a primary contributor to ODJFS' accomplishment of **Goal 1 (Protection), specifically via Activities which support Objective 1 (Increase State Collaboration on Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Activities), and Objective 8 (Promote Statewide Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Through Public Education and Public Awareness Campaigns.)**

Incentives:

ODJFS continues to make training available free of charge to any individual who will be serving as a GAL or CASA volunteer. Ohio currently has 31 local CASA/GAL programs operating in 33 counties. These local programs supervised 1,600 volunteers who served as GAL to over 7,770 abused, neglected and dependent children during 2002. Each of these volunteers is required to participate in 30 hours of pre-service training and 12 hours of in-service training each year.

The responsibilities of the CASA/GAL volunteer demand that they receive adequate training. The 30 hours of pre-service training required for each volunteer must include the following:

- roles and responsibilities of the CASA/GAL;
- child abuse and neglect;
- interviewing techniques;
- confidentiality and record keeping;
- child development;
- applicable laws and administrative code;
- the juvenile court system, including observation in the courtroom;
- the child protective services system;
- cultural and ethnic diversity, and;
- policies and procedures of the CASA/GAL program.

Implementation of standards of practice continues to be a top priority of CASA/GAL. This year, CASA/GAL has moved to a two-year review cycle that incorporates all of their established quality assurance methods and allows programs more time to implement needed enhancements. It also allows the state CASA/GAL association sufficient time to provide on-site, one-on-one and group technical assistance to local programs. The new cycle began in February with the submission of assurance letters and National CASA Association data surveys from all programs. CASA/GAL will be requesting documentation in the early spring and begin the on-site and paper review process shortly thereafter.

Risk Assessment:

ODJFS coordinated efforts to revise Ohio's Family Decision Making Model now entitled the Family Assessment and Planning Model. Development of the new model required revisions to the risk assessment (renamed the Family Assessment) in order to look at safety as a unique and distinct form of risk. In addition to the Family Assessment, the new model also includes a Safety Assessment, Case Review/Revised Semi-annual Administrative Review and a Reunification Assessment.

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Descriptions of each new tool are outlined below:

Safety Assessment - assists workers in identifying immediate safety threats, the family's ability or inability to control identified threats and the level of immediate intervention necessary to protect a child.

- Assessment of fifteen safety threats, child vulnerability and protective capacities;
- Tool is completed within four days of acceptance of a report

Family Assessment - assists workers in determining the likelihood of future maltreatment or re-maltreatment and identifies the conditions or circumstances which must change in order to reduce risk.

- Completed 30 days from receipt of a report (extension to 45 days with justification);
- Assesses contributing factors and underlying conditions for child maltreatment

Case Review - assists workers in re-assessing safety, emerging danger and risk contributors; reviewing the impact of services on reducing risk; and determining the need for continuing, modifying or terminating services.

- Completed every 90 days; first review due 90 days from date of disposition, placement or court filing (whichever occurs first).
- Every other review is completed in conjunction with the Semiannual Administrative Review

Reunification Assessment - assists workers in identifying when significant changes have occurred that would allow the child to safely return home, or be placed with another interested party, with or without interventions (i.e., increase in protective capacities, decrease in child vulnerability or threats of harm).

- Completed 30 days prior to planned reunification
- Identifies services needed to support reunification
- Provides documentation for court when recommending or opposing reunification

Work on the model was completed by department and county agency staff and consultants from the National Resource Center on Child Maltreatment (through technical assistance days allotted to Ohio by the US Department of Health and Human Services) and the Child Welfare Institute (through a contract). Monthly work group meetings and additional sub-committee meetings throughout the year enabled the groups to develop the protocol.

Overviews on the Safety Assessment Protocol were provided to the public children services agency staff at the Public Children Services Association Of Ohio Statewide Child Welfare Conference on September 12 and the Child Welfare Managers' Meeting on October 17. Department staff also presented an overview to the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program (OCWTP) Trainers on December 9, 2002.

A pilot of the Family Assessment and Planning Model is scheduled to begin in June

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2003. Information from the pilot will be used to finalize the model. Once finalized, statewide implementation of the model is an integral part of Ohio's proposed Program Improvement Plan. Although development of the model began prior to the CFSR, the tools in the model do address the outcomes and several of the key items in the CFSR. Specifically, the Safety Assessment is expected to assist in addressing issues related to repeat maltreatment; the Family Assessment is expected to improve the risk assessment process and assist agencies in better identifying service needs for children and families; the Case Review will provide a process for more timely review of the appropriateness or effectiveness of services provided to children and families; and the Reunification Assessment is expected to impact timely reunification as well as safety at the time of reunification.

CPS Caseworker Practice:

ODJFS presented at the Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO)'s Annual Conference on September 12, 2002. The presentation provided 50 individuals from various PCSAs and other child serving agencies an overview of the development of Ohio's new Safety Assessment protocol. Comments and suggestions made at this presentation were taken back to the workgroup developing the protocols for further review. Many individuals from this presentation expressed enthusiasm for the new protocol and were impressed with their opportunity to participate in the development.

The Case Load Analysis (CLA) initiative focuses on family-centered, strength-based practice in the delivery of child protective services to children and their families. The family assessment component includes the following tools: risk assessment, ecomap and genogram. Together these tools provide a structure to assess families holistically; identifying strengths, concerns and service needs from the onset of child protective service intervention. The CLA model emphasizes providing up-front services with expected results being a reduction in CaseLoad size and more timely permanence for children.

The nine (9) Case Load Analysis (CLA) counties have continued their implementation of the initiative. Seven (7) of the nine (9) CLA counties also participate in Ohio's Title IV-E waiver demonstration project, "ProtectOHIO." There remains a consortium of six (6) Public Children Services Agencies (PCSA) (Ashtabula, Athens, Greene, Guernsey, Medina, Muskingum) that comprise the CLA Implementation Leadership Forum (ILF). These six PCSAs continue as a collective in the development and implementation of agreed upon practice standards and methodologies. Although the degree to which all six PCSAs have implemented the practice standards varies, there remains a shared consensus in regards to the eventual implementation of all CLA standards and processes.

The three (3) other CLA counties (Hamilton, Portage, Richland) have continued CLA on an individual basis. Their implementation has continued to be county specific. All three have focused on staff training using the CLA allocation to improve the assessment skills of line staff. Additionally, all three have focused on organizational development and organizational change.

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During the past year of the initiative (State Fiscal Year 03), the ILF continued to develop and refine standards for Family Group Conferencing, Case Plan Evaluation, Semi-Annual Case Review and Workload Management which includes: Classification of Family Needs and Level of Service. The past year also brought major changes to the ILF. The ILF presented the CLA model to the Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO) and the Ohio based Institute for Human Services (IHS) in the hope those organizations could assist with expansion and continuation of the initiative. Both IHS and PCSAO found value in the model. IHS offered staff support for research and training needs. PCSAO has verbally committed to provide \$20,000.00 for expansion of the model to other Ohio PCSAs. ODJFS will work with the ILF to provide support and guidance to additional Ohio PCSAs that could benefit by incorporating the CLA model as a framework for agency child welfare practice.

Ashtabula and Medina counties plan to continue utilizing the CLA Model, but will not participate in the ILF next year. Both counties cited dwindling resources and local priorities as reasons that impacted the decision not to continue with the ILF after June 30, 2003.

The PCSAs that have comprised the ILF report the CLA initiative has assisted them in "raising the bar" regarding their practice. Of the counties that tracked placement data, they report a reduction in the number of children entering substitute care, a reduction in the number of days children remain in substitute care and an increase in the number of children placed with relatives and kin. The PCSAs planning to continue their involvement in the ILF have scheduled a cross-county training for June 2003. The training will enable the counties to share and benefit from the expertise they have each developed in relation to their implementation of various practice elements. The cross-county training will also add to the CLA training curriculum that has been developed over the past two years. It can be used in the future to assist other PCSAs interested in the CLA model.

Given the benefits the CLA initiative has brought to the ILF counties, the ILF has a plan to engage other Ohio PCSAs in the initiative post June 30, 2003. The ILF will be presenting a plenary session on CLA at the PCSAO statewide conference being held in Columbus in September 2003. It is hoped that the presentation will provide an opportunity to showcase CLA and recruit interested PCSAs.

ODJFS obtained a contract with the Child Welfare Institute to continue the development of the Safety Assessment Protocol. In addition to the Safety Assessment Protocol, the contract also entailed the revisions to the Risk Assessment Protocol. Six days of technical assistance from the National Resource Center on Child Maltreatment for FFY 03 were also granted for the development of these protocols.

Two workgroups consisting of PCSA and state staff, one for the Safety Assessment and the other for the Risk Assessment, worked concurrently to develop the new and revised protocols. The workgroups concluded their work in February 2003. The Safety Assessment Workgroup developed two new tools, the Safety Assessment and the Reunification Assessment, and revised one tool, the Safety Plan. The Risk Assessment Workgroup revised the Family Assessment (formerly the Family Risk

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Assessment Matrix) and developed the Case Review.

The Safety Assessment and Risk Assessment Protocols will be piloted by four (4) PCSAs beginning Summer 2003 and will conclude in Spring 2004. ODJFS is giving consideration to renewing the contract with CWI to assist with technical assistance and evaluation for the pilot and eventually with statewide implementation.

Central Registry:

Statistics were collected on the number and reasons for central registry search requests (e.g., adoption/foster care, information about alleged perpetrators) to determine whether the central registry is being used for the purposes for which it was designed - to promote the safety and protection of children. During the period June 2002 through April 2003, a total of 2,963 requests were made for searches of the Central Registry. Of that total, 1,747 or 59% of the requests indicated the information was needed to fulfill requirements for adoption or foster care "background screening." Requests for Central Registry searches from other states seeking information about families who had relocated from Ohio totaled 173 or 5.8% of the total search requests received. The remaining 1,043 requests (35.3%) did not state a reason for the request or indicated the search was required by an employer or for volunteer work (data was not kept on the number of searches for these purposes). A copy of the Central Registry statistics for June 2002 through April 2003 is located in the Appendix of this report.

The Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services requires Central Registry searches for individuals applying for international adoptions. In May 2002, the Department made a request to BCIS to waive this requirement for Ohio adoption applicants, considering that the Central Registry was designed as a social services tool and inappropriate to be used for background checks. BCIS responded that the issues raised in the Department's request are valid and merit further discussion and review by their Eastern Regional Office; however, BCIS is not in a position to waive the federal regulatory requirement to check available child abuse registries for foreign adoptions.

Child Protective Services and Family and Children Services Information Systems (FACSIS) staff collaborated to finalize the Central Registry expunction schedule and the new program became effective in August 2002. The goal is for expunctions to occur in a consistent manner without impacting the system's ability to maintain information on children who are receiving ongoing services from a PCSA. Central Registry search efforts are now processed more timely and efficiently and the need to request manual expunction of records has been eliminated.

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Public Awareness:

Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month Activities

Staff from The Ohio Children's Trust Fund and the Office For Children & Families continued to provide leadership to the Prevention Partners Leadership Group (PPLG), a statewide, multi-system collaborative whose purpose is to raise the visibility of child abuse/ neglect prevention on a year-round basis. PPLG Members include representatives from: county-level public children services agencies; Family and Children First Councils; the Ohio Department of Health; Parents Anonymous; Prevent Child Abuse Ohio, The Interfaith Association of Central Ohio; child advocates; Center For Effective Discipline; Family Service Council of Ohio, the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, the Humane Society of the U.S.; the Ohio Head Start Association; and the Public Children Services Association of Ohio. PPLG continues to focus its efforts on awareness and education for the three following target audiences: the general public, parents/ future parents, and policymakers. This year, the Parent/ Future Parent WorkGroup selected the three following booklets for widespread distribution: *"What Everyone Should Know...About Child Neglect...About Temper Tantrums, and...About Toilet Training"*.

Ohio's public awareness campaign was continued under the theme:

"HELP PAINT OHIO'S FUTURE BRIGHT!! PREVENT CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT"

The Children's Trust Fund web site again contained a public awareness kit with a number of downloadable materials. "A Parent's Pledge" was featured, and, hard copies were disseminated via parent support groups and early childhood education agencies such as day care centers and Head Start programs. A copy of the pledge is included in the Appendix to this report. The gubernatorial proclamation designating April as Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Month was also posted on the web site, and is attached in the Appendix.

To raise community awareness about child abuse and neglect prevention in general, and, enable counties to learn about the public awareness activities of their counterparts throughout the state, Children's Trust Fund staff compiled and distributed a schedule of activities being conducted in each county during Prevention Month (See Appendix for a copy of the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month Schedule of Activities.)

ODJFS allocated \$2,000 from the Basic State Grant to each 88 county children services agency to use for their local Prevention Month awareness campaign, and also subsidized promotional giveaways for each agency, the six regional CBFRS grantees and the 88 Family and Children First Councils.

The PPLG and Ohio Children's Trust Fund jointly created the "Beyond the Blue Ribbon" Prevention Awards to recognize professionals, volunteers, prevention programs and business and media contributors that have made meaningful contributions to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. The winners of these

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awards were announced during a luncheon at the Ohio Statehouse in April 2003.

Publications

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services publishes three booklets pertaining to child abuse and neglect to be used for education and training purposes. One booklet provides the public with information in regards to defining, preventing, identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect. Each of the other two booklets contain the same information with a specific focus - medical professionals and educational professionals. The general public and medical professionals booklets are out of date and need to be modified. The medical professionals booklet was revised by The Mayerson Center for Safe and Healthy Children and will be available in Summer 2003. The general public booklet is currently being revised and completion is expected in Fall 2003.

Ohio's Safe Haven Program

Ohio's Safe Haven (HB660) Law became effective in April 2001. Ohio's Safe Haven allows a parent to legally and anonymously deliver an infant no more than 72 hours old to a hospital employee, peace officer or emergency medical worker. The enactment of this legislation created a "safe haven" from prosecution for the parents of a delivered newborn under the auspices of the law.

HB 660 defines a deserted child as "a child whose parent has voluntarily delivered the child to an emergency medical service worker, peace officer, or hospital employee without expressing an intent to return for the child." Certain duties are imposed upon law enforcement agencies, hospitals, emergency medical service organizations, and public children services agencies regarding the care, custody, and treatment of the child. The courts, public children services agencies, or private child placing agencies are to treat the child in the same manner as a child adjudicated as a neglected child under the Ohio Juvenile Code. The Act also sets forth specific provisions in the event the parent returns and wishes to be reunited with the child. The courts must require that person, at that person's expense, to submit to a DNA test if that person claims to be the parent and seeks to be reunited with the deserted child.

Under the law, ODJFS is required to create a "Voluntary Medical Form" that can be filled out by the parent delivering the child. In addition, the department also developed other public information materials (a brochure and poster), and information to be given to the parent describing services available to assist parents and newborns. This information has been provided to hospitals, fire departments, police and sheriff departments, as well as schools and other organizations across the state.

Since Ohio's Safe Have Law (HB660) became effective in April 2001, there have been 20 children who were voluntarily permanently surrendered although this has occurred mainly in the larger metropolitan counties. Counties have utilized informational pamphlets developed by ODJFS and have developed local protocols, yet they have not noted a marked increase in the number of permanent voluntary surrenders under this law.

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Upcoming Activities:

ODJFS will implement the following activities outlined in the Five-year CFSP:

- Continue funding, implementing and achieving the stated goals, objectives and activities outlined in CAPTA Ohio;
- Continue participating in the development of the Child Fatality Review Committee Annual Report concerning all child deaths;
- Continue the ODJFS, ODADAS, Ohio Judicial Conference and Supreme Court of Ohio joint collaboration of operating Family Drug Courts;
- Continue supporting the development and implementation of the Community Evaluation Teams in cooperation with the local PCSAs and Family to Family coordinators;
- Continue a comprehensive review, including training, of all CPS rules with specific emphasis on the current screening rule, of local PCSAs screening policies and practices;
- Continue the development and implementation of the Family Resource Hub Network website;
- Continue implementing the responsibilities of the Family Resource Hub Network;
- Include service providers and community stakeholders identified by the local agencies in the statewide implementation training for the safety assessment protocol and forms that will be incorporated into the Family Decision Making Model;
- Continue developing a set of recommendations to improve the utilization of the Central Registry;
- Continue to promote a year-round campaign to raise community awareness about child abuse and neglect prevention;
- Increase the number of child advocacy centers available to serve Ohio's children and families, to establish a uniform state-wide data collection and case management system which utilizes a multidisciplinary/multiagency case management approach.

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**Goal 2:
Support** To respect and enhance families' ability to create safe, intact and family nurturing homes and communities that improve the quality of family life by promoting the healthy development and well-being of each family member.

Objective 1: Provide needed services to families coming to the attention of the PCSA.

Objective 2: Decrease protective services dependency by families.

Objective 3: Strengthen community collaboration for family support services.

Objective 4: Identify service utilization by PCSA clients.

Objective 5: PCSAs and ODJFS evaluate family service outcomes.

Progress/Accomplishments:

Services are made available to children and their families in many different ways. They are provided directly by the PCSA, or through partnership with other community agencies through information and referral, or contractual agreement,

Many activities have been implemented to accomplish **Goal 2: Support** so that children could continue to remain safely in their own homes or be returned safely to their own homes. These include supportive services, TANF/PRC, Help Me Grow! (HMG), the Family Stability Incentive Fund, Medical Insurance, the Semi-Annual Review process, Kinship Care, and Adoption Assistance.

Supportive Services:

Supportive services are provided by PCSAs in order to maintain family units and prevent the unnecessary placement of children, or to reunify families who have been separated due to family issues and to maintain that reunification. Supportive services also serve as the foundation for compliance with federal and state reasonable efforts provisions. Based on the requirements in Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rules 5101:2-39-07 and 5151:2-39-073, services must be provided when it is determined an emergency exists and when such services are necessary to reduce the risk of abuse or neglect of the child. Supportive services are provided based upon the PCSA's assessment of risk to the child and are made available at the following times:

- at the receipt of a report of child abuse and neglect;
- during the assessment/investigation process;
- during the supervision of a child in his own home without court order;
- during the protective supervision of a child as ordered by the court;
- during a child's substitute care placement;
- when reunification occurs; or,
- when permanent placement of a child occurs.

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Within 24 hours (or the next working day), agencies must make the following mandated services available, as appropriate:

- case management services;
- therapeutic services;
- homemaker or home health aide services;
- protective day care services;
- counseling services;
- diagnostic services;
- emergency shelter services; or,
- substitute care.

Within 14 days from the date a case plan has been approved by the parent, guardian, or custodian and the court, the PCSA must make the above mandated services contained in that case plan available. When the case plan includes the following services, the agency must provide them within 30 days from the date the plan has been approved: adoption services; information and referral; independent living and transitional life skill services; and unmarried parent services.

OAC rules also require PCSAs to make available a minimum of three of the following supportive services:

- community education services;
- crisis services;
- emergency caretaker services;
- employment and training services;
- environmental management services;
- parent aide services.

Family Stability Incentive Fund:

The Family Stability Incentive Fund focuses on reducing the number of children unnecessarily entering out-of-home care by implementing cross system child placement diversion activities and financing only positive measurable outcomes. Flexibility is the key to Ohio's remarkable success. Each county designs strategies to stabilize families in crisis and provides alternatives to removing children from their homes and schools based on local needs and existing resources. Services include but are not limited to financial assistance, family support, crisis counseling, school-based mental health services, youth mentoring, Multi-Systematic Therapy (MST), wrap-around service planning, respite care and intensive family reunification support and case management. Grant money is paid only after placement reductions are achieved.

The target population is youth at risk of being removed from their homes. This population includes youngsters from all local systems - juvenile justice, child welfare, mental health, mental retardation and developmental disabilities, education, and alcohol and drug services. Youngsters discharged from placements are also included so placement re-entry is averted. All placements in all systems are counted. These

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include all secure placements such as detention and inpatient psychiatric stays.

The first grant cycle implemented in 1996 included 17 counties: Brown, Clark, Cuyahoga, Franklin, Greene, Guernsey, Hamilton, Jefferson, Knox, Lorain, Madison, Montgomery, Portage, Ross, Stark, Summit and Washington Counties. This cycle ended in June 1999 after four years of funding, most counties are maintaining their diversion programming with local funds. There were 13 Cycle 2 counties: Clermont, Darke, Lawrence, Scioto, Licking, Mahoning, Morgan, Muskingum, Preble, Seneca, Sandusky, Wyandot and Trumbull Counties. Cycle 2 ended funding in March 2001. These counties, like Cycle 1, achieved an annual 10% placement episode reduction. Most counties exceeded this goal. These counties are sustaining their effective grant-initiated practices and programs with local resources. In 2000, two new cycles were launched. In January 2000, 19 new county cross-system experiments started in Allen, Ashtabula, Athens, Auglaize, Clinton, Coshocton, Delaware, Fairfield, Geauga, Hancock, Hardin, Hocking, Miami, Morrow, Pickaway, Putnam, Shelby, Vinton and Wayne Counties. A fourth cycle, started in July 2000, included Butler, Carroll, Champaign, Columbiana, Crawford, Erie, Gallia, Harrison, Highland, Holmes, Huron, Lucas, Marion, Mercer, Noble, Ottawa, Paulding, Richland, and Wayne Counties. With this cycle, 87% of the state's children have been potentially covered by this initiative.

The Family Stability Incentive Fund reflects the belief that families should be supported in raising their children, whenever that is feasible and safe for each child. This belief drives an effective strategy for reducing costs both from an economic perspective and human toll. The goal of the Family Stability Incentive Fund is to reduce the actual number of out-of-home placements by 35 percent over three and a half years in each county compared to baseline year. As "bridge financing" this grant helps counties refinance placement cost savings for sustained diversion programming. Counties have discontinued practices proven ineffective and are relying on more evidence-based models.

The Ohio Department of Mental Health, in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, administers the Family Stability Incentive Fund. Unique to this grantsmanship has been the work of the State Family Stability Committee, which has managed the implementation of this initiative since its inception. Managers from the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, the Ohio Department of Education, the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, the Ohio Department of Youth Services and the Governor's Office Ohio Family and Children First, join county delegates and the Ohio Department of Mental Health monthly to guide program implementation and to provide technical assistance, quality assurance and evaluation to county sites, and model cross-agency collaboration. In the majority of sites, interagency teams composed of individuals from both public and non-profit agencies, along with family advocates, provide service guidance. County Family and Children First Councils provide program monitoring.

A growing feature of this initiative is a cadre of trainers and practice experts plus the availability of tools for statewide usage. Consultants are available upon county request to provide training and problem-solving assistance on a county-specific basis. This

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year to support increases in kinship care and to promote linkage to the local kinship navigators, 5,000 subscriptions of *Relatively Speaking*, an 18 issue kinship family newsletter are being distributed. *Relatively Speaking* is an "age and stage" prevention informational piece to be mailed to kinship families at each age and stage of their youthful charges. The publication has been written by health professionals working at a children's hospital in Columbus and staff from a local mental health association. In the upcoming year, extended emphasis will be placed on a toolkit approach to program technical support. Ohio Department of Mental Health in collaboration with ODJFS is piloting a community assessment, data-keeping and continuous quality improvement process based on wraparound service principles and values developed by John VanDenBerg. Families of youth in placement data are being geo-coded by system and school attachment area to relocate services closer to concentrations of families at risk. Curricula for parent advocates, wraparound training, and wraparound supervision are in the process of being finalized and statewide training of trainer sessions will be conducted in the upcoming year.

