

OHIO CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT PLAN QUARTERLY REPORT

July 2004

NARRATIVE

SAFETY OUTCOME S1:

Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect

Item 1. Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment.

Goal: *In two years, improve the timeliness of initiating investigations of non-emergency reports of child abuse and neglect from 77% 2002 DART baseline data to 80%.*

Action Step A:

Provide county specific, focused technical assistance to two (2) PCSAs with the highest percentage of non-emergency reports of child maltreatment where the agency did not respond within the prescribed time frames; and that have the greatest adverse impact on overall statewide performance.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-** This benchmark has been achieved, as reported in the first quarterly report.
- **Benchmark 2-** This benchmark has been achieved, as reported in the first quarterly report.
- **Benchmark 3-** Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services (CCDCFS) and Franklin County Children Services Board (FCCS) were selected for focused technical assistance in order to assist the agencies in improving their response time for initiating investigations of non-emergency reports of child abuse and neglect. In order to develop focused technical assistance strategies, it was decided that meetings needed to occur with staff at the respective agencies to determine what they identified as barriers for not responding within the prescribed time frames.

Cuyahoga County – Prior to meeting with CCDCFS, staff reviewed a DART report to determine the agency's rate of compliance for CY 2003. According to the data,

the compliance level for CCDCFs was 69.83%. It was determined that an on-site meeting with agency staff to review the data should occur at the same time ODJFS was conducting its CPOE State V monitoring review. The CPOE Entrance Conference was held on March 19, 2004 and the focused technical assistance discussions related to timely initiation of reports occurred on April 26, 2004. By combining these two activities, ODJFS and CCDCFs could also validate the agency's assumption there is inconsistency in how workers document initiation of reports during the CPOE Stage V Investigation/Assessment case record review. Additionally, there appears to be some delays in entering data that may be adversely impacting Cuyahoga County's numbers.

The report from the CPOE on-site review of cases has not been completed. An exit conference to review the findings from the CPOE Stage V monitoring review is scheduled for July 9, 2004. Once the CPOE report is finalized, staff will begin working with the agency to develop the Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) to address the findings from the CPOE on-site review and identify focused technical assistance strategies.

Franklin County – Prior to meeting with FCCS, a DART report was produced to determine the agency's rate of compliance for CY 2003. Data indicated that the compliance rate for FCCS was 55.48%. Since ODJFS conducted its CPOE Stage V monitoring review during this quarter, it was decided to wait for the final results of the monitoring review and the agency's development of its QIP prior to engaging in discussions with the agency on focused technical assistance strategies. The review of ten (10) cases for compliance with initiation of investigations of non-emergency reports revealed that the agency's compliance rate was 100%.

The on-site visit to further discuss ODJFS and FCCS's strategies for focused technical assistance will occur on July 1, 2004.

- **Benchmark 4:** Since the Department thought, it was critical to make use of information obtained from the CPOE Stage V monitoring review as a basis for working with CCDCFs and FCCS to identify variables, which impact their ability to initiate investigations of non-emergency child abuse and neglect reports within the prescribed time frames, completion of this benchmark, was delayed.
- **Benchmarks 5-8- *These benchmarks are not scheduled to occur at this time.***

Action Step B:

Increase consistency among counties in screening, classification and initiating reports of child maltreatment.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-** The review tool to be used during the CPOE Stage V case reviews to

obtain information on county specific screening procedures was developed prior to July 1, 2003, and implemented during the first Stage V review. To date, CPOE Stage V reviews have been conducted in more than half of the counties across the state. A compilation of the data from the first 44 reviews was completed in May and indicates that overall performance on this measure is 87%.

- **Benchmark 2:** The first meeting of the work group to develop recommendations for changes to the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) and Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) was held on August 11, 2003. After a review of the report from the National Resource Center on Legal and Judicial Issues and related materials, the work group elected to limit their activities to identifying and addressing agency practice and procedures related to screening. Recommendations for changes to the ORC will be developed by the Advisory Committee on Children, Family and the Court, a subcommittee of the Supreme Court of Ohio.

On March 4, 2004, the Supreme Court of Ohio issued a RFP for a vendor to provide expert consultation, research, writing and project management for the development of the recommendations. Two (2) proposals were received. The general consensus was that each candidate brought a mixture of contrasting strengths and weaknesses and that the best approach would be a combination of the two proposals. The subcommittee also felt that both of the proposals went beyond the scope of the RFP and asked that contract work be refocused on the activities identified in the RFP. Each applicant was contacted regarding its willingness to co-collaborate on the Sub-Committee's activities. A meeting was held with both vendors, the Supreme Court of Ohio and ODJFS. The vendors accepted the Sub-Committee's recommendations and are jointly preparing a new proposal that merges their complementary services.

The Subcommittee next meeting is scheduled for August 18, 2004. This meeting will allow the consultants, the American Bar Association Center for Children and the Law and the National Center for Adoption Law, to present the work that has been completed thus far, work with the subcommittee to finalize work plan details and set work priorities. The Subcommittee will also hear a presentation on what other states are doing regarding child internet laws from Brad Russ, Director of the Internet Crimes Against Children Program at the University of New Hampshire.

- **Benchmarks 3 and 4** – These benchmarks have been achieved, as reported in the first quarterly report.
- **Benchmarks 5-8- *These benchmarks are not scheduled to occur at this time.***

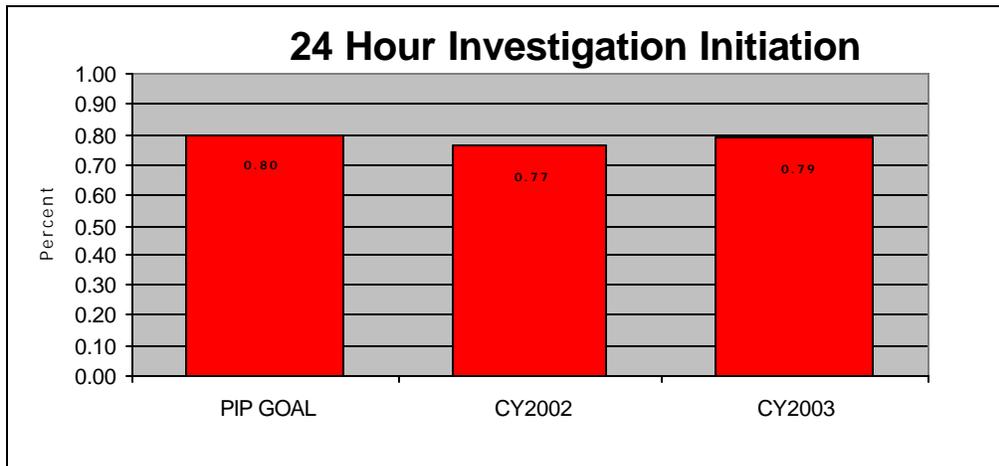
Summary:

PIP Goal: 80% compliance level

- 2002 DART data indicated Ohio was at a 77% level of compliance for initiation of

- non-emergency reports of child abuse and neglect.
- 2003 DART data indicated Ohio was at a 79% level of compliance. Ohio has shown a 2% increase in initiation of non-emergency reports of child abuse and neglect.
- We are currently examining data for the first half of 2004.

The following table presents the above-mentioned information:



SAFETY OUTCOME S1:

Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect

Item 2A. *Repeat maltreatment.*

Goal: *In two years, reduce incidents of repeat maltreatment from 8.2% 2002 NCANDS baseline data to 7.3%.*

Action Step A:

Increase consistency among counties in reporting duplicate report information in order to improve accuracy of statewide data on repeat maltreatment.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-** Work on this activity began on March 25, 2004. Members of the work group convened to address Item 1, Action Step B will review the draft rule prior to submission into departmental clearance.
- **Benchmark 2- *This benchmark is not scheduled to occur at this time.***

Action Step B:

Reduce incidence of repeat maltreatment by identifying families in need of ongoing services and prioritizing service needs through use of the Family Assessment and Planning Model (FAPM).

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1** - This benchmark has been achieved, as reported in the first quarterly report.
- **Benchmark 2** - Baseline data on repeat maltreatment, foster care re-entries and average length of placement for all four (4) counties was received on December 17, 2003 and covered CYs 2001, 2002 and 2003. Staff was trained on the DART application on January 26, 2004 and was able to obtain data on these outcomes beginning with the first quarter (January to March) of 2001 through the first quarter of 2004 (See Appendix A).
- **Benchmark 3:** The first round of case reviews to collect data for the process and outcome pilot evaluations was conducted in November 2003. A second round of case reviews was conducted in February 2004, and the worker and supervisor surveys were completed and returned to ODJFS in March 2004. ODJFS submitted the case review and outcome data and survey responses to the project vendor in

March 2004. The final report was received from the vendor on June 11, 2004 (See Appendix B).

In addition to the FAPM pilot, the department is reviewing and analyzing available risk assessment technologies (i.e., clinical and actuarial tools) to determine what is best suited for practice in Ohio. To that end, the department has: requested an independent evaluation of risk assessment technology by Dr. Mark Testa of the Children and Family Research Center; and sponsored a Risk Assessment Symposium on May 11, 2004, which included research supporting the elements of the draft FAPM as well as demonstrations of the draft FAPM and SDM model being utilized in Cuyahoga County. As a result of these activities, finalization of the FAPM tools will be delayed, and the briefings scheduled for Fall 2004 will include information related to selection of an assessment technology rather than presentations on a finalized model. Once this decision is made (tentatively expected in September 2004), activities geared toward finalizing an assessment and case planning model will resume.

- **Benchmark 4- *This benchmark is not scheduled to occur at this time.***
(Refer to Benchmark 3 regarding necessary changes to this benchmark).

Action Step C:

Provide county specific, focused technical assistance on repeat maltreatment to two PCSAs with the highest percentage of repeat maltreatment (recurrence) incidents and that have the greatest adverse impact on overall statewide performance.

Status Report:

- **Benchmarks 1-** A 24 month DART report on *Recurrence of Maltreatment* was produced on January 14, 2004. The report identified the percentage of cases in CY 2002 and CY 2003 where children (unduplicated count) involved in a substantiated or indicated report of child abuse or neglect had a second substantiated or indicated report within six (6) months of the first report. The data report included 88 Ohio PCSAs. As the outcome requires “looking forward” for a six (6) month period, data through the end of 2003 will not be available until September 2004.

An analysis of the DART report was conducted to determine: (1) level of compliance with the national standard for repeat maltreatment; and (2) selection of counties for focused technical assistance. However, prior to the final selection of counties, an analysis was conducted on county performance on the national standard measures for reentries, reunification, stability of foster care placements, and abuse/neglect in