The Family Stability Incentive Fund comes from the federal Title IV-B, Part 2 monies and state general revenue funds. Total federal funding for SFY 2002 and SFY 2003 is \$1.9 million per year. An additional \$2.7 million is contributed annually from state general revenue funds.

There are over 17,000 fewer out-of-home placements in the Cycle 1 sites when compared to 1995 county placement baseline figures. Cycle 2 counties reduced placements by 15% in 1998, 20% in 1999, 21% in 2000, 20% in 2001 and 19% in 2002. Nearly 4,000 fewer placements have occurred over the life of the project. In Cycles 3 and 4, there has been a greater than 10% reduction in placements in the first and second grant years. Nearly 5,000 fewer placement episodes have been counted.

A significant number of youth have avoided incarceration and other congregate care arrangements, school disruption and placement recidivism. Families in crisis have had more control, choice and immediacy in planning and receiving needed supports. The Family Stability Incentive Fund has proven to be a valuable tool in translating zero tolerance for school violence policies into actual practices linking schools, youth and their families to beneficial community services. Substantial gains have been made in transforming service delivery efforts into family support networks, in collaborating with front line workers and managers, and in blending various service revenues to fund what families need, when they need it. The Family Stability Initiative Fund has been one of the most transforming collaborative experiments tried in Ohio by its multiple child and family-serving systems.

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Medical Insurance:

Ohio has been a member of ICAMA since March 1999. The purpose of the Compact is to provide a mechanism which ensures that medical coverage and other adoption services for eligible children continue in their state of residence.

ODJFS continues to ensure that geographic location does not become a barrier to parents trying to meet the needs of their adopted children. Technical assistance is provided to the following populations:

Ohio's 88 County Department of Job and Family Services (CDJFS) Agencies

-The state facilitates, provides technical assistance, and supports county agencies in the administration of the program.

Adoptive Parents - The state provides assistance to parents by contacting state and/or county children services agencies to aid in the resolution of issues regarding the establishment of Medicaid.

Other ICAMA Member and Non-Member States - The state maintains ongoing communication with other member and non-member states to facilitate the provision of benefits and services for special needs children and their adoptive families.

ODJFS Bureau of Family Services, Adoption Section, formed a work group with the ODJFS Bureau of Consumer and Program Support, County Oversight and Support Section. This work group convened from December 2001 through June 2002. The workgroup was formed in an effort to provide Ohio Medicaid in a more efficient and least overwhelming manner for adoptive children whose parents have a state-funded adoption assistance agreement in effect with another state.

As a result of the collaboration, the ICAMA process has been incorporated into the state Medicaid and adoption rules allowing for easier and more efficient processing of these types of Medicaid cases. The processing of these Medicaid cases is now efficient because the adoptive parent no longer has to appear for a face-to-face scheduled appointment. The process has been structured so that the information needed for opening the case can be mailed to the agency. In addition, the Medicaid cases are now redetermined annually instead of semi-annually.

ODJFS conducted a statewide video-conference training in January 2003 to inform agencies of the revised Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rule 5101:2-44-052 "Covered families and children medicaid eligibility for state adoption subsidy recipient moving from or to Ohio." Additional statewide training will be provided throughout the Summer and Fall of 2003. A total of 475 ICAMA cases have been processed from July 1, 2002 through May 31, 2003. Of those cases processed, 285 children moved from Ohio while 190 children moved into Ohio.

Semi-Annual Review:

As the supervising agent of Ohio's child protection program, ODJFS monitors the compliance of the 88 PCSAs and 43 PCPAs with the time frames for conducting Semi-Annual Administrative Reviews (SARs), as required by Ohio Administrative Code

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rule 5101:2-42-43. This is accomplished by accessing the information collected from the PCSAs and PCPAs in Ohio's statewide Family and Children Services Information System (FACSIS). FACSIS EVENTS 104 and 228 capture information about the date of and decisions made at the SAR. If the information in FACSIS indicates that an agency is having difficulty complying with the required time frames for the SAR, ODJFS Regionally-based Field Office staff are able to provide technical assistance and work in collaboration with the agency to develop an improvement plan.

OAC rule 5101:2-42-43 requires PCSAs and PCPAs to complete the SAR for the case plan no later than six months after the date for which the earlier of the following occurs:

- The date the original case plan was completed for in-home voluntary supportive services, no court order;
- The earlier of either the date on which the complaint was filed or the child was first placed in substitute care;
- The earlier of either the date on which the complaint in the case was filed or the court issued an order pursuant to Section 2151.414 or 2151.415 of the Ohio Revised Code regarding when the case has been terminated and an extension requested; or,
- The earlier of either the date on which the complaint was filed or the court issued an order of protective supervision pursuant to Section 2151.353 of the Ohio Revised Code.

After the initial SAR, the PCSA or PCPA is required to conduct an SAR no later than every six months after the most recent SAR. Per OAC Rules 5101:2-39-08 and 5101:2-39-081, the purpose of the SAR is to:

- Assess and update, as needed, the permanency plan for the child which can include, but is not limited to: maintaining the child in their own home/preventing removal, independent living, a planned permanent living arrangement, or adoption;
- Evaluate the overall level of risk to the child;
- Assess the appropriateness of supportive services offered and provided to the child, parent/guardian/custodian, or prefinalized adoptive parent, and substitute care giver, when applicable;
- Evaluate whether services provided to the child, parent/guardian/custodian will help the child return to a safe environment, when applicable; and,
- Assess the continued safety and appropriateness of the child's placement.

Kinship Care: ODJFS has identified the position of statewide kinship program coordinator. The role of this individual is to: provide information about kinship and available services, and technical assistance to county agencies, kinship navigators and kinship caregivers; keep current with the national trends, information, resources and legislation; provide data and information to the state legislature; network and collaborate with other state agencies to develop and access services for kinship caregivers; and be a liaison to the Ohio Grandparent/Kinship Statewide Coalition, State Pro Bono group and the Statewide Kinship Advisory Board.

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ODJFS continues to implement the four recommendations of the Kinship Care Services Planning Council in December 1999. The remaining seven recommendations continue to be reevaluated for implementation. The following is the status of the recommendations.

Recommendation #1: Creation of a kinship “caregiver affidavit and power of attorney.”

Status: H.B. 211 of the 124th General Assembly was not voted on by the Legislature before the end of the session (December 31, 2002). However, it has since been re-introduced as H.B. 130 in the 125th General Assembly. The intent is to enable kinship caregivers to be able to access health care for and enroll children, in their care, in school without having to obtain legal custody through the court system. ODJFS continues to provide support for the passage of this bill.

Recommendation #2: Developing an information and referral service.

Status: 1) In addition to the “Relatives Caring for Children: Ohio Resource Guide,” ODJFS has entered into a contract with the Ohio Department of Mental Health to produce “Relatively Speaking”, a publication that addresses issues about kinship caregivers raising children in their care. Both resources are available from ODJFS and the statewide information and referral system Help Me Grow (HMG). “Relatives Caring for Children: Ohio Resource Guide” is available at: www.state.oh.us/odjfs/ocf/publications.stm

2) Help Me Grow continues to provide information and referral services to kinship caregivers.

Recommendation #3: Statewide Kinship Care Advisory Board.

Status: The Kinship Care Advisory Board is comprised of representatives from public and private child caring agencies, ODJFS, Area Agencies on Aging, Ohio Family and Children First, Legal Aid, and kinship caregivers. The Advisory Board continues to meet quarterly to discuss and evaluate Ohio’s kinship care program and provide recommendations and feedback to the Director of ODJFS on the implementation of the various program components recommended by the Kinship Care Services Planning Council. The Advisory Board is in the process of developing a long range strategic plan to focus on specific goals.

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Recommendation #4: Identifying and supporting a statewide network of “kinship navigators.”

Status: \$3.0 million in TANF funds have been allocated for SFY 2004 and 2005 to all 88 public children services agencies, providing them with the opportunity to implement or continue implementation of a kinship navigator program. The components of the kinship navigator program consist of:

- 1) Identifying the population of kinship caregivers in their community;
- 2) A needs assessment;
- 3) Providing information to the community about the kinship navigator service; and
- 4) Providing information and referral for services to kinship caregivers in the community and assist them in accessing the benefits and services for which they may be eligible.

Seventy-seven public children services agencies have identified a kinship navigator for their county. Statewide data collection also indicates that the kinship navigators have served 5,000 plus kinship families with 7,000 plus children.

Ohio's Children and Family Service Review identified three areas addressing kinship which are in need of improvement under Permanency Outcomes P1 and P2:

- Item 8; Reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives.
- Item 14; Preserving family connections.
- Item 15; Relative placement.

Ohio's program improvement plan proposes to increase the percentage of timely reunification, guardianships or permanent placements with relatives within 12 months of entry into foster care.

Ohio's program improvement plan proposes to increase the continuity of family relationships and connections by increasing the percentage of children placed with relatives or kinship care providers.

Adoption Assistance:

Ohio continues to place emphasis on the state adoption programs that assist and maintain adoptive families pre and post legalization of the adoptive placement.

Families that are ineligible for federal adoption assistance (IV-E) may be eligible to receive the state adoption maintenance subsidy (SAMS) which is based upon the adoptive families' income and the number of dependents.

Families receiving federal or state subsidies may be eligible to receive funding

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reimbursement or payment for services. The State Adoption Special Services Subsidy operates as a county administered and county funded program. This program provides funds to address the rehabilitative needs of special needs children adopted via a public or private children services entity. Agencies must determine that services requested by families are beyond the economic resources of the family to provide payment.

Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy (PASSS) is a subsidy program unique to Ohio. Implemented in 1992, PASSS is funded 75% through Title IV-B, Part II and 25% through General Revenue Funds (GRF). PASSS is the only subsidy program designed to allow families to apply for services after the adoption legalization. The subsidy is available to all adoptive families, regardless of the type of adoption (international, attorney, public or private agency.) To be eligible for PASSS, all of the following requirements must be met:

The applicant and the child must reside in Ohio, and are required to make application to the public children services agency located in the county where the family resides;

The child must have a special need that consists of a physical, developmental, mental or emotional condition that existed before the adoption was legalized, or a condition that can be attributed to factors in the child's pre adoptive background or medical history, or the biological family's background or medical history;

The child must be under age 18 or be at least 18 years of age and less than 21 years of age and is mentally or physically handicapped;

Other sources of assistance to the family to meet the child's needs are inadequate or are unavailable in sufficient time to meet the child immediate needs;

The expenses necessitated by the services to meet the child's special needs must be beyond the economic resources of the adoptive family.

Services funded through PASSS must be deemed necessary by a medical professional, and may only benefit the child to fulfill the child's needs. The types of services provided are psychiatric, psychological, and counseling services, which may include respite care. Funding provided to families through PASSS must not be available through any other resource and it must be determined by the public children services agency that the family's economic resources are not capable of paying for the child's treatment needs. Residential Treatment Care, minus educational cost, is provided under PASSS. Multiple types of service requests can be made on one application. This is a state supervised, county administered program. During SFY 03, county departments of job and family services statewide approved 966 applications for PASSS and ODJFS found 914 of those applications in compliance with state laws. The program served over 900 special needs children.

During SFY 2003 Ohio provided funding for:

- Surgery \$4,928
- Substance Abuse Counseling \$15,874
- Biofeedback Therapy \$17,931

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During SFY 2003 over \$4 million was encumbered by ODJFS to assist families in meeting the treatment needs of their children. Of this \$4 million, \$3 million has been expended. Almost half of the SFY 2003 PASSS total expenditures were for Residential Treatment Services and Respite.

For the past several years, encumbered requests for services have exceeded the amount allotted thus forcing early closure of the program for the remainder of the year. This year the program was closed as of December 31, 2002. In order to alleviate early closing of the program, and continue to provide services for families in crisis, the following statutory changes are proposed to the PASSS program for SFY 2004:

- The total dollar amount a child is eligible for each fiscal year will be reduced from \$15,000 to \$10,000;
- Children may receive up to \$5,000 in additional funding if the department determines that extraordinary circumstances exist;
- The adoptive parent of a child who receives services shall pay a co-pay, based on a sliding fee scale. This co-pay can be waived if the family is below 200 % of the state medium income; and,
- The department will establish "clinical standards" for evaluating a child's handicap and assessing the child's needs for services.

During federal fiscal year (FFY) 2003, Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 44 Rules, Management and Administrative, State Adoption Subsidy, were revised as a result of the Five-year Rule Review process mandated by House Bill (HB) 473 of the 121st General Assembly. The revised Chapter 44 rules became effective May 1, 2003, and statewide training is being developed for late summer 2003.

ODJFS has completed the final draft of an Adoption Resource Guide for families to assist them in better understanding the different types of adoption assistance programs available in Ohio, the eligibility criteria for each program and information about the application process. The book should be available for distribution in summer 2003.

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Technical Assistance:

Information for this portion of the report is taken from the Year-5 Evaluation Report for Ohio's title IV-E Demonstration Waiver Project, ProtectOHIO. One of the outcomes identified by the demonstration counties is to adopt the use of various managed efforts. To adapt the term "managed care" to the child welfare setting, the Evaluation Team broadly defined the use of managed care as a rational decision-making process to balance the competing forces of cost control, access and quality. Evaluation data indicates that every demonstration and every comparison county is using managed care strategies to some extent. The most obvious examples are the counties that have executed a capitated contract with an outside entity, delegating authority for serving a certain population of children. This type of activity is atypical of the evaluation counties as a whole. Much more common is some type of oversight of the use of placement services, or a varied collection of quality assurance activities, or the addition of numerous services that are needed by children and families.

A list was developed of eight commonly used managed care strategies that promote the balance of these competing forces. The chart below depicts the primary areas of exploration and specific items/activities implemented by demonstration counties.

COMPONENTS OF YEAR 4 MANAGED CARE INDEX	
Managed Care Category	Items/Activities by Counties
Financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of capitated contract • Nature of capitated contract conditions • Existence of a county levy (PCSAO data) • Title IV-E investment strategies • PCSA control over spending • Access to PRC funds
Utilization Review (UR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of placement review processes • Use of process to review non-placement services • Use of collaborative funds for non-placement services
Service Array	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficiency of services • Extent of new services created • Reconfigured services: changes made in the way existing services are used • Diminished services
Case Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type of unit structure • Use of team conferencing • Screening/gate keeping
Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of contracting • Expanding provider marketplace • Efforts to change availability of foster care • Efforts to change availability of adoptive homes

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Quality Assurance (QA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality control: systematic monitoring of compliance, automated tracking of mandatory reviews, and mechanisms to assure contract compliance • Use of quality enhancement mechanisms • Locus of internal quality assurance responsibility • PCSA focus on outcomes
Targeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of special initiatives • Services are developed for a specific sub-group • Existence of specialized PCSA units
MIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of use of automated management information and access to management information systems

The trends indicate that the Waiver appears to enable counties to make more significant strides in a few specific managed care strategies, while most of the other managed care strategies are fairly accessible to both demonstration and comparison counties, suggesting that all the counties are becoming more attentive to rational management approaches.

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Upcoming Activities:

ODJFS will implement the following activities outlined in the Five-year CFSP:

- Continue funding of the kinship navigator program;
- Advocate for funding to provide financial support to kinship caregivers to pay for services;
- Evaluate the kinship navigator program;
- Analyze needs assessment and numbers of kinship caregivers data reported by counties;
- Identify and advocate for removal of barriers to kinship caregivers in accessing services;
- Continue the provisions of services to families to ensure safety of children and the well-being of children and families;
- Throughout the Summer and Fall of 2003, ODJFS will provide additional ICAMA training to public and private adoption agencies statewide;
- ODJFS will participate in the Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on Adoption & Medical Assistance (AAICAMA) upcoming survey. The survey requests the state's profile information regarding Ohio's adoption assistance program. This survey will result in the state's profile being accessible on a page of the AdoptUSKids website dedicated to information regarding state-funded adoption subsidies;
- A statewide committee will be formed to assist the state in implementing legislative changes regarding the PASSS program. OAC rules regarding PASSS will be revised and training will be provided in July 2004;
- The Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy (PASSS) brochure will be revised to reflect upcoming changes to the program;
- Throughout the Summer and Fall of 2003, ODJFS will provide training on the State Adoption subsidy program;
- Distribute the Ohio Adoption Guide which contains information about subsidies;
- Revise the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance rules to be in compliance with federal policy instruction and guidance and monitor for local impact and compliance.

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Goal 3: Preservation/Permanence To empower at risk families by building on their strengths, to protect, care and support their children, when possible, or identify permanent alternative arrangements when family preservation is not possible:

Objective 1: Increase the number of counties using cross-systems decision-making regarding emergency substitute care placements.

Objective 2: Decrease the length of time between initial custody and permanent placement.

Objective 3: Ensure all eligible children participate in independent living programs.

Objective 4: Increase each agency's performance by 3% in reducing the number of children in long-term foster care.

Progress/Accomplishments:

Goal 3: Preservation/Permanence focuses on maintaining the child safely in his own home, reunifying children with their families, or locating a permanent placement for the child.

Termination of Parental Rights:

Ohio Revised Code sections 2151.27 and 2151.413, and Ohio Administrative Code rule 5101:2-42-95 require that once a child has been in temporary custody 12 months out of a consecutive 22 month period, the PCSA or PCPA holding custody must file for the termination of parental rights unless there is a compelling reason not to. ODJFS continues to provide training to public and private agencies regarding these rules during caseworker core training and through one-on-one technical assistance. Agencies can also download from the FACSIS system a listing of all the children in their temporary custody that meet the 12 month deadline. Agencies use this list as a resource in deciding which cases should be reviewed for the filing of a motion to terminate parental rights. ODJFS case plan and review forms have been updated to include an explanation of the compelling reasons for not filing for the termination of parental rights.

Collaboration: ODJFS continues to work closely with the Supreme Court of Ohio (SCO) to improve the interaction between child welfare and judicial systems and the effectiveness of intervention in family-related court cases. Under the umbrella of an Interbranch Agreement that formalizes the intent of these two branches of government to work together on behalf of Ohio's families, ODJFS and SCO jointly administer a range of activities:

- Judicial Training and Cross-Disciplinary Training
- Data Collection
- Expansion of CASA/GAL Programs
- Guardian ad Litem Standards

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- Family Drug Courts
- Pilot Sites
- Child Protection Mediation
- Community Team Building
- Cashflow Management
- Court Technology
- Children, Families and the Courts Bulletin

The Supreme Court of Ohio has fully implemented these recommendations of the Family Court Feasibility Study reported in Ohio's 2002 Annual Progress and Services Report:

- ***Appoint a standing committee to direct statewide efforts***

In November, Chief Justice Moyer formed the *Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Children, Families and the Courts*. The 20-member committee is a permanent, standing committee made up of judges, magistrates, and various professionals who specialize in child and family issues. Its charge is to advise the Chief Justice on court reform matters related to family law.

In his announcement of the committee, Chief Justice Moyer noted that advisory committees help the court system adapt and reform to meet the needs of the future: "The committee will make recommendations on how to best implement various family-law initiatives. Their input will help us how the Ohio family court system can best serve children and their families."

Chief Justice Moyer appointed a Public Children Services Agency Executive Director to co-chair the advisory committee. The appointment of a PCSA Executive Director as a co-chair marks the first time that a non-judicial representative has chaired a Supreme Court Committee. In his instructions, Chief Justice Moyer suggested the committee review a number of topics, including the Task Force's recommendations on the Juvenile Data Network, Family Code, and Guardian *ad litem* Standards. The committee selected the Guardian *ad litem* Standards as one of its two initial tasks. The Chief Justice was clear that the committee's role was not to debate the need nor content of these standards, but to determine the best method of implementation.

- ***Establish a workgroup for automation/information sharing***

Chief Justice Moyer has established the Technology Advisory Committee.

- ***Establish a Family Court Services Office***

The Supreme Court of Ohio has established the Office of Judicial and Court Services, and continues to make progress on the other recommendations included in the report.

Implementation of the court-related aspects of Ohio's Performance Improvement Plan will be a major focus of the ODJFS/SCO collaboration over the next three years. Although there were a number of court-related findings in Ohio's CFSR, they were

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anecdotal and undocumented. In response, joint ODJFS/SCO activities will target:

- Establishing methods of determining if CFSR court-related findings are supported by data;
- Determining the causes and impacting factors for validated findings;
- Developing plans to address causes and impacting factors;
- Providing technical and remedial services to courts and systems identified in plans.

Sharing of Resources:

In 1997, Ohio introduced and implemented an innovative and multi-pronged approach to address the challenge of finding adoptive homes for waiting children. The initiative represented a strong legislative, financial, and administrative commitment to reducing the number of children lingering in Ohio's public foster care systems. Integral components of the program included:

- The establishment of public and private agencies collaboration and partnerships;
- Monetary incentives for placing the most difficult to place waiting children; and,
- The creation of an statewide awareness campaign that introduced Ohio's waiting children to potential adoptive parents (Children Feature Books, Online Photo listings, Specific Child Recruitment Activities)

ODJFS conducted statewide quarterly regional meetings for public and private AdoptOHIO agencies to provide a consistent and productive forum for networking, team and skill building. Topics included best practice issues, Child and Family Service Reviews outcomes and agencies relationship building.

Although successful, budgetary constraints have forced the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to re-structure the AdoptOHIO program. ODJFS' goal is to focus on providing our limited resources to financially support programs that recruit and retain the largest number of adoptive families, capable of providing homes for Ohio's waiting children. Several changes are currently occurring to transition AdoptOHIO from a State program to a county based initiative.

Effective July 1, 2003, AdoptOHIO will be restructured and renamed **AdoptOHIO Kids**. A funding structure, inclusive of all 88 Ohio counties, will be implemented to encourage the public agencies to work closely with private agencies in placing Ohio's waiting children and legalizing those adoptive placements within 24 months of the child's entry into the public agency's foster care system.

Public agencies that exceed the total number of legalizations of children who are both 10 years or older and in the custody of the agencies for more that 24 months will receive additional funding.

OAPL:

During this reporting period ODJFS produced the children's Ohio Adoption Photo Listing Book which features over 2,500 waiting children. The book or an update packet was mailed to 400 entities including public and private agencies, libraries and some churches on a monthly basis. Additionally the Department maintained the AdoptOHIO Photo Listing web site. The AdoptOHIO website features specific

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information on each child awaiting adoption and general information regarding adoption. On average, the OAPL website receives 30,000 hits a month from prospective families, nationally and internationally.

During July 1, 2002 and June 30, 2003, ODJFS produced 12 "Features Books" which are magazine style books featuring 30 to 40 children. These books were utilized by the county agencies to recruit families for the most difficult to place children. Additionally five books listing approved families were produced and distributed to the county agencies.

The Department held several Focus Groups with prospective adoptive parents and adoption professionals to evaluate the effectiveness of the Recruitment tools. The consensus of the focus groups was that the large book is unwieldy and difficult to look through. Concerns about the Photo Listing included listing of children who had potential families already identified and the quality of the pictures. The only concern stated about the Features books was that they did not appear to have a wide enough distribution. Suggestions for additional places to distribute the books were churches, adoptive and foster parent support groups, schools especially teacher lounges.

Due to budgetary constraints, the Department will no longer produce the large OAPL Children Book effective July 1, 2003. All children will continue to be listed on the AdoptOHIO Web site. The Department will increase the number of Features Books to 18 regional books and will continue to produce the Families Waiting to Adopt book five times a year. The Department will work towards enhancing this web site based on recommendations from the Focus Groups and internal research.

AdoptOHIO Interagency

Collaboration: Due to budgetary constraints ODJFS is in the planning stages to revise the structure of the AdoptOHIO program. Collaborative efforts remained strong under the AdoptOHIO program this past year; and ODJFS met with several statewide groups including the Ohio Association of Children Caring Agencies, the Public Children Services (PCSAO), the Executive Leadership Committee (ELC), which is comprised of 20 county agency directors, the PCSA Directors meeting to collect input for the new restructure. Of the funds available in SFY 2004, half of the funds will be allocated to the 88 counties as an unrestricted allocation, based on the average number of children finalized during the past three federal fiscal years. PCSAs will be able to earn two separate incentive amounts based on: 1) their percent of improvement on the CFSR measure - percentage of children finalized within 24 months from their initial removal; and 2) the increase in children finalized who were both age 10 or older and in the custody of the agency for at least 24 months. This concept was also presented to public and private agency adoption managers at the April 23, 2003 statewide AdoptOHIO Quarterly and staff was afforded an opportunity to explore how collaborative efforts could be continued.

Adoption 2002:

Although the increase in adoptions from FFY 2001 to 2002 was not as high as in previous years there was a significant increase in the number of finalizations. This

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increase made Ohio eligible for Adoption 2002 Incentive dollars.

<u>Federal Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Number of Finalizations</u>	<u>Percent Increase</u>
FFY 1997	1344	
FFY 1998	1424	10.6%
FFY 1999	1577	10.7%
FFY 2000	1777	12.6%
FFY 2001	2008	12.9%
FFY 2002	2165	07.8%

As the number of children waiting to be adopted decreases, Ohio may begin to see a larger decline in the percent of increase from the previous year. About the same number of children entered permanent custody during FFY 2002 (2,136) as during FFY 2001(2,120). For the past two years, the number of children entering the system is down 12.5% from the highs of FFY 1999 and 2000 when an average of 2,432 children entered the system each year.

As a result FFY 2002 was the second consecutive year during which there was decrease in the number of children waiting to be adopted. FFY 2002 was the first year since 1998 when the number of adoptions exceeded the number of new permanent commitments.

**Adoption
Timelines:**

Ohio did not achieve substantial compliance on the CFSR Outcome Measure (Finalized-Adoptions-within-24-Months) - 32% of the children finalized should be finalized within 24 months from their initial custody. A statewide committee comprised of adoption, foster care and intake staff and adoptive and foster parents, was developed and met between February, 2003 and May 2003. The Committee's task was to identify the barriers leading to non-compliance with the Adoption CFSR Outcome Measure and to develop the Program Improvement Plan (PIP). The CFSR, Adoption PIP subcommittee identified several barriers including:

- C Delays in transferring the cases from the Ongoing Unit or Foster Care Unit to the Adoption Unit after permanent commitment has been granted;
- C Failure to conduct concurrent planning;
- C Failure to complete required paperwork in a timely manner;
- C Delay in the court process.

The activities that will further address these issues are listed in the **Upcoming Activities** at the end of this Section.

ODJFS has established a process to continuously evaluate the CFSR Finalized-Adoptions-within-24-Months measure. The analysis demonstrates that this percentage follows a pattern of increasing one year and decreasing the next year. This has been broken down by county and is easily accessible by the PCSA staff.

Careful analysis was completed regarding the validity of using exit cohort data for this measure. The method of using the exit cohort data for this CFSR outcome may not be an accurate nor desirable measure when evaluating how states are improving the rate at which adoptions are occurring. Exit cohort data analysis only considers those

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children adopted within a given period resulting in bias towards easy to place children. Consequently this may produce pressure to focus on the new children entering the permanent custody and to concentrate less on those children who have been waiting the longest. Children who are never adopted are not reflected in the indicator.

In addition to the CFSR measure, ODJFS has provided data regarding other ways of looking at timeliness measure in performance reports. One way demonstrates that OHIO is steadily increasing in the percentages of children who are adopted within one year of their permanent commitment. The following chart demonstrates the increase in rate of children adopted.

<i>FFY of Permanent Commitment</i>	<i>Number of Children committed</i>	<i>Percent of Adopted by end for FFY of commitment</i>	<i>Percent Adopted by End of Next FFY</i>
1999	2,436	7.0	38.3
2000	2,428	9.1	46.1
2001	2,120	8.3	49.5
2002	2136	12.5	Not available

Adoption

Alternatives:

One of the recommendations of the Statewide Kinship Care Services Planning Council is that legislation be passed to implement a caregiver authorization affidavit to establish a legal relationship between the caregiver and child to allow kin families to access services for the child. HB 211 of the 124 General Assembly will permit the execution of a power of attorney or caretaker authorization affidavit permitting certain persons, with whom a child resides, authority over the care, custody, and control of the child including the ability to enroll the child in school in the district in which the person resides and to consent to medical care for the child. HB211 of the 124th General Assembly was not voted on by the Legislature before the end of the session (December 31, 2002). However, it has since been re-introduced as HB130 in the 125th General Assembly. ODJFS continues to provide support for the passage of this bill.

AdoptOHIO

Technical

Assistance:

ODJFS and the AdoptOHIO vendors have provided considerable technical assistance to participating agencies over the past year and will continue to offer statewide training and technical assistance to county staff and state field office personnel. ODJFS provided to AdoptOHIO agencies and the Ohio Adoption Planning Group a phone directory of all public and private adoption agencies in Ohio and the points of contact for various adoption-related programs. This was provided by hard copy and on disk. Anyone interested may access the directory online at www.state.oh.us/odjfs/oapl

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ODJFS conducted statewide quarterly regional meetings for public and private AdoptOHIO agencies to provide opportunities for networking, team building and skill building. The quarterly meetings also included the sharing (between public and private agencies) of information on available children and families.

In an effort to measure the effectiveness of the program ODJFS secured the services of an outside quality assurance vendor to evaluate the achievements of the program in relation to various performance measures including but not limited to the evaluation of:

- C Time children wait for permanent placement;
- C Effectiveness of AdoptOHIO's incentive structures;
- C Gaps in adoption services at the state, regional and local level;
- C Quality of services available from the families' perspective;
- C Evaluation and report effective adoption practice in Ohio;
- C Degree to which the pool of waiting families reflects the pool of waiting children;
- C Provision of specialized assistance to ODJFS as it develops special projects and their effectiveness.

The Media Packet was distributed to all AdoptOHIO agencies on November 20, 2002.

The following quarterly AdoptOHIO meetings were held:

- C On July 23, 2002, 45 adoption professionals met in Columbus. The afternoon was devoted to a large group assessment focused on contractual issues between ODJFS and the public and private adoption agencies that comprise the program. Priority issues identified included topics such as the information flow and communication on contracts, invoicing procedures, maintenance of efforts and payment for services performed when the contact was not in effect;
- C On October 23, 2002, 35 adoption professionals met for training and update on the AdoptOHIO program. From this meeting there was a recommendation to hold additional basic training for staff new to AdoptOHIO.

Additional basic training was held for new AdoptOHIO agencies and staff in January, 2003. Twenty five focus groups were held by the AdoptOHIO Quality assurance vendor to collect information for the evaluation of AdoptOHIO.

ODJFS submitted a proposal in the SFY 04/05 budget request for ODJFS to pay all

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Adoption Assistance payments to achieve an equitable system between the adoption assistance and foster care payments. This was not able to be moved forward in this biennium due to budgetary constraints.

ODJFS reviewed the AdoptOHIO incentive payment structure and received input from agencies in an AdoptOHIO quarterly meeting on October 23, 2002. However, due to budgetary constraints, the AdoptOHIO program has been restructured.

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Permanency

Planning

Evaluation &

Technical

Assistance:

To ensure compliance with federal and state laws, ODJFS launched a series of site visits to public adoption agencies across Ohio. Specifically, staff from the Adoption Section, along with a representative from the Local Operations/Regional Field Offices met local adoption and recruitment staff to review agency policies on adoption and recruitment. In addition, staff reviewed documents such as the agency adoption policy manual, recruitment materials, and standardized matching forms. Randomly selected child and family case records were reviewed on-site as well. Lastly, staff reviewed the following data:

- C Number of children awaiting adoption;
- C Racial composition of the children awaiting adoption;
- C Number of prospective adoptive families;
- C List of all approved adoptive families including child preferences (racial/ethnicity);
- C Number of adoption placements and finalizations for the most recent 12 month period;
- C Number and type of signed adoption assistance agreements;
- C Number of transracial adoptive placements and finalizations for the most recent 12 month period; and,
- C Other information pertinent to understanding how the agency moves a child from intake to adoption.

Based on the review of the materials listed above and the findings of the case record reviews, ODJFS staff developed a report detailing areas where they believe technical assistance was needed. The report was then forwarded to the local agency for review and comment. In 2002, ODJFS staff completed 14 Adoption related site visits to individual adoption agencies in Ohio, with a specific focus on MEPA compliance.

Subsidy

Training:

County agencies continue to struggle with the process of negotiating reasonable Adoption Assistance (AA) subsidy amounts based on the needs of the child and ability of the family to meet those needs. In response, a recommendation was made by the ODJFS Executive Leadership Committee (ELC) to form an adoption subsidy workgroup to review the issues and AA rule requirements and develop recommendations. To facilitate this process, ODJFS requested technical assistance from the Spaulding National Resource Center to provide the group with a national perspective on the issue of negotiation. At the conclusion of several meetings,

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recommendations were made to revise the current rules to clarify and change requirements for establishing the AA payment amount and special needs definition. These changes will, hopefully, better assist agencies when determining eligibility and negotiating the AA agreement.

AdoptOHIO

Recruitment: ODJFS continues implementation of its comprehensive marketing and recruitment plan. In October 2002, ODJFS reconvened the Statewide Adoption Recruitment Committee to assist ODJFS in accurately identifying, recruiting and ultimately retaining adoptive families for harder to place children. \$300,000.00 of the projected Adoption 2002 Incentive Funds was set aside for this purpose. Over 25 AdoptOHIO recruiters across the state collaborated with ODJFS to launch two targeted initiatives: The Child-Specific and the Faith-Based Recruitment campaigns.

Child-Specific Recruitment - Continuing with a model used in 2002 and acting upon performance evaluations obtained at the conclusion of the model, the Statewide Adoption Committee laid the groundwork for the 2003 Child-Specific campaign.

Cuyahoga County - Ohio's largest metropolitan county, (Cleveland area), which constitutes over 50 percent of the waiting children in the state was awarded funding to supplement existing child-specific activities. Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Families (CDCFS). CDCFS' Child Specific Recruitment Project solicits the assistance of persons already known to children (e.g. relatives, friends of foster parents, teachers, coaches, health care professionals), in helping to find adoptive families for the waiting child. To implement this plan, training of staff, community partners and agencies that work in conjunction with CDCFS is required. A specific training manual designed for Child Specific Recruitment is being utilized. CDCFS was allocated \$ 150,000 in February, 2003, for Child Specific Recruitment. Additional funds would continue to support the CDCFS Kinship Locator Program and "One Church, One Child" campaign.

Remaining Allocations - Allocations were awarded to Franklin County Children Services (\$100,000) and Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services for child specific recruitment program (\$100,000). Smaller allocations focused on child specific recruitment were made to Auglaize County for camera equipment and local advertisement; Butler County Children Services for "Family Fun Fest" and matching party; Allen County Children Services for producing payroll inserts and securing speaking engagements for the local Chamber of Commerce audience; Athens County Children Services for the annual Adoptive Family Retreat Weekend; Lucas County Children Services for luncheons and speakers at various recruitment venues; Washington County Children Services for child specific recruitment fliers (\$1,000); and Wayne County Children Services for a Marketing Consultant who will guide child specific recruitment activity (\$35,000).

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Faith-Based Recruitment - In an effort to increase awareness within the religious community regarding the need for foster and adoptive families, ODJFS unveiled a foster care and adoption campaign titled, “**Churches United to Achieve Permanency for Children**”. Hundreds of leaders from various churches and synagogues were invited to a kick-off brunch, hosted by ODJFS and held at the onset of the 2002 Annual Foster Care and Adoption Conference, on Friday November 15, 2002. The kick-off was facilitated by a renowned recruiter, Mr. Zena Olgesby who has facilitated strategic planning for church-state collaboration at all levels, and has consulted on these matters in 35 states. A variety of models were shared with a non-denominational assembly of sixty religious leaders from across the state who shared an interest in supporting foster care and adoption.

Following the kick-off, twenty-two counties applied for faith based initiative funds in the amount totaling \$321,079.86. Given the funding limitations, ODJFS funded each agency at 70 percent of the amount requested and approved. Noted projects approved and funded include:

- C Counties which currently have Faith Based active partnerships with local churches such as Lucas and Franklin and Hamilton counties;
- C Cuyahoga County Department of Child and Family Services which contracts with a “One Church, One Child” Coordinator (c/o Mt. Sinai Church, Cleveland) to work with the churches in the Cleveland area. Cuyahoga has had tremendous success with this program since the coordinated efforts were funded last year through Cuyahoga County. The coordinator made 500 presentations on foster care and adoptions by working with a committee consisting of volunteers currently partnered with private providers. They will host three support groups to lend support to families who have adopted children and families in the process of adopting. The coordinator is to recruit 22 mentors who will mentor youth waiting for adoptive homes and meet the goal of having 22 families approved of adoption as a direct result of their efforts.

See Appendix at the end of the report which lists the specific activities that were funded under the Faith Based Initiatives: Project Descriptions.

Adoption Training:

Implementation of Legislation - Senate Bill 27 was introduced by Senator Mumper of the 124th General Assembly in January 2001. The Bill passed the Senate and House unanimously, signed by Governor Taft on December 14, 2001 and became effective in March 2002.

Senate Bill 27 provides consistency in the law by giving adoptive parents the same rights as foster parents with regard to receiving background information prior to a child being placed in the home. The bill requires a public and private entity that places a

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child, to provide full disclosure to prospective adoptive parents about a child's prior adjudications and known acts of violence prior to the adoptive placement.

This legislative reform also required the Director of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), in conjunction with the Director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) to create a task force to advise the General Assembly on the development and evaluation of caseworker assessment education and training programs, assessment standards and criteria, and other programs or initiatives that may better inform, prepare and assist foster parents and adoptive parents when caring for abused, neglected, dependent, unruly and delinquent youth who become a part of their families.

The SB 27 Task Force was composed of mental health professionals with expertise in evaluation of at risk or special needs children, child welfare workers, and representatives of other organizations the Directors considered appropriate.

The SB 27 Task Force presented its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly in July 2002.

The OAC adoption rules have been revised and include SB 27 information disclosure. The rules are expected to be effective on September 1, 2003.

ODJFS has developed the standardized disclosure form, per Section 3107.017 of the Ohio Revised Code, and disseminate it to the public and private adoption agencies. Further, the disclosure form shall be attached to the Child Study Inventory (CSI). The form is entitled "Adoption Information Disclosure Form."

As a part of SB 27, ODJFS and ODMH were to collaborate to ensure Ohio's mental health providers are cognizant of best practices in adoption. In November 2002, ODJFS sponsored a one-day Mental Health Institute focusing upon adoption issues. Training such as this will be expanded to regularly scheduled professional skill-building conferences conducted by ODJFS and ODMH.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services reviewed and revised Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Chapter 48, rules 5101:2-48-01 through 5101:2-48-24, as a result of the five year rule review process. It is anticipated that the rules will go into effect September 1, 2003. Training for the rule revisions will convene Fall, 2003.

Adoption Conference - The 2002 Ohio Statewide Adoption and Foster Care Conference was held November 14-16, 2002, in Worthington Ohio. The "Sharing Practices That Work" conference was offered free of charge to foster parents, adoptive

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parents, social workers, and mental health professionals. Nearly 400 attendees participated in three plenary sessions and/or thirty-two specialized workshops. Over ninety-six percent of the participants rated the conference workshops and plenary sessions as “good” to “excellent”. Ninety-five percent indicated that the content of workshops attended was “relevant” and appropriate to the individual’s skill level.

Topics covered included:

- C Agency Collaborations;
- C Child Readiness;
- C Family Preservation in Open Adoptions;
- C Resource Preparation;
- C Family Assessments;
- C Legal Aspects of Adoption;
- C Kinship and Guardian;
- C Interstate and Interjurisdictional Placements;
- C Neighborhood-based Planning;
- C Recruitment;
- C Research Findings from focus Groups with Adoptive Parents and Professionals;
- C Concurrent Planning;
- C AFCARS;
- C Child and Family Services Review;
- C Faith-based Initiatives for Special Needs Children; and,
- C Securing Permanency for Difficult-to-Place Children.

Mental Health Institute - ODJFS hosted a Mental Health Institute on November 12, 2002 to provide additional knowledge and skills to mental health therapists who work with post adoptive families. The objectives of the Institute was to help mental health providers increase and enhance their knowledge of basic issues related to the unique circumstances of adoption, and assist providers in addressing the unique circumstances of the adoption triad by providing mental health providers with tools, techniques, and information to use with members of the adopted triad. The one-day training was the first step in the development of an on-going, state-wide, initiative to train mental health providers on issues specifically related to adoption.

Over forty professionals were in attendance. Suzanne Harvey, a practicing therapist at the Oakland Psychological Clinic in Southfield, Michigan, as well as a national trainer and consultant for Spaulding for Children was the presenter. Her previous counseling experience included work as a Post Adoption Therapist for Spaulding for Children. Her training has covered such topics as Parents as Tender Healers, Cultural Competency, Child Assessment and Preparation, Adoption Support and

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Preservation, Sexual Abuse, Trauma and Loss, Communication Through Play, Love and Logic, Life Books, Recruitment and Retention, and the Multi-ethnic Placement Act. In addition to training and counseling, Suzanne has conducted comprehensive pre- and post adoption finalization assessments for children and families, provided crisis intervention services, therapeutic treatment, and case-management and resource development. Suzanne specializes in working with Reactive Attachment Disorder and teaching families to build trust and attachments.

MEPA Training - MEPA training was provided on a statewide, regional and individual county basis to agencies where the need has been identified or when an agency requests such training. In addition, ODJFS conducted site visits for the purpose of monitoring and determining technical assistance needs relative to MEPA. Training dates for 2002 -2003 were as follows:

Audience (# of Attendees)	Date	Location	MEPA Subject
Hamilton CDJFS (40)	5/13/02	HCDJFS	Rule Application
NEOARE Consortium (50)	7/26/02	Hancock HCDJFS	Rule Application
Richland County CSB (35)	8/06/02	Richland County CSB	Rule Application
Statewide CW Managers Mtg (150)	10/17/02	Franklin CCSB	Rule Application
Annual Adoption Conference (99)	11/14/02	Franklin County	Overview & Rule Application
ODJFS Directors Assn. (20)	4/24/03	Annual Training Conference	Diligent Recruitment

Independent

Living:

Pursuant to Ohio Administrative code rules 5101:2-39-07 and 5101:2-42-19, independent living (IL) services are required for youth in the custody of a PCSA or private child placing agency (PCPA), and these services must be integrated into the youth's case plan. Administrative rules require that, through the case planning process, IL services be coordinated with other services that directly impact the case plan. This integration can include the youth's parent or guardian, the substitute caregiver, and various inter-disciplinary service providers. All IL services provided to

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youth in care, and to emancipated young adults, must be entered into the Family and Children Services Information System (FACSIS).

IL funds are available for use by PCSAs based upon the number of children, 15 ½ years of age and older who are in substitute care in each county, as compared to the number of children in substitute care in the state. Refer to Section XV, Page 111, Chafee Foster Care Independence Program, for additional information regarding the CFCIP.

Technical assistance is provided directly to agencies upon their request, by telephone or in person. Training opportunities have also been provided through quarterly managers meetings where the Chafee program and other independent living/transitional living issues have been discussed.

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Upcoming Activities:

ODJFS will implement the following activities outlined in the Five-year CFSP:

- C Continue to implement the recommendations of the Court Improvement Program and the Family Court Feasibility Study, including a court rule for expedited appeal of termination of parental rights;
- C Continue to provide training to public and private agencies regarding Termination of Parental Rights rules during caseworker core training and through one-on-one technical assistance;
- C Fully implement the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program;
- C Implement the MEPA training plan that will be utilized in those agencies where the need has been identified or when an agency requests such training. In addition, ODJFS will continue to conduct site visits for the purpose of monitoring and determining technical assistance needs.
- C Develop a training curriculum related to the new AdoptOHIO Kids program.
- C Work with AdoptUSKids to link their website system to each Ohio county.
- C Distribute Adoption 2002 Incentive funding to public agencies to assist them in their recruitment efforts by establishing partnerships with Faith- based organizations.
- C Continue the implementation of the Quality Assurance and Marketing/Public Awareness, contracts respectively. It is anticipated that contract renewals will be entered into early in the SFY 04. The deliverables in the two contracts include, but are not limited to, the following:

Quality Assurance:

- C Monitor and evaluate the quality of adoption services;
- C Evaluate the effectiveness of the recruitment tools utilized including but not limited to the Adoption Photo Listing Website, the Adoption Features books, the Faith Based Initiative and Child Specific Recruitment initiatives;
- C Evaluate the degree to which the pool of waiting families reflects the pool of waiting children;
- C Provide quality assurance technical assistance to ODJFS and to the metropolitan counties.

Marketing and Public Awareness/OAPL:

- C Provide educational trinkets or handout materials to agencies to support their recruitment

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- projects;
- C Host the 2003 Annual Adoption and Foster Care Conference in November;
- C Maintain the Adoption Website and produce the 18 Features Books and five Families Waiting to Adopt books;
- C Apply for the AdoptUS mini recruitment grant and work with Exchanges throughout the state to enhance the Ohio Adoption Photo Listing process and or matching of children throughout the state;
- C Provide statewide recruitment efforts through a general marketing campaign via radio and other appropriate media;
- C Conduct two to three additional Mental Health Institutes during SFY 04;
- C Conduct analysis of the 24 month measure and provide technical assistance to agencies that are not meeting the measure;
- C Produce data reports regarding the 24 month measure and disseminate those reports to PCSAs and to the ODJFS Justice Services Administrator. This information will assist agencies, local courts and the Supreme Court in exploring the reasons for delay to permanent commitment involving the court system;
- C Modify training programs for public and private agency workers to include the disclosure information; and,
- C Develop a mechanism to provide seasoned PCSA workers and private agency workers who have already completed the adoption assessors training with information about SB 27 and its updated disclosure information.

IV TRAINING

ODJFS has continued to view training as an important component for effective child welfare practice. As major transformation have occurred in the field of child welfare, ODJFS has taken on a leadership role in the provision of training to PCSA staff. Recognizing the critical need for consistent standardized in-service training for child welfare professionals, ODJFS in collaboration with PCSAs and the Public Children Services Association of Ohio, initiated the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program (OCWTP) in 1985. The mission of the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program is to provide a comprehensive, competency-based in-service training system that provides high quality, culturally responsive, family centered, job-related training for staff in public child welfare agencies throughout Ohio. The OCWTP is a model program that includes these essential elements:

Use of a “Universe of Competencies”

Competencies are statements of the knowledge, skills and values required for workers to do their jobs.

The Utilization of an Individual Training Needs Assessment Instrument (ITNA)

The (ITNA) is used to identify each worker’s training needs. The Universe of Competencies and the ITNA forms the basis for curriculum development. ITNAs are completed jointly between caseworker and supervisor bi-annually at all public children services agencies.

The Development and Certification of Competent Trainers

OCWTP trainers must have appropriate course content knowledge. The necessary adult training skills, and the ability to promote family-centered culturally competent practice.

Development of Job-Related Training Content

Training content relevance is assured by using the OCWTP’s “universe of competencies” as the guide to curriculum development.

The Utilization of Transfer of Learning (TOL) Activities

Transfer of learning activities promote the effective and continuing application, by trainees to their jobs, of the knowledge and skills gained in training.

A Statewide System for the Delivery of Training

Training is developed and delivered based upon data gathered from ongoing training needs assessment of workers in each region.

Core training for child welfare workers was also initiated in 1986. All Core workshops offered through the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program have standardized Ohio specific curricula. In 1987, ODJFS mandated, through Ohio Administrative Code rule, that all PCSA caseworkers complete a minimum

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of sixty hours of in-service training. Training requirements had to be fulfilled by taking courses offered through the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program.

The requirement was critical since the state wanted to implement standardization of practice across the state. Currently, Core involves a 15-day curriculum. The following workshops are mandated in Core: Legal Aspects of Family-Centered Child Protection Practice; Family-Centered Child Protective Services; Case Planning and Family-Centered Casework; Effects of Abuse and Neglect on Child Development and Separation, Placement and Reunification. To fulfill additional training hour requirements, caseworkers can attend the following specialized workshops: Adoption and Foster Care; Working with Adolescents; Sexual Abuse; Intake and the Assessment of Risk; Legal Issues in Child Welfare; Services to Single Parents; or Family-centered Assessment and Intervention. Caseworkers may elect to take the following related workshops: Treatment Strategies and Intervention, Family System Theory and Family Therapy; Casework with Children; Recognizing and Assessing Developmental Delay and Disability; Parenting Skills; Collaborative Interdisciplinary Services to Families; Cultural Competence; Adult Psycho pathology; Substance Abuse; Family Violence; Understanding Psychological Evaluations; Group Work Skills; Time and Stress Management; Personnel Safety; Human Sexuality; Writing Skills for Case Documentation; and Health and Medical Issues. Other specialized workshops are offered based on ITNA data.

In November 1997, H.B. 274 mandated caseworkers complete ninety hours of in-service training during the first year of employment and thirty-six hours of in-service training annually. Training topics were also identified in this bill.

In 1989, the program finalized competencies for child welfare supervisors and managers. Full implementation occurred in 1990. "Core" courses currently offered to supervisors and managers include: Managing within a Child and Family Serving System; Managing Work Through Other People: Diversity in the Work Place; Transfer of Learning: The Supervisor's Role in Developing Staff; and Supervising and Managing Group Performance: Developing Productive Work Teams. Specialized courses for supervisors and managers include: Supervising Case Plan Development and Implementation; Supervising Sexual Abuse Services; Supervising Services to Adolescents; Supervising Adoption and Foster Care Services; Supervising Intake, Risk Assessment, and Initial Family Assessments; Supervising In-Home Family Services; and Legal Issues in Child Welfare. Related workshops offered include: Planning and Decision-Making; Effective Use of Power; Supervising for Optimal Job Performance; Employee Performance Evaluation; Management of Conflict; Public and Community Relations; Time and Stress Management; Team Development and Facilitation; Budgeting and Fiscal Operation; Staffing the Agency; Supervising Difficult Employees; Managing Change; and Managing Cultural Diversity.

Based upon ITNA data other workshops are offered to supervisors and managers. H.B. 274 required supervisors to complete sixty hours of in-service training during their first year as a supervisor and 30 hours of in-service training thereafter. From 1994 to present, 145,079 caseworkers participated in workshops offered by the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program. A total of 622,976 training hours were provided. From 1994 to the present there were 11,045 supervisory participants with 81,352 hours

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of training provided. The following table presents information on caseworker and supervisory training by year.

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CASEWORKER AND SUPERVISOR TRAINING						
YEAR	Total Number of Workshops Presented	Caseworker Training Participants	Caseworkers Trained	Supervisors Training Participants	Supervisors Trained	
July 1, 1994 - June 30, 1995	1434	10,906	2,837	1,544	449	
July 1, 1995 - June 30, 1996	1,568	11,461	2,962	1,436	472	
July 1, 1996- June 30, 1997	1,921	16,570	3,568	2,440	575	
July 1, 1997- June 30, 1998	1,590	14,070	3,585	1,741	544	
July 1, 1998 - June 30, 1999	1,316	10,171	3,210	1,339	492	
July 1, 1999 - March 31, 2000	1,180	21,636	4,629	1,097	630	
July 1, 2000 -April 30, 2001	1,187	23,450	3,837	1,126	695	
July 1, 2001-May 31,2002	1,377	23,855	3,406	922	412	
June 1, 2002 - May 1, 2003	1,686	28,514	3,797	1,448	557	

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Child welfare practice in Ohio has undergone multiple changes since the inception of the OCWTP in 1986. Since that time, those involved in the OCWTP have recognized the need for institutionalization of a continuous cycle of assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation.

This cycle is necessary for the OCWTP to ensure relevance of training to practice and to ensure the training program assists agencies in achieving the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) child and family services outcomes.

The OCWTP is at the juncture where it is necessary to conduct a comprehensive training needs assessment. This assessment will help determine the accuracy in which the OCWTP's Universe of Competencies reflects the knowledge and skills needed to meet the needs of families and children today. In addition, it will help Ohio achieve the outcomes and systematic factors required in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Child and Family Services Review. The assessment will also identify the extent to which OCWTP products coincide with the learning styles of today's child welfare professionals. Once the assessment data has been obtained, OCWTP will then have the necessary information to revise, edit and/or add/delete competencies from the current listing of competencies. Based upon the new listing of competencies, learning styles, and other information obtained as a result of the training needs assessment, caseworker and supervisory core will be edited, enhanced and restructured to include specific information related to the outcomes of the child and family services review as well as information that will put more emphasis on skill building techniques in the supervisor core curriculum. The timeframe for the total completion of the revamp of both the caseworker and supervisor core curricula will be two years (End of the current contract 2005).

In 1996, as a result of House Bill 419, all workers engaged in the provision of adoption services were required to be certified as adoption assessors and participate in mandatory training offered by ODJFS. In March 1996, the following workshops were offered for adoption assessors to complete Tier I Adoption Assessor Training: Birth Parent Services; Family and Child Assessment; Placement Activities; Pre-finalization Adoption Services; Adoption Assistance; and Post-finalization Adoption Services. Adoption Assessors had to complete the following workshops in Tier II: Permanency thru Interagency Collaboration; Cultural Issues in Permanency Planning; Openness in Adoption; and Gathering and Documenting Background Information. From March 1, 1996 to May 1, 2003 a total 1,040 workshops have been offered. Twenty-four thousand, one-hundred and thirty-seven (24,137) participants attended training. Forty-nine, point thirty-seven percent (49.37%) were from private adoption agencies. During the current contract period, three additional curricula in the area of post-finalization have been developed and will be available to adoptive parents during the program's next contract period.

The following table presents information on the number of workshops offered, hours of training and total number of participants who have attended adoption assessors training.

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ADOPTION ASSESSOR TRAINING - TIER I			
Workshop	Total # of Workshops	Total # of Participants	Total Hours of Training
Birth Parent Services	142	3,154	756
Family and Child Assessment	128	2,648	1,334
Placement Strategies	114	2,539	474
Pre-finalization Adoption Services	126	2,839	669
Adoption Assistance	60	2,501	366
Post-finalization Adoption Services	89	2,626	846

ADOPTION ASSESSOR TRAINING - TIER II			
Workshop	Total # of Workshops	Total # of Participants	Total Hours of Training
Permanency thru Interagency Collaboration	119	2,475	561
Cultural Issues in Permanency Planning	108	1,918	1,203
Openness in Adoption	74	1,268	662
Gathering and Documenting Background Information	80	1,468	450

Previously, the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program was responsible for the development of workshops designed to meet the training needs of foster caregivers/kinship caregivers through OCWTP's regional training centers. As a result of Sub. House Bill 332 becoming law on January 1, 2001, the OCWTP was no longer responsible for the training of foster caregivers/kinship caregivers. Training requirements

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for foster caregivers was the responsibility of the individual public and private children service agencies throughout Ohio. Legislation is presently being proposed through H.B. 95 to change the responsibility of training foster caregivers/kinship caregivers back to the regional training centers. If the legislation does change, the regional training centers will begin training foster caregivers/kinship caregivers in January of 2004.

The OCWTP continues to offer an Investigative Mentoring Program for Ohio Prosecutors, law enforcement officers and child welfare professionals.

Other states and Canadian provinces have modeled their child welfare training program after Ohio's training model. The following states and provinces developed their training system based upon the OCWTP model: Pennsylvania; Arizona; Alaska; Nevada; New Hampshire; Virginia; Oklahoma; select counties in California; New Mexico; Minnesota; Indiana; Wisconsin; Manitoba, Canada; Ontario, Canada; New Brunswick, Canada; Newfoundland, Canada; Quebec, Canada; Buffalo, New York; and the Cayman Islands. As a result of other states and provinces using the OCWTP model as the basis for their training system, Ohio has benefitted from other states enhancements to the curriculum.

Training activities which will be cost allocated to Title IV-E, has been attached as an Appendix.

V QUALITY ASSURANCE AND EVALUATION

CHILD PROTECTION AND OVERSIGHT EVALUATION

The Child Protection and Oversight Evaluation (CPOE) quality assurance system is based on modern quality methods, such as continuous quality improvement and the incorporation of automated child welfare process and outcome measures. The system is designed to improve the services and outcomes for families and children coming to the attention of PCSAs. It focuses on key delivery processes and essential client outcomes within a continuous quality improvement framework. Improvement opportunities for the PCSAs are supported through the provision of technical assistance by ODJFS staff.

Critical operative concepts of CPOE include regular data collection, analysis and verification, and continuous feedback. On-site activities focus on data validation, outcome indicator discussions and other review activities. Initial discussion with key county personnel focuses on exploring the factors that contribute to and explain the measures in each county. It is anticipated that in addition to ongoing data reports, management letters, correspondence, and formal on-site joint assessment activities, ODJFS staff will periodically meet with county staff to offer technical assistance and solve challenging service delivery issues.

The effectiveness of these activities is critical to the overall quality improvement of the statewide child protection system. Application of these findings within the ODJFS program/policy areas is necessary for planning, training, budgeting, and technical assistance.

Each review period is known as a Stage and the review period is for 18 months. ODJFS is currently in Stage Four and are designing the Stage Five review. Stage Four review period is January 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003. Stage Five review period is July 1, 2003 through December 31, 2004. The Stage Four and Five reviews focus on child safety and permanency outcomes. The February 2003 CPOE Annual Comprehensive Assessment Report (CAR) included the information from the Stage Four reviews. A copy of CAR Report is attached as an Appendix.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLANS (QIPS)

In response to the on-site CPOE review, QIPs are required to indicate each PCSA's planned course of action to effect positive change in their agency during the 18-month period between formal CPOE on-site reviews. The QIP indicates:

- C Desired change or outcome;
- C Activities to be done to effect the desired change or outcome;
- C Staff responsible for the stated activities;
- C Level of anticipated or requested technical assistance from ODJFS to help achieve the desired change or outcome;

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- C Anticipated time frames for implementing the stated activities.

During Stage Four, QIPs were required from PCSAs for each outcome indicator that does not meet Ohio's Substantial Conformity Standard. For some outcome indicators the national standard established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services was used to measure Ohio's performance for the outcome indicator. For Stage Five the national standard will be used for measuring compliance for all outcome indicators.

CPOE STAGE FOUR AND STAGE FIVE REVIEW COMPONENTS

Outcome Indicators

Two performance indicators are assessed to evaluate achievement of the Child Safety Outcome and Four performance indicators are assessed during the reviews to evaluate achievement of the Permanency Outcome. The outcome indicators for the Stage Four and Five reviews are as follows:

- C ***Investigations completed within 30 and 45 days.*** Child and abuse reports are expected to be investigated within 30 days of receipt of a report. Extenuating circumstances may extend this time frame by an additional 15 days. A county would be in substantial conformity with this indicator if 85% of child abuse and neglect reports received during the period under review were investigated within 45 days of receipt of the report. This indicator was used only for Stage Four. For Stage Five this indicator will be replaced by Indicator 2D, which measures recidivism of substantiated and indicated CA/N reports on a 6 month cohort of children. The remaining indicators will be the same for Stage Five except the indicators will be measured against the national standard.
- C ***Incidence of reports of CA/N while in substitute care.*** A county would be in substantial conformity with this indicator if, of all children in foster care during the period of review, the percentage of children who were the subject of a substantiated or indicated report of child abuse or neglect by a foster parent or facility staff is 0.57% or less.
- C ***Stability of foster care placements.*** A county would be in substantial conformity with this indicator if 85% or more for Stage Four and 86.7% or more for Stage Five of the children who have been in foster care less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal had no more than two placement settings.
- C ***Foster care re-entries.*** A county would be in substantial conformity with this indicator if, of all children who entered foster care during the year under review, 12% or fewer for Stage Four and 8.6% or fewer for Stage Five of those children re-entered foster care within 12 months of a prior foster care episode.
- C ***Length of time to achieve reunification.*** A county would be in substantial conformity with this indicator if, of all children who were reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of discharge from foster care, 76.2% or more children were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal from the home.
- C ***Length of time to achieve adoption.*** A county would be in substantial conformity with this indicator if, of all children who exited foster care during the year under review to a finalized adoption, 27% or more for Stage Four and 32% for Stage Five of the children exited care in less than 24 months from the time of the latest removal from their home.

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Data Validation

To measure the accuracy of the data entered into the Family and Children Services Information System (FACSIS), data validation activities between the case record and the local FACSIS system are examined. Information on the events/activities used to derive the indicator measurements is compared between FACSIS and each selected sample case. Two discrete samples, an intake/investigation sample and a placement sample, are pulled to encompass the FACSIS events. The compliance rate is 90% or greater for each element.

Case Record Review

A review of case records is completed, to ensure compliance with Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rules and federal requirements. The expected level of rule compliance is 75% or greater for Stage Four and 90% or greater for Stage Five, for each rule reviewed. A Quality Improvement Plan is required for any rule that is less than the compliant rate. The case record review components are as follows:

- C **Assessment/Investigation**- The Assessment/Investigation Case Record review has 16 review elements;
- C **Substitute Care**- The Substitute Care Case Record review has 45 review elements for Stage Four and 55 review elements for Stage Five. (Stage Four included a Multi-Ethnic Placement Act (MEPA) review component. A MEPA review will continue to be conducted by another bureau within ODJFS). This review looks at the Case Plan, Health and Education information, Visitation, Independent Living and SARs. Stage Five has a more in-depth look at Visitation and Health and Education Information;
- C **Adoption**- The Adoption Case Record review has 10 review elements. (Stage Four included a MEPA component and Stage Five does not);

In addition to the above, Stage Five will have added the following additional components:

- C **In-Home Supportive Service for Protective Supervision and for No Court Order** - This review will look at the Case Plan, Visitation, SARs and Protective Supervision Extension/termination;
- C **Supportive Service Tracking Sheet**- This will look at the services planned or provided and problems and outcomes identified;
- C **Screening Procedure Review**- This instrument will gather information regarding the county's screening procedures. (This instrument is not meant to evaluate those procedures);
- C **Guided Outcome Indicator Discussion Questionnaire**- A questionnaire will be developed to help guide the outcome indicator discussion to focus in on specific Child and Family Service Reviews/Program Improvement Plan (CFSR/PIP) concerns.

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VI MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Progress/Accomplishments:

Major accomplishments realized in FFY2003 (Oct 1, 2002 - Sept 30, 2003):

- Testing and implementation of a SACWIS Interim Solution;
- Release of a SACWIS RFP;
- Review of SACWIS vendor proposals;
- Selection of a SACWIS Vendor; and
- Implementation and training on Ohio's child welfare Data Analysis Reporting Tool (DART)

SACWIS Interim Solution (SIS)

The Family Assessment and Planning Tool (FAPT) software has proven itself as a stable application and valuable change management agent in preparation for the eventual SACWIS. Initially, the desktop tool was designed specifically for child welfare caseworkers reflecting Ohio child welfare practice and procedures in an effort to support the delivery of services to children and their families more effectively and promptly. Primary benefits to the county worker are in the areas of Risk Assessment and Case Planning activities. In FFY03 this technical platform was upgraded to include all functionality currently existing in the legacy Micro FACSIS application. The blending of these two systems created the SACWIS Interim Solution (SIS).

Micro FACSIS has been the system of record since 1987 and has become dated in its approach and cumbersome for maintenance. To the existing FAPT, several additional modules were developed to address the Micro FACSIS case tracking functionality. The release of SIS involved much more than simple added functionality. The effort required moving data from the legacy system through a conversion process and establishing a new data extract process from SIS to the Host FACSIS to ensure continued benefits processing and federal reporting. Major accomplishments included the development and testing of the application functionality, conversion of data from the Micro FACSIS into the new SIS, and extracting of data from SIS to Host FACSIS. After months of development and testing the SIS application was piloted in June, 2003. Conversion, training and implementation of the remaining 81 former Micro FACSIS counties will be complete by September 30, 2003. This effort is to minimize any potential risk of system failure due to the aged legacy system's architecture and to better position the state and users for SACWIS.

SACWIS

Work on the SACWIS RFP began in January 2002 with the release in December 11, 2002. Following a formal bidder's conference the Proposals were submitted on February 11, 2003. The RFP work was completed in partnership with the counties, ODJFS Management Information Systems (MIS), Office for Children and Families (OCF), Office of Contract Management, and the Ohio Department of

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Administrative Services (DAS). Proposals were reviewed by a combined committee of representation from county, MIS, OCF and DAS. Following vendor selection, work is to begin in late Fall, 2003. Additional state business and technical staff have been secured to launch this contracting phase of SACWIS development and implementation.

ODJFS Child Welfare Data Analysis Reporting Tool (DART)

After months of design and development the FACSIS/SACWIS Project staff gave a presentation in September, 2002, on a new available Data Analysis and Reporting Tool (DART) that utilized the Cognos software to store and organize data. This software tool is targeted to both county and state staff who need to examine, track, report, and analyze data from Host-FACSIS. This represents the first time county agency's have had access to the statewide Host-FACSIS database for data reporting and analysis. Established data sets are accessed at a statewide aggregate level and can be analyzed down to individual agency's specific case identifying information. DART provides agencies the flexibility to explore multiple combinations of data within a topical data set across two or more dimensions.

Phase I of DART provided counties will access to two data cubes: Current Placement - providing information on children currently placed and in agency custody; and Reunifications - providing information on the length of time to reunification. Software demonstration sessions, including information on software access and additional training, were conducted throughout the state in late October and early November 2002.

Phase II design and development began as soon as the statewide demonstrations were launched. Phase II added eleven (11) new cubes for access and use through DART. The second effort was focused on addressing Ohio's Child Protection Oversight and Evaluation (CPOE) Quality Assurance measures. With this as the foundation, the following cubes were developed:

- ***Reports & Investigations***- This cube measures the timeliness of investigation initiation and completion. This cube addresses statewide CPOE Indicators of: Investigations completed within 30 and 45 days; Emergency incident assessments initiated within 1 hour of acceptance of report.
- ***Recidivism of Child Abuse Neglect Reports***- This cube measures the recurrence of reports of child abuse and neglect, and addresses statewide CPOE Indicator: Receipt of subsequent CAN report with case resolution or disposition.
- ***Recidivism of Substantiated or Indicated Child Abuse Neglect Reports***- This cube shows differences between opened and unopened cases for substantiated and indicated child abuse and neglect cases, as well as recidivism on closed cases. This addresses statewide CPOE Indicators of: Recidivism of substantiated and indicated CAN reports; and Recidivism of terminated substantiated and indicated CAN cases.
- ***Child Abuse Neglect & Subsequent Removal*** - The purpose of this cube is to determine the percentage of child abuse and neglect cases in which children are removed from their homes. This cube addresses statewide CPOE Indicators of: Proportion of CAN cases in which children are removed from their homes; and Proportion of CAN cases placed in institutional/congregate

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- care.
- ***Duration of Temporary Custody Not Including PPLA*** - This cube illustrates the length of time children are in temporary custody status and excludes PPLA status. This cube addresses statewide CPOE Indicator of: Number of days a child remains in temporary custody.
- ***Duration of Temporary Custody Including PPLA*** - This cube illustrates the length of time children are in temporary custody status and includes PPLA status. The cube addresses statewide CPOE Indicator of: Number of days a child remains in temporary custody.
- ***Child Abuse or Neglect by Foster Parent***- Tracking of child abuse and neglect incidents by foster parents. The cube addresses statewide CPOE Indicator of: Incidence of reports of CAN while in substitute care.
- ***Duration of Placement***- The purpose of this cube is to measure how long children placed out of the home are in placement. This cube addresses statewide CPOE Indicators of: Number of days a child remains in out-of-home placement; Number of moves a child experiences in an out-of-home placement episode; Number of times a child is removed from his/her own home; and Foster care reentries.
- ***Moves by Degree of Restrictiveness*** - This cube measures moves in foster care from one degree of restrictiveness to another degree. It addresses statewide CPOE Indicator of: Number of moves in an out-of-home placement by degree of restrictiveness.
- ***Custody Episodes Terminated*** - The purpose of this cube is to measure length of time in custody and reasons for custody termination. This cube addresses statewide CPOE Indicators of: Proportion, by reason, of children with a custody termination; Length of time to achieve reunification; and Length of time to achieve adoption.
- ***Permanent Custody*** - The purpose of this cube is to track the length of time in permanent custody status. This cube addresses statewide CPOE Indicators of: Length of time between the date of permanent custody and the date of adoptive placement agreement; Length of time between the date of permanent custody and the date of adoption finalization; and Number of children in permanent custody in an Adoptive Placement.

Additional features were also included with the Phase II cube release based on user input. Two primary features include the saving of detailed reports to a spreadsheet and the addition of pre-established measures within the cubes.

Upcoming Activities:

Project planning activities for FFY2004 include:

- Launching SACWIS with the contract vendor

The major planned activity for FFY2004 is the launching, design and initial development of SACWIS.

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This will involve the continued support of the several county/state partnership committees: SACWIS Executive Leadership Committee, SACWIS Business Partners' Committee and the SACWIS Technical Partners' Committee.

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VII ADDITIONAL STATE INITIATIVES TOWARD MEETING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Other initiatives undertaken by ODJFS, other state departments, and the Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO) have assisted ODJFS in achieving the **CFSP goals and objectives**.

Help Me

Grow: To enhance efficiency and administrative consistency, all programs, which were supported by TANF funds, were centralized in the Office of Family Stability at the beginning of State Fiscal Year 2003. Therefore, the Office For Children & Families no longer has responsibility for the Help Me Grow prenatal, newborn and early childhood program during this reporting period. **Goal 2 of the CFSP.**

Family- Center, Neighborhood- Based

Services: Family-centered, neighborhood-based (FCNB) services is an approach to working with children, families, and communities. Ohio's approach offers a chance to rethink, redesign, and rebuild the child protective service system. It is based on the principle that the first and greatest investment in time and resources should be made in the care and treatment of children in their own homes and, when this is not possible, in their own communities. It is based on the premise that neighborhoods are the primary source opportunity and support for families and, therefore, are in the best position for assuring the safety and vitality of their members.

The basic values asserted by this way of thinking are that:

- Children have a right to grow up with their family.
- Children have the right to be nurtured and protected in a stable family environment.
- When children are at risk of harm, the community has the responsibility to intervene.
- Families are our community's most important resource and therefore, must be respected, valued, and encouraged to build on their existing strengths.
- The community must support families in raising and caring for their children.
- The racial, cultural, and ethnic heritage of families, and the neighborhoods where they live, must be supported and seen as assets.

In 1992, Ohio was chosen by the Annie E. Casey Foundation to implement the

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Family-to-Family (F2F) initiative. Initially, Cincinnati and Cleveland were chosen as primary implementation sites, since they accounted for the largest number of children in the foster care system. Although the project period has ended, the F2F initiative created a conversation in Ohio around family-centered, neighborhood-based services. There is an assumption at many agencies that many families involved with the foster care system today can be more effectively served by home-based family preservation programs. While this philosophy has not been formally adopted statewide, many PCSAs recognize through other programs, such as ProtectOHIO and Family Stability, that many children and families are best served in their own communities. FCNB services have integrated at varying levels throughout Ohio with technical assistance directly provided to 38 PCSAs. Currently, more than 30 Ohio counties utilize some form of the philosophy, ideals, and goals of FCNB.

In Cuyahoga, the county is split into territories, and chiefs of departments are assigned to the territories. Geographically areas for service are designated by each department. This has effectively enabled the agency to forge strong bonds with the collaborative in each community in an effort to keep a child and the family connected to the community of origin, and thereby increasing the rates of successful reunifications of the families in each community. In addition, it has reduced the mileage covered by social workers and improved their response time. This approach has ultimately led to a planned deployment of the assigned chiefs directly into the communities they serve. The goal of partnering is to create an empowering partnership in the community and strengthen the preventative resources available to families and children in crisis.

FCNB has assisted the state in accomplishing **Goals 2 and 3 of the CFSP**.

Children's

Trust

Fund:

The Mission of The Ohio Children's Trust Fund is to take a leadership role and be a catalyst in preventing child abuse and neglect in Ohio. The Ohio Children's Trust Fund (OCTF) is the state's largest dedicated funding source for primary and secondary child abuse/ neglect prevention. The Trust Fund is governed by a Board, which formulates policy and develops a comprehensive biennial State Plan for child abuse/ neglect prevention. The OCTF Executive Director and staff, carry out day-to-day operations within the administrative structure of ODJFS.

During this reporting period, the Trust Fund began implementation of its Strategic Plan, which emphasizes program and service effectiveness. OCTF will be making a major investment in program evaluation over the next 3 years, with focus on measurement of individual outcomes, and identification of best and promising practices.

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In SFY 2003, OCTF distributed \$2.5 million dollars for local programs to prevent child abuse and neglect across Ohio's 88 counties. Each county's allocation amount is based on its percentage of the state child population under age 18, with the minimum allocation being \$10,000.

On a biennial basis, county-level Prevention Boards are responsible for assessing and prioritizing local prevention needs, issuing an RFA (Request For Applications), and selecting programs which can best address the identified priorities. The Local Prevention Boards also have responsibility for monitoring service provision, individual outcomes, customer satisfaction, and fiscal accountability. State-level OCTF staff provide oversight, training and technical assistance to the Local Boards.

In addition to the county allocations, OCTF also funds programs, which have statewide significance. During the past year, the Children's Trust Fund awarded a grant to Parents Anonymous for support and education groups with parents incarcerated in seven Ohio prisons.

Through its funding and oversight of programs to prevent child abuse and neglect, OCTF assists The Ohio Department of Job & Family Services (ODJFS) toward achievement of **Goal 1 of the CFSP**.

PCSAO:

The Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO) was established in 1980. PCSAO is a strong advocacy group for PCSAs and Ohio's children and families. Since its existence, PCSAO has collaborated with the state in developing the Child Welfare Training Program and other legislative and program initiatives. During the past years PCSAO has provided orientation for new executives of county PCSAs; facilitated the development of county strategic plans; expanded the Family-to-Family Initiative; provided on-site training focusing on governance and effective, appropriate duties of the board and executive; developed the Executive Leadership Institute; worked with individual counties on levy campaign development and implementation; worked with Attorney General Montgomery to develop "Risking Up and Moving on Recognition" programs; supported ODJFS' Child Welfare Reform Shareholders Group recommendations; instrumental in the passage of House Bill 484, Ohio's companion legislation for ASFA and mentoring programs at the neighborhood level; received the Congressional appropriation to develop state infrastructure for the purpose of connecting state and local child welfare agencies to increase child safety; championed passage of H.B. 332 (Foster Parent Training) and H.B. 448 (Fiscal Accountability, Child Death Review, OCWTP); supported Ohio's Kinship Navigator program, standardized placement approval process, national advocacy for federal support of relative caregivers; assisted OCF with the Federal Title IV-E Eligibility Reviews, the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews, and development of the Program Improvement Plan; and provided on-site consultation in a variety of areas. PCSAO has been instrumental in assisting the state in **achieving all CFSP goals**

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and objectives.

Family &

Children First: As was mentioned in the beginning of this report, the activities identified and implemented in Ohio's CFSP were guided in part by the principles of Ohio's Family and Children First (OFCF). Created in 1992 the OFCF Initiative is a multi-agency "umbrella" effort to focus a diverse group of agencies (Ohio Department of Education, Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, Ohio Department of Budget and Management, ODJFS, Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, and Ohio Department of Youth Services) on achieving better results for children and their families. The goal of the OFCF Initiative is to ensure that all Ohio children enter school ready to learn. There are six key objectives: 1) Expectant parents and newborns thrive; 2) Infants and toddlers thrive; 3) Children are ready for school; 4) Children and youth succeed in school; 5) Youth choose healthy behaviors; and, 6) Youth successfully transition into adulthood.

OFCF has promoted coordination and collaboration among state and local governments, non-profit organizations, businesses, and parents for the benefit of Ohio's children. Key strategies which are used include the following: strategically investing in children; adopting measurable goals and objectives; committing to prevention and early intervention; promoting local flexibility and streamlined bureaucracy; creating new partnerships; and providing intensive technical assistance.

All counties have local Family and Children First Councils. Family members (consumers), representatives of public agencies, schools, courts, and private providers are included in their membership. Regional coordinators work directly with local councils to provide technical assistance.

H.B.274 of the 119th General Assembly, required councils to develop a county service coordination plan that contains procedures designating service responsibilities among the various state and local agencies that provide services to children and their families, and a dispute resolution process that is local and binding to resolve service disputes between those agencies. Disputes between agencies may ultimately go before the court for final resolution.

H. B. 57 of the 124th General Assembly signed into law on November 20, 2001, went into effect February 20, 2002. This legislation requires the local Family and Children First Council members to amend their joint service coordination plans and address the service needs of children who are unruly, alleged unruly and at risk of being unruly and include a method to divert these children from the juvenile court system. At the time of the CFSR, the local councils were in the planning stage of how to accomplish

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this task.

OFCF has been instrumental in assisting the state in **achieving all CFSP goals and objectives.**

VIII UPDATE ON DILIGENT RECRUITMENT OF POTENTIAL FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE FAMILIES THAT REFLECTS THE ETHNIC AND RACIAL DIVERSITY OF CHILDREN OF OHIO

Foster:

Despite the tremendous efforts of child welfare agencies to maintain children safely in their own homes and divert them from out-of-home placements, there are still children and youth who need safe and appropriate substitute care that best meet their individual needs. Recruitment for family and specialized foster homes is mainly accomplished at the local level by PCSAs or PCPAs. Ohio Administrative Code Rules 5101:2-5-13 and 5101:2-48-05 require agencies to develop written policies that describe strategies for foster caregiver and adoptive parent recruitment. These recruitment plans are reviewed at the local level by ODJFS staff housed in local field offices. Such reviews seek to ensure that the plans submitted by agencies include information related to seeking a resource base of families that reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of the children in the local area.

ODJFS provides support for the recruitment and retention efforts of local agencies in various ways:

- Time is set aside at quarterly statewide managers meetings, sponsored by ODJFS, to discuss issues related to recruitment. Information is shared during facilitated discussions where public and private agencies talk about efforts they have found to be successful, and those that have desired outcomes. Solutions to problem areas of recruitment are addressed, as well as how to make successful strategies work in different communities.
- ODJFS staff, directly and through the use of specialized trainers, provide technical assistance to local agencies.
- Ohio's "Help Me Grow" program is utilized as a communication device to disseminate information and provide public awareness on issues related to foster care and adoption. "Help Me Grow," organized in 1995 by the Ohio Family and Children First Initiative, provides a statewide toll-free helpline that responds to inquiries for information on health and social programs, including foster parenting and adoption. The helpline's trained referral specialists provide direct assistance and referral packets to callers that include information based within their own communities.
- ODJFS staff work closely with the Institute for Human Services as they develop supervisor and caseworker curricula that addresses recruitment and retention.

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ODJFS also endorses and supports the month of May as National Foster Care Month.

ODJFS engaged in several activities designed to support the efforts of public awareness and recruitment throughout the year:

- ODJFS utilized \$15,589 to assist counties in their recruitment of new foster/resource families through the purchase of pamphlets designed by the Channing-Bete company to educate potential resource families about the special needs of children who are in substitute care due to abuse. Our public children services agencies were very receptive of receiving more substantive tools to use in their recruitment efforts as opposed to the traditional trinkets. The number of pamphlets counties were provided was determined by county population and recruitment needs. Through the Department's volume discount, over 23,000 pamphlets which would normally cost over \$2.00 each were purchased for .59 cents each which enabled ODJFS to stretch its dollars and reach even more families.
- Governor Taft signed a proclamation recognizing May as "Foster Care/Adoption Month."
- During the Ohio Family Care Association's Treatment Foster Care Conference, ODJFS provided an information table on adoption and foster care.

Adoptive:

According to Health and Human Services' Final Report, Ohio Child and Family Services Review, Ohio's pool of foster and adoptive families does not reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of the children for whom homes are needed. Approximately 51 percent of the children in temporary and 55 percent in permanent custody are classified as minority, while 27 percent of the adoptive families approved within the past six years with open studies are of minority descent. According to AdoptOHIO Performance measures, 3,511 children were available for adoption as of September 30, 2002. The majority of available children were African American and had no identified adoptive resource.

In comparison, of the total number of prospective adoptive parents in FFY 2001, 2,090 were African-American while 8,518 were classified as White. Race data was missing for 3,352 persons included in the overall pool. Further, we suspect that many Caucasian families included in Ohio's pool are not really available to adopt. They may have already adopted through a private source yet their case was never officially closed through FACSIS.

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To ensure diligent recruitment of potential foster and adoptive families that reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of children in the state for whom foster and adoptive homes are needed, Ohio must work to increase the number of African-American parents who apply and ultimately adopt until the overall pool of family resources reflects the ethnic and racial diversity of children in the state for whom foster and adoptive homes are needed. In order to do such, Ohio has:

- Implemented procedures to better assure child and family information in FACSIS is accurate and up-to-date;
- Initiated development of market analysis information for counties to assist counties in driving effective recruitment campaigns;
- Enforced the implementation of the Comprehensive Recruitment Plan requirement and MEPA Bi-Annual Recruitment Report through administrative code;
- Set-aside a portion of state-available funds to help counties in their recruitment and retention efforts of minority families through Faith-Based and Child-Specific venues;
- Promoted “Best Practices” relative to recruiting and retaining African-American families; and
- Offered training and technical assistance to counties, their networks and mental health providers serving adoptive families.

Recruitment Outcomes

Per the AdoptOHIO Performance Report for FFY '02, Ohio notes a substantial increase in the number of finalized adoptions for FFY 2000 to FFY 2001. This increase is based on enhanced recruitment efforts for foster to adopt families, and the effective utilization of placement data and adoption incentives to agencies. Given the PIP measures the Semiannual Adoption Reports will now include familial information on the population of African-Americans per county community. ODJFS will closely monitor statewide data on the number of minority applicants and those with approved studies, by county and statewide. This information will then be compiled and presented to counties in Semiannual Reports beginning FFY 04. (See Appendix for the AdoptOHIO Performance Report for FFY '02)

IX UPDATE ON USE OF CROSS-JURISDICTIONAL RESOURCES TO FACILITATE TIMELY ADOPTIVE OR PERMANENT PLACEMENTS FOR WAITING CHILDREN

ICPC &

ICAMA:

ODJFS continues to work with other states and agencies to facilitate timely placements for waiting children. Ohio is a member, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 5103.20, of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC). All 50 states are members of this compact which facilitates the placement of children across state lines for adoption or substitute care by ensuring that all placements are made expediently, efficiently, and in accordance with regulations ensuring the safety, permanency and well-being of the child being placed. The ICPC staff at ODJFS provide technical assistance to PCSAs and private agencies, families, and attorneys that are placing children across state lines. During the most recent fiscal year, Ohio has facilitated the placements of approximately 7500 children through the ICPC. In February and March of 2003, the ICPC staff conducted 9 training sessions across the state related to the proper utilization of the ICPC. The ICPC staff also act as a central compact administration area for the placing of children into or out of the state.

Another example of how cross-jurisdictional resources are utilized is evidenced by Ohio's membership in the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance (ICAMA). Ohio has been a member of ICAMA since 1999. ICAMA, which currently has 41 member states, guarantees families who move into Ohio from a member state, or out of Ohio into a member state, continue receiving a medical card. In addition to working through ICPC and ICAMA, ODJFS has also taken steps to ensure that the AdoptOHIO website is linked to other national and statewide adoption recruitment websites.

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X UPDATE ON MEASURES TO COMPLY WITH INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT (ICWA)

Ohio complies with the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 through its Administrative Code (OAC) [rules 5101:2-42-48 through 5101:2-42-58] mandating PCSAs, PCPAs, and private non-custodial agencies (PNA) to follow the procedures outlined in the rules. No later than at the time that placement occurs, either through a request for temporary custody of a child or through a permanent surrender agreement, the PCSA, PCPA or PNA determines if the parent has Indian background, if she/he is eligible for tribal membership, or is currently enrolled in a tribe. Once Indian heritage has been potentially identified the PCSA, PCPA, or PNA works with the Native American Indian Cultural Center (NAICC) and/or American Indian Services, Inc.:

- C To seek written verification of a Native American child's heritage;
- C To serve as its representative when the tribal court or council requests jurisdiction and has appointed NAICC or American Indian Services, Inc.;
- C To represent the tribe in all legal matters including court proceedings when the tribal court or council gives written permission to NAICC or American Indian Services, Inc.;
- C To place the child in temporary custody or to locate a permanent placement for the child when NAICC or American Indian Services, Inc. receives jurisdiction rights from the tribe; and,
- C To provide placement planning for the child.

When planning a placement, the OAC requires that the placement preferences listed below are followed to assure that the placement is representative of the social and cultural standards of the Native American community or family of which the child is a member:

- C the child is placed with a member of the Native American child's extended family;
- C the child is placed with a member of the child's tribe;
- C the child is placed with other Native American families;
- C the child is placed in a Native American foster home licensed or approved by an authorized licensing authority; or,
- C the child is placed in an institution for children approved by an Indian organization which has a program suitable to meet the special needs of the child.

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When the Native American child is not enrolled in an Indian tribe and not eligible for tribal membership, NAICC or American Indian Services, Inc., can also assist the agency in connecting the family with cultural community resources for both substitute care placement services and in-home supportive services.

Staff at ODJFS receives notice from PCSAs when they are working to determine if a child is a member of a tribe, and if the tribe will be taking responsibility for the child. Currently, PCSAs have custody of 72 children listed as being American Indian/Alaskan Native. In an interview with a representative for the director of the NAICC, Clark Hosick, ODJFS staff found that many agencies use the NAICC as a resource for technical assistance, including PCSAs, adoption agencies and attorneys. Lana Samaniego, director of American Indian Services Inc., located in Celina, has pointed out to ODJFS staff that they provide technical assistance to PCSAs in the Toledo, Lima, Akron and Columbus areas. However, they do not receive as many requests for assistance as they expect. Ms. Samaniego feels that this may be due to the fact some caseworkers may not be aware that they should be inquiring about a child's Indian heritage.

ODJFS continues to remind PCSAs of the requirements of the ICWA through technical assistance provided in state-wide meetings and through interfaces with the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children. The responsibility of obtaining the written verification of tribal membership is handled differently in each agency. In a number of agencies, the legal department was responsible for initiating the request. In other agencies, the case worker has the responsibility of making contact. In all cases, the courts are notified of the potential for a tribe to claim jurisdiction.

PCSA staff continue to express concerns over the amount of detailed information that is needed in order for tribal membership to be established, however. Often, historical information on birth family members is not available, and workers rely heavily on "verbal" evidence. This lack of information has played a great role in the denial of tribal membership, and sometimes makes it difficult to meet the requirements of ICWA.

XI UPDATE ON THE INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION ACT (ICAA) REQUIREMENTS

The Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy (PASSS) program is available to families who have adopted internationally. The fact that this program is open to this population is reiterated at every available opportunity. In addition, the new Adoption Subsidy booklet, which will be available statewide, specifically speaks to this issue. However, Ohio's current child welfare information system tracks information on children in the care and custody, or receiving services from, a county public children services agency. Private adoptions, including foreign adoptions, not receiving services through a PCSA are not tracked through the current automated system. Additionally, the current system does not denote foreign adoption status on adoption cases that are eligible for some form of adoption assistance and come to the attention of the PCSA. Ohio does not capture information on private adoptions unless: 1) It is a private adoption of a child in PCSA custody; and, 2) It is a private adoption that then comes back through a PCSA for Adoption Assistance.

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XII UPDATE ON THE CHILD WELFARE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT UNDER SECTION 1130 OF THE ACT

Introduction

On September 30, 2002, Ohio completed the fifth year of the Title IV-E Waiver demonstration project, ProtectOHIO. Earlier on the month, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) approved a short-term extension of Ohio's current demonstration project until October 31, 2003.

ProtectOHIO adopts a managed care approach to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the child welfare system, focusing on reducing out-of-home placement, increasing reunification and permanency, and improving family functioning, while also maintaining a cost-neutral budget.

The central purpose of ProtectOHIO is to test whether the change in the basis of payment and in service system responsibilities improves the way counties structure and manage their child welfare systems, and as a result, improves the cost effectiveness of outcomes for children and families at risk.

Because children services in Ohio is county-administered, a lot of variation exists among the 88 county public children services agencies (PCSAs). The Title IV-E Waiver provides an opportunity for PCSAs to explore innovative approaches to meeting the needs of children and families in their respective communities. Fourteen counties participate in ProtectOHIO. They are: Ashtabula, Belmont, Clark, Crawford, Fairfield, Franklin, Greene, Hamilton, Lorain, Medina, Muskingum, Portage, Richland and Stark.

As required by the Terms & Conditions of the Waiver, semi-annual reports are submitted to HHS by the required deadlines.

Budget Neutrality/Internal Savings

For the budget period ending FFY '02, the demonstration's placement day utilization grew 4.27% over the number of days used during FFY '01. Over the same period, the control's usage grew 4.42%. This resulted in a positive budget neutrality computation of approximately \$2.31 million FFP.

Over the entire life of the project, the demonstration group has achieved the following results:

- C 11 of the 14 demonstration counties have generated internal placement day savings aggregating 682,349 days;
- C The value of all internal savings generated by the demonstration group exceeds \$40 million, all funds;
- C The demonstration's placement day utilization increased 11.42% during the period FFY '98-'02 compared to the period FFY '93 - '97. Over the same period, the control's placement day utilization increased 12.65%;
- C 7 of the 14 demonstration counties decreased their placement day utilization during the period FFY '98 - '02 compared to the period FFY '93 - '97. The rate of decline amongst these seven counties ranged from 5.13% - 29.9%;
- C In 10 of the 14 demonstration counties, placement day utilization grew at a rate slower than

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the growth rate experienced by the control group during the period FFY '98 - '02 compared to the period FFY '93-'97;

- C Within the demonstration group, the average number of placement days experienced per 1,000 population under the age of 18 declined 3.27% from 2,521 to 2,439 during the period FFY '98 - '02 compared to the period FFY '93 - '97. Over the same period, the average number of placement days experienced per 1,000 population under the age of 18 within the control group increased 9.45% from 1,786 to 1,955.

Use of Title IV-B Funds to Maximize Use of Flexible Title IV-E Dollars

Ohio has not experienced any increased flexibility of Title IV-E funds by use of Title IV-B funds. As a matter of fact, the ProtectOHIO funding is more flexible than Title IV-B funds.

ProtectOHIO Consortium

During this reporting period, the ProtectOHIO Consortium continued to meet every other month (July, September and November 2002 and January, March and May 2003). The Consortium consists of agency directors and/or upper administrative staff of the 14 counties participating in the Title IV-E Waiver demonstration project, ODJFS staff and members of the evaluation team. The Consortium is a key component of the project and meetings are county driven. These meetings provide an opportunity for Consortium members to share the different programs/projects that are being implemented and/or planned as well as the benefits and challenges, receive information about the evaluation and fiscal/placement days data.

Consortium members have spent a considerable amount of time discussing the need for the waiver to continue and working on a hypothesis that could be explored if the request for an extension is approved.

In September 2002, a workshop titled, "Using Flexible Funds to Improve Services to Children and Families" was presented during the statewide child welfare conference sponsored by the Public Children Services Association of Ohio. The workshop highlighted evaluation findings and practice enhancements that have resulted due to the flexibility of the waiver. A member of the evaluation team along with two county staff were the presenters. On February 27 & 28, 2003, county and state staff, in addition to several members of the evaluation team, attended the Seventh Annual Title IV-E Waiver meeting that was held in Washington, D.C.

Evaluation

Human Services Research Institute (HSRI) continues as the vendor conducting the evaluation activities of Ohio's Title IV-E Waiver. The evaluation team includes: Westat, Institute for Human Services Management (IHSM), and Chapin Hall Center for Children.

The five-year evaluation project consists of four related studies, each of which assesses the central program hypothesis from different perspectives. The four related studies are Process Implementation, Participant Outcomes, Community Impact and Cost. In Year 5, the Process Study team targeted its new data collection efforts on a few key areas of importance: prevention initiatives, mental health services, the PCSA/Juvenile Court relationship and interagency collaboration. Team members conducted telephone interviews with selected counties and fielded a survey of child-serving agencies

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in each county. The Community Impact Study was merged into the Process Study, through the aforementioned agency survey addressing changes in interagency collaboration during the Waiver period. The Participant Outcomes Study, used survival analysis methods to examine how child and family outcomes would have differed in the absence of the Waiver, with a focus on differences in the length of first placement by specific exit outcomes. To gain a fuller understanding of the overall effectiveness of the Waiver, the evaluation team has also focused more closely on a small group of demonstration counties, selected based on their significant findings in the Participant Outcomes and/or the Fiscal Outcomes studies. Meetings with key stakeholders in each selected PCSA yielded information to link the outcomes findings with concrete activities, enabling the evaluation team to develop "case studies" that integrate the findings from all portions of the evaluation.

The Fiscal Outcomes Study consists of the compilation and analysis of state and county-level aggregate expenditure information for child welfare services in each demonstration and comparison county from 1996, 2 years prior to the Waiver, through 2002, the fifth year of the Waiver. In addition to the evaluation, the study team collected and analyzed expenditure data for twelve demonstration and twelve comparison counties.

During this reporting period, the following evaluation reports were submitted to the department:

- C *Fourth Annual Report: Evaluation of Ohio's Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project "ProtectOHIO"* ;
- C *Fourth Semi-Annual Evaluation Report* that covered the period July 2002 -December 2002;
- C *Draft Fifth Annual Report: Evaluation of Ohio's Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project "ProtectOHIO"*(Final Evaluation Report is due June 13, 2003).

Members of the evaluation team attended ProtectOHIO Consortium Meetings and have provided leadership on discussions that focused on hypothesis that be could explored during a continuation of the waiver.

Summary

Ohio's Title IV-E Waiver demonstration project currently continues under a short-term extension until October 31, 2003. HHS will make a final decision on whether to provide a longer extension before the October date.

Ohio enthusiastically supports the demonstration and the opportunities it has afforded our county partners to experiment, innovate and improve practice. It is rare that states are afforded the flexibility to recast federal programs and harmonize them to local needs. With this in mind, the department and the participating counties are hopeful that Ohio's waiver extension will be approved. This project has the potential to positively redefine child welfare practice not only in this state, but the entire United States.

Over the entire life of the project, 11 of the 14 demonstration counties have generated internal placement day savings aggregating 682,349 days. The value of all eternal savings generated by demonstration counties exceeds \$40 million.

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Next Steps

1. Execute a contract with Human Services Research Institute to cover the period beginning in July until the short-term extension ends.
2. During the summer, 2003, submit a request to HHS for a five year extension of Ohio's Title IV-E demonstration project.

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XIII UPDATE ON THE ADOPTION INCENTIVE FUNDS

The following services have been or will be provided to children in families with adoption incentive funds in the time frame indicated:

Statewide Adoptive Family Retreat - The annual retreat, sponsored by Athens County CSB, is designed to help preserve and strengthen Ohio's adoptive families parenting children with special needs by providing them with an opportunity to connect with other families in an education, supportive and fun environment. The 2001 Adoption Retreat was held in June 8-10, 2002 and had 55 families from throughout the state participate. *\$25,000 FFY 02*

Cuyahoga County Kinship Adoption Initiative - The Initiative is designed to increase the number of children in permanent custody adopted by their relatives by conducting a thorough search for relatives at each stage of custody, training staff in the basic methodology and techniques for locating relatives, developing targeted information materials for relatives, developing a targeted recruitment campaign in the community to let relatives know that adoption is an option and providing funds to assist relatives to come into compliance to become adoptive parents. Cuyahoga County reported that nearly 30% of their adoptions were by relatives or kinship provider. Cuyahoga County utilized the funds to contract for the services of two full time parent relative locators who are training all staff, on a continuing basis, on their responsibilities for finding parents and relatives for all children. Additionally an adoption support group was created to assist relatives who are considering adoption, or have adopted. *\$300,000 FFY 03.*

Community Based Targeted Recruitment - \$25,000 was allocated for targeted recruitment and retention efforts to each of the six largest metro counties. Counties used this funding to expand their recruitment efforts including production of fliers in Spanish, production of television, radio advertisements, a recruitment video to be used to develop greater community awareness, purchased equipment which allowed the county to set up a link on the website to feature over 100 children in a "video stream". Montgomery County reported a 69% increase in their adoptions over the previous year. Summit County reported an increase in the number of adoption inquiries. During 2001, they received 257 adoption-only inquiries and 728 foster/adopt inquiries. This number drastically increased in November and December after their media blitz.

Community Based Targeted Recruitment in Non-Metro Counties- Funds were provided to the non-metro counties for targeted recruitment. Although the non-metro counties have custody on only 30% of the children, they are rich in resources for entire state's children. Funds for specific recruitment projects had to be used by September 30, 2002. *\$176,000 FFY 02*

Child Specific Recruitment - Morrow County is hosting an Adoption Fair and providing special education sessions for adoptive parents on mental health diagnoses. *\$14,500 FFY 02*

Ohio Family Care Association - OFCA is hosting their annual conference to expand the knowledge and resource base of adoptive and foster families. The conference will be held June 12-14th, 2003.

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\$48,000 FFY 03.

Recruitment - Wayne County retained a marketing/public relations consultant who has developed a plan with agency staff to significantly increase their general and child specific recruitment efforts for children in permanent custody. *\$35,000 FFY 03.*

Family Resource Center Pilot Program - ODJFS had planned to release an RFP to provide grants to two or more entities for the delivery of Post Adoption Services to adoptive families. The purpose of the centers would be to provide Post Adoption Services, including, but not limited to, crisis intervention, on-going education, support group activities, advocacy and information and referral. *ODJFS has not yet released this RFP. \$400,000 FFY 03.*

Mental Health Provider Institute - ODJFS hosted the Mental Health Provider Institute for one day preceding the 2002 Annual Statewide Adoption and Foster Care Conference. *\$20,000 FFY 03.* (See Goal 3, Preservation/Permanence; Activity, Adoption Training, Page 60 for additional information.)

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XIV REQUIREMENTS UNDER CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT ACT (CAPTA)

2003 CAPTA Update : Progress/Accomplishments

Key Point 1: Intake, assessment, screening and investigation of reports of abuse and neglect

During 2002, Ohio received consultation and technical assistance from the National Resource Center on Child Maltreatment (NRCCM) and the Child Welfare Institute (CWI) regarding the development of a safety assessment protocol and safety assessment instruments. A safety assessment protocol and accompanying instruments were designed and a pilot to explore the applicability and usability of the instruments will begin in June 2003.

In addition to the Safety pilot another safety-related initiative that Ohio has begun to address is the screening of child abuse/neglect (CA/N) reports. Ohio sought technical assistance from the National Resource Center on Legal and Judicial Issues regarding Ohio's definitions of child abuse, neglect and dependency and screening CA/N reports. The findings report, authored by Howard Davidson J.D., indicated problems with Ohio's statutory definitions of CA/N as well as other statutory language. The report also noted issues with Ohio's CA/N disposition categories and recommended Ohio's screening rule be more prescriptive.

During Ohio's Child & Family Services Review, issues related to screening of cases at intake were identified as an area of child protective services practice that needed improvements; action steps to address this issue were a part of Ohio's proposed Program Improvement Plan (PIP).

Key Point 2(A): Creating and improving the use of multidisciplinary teams and interagency protocols to improve investigations

Community Evaluation Teams

ODJFS provided funding and technical support related to recruiting members, team development, goal setting and data analysis for three Community Evaluation Teams (CETs) in Lorain, Marion and Scioto Counties. The activities conducted by CETs to recruit team members expanded community awareness and understanding of issues related to child abuse and neglect. In every county where a CET has operated (six thus far), community members have been educated on issues of child abuse and neglect including reporting and investigation. This in turn has helped citizens understand what to report, who and when to call to make a report, the types of services that are available and where to receive services. While CETs worked with the public children services agencies (PCSAs) to review investigation procedures and the impact of investigations on the community, other child and family serving agencies (day care, law enforcement) also worked with the PCSAs to conduct dual interviews and team investigations.

The teams reviewed local child protective services agency policy and procedures; conducted reviews

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of in-house programs which enabled the teams to identify unmet needs in their communities; analyzed data regarding custody and school placements; and provided recommendations to the PCSAs regarding program development, enhancement and policy revisions. Recommendations from the teams include, but are not limited to:

- Conduct a forum for at risk boys age 12-15 (Marion County)
- Expand recruitment efforts of foster/adoptive homes (Lorain County)
- Organize a community supervised visitation center (Marion County)
- Publish a Foster/Adopt article and target distribution (Scioto County) Survey foster children who changed school districts as a result of the placement process to identify their needs and to develop strategies for maintaining children in their district (Lorain County)
- Expand the program that provides computers to children for educational purposes (Lorain County)

Training on Methamphetamine

Ohio's multi-disciplinary training efforts consistently have focused on its need for expanded opportunities for joint training of law enforcement and public child welfare workers. The advent of methamphetamine into Ohio compelled such activities. As part of Governor Taft's commitment to reducing the impact of Methamphetamine (Meth) and preventing its spread in Ohio, ODJFS, the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services, and the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program partnered to offer regional *Meth Awareness Training* throughout Ohio.

While Ohio has not yet experienced the Meth domination that many Western states have endured, the number of clandestine labs being identified is on the rise. In 2002, there were 120 clandestine labs reported to the Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation; from January to March 2003, there were 114. It also is assumed that a substantive number of existing labs go unidentified or unreported. If Ohio's experience mirrors that of states to its west, dramatic escalation in numbers is to be expected for the next two to three years. Meth use commonly is viewed as a criminal justice issue, but the impact on child welfare is significant. According to The National Crime Prevention Council, the typical lab operator is of child bearing age (24). Eighty percent of labs have children present on the premises, and 35% of those children have significant health problems from exposure to toxins, explosions, or extreme living conditions. Almost all will require substitute care. Western states' experience has demonstrated the necessity of having strong interdisciplinary protocols in place to effectively address the medical, legal and emotional needs of these children. All labs have specific components that indicate the substance of activity. Because of the strong correlation of Meth use and child neglect, it can be expected that child welfare investigators have a higher than average likelihood of being in homes where undetected methamphetamine production is occurring. Child welfare investigators and ongoing workers are in an excellent position to expose unreported lab activity. Accompanying this, however, are the safety hazards that threaten the uneducated child welfare worker. Many of the simple actions that accompany a routine home visit such as opening a refrigerator, emptying a glass into a sink, smelling a container or looking under a bed can be life-threatening. The toxins used in production are volatile and dangerous. Methamphetamine users are paranoid, unpredictable and often delusional. Lab sites typically are distinguished by extensive weaponry and surveillance. Child welfare workers need be able to recognize environmental and behavioral signs of danger and to be aware of the appropriate responses to ensure personal safety. The training featured Master Sergeant *Bruce Liebe*, Clandestine Laboratory Program Coordinator for the Illinois State Police, and *Betsy Dunn*, a Child Protective Services Worker from Tennessee. Each of the ten sessions provided an overview of Meth production and use, and an examination of the issues that arise when

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children are on site. The discussion of Drug Endangered Children (DEC) covered investigation, documentation, evidence and screening aspects, and DEC team development. Attendance was free and there were approximately 100 to 150 participants at each of the ten sites. Evaluations were uniformly excellent.

Perhaps the most valuable outcome of the training series was the positive partnership that developed between ODJFS, the Office of Criminal Justice Services and the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program. Representatives from each of these entities, as well as all of the training program's regional coordinators, recently met to discuss expanded joint endeavors.

Ohio also has sponsor a number of workshops intended to ensure that all public children services staff entering homes have an ability to recognize potential methamphetamine use and production, as well as an understanding of the proper responses. These include workshops for Ohio's foster care and adoption managers, as well as drug court team representatives.

Ohio now is working with the Drug Enforcement Agency, National Crime Prevention Council and a range of state agencies and associations to hold a two-day Summit on Methamphetamine. Dr. Kathleen West will be presenting on child protection and DEC issues at this July 2003 event.

Interdisciplinary Investigation Training

ODJFS continues to offer team training on multidisciplinary investigation. A number of no-cost sessions were offered through the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program's Regional Training Centers (RTC). Two five day sessions of Ohio's *Child Abuse and Exploitation: Investigative Techniques* were offered by a collaboration of four of the RTCs. Instructors recruited and trained under the Investigative Mentor Program presented. A fifth RTC offered the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) four day *Child Fatality Investigations*. Instructors were from the program's national faculty, and all instructor costs were paid by the DOJ's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The course offerings all experienced waiting lists for available space and evaluations for each of these programs were excellent. These are the only RTC programs that teach to a multidisciplinary audience; most reflecting a 50% split between law enforcement and public child welfare staff, with small representation from other disciplines. RTC Coordinators also utilized instructors recruited and trained through Investigative Mentor Program to offer a variety of sessions on child abuse and neglect. RTC Coordinators have asked for expanded opportunity to offer interdisciplinary instruction. ODJFS will continue and expand support for similar programs.

Child Advocacy Centers

ODJFS has focused on the various methods that might be employed to facilitate skilled, interdisciplinary investigations and statewide access to services. More recently, efforts have centered on Child Advocacy Centers (CAC) as the most effective venue for accomplishing this objective.

It has been ODJFS' position that state funds are be used as a short-term and limited strategy for program development. Experience has demonstrated that using grant dollars to fund local service programs is not an effective use of funds. While this approach may increase service delivery for a limited number of clients, it does little to impact on permanent operation. At the conclusion of the funding cycle, projects still lack permanent funding, have not generated necessary local support, and often close.

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ODJFS' approach is invest, perhaps greater, funds to establish state-level frameworks. To implement this Task Force recommendation, Ohio's existing CAC were asked to incorporate into a state membership organization that would carry out specified activities. The Ohio Network of Child Advocacy Centers (ONCAC) received the first year of its three-year funding this past year, effective September 2002. ONCAC achieved all of ODJFS' first year goals. They can be grouped in the following general categories:

Organization

ONCAC is a Chapter of National Children's Alliance (NCA) and participates in all NCA programs It has hired staff, and established a working Board of Directors and a physical state office. Criteria for ONCAC membership, based on NCA standards, has been established and adopted by the Board. A membership dues structure and membership services package has been established and distributed.

Public Awareness and Advocacy

ONCAC created and maintains a website. In addition to information about ONCAC, its mission, membership and services, the website contains a calendar of professional training and events, as well as links to other local, state, and federal sites. It can be viewed at www.oncac.org. ONCAC also has developed an informational brochure and distributes a quarterly newsletter.

The ONCAC Executive Director has initiated efforts to gain greater exposure and voice for membership agencies, and been asked to serve on the Board of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children Ohio, is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics Ohio Chapter Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect, and serves on the Ohio Sexual Assault Task Force.

Program Support & Development

A state membership meeting (to be held annually) was held in November 2002. The NCA President addressed the meeting and Julie Pape, NCA's Project Director for the Midwest Region participated. Representatives from twenty Ohio communities attended.

The primary mission of ONCAC is to develop and provide support to community CAC.

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The following chart shows the activity that has occurred since the establishment of a state office.

CAC	September 2003	May 2003
Full Members	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Canton (Stark) 2. Chillicothe (Ross) 3. Cincinnati (Hamilton) 4. Dayton (Montgomery) 5. Toledo (Lucas) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Canton (Stark) 2. Chillicothe (Ross) 3. Cincinnati (Hamilton) 4. Dayton (Montgomery) 5. Ravenna (Portage)* 6. Steubenville (Jefferson)* 7. Toledo (Lucas) <p>* Made application for Full Membership</p>
Associate Members	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Columbus (Franklin) 2. Fremont (Sandusky) 3. Ravenna (Portage) 4. Springfield (Clark) 5. Youngstown (Mahoning, Trumbull, Columbiana) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Akron (Summit)*** 2. Columbus (Franklin)*** 3. Fremont (Sandusky) 5. Springfield (Clark)*** 6. Wooster (Wayne) 7. Youngstown (Mahoning, Trumbull, Columbiana)*** <p>*** In process for Full Membership</p>
Developing Centers		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sandusky (Erie) 2. Lima (Allen) 3. Newark (Licking) 4. Allen, Jackson, Meigs 5. Tiffin (Seneca)
Interest in center or multidisciplinary team		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Guernsey 2. Hancock 3. Richland 4. Tuscarawas

ONCAC continues to collect data regarding interdisciplinary activity that is occurring on a county level. In February 2003, a survey was sent to each county public children services agency to identify a contact person for the agency and to determine if a multidisciplinary team or CAC existed within the county. Technical assistance was offered to those counties in which no team existed. Thirty-five of the surveys were returned and an student intern from Wright State University is contacting by telephone those counties that did not respond.

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Training

In its first nine months, ONCAC staff presented at the following events:

- Two Days in May (Ohio Attorney General)
- NCA Leadership Conference
- Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy (OPOTA): development of three hour video training on interviewing for law enforcement officers

And sponsored the following training workshops:

- Executive Board Retreat (Nancy Chandler, CEO NCA)
- The Advocacy Model (Julie Pape)
- NCA Membership Standards (Linda Desiate)
- Creating and Maintaining Multidisciplinary Teams (3 Regional: Jamie Caperton)

Case Management Data Collection

A task force was formed to work on the establishment of a state-wide, uniform data collection system that could provide case management services. Information was obtained from CAC State Chapters (New York, Texas, and Utah) that have established state-wide systems. Potential vendors were contacted, proposals submitted, and a vendor to manage development was selected.

Forensic Interviewing

A task force with representation from public children services, law enforcement, mental health, the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program, OPOTA, legal services, and ONCAC was formed to work on the development of a standardized curriculum and state training program for forensic interviewing. A number of national projects were researched; three organizations were determined to have the capability of providing the services necessary for completion of this project: *The Childhood Trust* at the University of Cincinnati's School of Medicine; the training department at the National Children's Advocacy Center in Huntsville, Alabama; and, *Finding Words* at the American Prosecutors' Research Institute. *Childhood Trust* was selected after program and proposal review. ONCAC's Forensic Interviewing Task Force will work with *Childhood Trust* over the next 24 months to develop an Ohio curriculum, recruit and train a pool of qualified Ohio instructors, develop training criteria, and implement the program.

Identifying Impeding and Facilitating Factors to Statewide Development

- The major barrier to the development of new CAC is the **lack of available start-up funds**. There is a need for a consistent, dedicated source of funding to start new programs and to support existing programs.
- The **number of counties**, particularly in rural areas, stands as a barrier to making CAC services available to all of Ohio's children. It is ONCAC's position that every effort should be made to facilitate cooperation among smaller counties to develop **multi-jurisdictional programs**. Ohio currently has two models that should be studied for possible replication.
- The **lack of specialized, local medical and mental health services** is a deterrent to quality programs in small, rural counties.
- The **Pediatric SANE Program** offers access to forensic medical services to counties that do

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not traditionally have this capability. ONCAC recommends its expansion to develop additional programs.

- **Increased multidisciplinary training** will improve investigation and prosecution services. Training is especially needed to ensure that:
 - every county has a trained forensic interviewer specializing in child abuse cases;
 - non-medical personnel (prosecutors, law enforcement, PCSA workers) have accurate expectations regarding medical exams;
 - prosecutors fully understand the options for prosecuting sexual abuse cases where there are no medical outcomes.

Key Point 2(B)(ii): Provisions for the appointment of an individual appointed to represent a child in judicial proceedings

ODJFS continues to make training available free of charge to any individual who will be serving as a GAL or CASA volunteer. Ohio currently has 31 local CASA/GAL programs operating in 33 counties. These local programs supervised 1,600 volunteers who served as GAL to over 7,770 abused, neglected and dependent children during 2002. Each of these volunteers is required to participate in 30 hours of pre-service training and 12 hours of in-service training each year.

On October 4-5, 2002, ODJFS co-sponsored the Eighth Annual Conference of the Ohio CASA/GAL Association, "A Powerful Voice in A Child's Life." The conference was attended by 253 staff, attorneys, social workers and other professionals who serve as court appointed advocates or volunteer *guardians ad litem* across the state. The conference offered 30 workshops over two days and was highlighted by a plenary session conducted by Guadalupe Lara, "Embracing the Uncomfortable: Serving a Diverse Population." CASA "chat rooms" included discussions about specific topics, "Making Fact-Based Recommendations: Keeping Your Emotions in Perspective" and "What is Case Plan Compliance?" A judge also participated in a CASA Chat Room sharing how he processes information in order to make decisions in child abuse, neglect and dependency cases.

On March 1, 2003 in Dayton and March 8, 2003 in Mansfield, ODJFS co-sponsored regional training sessions for 83 and 47 participants respectively. Jenny Alexander, a lecturer in communications at Wright State in Dayton, presented on the topic, "Multiple Intelligence and Communicating with Others." Paul Kutscher, Probate/Juvenile Court Judge in Seneca, and a group of attorneys presented a workshop, "What to Expect When You're Cross Examined."

On March 19, 2003, CASA/GAL held its second annual Legislative Breakfast in Columbus. Over 60 legislators, program directors and volunteers were present. This was an opportunity for local programs to meet their representatives in the Ohio General Assembly and for those representatives to become aware of the Ohio CASA/GAL organization.

At the directors' meeting after the Legislative Breakfast, Ohio CASA/GAL announced a partnership has been formed with the Columbus Crew, a major league soccer team. The Crew will be recognizing all CASA/GAL volunteers on July 19, 2003 during the Crew home game acknowledging "their tireless effort of protecting the best interests of children."

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Implementation of standards of practice has been a top priority of CASA/GAL for the past three years. This year, CASA/GAL has moved to a two-year review cycle that incorporates all of their established quality assurance methods and allows programs more time to implement needed enhancements. It also allows the state CASA/GAL association sufficient time to provide on-site, one-on-one and group technical assistance to local programs. The new cycle began in February with the submission of assurance letters and National CASA Association (NCASAA) data surveys from all programs. CASA/GAL will be requesting documentation in the early spring and begin the on-site and paper review process shortly thereafter.

NCASAA's new Standards implementation will begin a three-year self-assessment cycle beginning in 2003. Ohio CASA/GAL applied for and became the "certifying agent" for the national implementation effort. Materials will be sent to CASA/GAL to monitor compliance and provide technical assistance to local programs.

ODJFS will continue to work closely with Ohio CASA/GAL Association in the implementation of state policy and standards, and to encourage the establishment of new volunteer programs across the state.

Key Point 3: Case management and delivery of services to children and their families

As part of the revisions to the risk assessment protocol, a Case Review tool was developed. The Case Review is an instrument to re-examine safety and risk and to discuss the impact provision of services has on the family and whether these services need to be modified. It will be completed every 90 days throughout the life of the case and in conjunction with the semiannual administrative review every 180 days. The Case Review will assist in obtaining permanency for children more expediently. The Case Review tool will be piloted in four counties as one of the instruments of the Family Assessment & Planning Model.

Key Point 4: Enhancing the general child protective system by improving risk and safety assessment tools and protocols, automation systems that support the program and track reports of child abuse and neglect from intake through final disposition and information referral system.

ODJFS developed a safety assessment protocol and tools in cooperation with county representatives, technical assistance days from the National Resource Center on Child Maltreatment allotted to Ohio by US Department of Health and Human Services and by contracting with Child Welfare Institute to complete the work. Work groups developed a Safety Assessment, revised the Safety Plan, revised the Risk Assessment, developed a Case Review (combined with the Semiannual Administrative Review), and developed a Reunification Assessment.

Each tool in the new model was designed with a specific focus to assist workers in gathering and documenting the information they need to support the key decisions made throughout the life of the case. The model also include quality assurance instruments that help supervisors to assist workers in developing skills necessary to complete the assessment tools.

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Key Point 5: **Developing, strengthening and facilitating training opportunities and requirements for individuals overseeing and providing services to children and their families through the child protection system**

Training and technical assistance regarding safety and risk assessment and planning was provided to ODJFS staff and county representatives on October 24-25, 2002. ODJFS staff conducted a workshop on the safety and risk assessment protocols at the Public Children Services Association of Ohio's (PCSAO) Annual Statewide Conference on September 12, 2002 and at the Statewide Child Welfare Managers' Meeting on October 17, 2002. An overview of the Family Assessment & Planning Model was also provided for a group of representatives from public children services agencies and PCSAO on March 19, 2003.

Key Point 7: **Developing, strengthening and supporting child abuse and neglect prevention, treatment and research programs in the public and private sectors.**

Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month Activities

Prevention Partners Leadership Group (PPLG) is a committee comprised of representatives from public children services agencies; various private agencies specializing in parenting, child abuse and neglect prevention and education; Family and Children First Councils; Ohio Department of Health and Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (Children's Trust Fund, Bureau of Family Services and Office of Communications) developed and assisted in implementing the plans for Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month as well as various year round activities. The committee spent time this year discussing and coordinating individual agency activities in an effort to collaborate with one another as well as not to duplicate each other's activities.

The theme for the 2003 Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Awareness Campaign was "HELP PAINT OHIO'S FUTURE BRIGHT!! PREVENT CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT." ODJFS allocated \$2,000.00 to each PCSA to use for their local Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month activities. A Prevention Month public relations "kit" which can be downloaded and customized for local use was made available to PCSA's through the ODJFS website. This kit includes an activities planner; the child abuse and neglect awareness campaign poster; campaign materials, information on how to conduct a successful child abuse and neglect campaign, including news media tips and the Parent's Pledge to a child's well-being. The Parent's Pledge was also distributed through various early childhood education agencies and parenting groups. A copy of the pledge is in the Appendix of this report.

In addition to the allocation, ODJFS provided each PCSA as well as all Family and Children First Councils and Family Resource HUB grantees with promotional items. These promotional items included blue ribbon lapel pins, collapsible water bottles, blue highlighters and literature distribution bags, all bearing the "Paint Ohio's Future Bright!! Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect" logo. ODJFS also provided each PCSA, Family and Children First Councils, Family Resource HUB grantees and Head Start agencies with three educational booklets on toilet training, temper tantrums and child neglect.

The Governor's Office issued a proclamation designating April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Using information provided by county agencies, ODJFS compiled a list of activities that agencies sponsored

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or co-sponsored to raise local awareness of child abuse and neglect prevention. The list of activities and a copy of the Governor's proclamation are included in the Appendix of this report.

The PPLG and Ohio Children's Trust Fund jointly created the "Beyond the Blue Ribbon" Prevention Awards to recognize professionals, volunteers, prevention programs and business and media contributors that have made meaningful contributions to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. The winners of these awards were announced during a luncheon at the Ohio Statehouse in April 2003.

Publications

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services publishes three booklets pertaining to child abuse and neglect to be used for education and training purposes. One booklet provides the public with information in regards to defining, preventing, identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect. Each of the other two booklets contain the same information with a specific focus- medical professionals and educational professionals. The general public and medical professionals booklets are out of date and need to be modified. The medical professionals booklet was revised by The Mayerson Center for Safe and Healthy Children and will be available in Summer 2003. The general public booklet is currently being revised and completion is expected in Fall 2003.

Key Point 9: Developing and enhancing the capacity of community-based programs to integrate shared leadership strategies between parents and professionals to prevent and treat child abuse and neglect at the neighborhood level.

ODJFS continues to enhance the capacity of community-based programs to work in cooperation with parents and professionals through Community Evaluation Teams (CETs). Three CETs in Ohio bring community agencies and stakeholders together to look at issues related to abuse or neglect.

In addition to parents participating on the CETs to become aware of child protective services (CPS) agency policies and procedures, services available within the community and service needs in the community, parent involvement and leadership is an issue discussed in team meetings and at community stakeholder meetings with teachers, counselors and foster parents. The parents, professionals and volunteers work together to review local CPS agency practice and make recommendations to assist the agencies in the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect in their communities.

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2003 Update on CAPTA: Plans for FY 04 CAPTA Funds

Key Point 1: Intake, assessment, screening and investigation of reports of abuse and neglect

One CPS staff member attended the Differential Response National Forum Program held August 13-14, 2002 in Minneapolis. The forum included presentations on planning for differential response systems, child welfare assessments, state experiences in implementing a differential response system and structured decision making among others. As a result of the information obtained from this forum, the findings of the Child and Family Service Reviews, issues identified during statewide Child Protection Oversight and Evaluation (CPOE) monitoring, and the report from the National Resource Center on Legal and Judicial Issues, Ohio is planning to convene a task force to look at issues related to screening reports of alleged child maltreatment. One charge of the proposed Task Force will be to look at the viability of amending the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Administrative Code to provide more structured guidance to PCSAs and improve consistency in screening and responding to reports of child maltreatment.

In addition, department staff have developed a child abuse and neglect (CA/N) screening review process to be incorporated into the statewide CPOE Stage 5 quality assurance and monitoring process and the Family Assessment and Planning Model will be piloted in four counties. The screening review will allow state staff to begin to assess the current state of screening in all 88 Ohio Public Children Services Agencies (PCSA).

Key Point 2(A): Creating and improving the use of multidisciplinary teams and interagency protocols to improve investigations

Community Evaluation Teams

ODJFS intends to select three additional Community Evaluation Teams through the letterhead bid process in Spring 2004. Three additional teams will expand the number of teams developed in Ohio to nine (9), three of which are funded. The teams' review of policies and procedures, education activities and ongoing assessment of agency data related to investigations of child abuse and neglect will allow them to make recommendations for the improvement of protocols and help the communities understand and support the investigative process. ODJFS will continue to provide technical assistance to the teams, monitor their activities and evaluate their progress.

Child Advocacy Centers

Using a blend of Children's Justice Act and Basic State Grant dollars, ODJFS will continue to promote the statewide development of child advocacy centers through support of the Ohio Network of Child Advocacy Centers. Over the next year, the state-level office of the Ohio Network of Child Advocacy Centers and its membership organization will:

- Provide technical assistance and support to existing and developing CAC, as well as to communities interested in exploring the establishment of a CAC;

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- Maintain membership in the National Children's Alliance, making Ohio eligible to receive national CAC state funding;
- Develop and administer a state-wide training and education system for CAC;
- Promote the development and implementation of a statewide uniform data collection and case management system;
- Establish a program to implement and monitor performance standards on a state-wide basis;
- Develop and implementing a standardized forensic interviewing program;
- Provide a range of membership services such as legislative monitoring, advocacy, and information-sharing;
- Implement recommendations of a multidisciplinary task force as required to maintain state eligibility for the receipt of federal Children's Justice Act grant funds.

Key Point 2(B)(ii): Provisions for the appointment of an individual appointed to represent a child in judicial proceedings

Court Appointed Special Advocates/Guardians ad Litem

Ohio will use Basic State Grant funds to ensure that pre-service and in-service training is provided to every individual who serves as court appointed special advocate or guardian *ad litem*. In FFY '03-'04, ODJFS will contract with Ohio CASA/GAL Association, the state membership program, to:

- Administer a pre-service training program for volunteer and attorney guardians *ad litem* which statewide serves counties with a CASA/GAL program. A minimum of 500 guardians *ad litem* will be trained through a minimum of 50 sessions;
- Administer an in-service training program for volunteer and attorney guardians *ad litem* and CASA/GAL program staff as requested by ODJFS;
- To provide data by March 1, 2004 regarding:
 - a. The numbers and demographics of children served by CASA programs
 - b. The length of case service of volunteer and attorney guardians *ad litem* as assigned through CASA programs
 - c. A breakdown of case type assigned through CASA programs
- To coordinate the state's CASA/GAL training program by:
 - a. Disseminating all materials related to training program activities
 - b. Reviewing all requests for training funding or reimbursement
 - c. Processing all approved payments for training funding or reimbursement
 - d. Reviewing all training materials
 - e. Reviewing/aggregating training participant evaluations
- To submit quarterly reports with each request for reimbursement. These reports shall identify, by deliverable, the progress which has been made the preceding quarter in completing it. This shall include:
 - a. The date, site, topic, and trainer of each training
 - b. The number of participants for each training, as well as a breakdown of affiliation (e.g.,

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- volunteer, attorney guardian *ad litem*)
 - c. Three copies of all materials publicizing the training and the training agenda
 - d. An aggregate evaluation of each training
 - e. Any requested topics for future sessions identified during the training
 - f. Information regarding any relevant issues identified during trainings
- Submit an annual report by July 31, 2004 which:
 - a. Summarizes the data included in the year's quarterly reports
 - b. Presents recommendations for improving the training program.

The fourth quarterly report may be contained in the annual report, although the data for the fourth quarterly report must be separately identifiable.

Key Point 3: Case management and delivery of services to children and their families

The Ohio Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) held in May 2002 found that PCSA caseworkers did not consistently meet policy requirements for conducting visits with parents. Furthermore, the quality of the visits with the parents were not sufficient to promote the safety and well-being of the children.

ODJFS will enhance a family's capacity to provide for their children's needs by providing guidelines regarding frequency of visits with each parent involved in the case plan. The purpose of the visits is to discuss progress on case plan goals.

To enhance worker visitation with the parents, ODJFS will be revising Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rule 5101:2-39-08 to clearly provide guidelines on frequency and purpose of worker visits with parent(s) for those cases opened for agency services voluntarily. These guidelines were established for court involved and substitute care cases in December 2001. OAC rules 5101:2-39-08 and 5101:2-39-08.1 will also be revised to clarify expectations for caseworker visits with the non-custodial parent.

Key Point 4: Enhancing the general child protective system by improving risk and safety assessment tools and protocols, automation systems that support the program and track reports of child abuse and neglect from intake through final disposition and information referral system.

ODJFS revised the Family Decision Making Model (risk assessment model) which is now entitled the Family Assessment and Planning Model. The new model includes a safety assessment, revised safety plan, revised risk assessment (renamed the Family Assessment) a Case Review/Semiannual Administrative Review and a new Reunification Assessment. ODJFS will pilot the tools in four (4) counties (Greene, Hancock, Muskingum and Summit) from June 2003 through Spring 2004. The safety assessment protocol, which assesses and addresses safety as a unique and distinct form of risk, is an integral part of Ohio's proposed Child and Family Service Review's Program Improvement Plan activities. Specifically, these protocols will assist Ohio in addressing Item 3, "Services to family to

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protect child(ren) in home and prevent removal,” and Item 4, “Risk of harm to child(ren).”

As an action step in Ohio’s proposed Program Improvement Plan to address Item 2, “Repeat Maltreatment,” ODJFS plans to work with county administrative and data entry staff on handling duplicate reports that are received while an investigation is in progress or a family has a case open for ongoing services.

Key Point 5: Developing, strengthening and facilitating training opportunities and requirements for individuals overseeing and providing services to children and their families through the child protection system

Family Assessment and Planning Model

Training and technical assistance regarding safety and risk assessment and planning will be provided to the staff of the four (4) agencies participating in the Family Assessment and Planning Model (FAPM) pilot. In addition, ODJFS staff will present a workshop on the FAPM at the Public Children Services Association of Ohio’s Annual Statewide conference in September 2003 and the Court Appointed Special Advocate/guardian *ad litem* (CASA/GAL) Annual Statewide Conference in October 2003.

Beginning in Spring 2004, ODJFS will work with the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program (OCWTP) and the OCWTP State Training Coordinator to develop a training strategy for the statewide implementation of the FAPM. CAPTA funds will be used to pay trainers and purchase training materials and supplies for statewide implementation of the Family Assessment & Planning Model.

Child Welfare Policy Development

CAPTA funds will be used for current and to expand staff resources in the child protective services program. Child Protective staff will be responsible for implementation of proposed Program Improvement Plan activities which include the Family Assessment and Planning Model development, pilot and statewide implementation training; review and revision of statewide policy pertaining to screening of reports; training and technical assistance on case planning and case plan review practices; development of support tools for casework supervisors; Citizen Review Panels (Community Evaluation Teams); Child Protection Oversight and Evaluation; and child abuse and neglect prevention activities. Basic State Grant funds will also be allocated for CPS staff to attend meetings, training workshops and conferences on child protective services practice initiatives.

Key Point 7: Developing, strengthening and supporting child abuse and neglect prevention, treatment and research programs in the public and private sectors.

Prevention Partners Leadership Group (PPLG), a committee comprised of representatives from public children services agencies; various private agencies specializing in parenting, child abuse and neglect prevention and education; Family and Children First Councils; Ohio Department of Health and Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (Children’s Trust Fund, Bureau of Family Services and Office of Communications) will continue to meet to develop strategies in implementing plans for Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month as well as various year round activities.

The theme and logo for the 2004 Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Awareness Campaign will be

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developed through a subcommittee of the PPLG. ODJFS will again allocate \$2,000.00 to each PCSA to use for their local Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month activities. In addition to the allocation, ODJFS will provide each PCSA as well as all Family and Children First Councils and Family Resource HUB grantees with promotional items. These promotional items will contain the new Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month logo.

The artwork of the winners from the 2003 art contest will be featured in an upcoming family well-being calendar published by the Ohio Children's Trust Fund. The calendar will be distributed to a variety of private and public agencies.

Publications

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services publishes three booklets pertaining to child abuse and neglect to be used for education and training purposes. One booklet provides the public with information in regards to defining, preventing, identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect. Each of the other two booklets contain the same information with a specific focus - medical professionals and educational professionals. The general public booklet is currently being revised and completion is expected in Fall 2003.

Key Point 9: **Developing and enhancing the capacity of community-based programs to integrate shared leadership strategies between parents and professionals to prevent and treat child abuse and neglect at the neighborhood level.**

In FFY 04 four Citizens Review Panels (Community Evaluation Teams-CETs) will continue to operate in Ohio and funding for the three new teams will be allocated from the Basic State Grant. Through these teams, parents, professionals and volunteers will work together to review local CPS agency practice and make recommendations to assist the agencies in the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect in their communities.

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CAPTA State Grant Budget:

**OHIO
COMPREHENSIVE CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICE PLAN
FY 2000 - 2004**

CAPTA/BASIC STATE GRANT BUDGET					
PROGRAM	FFY 2000	FFY 2001	FFY 2002	FFY 2003	FFY 2004
<i>Risk Assessment Study</i>	\$30,000	\$242,040	\$34,240		\$575,000
<i>Risk Assessment Model: TA and Implementation</i>			\$41,343		
<i>Safety Assessment</i>				\$280,000	\$178,000
<i>PIP Projects and Activities</i>				\$50,000	\$50,000
<i>Community Evaluation Teams</i>	\$30,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
<i>Child Abuse Exploitation</i>	\$68,750				
<i>Child Abuse Team Planning</i>	\$68,750				
<i>CASA/GAL Training (Pre-Service/In-Service)</i>	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$61,750	\$67,500	\$69,500
<i>CaseLoad Analysis</i>	\$295,646	\$180,000	\$135,000	\$90,000	\$14,000
<i>CA/N Prevention</i>	\$272,125	\$276,000	\$150,000	\$70,000	\$70,000
<i>CA/N Prevention Month - County Allocations</i>			\$176,000	\$176,000	\$176,000
<i>Telemedicine</i>					
<i>Child Advocacy Centers</i>			\$65,000	\$100,000	\$50,000
<i>State Conference</i>					
<i>Medical CA/N Booklet</i>			\$40,000		
<i>CA/N Book Printing Costs</i>			\$75,000		
<i>Staff Training and Conferences</i>			\$20,000	\$20,000	\$10,000
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	\$2,500	\$1,656			
TOTAL	\$797,771	\$789,696	\$858,333	\$883,500	\$799,333*

*To the extent that costs are higher, they will be charged to surplus grant balances from previous awards.

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XV CHAFEE FOSTER CARE INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM (CFCIP)

PROGRAM REPORT - CFCIP (OHIO) FY2003

I. ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES PROVIDED

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) is the state agency that administers, supervises and oversees the programs carried out under the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) plan. ODJFS is the single Ohio agency administering the Title IV-E program and administers the CFCIP under Section 477 of the Social Security Act. Ohio is a state-supervised, county-administered system where service provision is carried out by 88 county public children services agencies (PCSAs). ODJFS staff continues to supervise and provide technical assistance to the local Independent Living (IL) programs administered by these PCSAs.

The structure of individual IL programs is not overtly prescribed by ODJFS, so there is diversity among the 88 counties with regard to the components of their programs. Under current OAC rules (5101:2-42-19, 5101:2-39-09, and 5101:2-39-11), PCSAs and PCPAs must, within the case plan, identify the programs and life skill services which will assist the child to prepare for transition from substitute care to independent living. While each of Ohio's local PCSAs must evaluate the need for, and provide the commensurate life skill services to youth in their custody, and to those emancipated from their custody, the structure of the local agency's independent living (IL) program is not regulated by ODJFS. Identification of the services to be provided is included in the youth's case plan. In broad measure, ODJFS requires PCSAs and private agencies holding custody (private child placing agencies - PCPAs) to evaluate the need for and make available commensurate life-skill services to youth who are likely to remain in foster care until age 18 or who have emancipated from care. This includes daily life-skills training and program support to render them socially and economically self-sufficient.

PCSAs and PCPAs are directed by OAC rules to provide for youth ages 16-18 in care (no matter the custody type -- temporary custody, planned permanent living arrangement, or permanent custody) to receive services that will prepare them for their transition from substitute care to self-sufficiency. These rules also address agency responsibility for providing for the needs of youth "likely to remain in care" (which includes youth under the age of 16) and for young adults aged 18 and over who have emancipated from the system.

Local discretion and individual assessments and evaluations of youth aid in determining which youth under 16 are likely to remain in foster care until age 18, and when to begin assessing and providing services for them. In working with PCSAs, ODJFS staff has identified several factors such as age, presenting problems, case history, and case plans/goals as items to be examined when determining if a youth is likely to remain in foster care until 18. Agencies are responsible for conducting a life-skills assessment for each youth in substitute care who has attained the age of 16 or whom the agency feels is ready to receive IL services. The assessment establishes the need for certain services, and is based on an objective tool completed by the youth (or on the youth's behalf), with documented input from the youth, his/her caregiver, and the case manager. The assessment is to be completed no later than 90 days after the youth turns sixteen years old or 90 days from entering into agency custody. For emancipated young adults, agencies are directed to develop a mutually agreed upon written plan for the provision of services identified as being needed based on an evaluation of the young adult's strengths and needs. This plan will clearly outline the responsibility of the young adult and the agency, and will be signed by the young adult and a representative of the PCSA as an indication that the young adult will take personal responsibility for achieving independence.

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Ohio law allows for the use of concurrent planning as a tool to be used by caseworkers when they are working with families. In the case of youth in care who are likely to remain in custody until age 18, concurrent planning is a valuable tool. It allows for the worker, the youth, and the youth's family to make decisions based on the input of the youth. Permanency can be best achieved if all parties involved understand that the decisions made are in the youth's best interest. Therefore concurrent planning is encouraged for all youth in care so that should parental rights be terminated, each youth will have the opportunity for stability and permanence.

Many foster families in Ohio specialize in the type of youth they work with. Ohio law requires extensive training of foster families and agency workers. For those families who work with youth transitioning to adulthood, OAC rules require that training be provided relative to the needs and issues of such youth. ODJFS recognizes that working with youth in care is different than working with children under the age of 16. Therefore, foster parents and workers are trained on how to address the specific issues of adolescents, and how to function as mentors and teachers for youth transitioning to adulthood. Treatment foster homes, which only accept children and youth with a very high level of need, must also be equipped to address the transition issues of the special needs youth they serve.

PCSAs are encouraged to coordinate with other child and family serving agencies, within and among counties, to develop service systems that meet the needs of youth in care. Many county agencies have begun to develop formal protocols related to service provision for youth in care and those returning after emancipation. For example, PCSAs and their local Workforce Investment Act (WIA) boards have begun strong communication so that they can refer clients to one another for services. At the state level, ODJFS and WIA bureau staff provide assistance to local agencies on how they can best work together and develop good service plans for young people.

Pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rules, PCSAs and PCPAs are required to provide services such as:

- outreach, individual and group counseling;
- education and vocational training (i.e., preparation for a General Equivalency Diploma (GED), or for higher education, job readiness, job search assistance and placement programs);
- counseling and instruction in basic living skills, parenting, health care (e.g., preventative health care, substance abuse prevention, family planning, etc.);
- access to community resources;
- transportation;
- housing options (and optional "room and board" assistance for emancipated youth up to age 21);
- counseling and training on such subjects as self-esteem and self-confidence, interpersonal and social skills training and development;
- matching each youth with an adult/peer who can serve as an advocate, resource, and mentor in daily living skills;
- culture and gender specific activities; and,
- school dropout prevention programs.

Based on the goals listed in Ohio's CFCIP Plan, the following is a description of the services that youth and young adults aged 18-21 received during the last year.

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A. Goal: To enable participants to seek a high school diploma or its equivalent or take part in appropriate vocational training.

Youth and young adults were assisted by PCSA staff in completing high school, receiving their GED or completing vocational school. Assistance was provided by tutors in remedial education and/or computer-assisted programs. PCSAs also assisted youth in continuing their education or obtaining job training by participating in career and vocational programs that helped identify and set personal goals. In many counties, as mentioned above, strong working relationships have been developed between the PCSA and the local WIA board.

B. Goal: To provide training in daily living skills, budgeting, locating and maintaining housing and career planning.

1. PCSAs provided hands-on experience through supervised living arrangements and group training to develop and enhance the adult living skill levels of participating youth, including those who completed a transitional living experience and those who participated in either a summer emancipation camp experience or a youth retreat.
2. PCSAs provided computer-assisted instruction programs and classroom courses to teach effective home management skills. Laboratory experiences were also offered where youth had a daily agenda of activities to accomplish, including employment and housing searches.

C. Goal: To provide for individual and group counseling.

All youth and returning young adults received individual and/or group counseling. PCSAs are responsible for the provision of case management services to all participating youth during and after group training sessions. PCSAs provided, or made arrangements for, counseling and/or therapy services for those youth who experienced emotional difficulties.

D. Goal: To integrate and coordinate services otherwise unavailable to participants.

1. Independent living services continued to be integrated into agency case plan documents. Several PCSAs worked to recruit specialized foster homes, offering training to prepare foster caregivers to become independent living foster caregivers. For emancipated young adults, written agreements were drawn up between the young adult and the agency to assure that both parties were working toward helping the youth become self-sufficient.
2. Each PCSA received an annual allocation for IL case planning and services. Independent Living services are required for any child in the custody of a PCSA or PCPA in the state of Ohio. Administrative rules require that IL services be coordinated with other services that directly impact a youth's case plan or a young adult's plan for self-sufficiency. This integration can include the youth's parent or guardian, the substitute caregiver, and various inter-disciplinary service providers.

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E. Goal: To provide for the establishment of outreach programs designed to attract individuals who are eligible to participate in the program.

1. PCSAs provided program components where youth and their parents improved their relationships during the transition from substitute care to returning home or moving into an independent living situation. Participants and caregivers were also provided with other services and assistance designed to improve a teen's transition to independent living such as:
 - the provision of group training experiences for parents/caregivers preparing the youth for independent living;
 - training of professional therapy/social service staff and direct caregivers in effective and engaging methods to teach youth necessary independent living skills; and,
 - mentoring programs within foster care, including recruitment and development of mentor foster care givers and alternative interdependent living arrangements for appropriate youth.

2. Other outreach programs included:
 - the provision of orientation programs regarding career/vocation opportunities to assist youth in securing desired and realistic goals;
 - the development of community-based independent living recruitment training, apartment placement programs and mentoring services; and,
 - the provision of orientation programs regarding career/vocation opportunities to youth in meeting desired and realistic goals.

F. Goal: To provide each participant with a written transitional independent living plan which is based on an assessment of the youth's needs, and which is incorporated into his/her case plan.

PCSAs provided a differential assessment/evaluation method which identifies independent living skill deficits in youth, or utilized pre- and post-test assessment tools to measure the skill attainment level of youth.

**Services
to Youth
Ages 18-20,
including
Room and
Board:**

As stated above, agencies are required to provide services to young adults who have emancipated from foster care. Ohio Administrative Code rules make it the responsibility of the agency that the youth emancipated from, to provide for services. In those cases where a young adult has emancipated and moved to another county, the county where the youth emancipated is still responsible. ODJFS currently provides technical assistance regarding agency collaboration and service provision in these instances. County PCSAs work with each other to ensure that the young adult receives services.

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OAC rules also address eligibility for services. Agencies are directed to, when requested, provide a range of services and support for former foster care recipients who emancipated from the agency's custody due to attaining age 18. The agency is required to evaluate the current needs of the young adult to determine the range of services to be provided. Services and support are to complement the young adult's own efforts to achieve self-sufficiency, and are to be provided as needed up to their 21st birthday. Agencies are directed to develop a mutually agreed upon written plan for the provision of services, and are to coordinate services with community resources as available. The option of providing room and board has been passed on to PCSAs to utilize at their discretion.

In Ohio, assistance with room and board is defined as including, but not limited to, assistance with rent, initial rent deposit, utilities, and utility deposits for youth ages 18 - 21. Ohio allows PCSAs to use no more than 30% of their IL allocations for assistance with room and board. This option is being exercised locally by PCSAs based on the needs of the young people they serve. Many counties opt not to use any funds for this purpose because their local needs dictate the need to use all of their allocation for services other than room and board. Some counties have established programming where they provide "seed money" from these funds to get a young person on their feet and set up in their own household. Many PCSAs provided assistance with rent and utility deposits/payments, and the purchase of groceries and household items. Assistance was also provided in negotiating with landlords for manageable rent payments and safe living conditions. OAC rules state specifically that under no circumstances shall the PCSA use any of its independent living allocation for room and board for youth under the age of eighteen or beyond the young adult's twenty-first birthday.

II. INCORPORATION INTO A COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE DELIVERY SYSTEM

Sate Legislation--

In 2002, the Ohio legislature passed House Bill 38, commonly referred to as the Independent Living Bill. This bill was signed into law by Governor Taft, and had across-the-board, bi-partisan support in both chambers of the legislature. This legislation requires the provision of independent living and work force development services and activities for youth in care and young adults emancipated from care so they may become independent adults.

In short, House Bill 38:

- Requires agencies to provide independent living services to youth who are in the temporary or permanent custody of, or being provided care in a planned permanent living arrangement by, a PCSA or PCPA. The legislation refers to IL services as assisting with housing, training in decision making skills, daily living skills, referrals for education, training, or employment skills, relationship development and community connection skills;
- Requires PCSAs and PCPAs to enter into a written agreement to provide IL services to certain young adults (ages 18-21), on the young adult's request, and requires certain other entities that determine a young adult is eligible for their services to enter into an addendum to that agreement to govern the services provided. ODJFS is directed to create "model" written agreements;
- Requires ODJFS to provide matching funds for purposes of obtaining federal funds to facilitate the provision of independent living services;

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- Permits the Director of ODJFS to submit to the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services an amendment to Ohio's Medicaid plan to make an individual receiving independent living services eligible for Medicaid;
- Makes changes to Ohio's workforce development system by requiring workforce development plans to give priority to youth (ages 16-21) receiving independent living services when determining distribution of resources and funding. Workforce development plans must accomplish certain things, such as: 1) identifying workforce investment needs of businesses in the local area, projected employment opportunities, and job skills necessary to obtain these opportunities; 2) determining the distribution of workforce development resources and funding for each workforce development activity to meet identified needs; and, 3) establishing performance standards for service providers that reflect local workforce development needs

Overviews of House bill 38 and the OAC rules that implement it have been provided to local agencies via video-conference.

State-Wide Conference--

ODJFS sponsored a state-wide IL conference on March 20 - 22, 2003 in Columbus. The conference was entitled "Facing the Unknown: The Challenge of Independence," and was a collaborative effort of ODJFS, Franklin County Children Services, Ohio Association of Youth Crisis Centers with Lighthouse Youth Services, and Ohio Independent Living Association (OHILA).

More than 200 individuals attended the two and one-half day conference. Registrants included child welfare workers, other social workers, foster parents, current and former foster and independent living youth, and service providers from the juvenile justice and mental health systems. Attendees also included professionals from the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMR/DD), county agencies, private agency executives, and state administrators. The conference, having this dual audience of direct service providers as well as youth, offered a unique challenge and opportunity to provide training and education.

As part of its design to raise awareness the needs of youth, and ultimately increase more effective service provision, included two panel discussions demonstrating and emphasizing the need for collaboration among systems. The first panel discussion included a group of IL professionals from various parts of the state along with an administrator from the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). During the discussion, ideas were exchanged and common ground was discovered related to such areas as assessment, employment planning, leadership, tutoring, and occupational and employment training skills. Information emphasizing the cross between WIA programming and IL programming was also shared. The second panel discussion included state level administrators from independent living and mental retardation/developmental disabilities. This group addressed ways the two systems can collaborate. Areas of common ground emphasized were assessment, sharing of information, sharing of resources and joint payment of services.

Keynote addresses were provided to attendees at the conference by both an IL youth and a professional who works with teens. Ms. Nikki Suchta, who is preparing to enter college, spoke of her experiences with the IL program in Ohio. She shared information about what worked and what did not work in her experiences. She is currently a full-time employee and a full-time student, and she maintains a 3.8 Grade Point Average on a 4.0 scale. Ms. Suchta is not unique in her accomplishments, hers is one of similar experiences shared by many of Ohio's IL youth. The second keynote speaker was Michael Sanders, a nationally respected trainer and motivational speaker. His

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address focused on giving young people a voice in the choices affecting their lives. He emphasized the need to learn to trust young people and allow them a greater say in programming for their lives.

A total of 22 workshops were presented during the conference, and covered such topics as financial assistance, housing, counseling, employment, education, and other appropriate support services. Below are highlights of some of the workshops offered to youth, workers and foster parents:

- **Housing Options for IL Youth; A National Perspective-** This workshop was presented by Mark Kroner from Lighthouse Youth Services. This workshop gave participants examples of various types of living arrangements being used around the country to prepare older foster youth for life after foster care. Housing options, supervision strategies, liability issues, dealing with landlords, and other operational issues were covered.
- **A Year-round County-wide Self-sufficiency Training Program-** This workshop was presented by Linda King, Christi Keaveny, and Suzan DeCicca from Lighthouse Youth Services. This session provided participants with the details of a year-round, county-wide, self-sufficiency training program that has been in existence in Cincinnati since 1989. The youth that complete the training program receive 65 hours of training along with financial incentives and useful supplies. The presenters shared information and ideas as to how the program can be replicated in other parts of the state.
- **Crossing Over: Navigating Systems and Mental Health Supports from Child to Adult System-** This workshop was presented by Terre Garner, Consultant Ohio Federation of Children Mental Health and Suzanne Robinson, Program Director of National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI-Ohio). The workshop focused on providing support and the need for collaboration. The presenters emphasized that too often the youth population gets lost in child welfare, mental health, and educational systems as they approach the age of emancipation.
- **Getting Youth Prepared-** This workshop was presented by Ron Pollard and Heidi Stone, of ODJFS, and gave attendees an in-depth understanding of the Ohio Administrative Code rules governing the independent living program in Ohio.
- **Independence USA -** This workshop was presented by Norma Ginther, Lois Tyler, and Pam Sever from the Institute for Human Services, Ohio's child welfare state training coordination agency. This workshop was attended by foster care youth, foster parents, and caseworkers. Participants took on the roles of being citizens of Independence, USA., and experienced typical challenges faced by soon to be or recently emancipated youth and those helping them plan ahead for independent living. This workshop provided agencies, care givers and community providers creative ways to support young people on their journey to independence including developing skills for employment, training and successful interdependence.
- **Everything Including the Kitchen Sink... What's the Big Deal About Crystal Meth?-** This workshop was presented by Sue Williams (ODJFS) and Detective Lee Hawks, Fairfield-Hocking Counties-Major Crime Division. One of the most widely and enthusiastically received workshops of the conference, this one presented to attendees the traits of methamphetamine use and related treatment implications. Actual drug labs were simulated in order to raise the awareness of safety risks associated with working with families involved with methamphetamine. Ohio's efforts to combat this growing drug problem was also highlighted.
- **Helping Youth Build Effective Support Systems-** This workshop was presented by Etta Louise Treadway, MSW, LISW. The workshop featured a panel of young people who are consumers of independent living services. The uniqueness of this panel discussion was that these young people presented with mental illness, coupled with being in substitute care. The panel was able to identify obstacles faced by these youth and specific interventions and strategies that were found to be effective.

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ODJFS is encouraging the formation of Youth Advisory Boards (YAB) in local county agencies. Because Ohio is mostly a rural state, it seems most advantageous to regionalize YABs. To that end, the statewide conference invited local agencies to bring interested youth in foster care to a special event -- a workshop entitled "What Leaders Know". This three-hour workshop focused on the principles that great leaders make a part of their everyday lives and practice in their interactions with others. The presenter impressed upon those in attendance that leading involves creating a challenging environment for those who follow. From this workshop youth were encouraged to take the next step in forming YABs.

III. PURPOSE FOR WHICH FUNDS WERE EXPENDED

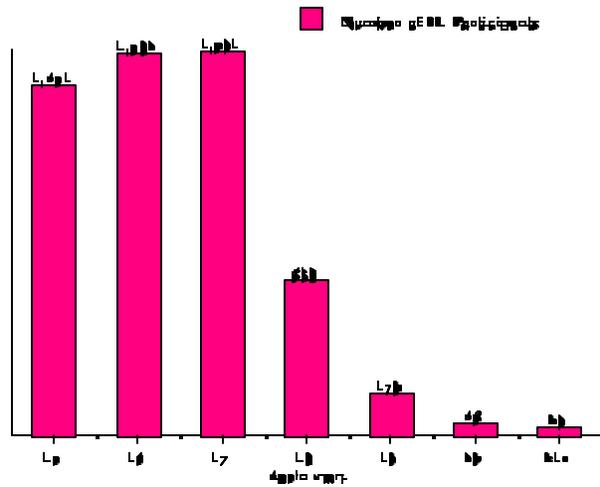
Ohio passed through its base allocation to the local PCSAs. Based on information gathered by the ODJFS Office of Fiscal Services, Reports and Statistics Section, continues to utilize a quarterly statistical form which all 88 county agencies complete. This form allows IL staff to collect data on the number of youth who are being served and the cost connected for the services.

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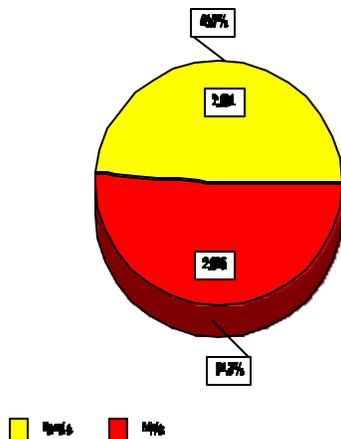
IV. STATISTICS REGARDING YOUTH SERVED

The information beginning on the following page reflects the number of youth in Ohio served by the CFCIP and Ohio's IL program during FFY'01.¹

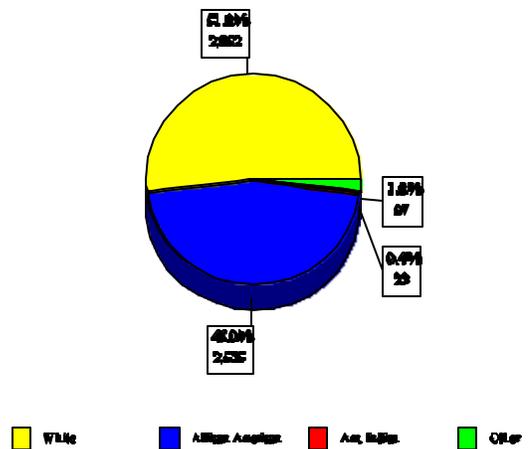
Age	Number of IL Participants
15	1,451
16	1,582
17	1,591
18	638
19	170
20	46
21+	29
Total	5,507



Gender of Youth Served

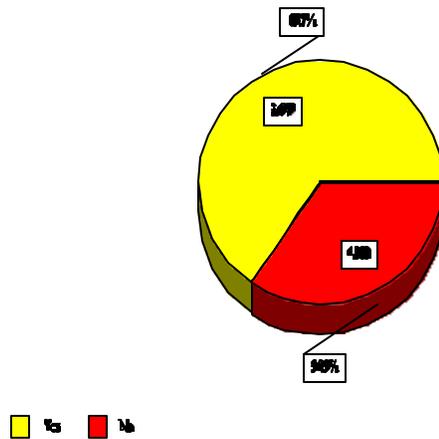


Race of Youth Served

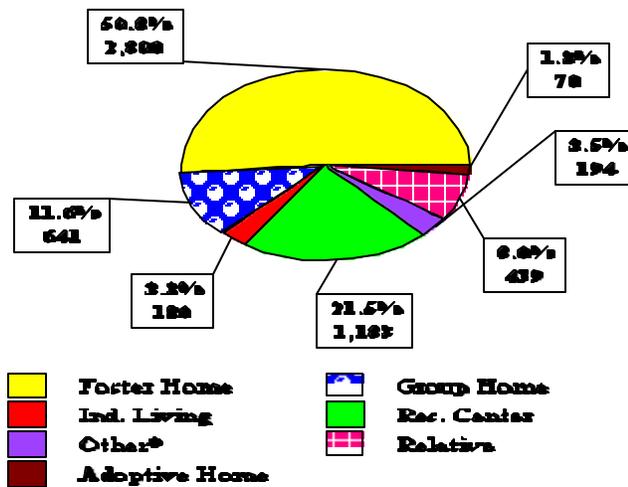


¹This information is based on Family and Children Services Information System (FACSIS) data from 5/16/03.

IV-E FCM or AA Eligible



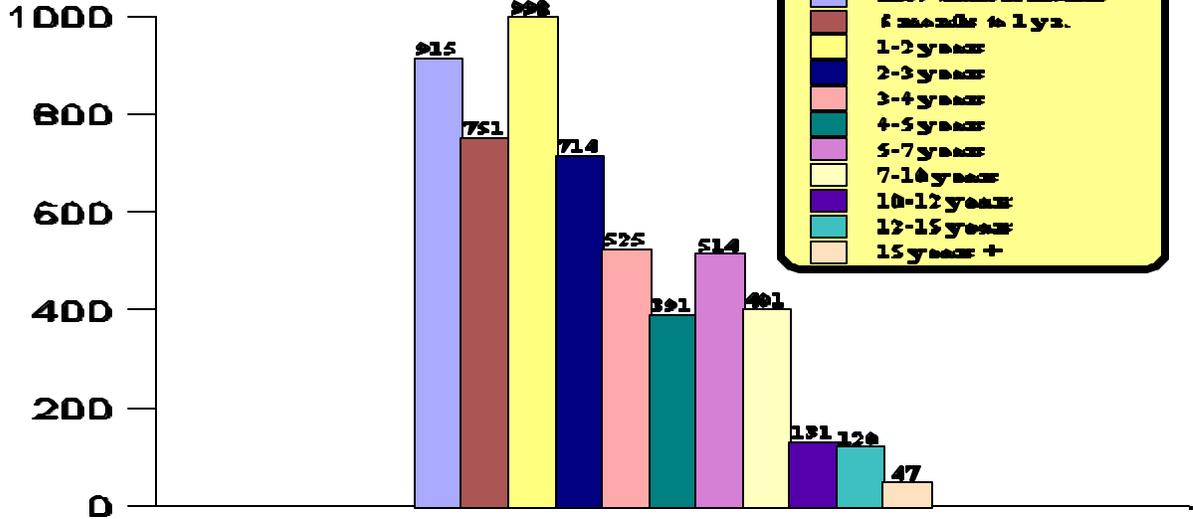
**Type of Living Arrangement
(IL Youth)**



*Other living arrangements include detention, hospital, maternity homes, and nursing homes.

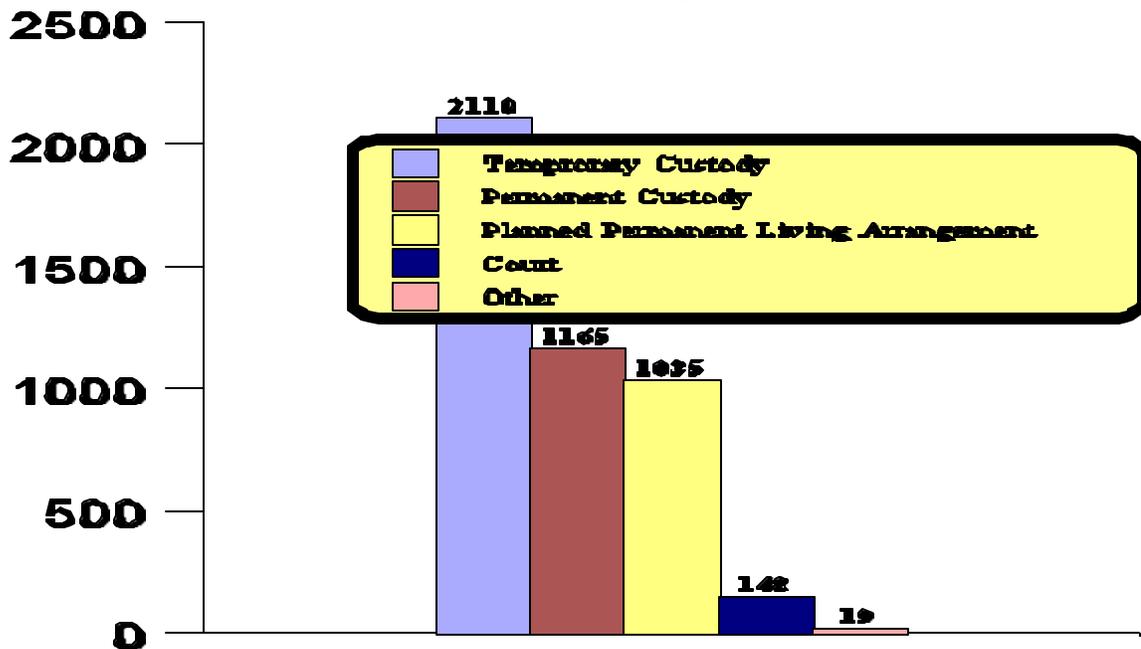
Length of Custody

(IL Youth)



Custody Type

(IL Youth)



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FFY 2004 CFCIP FUNDS REQUESTED FOR THE STATE OF OHIO

Federal Funds Requested \$5,253,762.00

State match Amount \$1,313,441.00

Sources: *County Funds*

Amount of Federal Funds to be Used for Room and Board: A total amount not to exceed \$1,576,128.00

I certify that I am authorized to submit for the State of Ohio, the FY 2004 application for CFCIP funds.

Application submitted by:

Tom Hayes

Name

Director, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Title

Signature

Date

Approval Date: _____

Signature ACF Regional Administrator or Hub Director

APPENDIX

**I. CFS 101, PART 1: ANNUAL BUDGET REQUEST FOR TITLE IV-B,
SUBPARTS 1 AND 2; CAPTA AND INDEPENDENT LIVING
PROGRAM**

II. CFS 101, PART 2: ANNUAL SUMMARY OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

III. TABLE OF ORGANIZATION

IV. IMPLEMENTATION OF HOUSE BILL 484: A JOINT REPORT

V. OHIO CHILD FATALITY REVIEW: 2ND ANNUAL REPORT

**VI. LORAIN COUNTY COMMUNITY EVALUATION TEAM SEMIANNUAL
REPORT**

**VII. MARION COUNTY COMMUNITY EVALUATION TEAM SEMIANNUAL
REPORT**

**VIII. SCIOTO COUNTY COMMUNITY EVALUATION TEAM SEMIANNUAL
REPORT**

IX. OHIO'S FAMILY RESOURCE HUB NETWORK

X. CENTRAL REGISTRY STATISTICS, JUNE 2002 - APRIL 2003

**XI. GOVERNOR'S RESOLUTION ON CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION
MONTH**

XII. HELP PAINT OHIO'S FUTURE BRIGHT! - A PARENT'S PLEDGE

**XIII. HELP PAINT OHIO'S FUTURE BRIGHT! - CA/N PREVENTION
MONTH ACTIVITIES**

**XIV. RELATIVELY SPEAKING - RAISING CHILDREN THE SECOND TIME
AROUND**

XV. TRAINING ACTIVITIES COST ALLOCATED TO TITLE IV-E

**XVI. CPOE (SFY 2003) ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT
REPORT**

**XVII. ADOPTOHIO PERFORMANCE REPORT FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR
2002**

XVIII. FAITH-BASED INITIATIVES, PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS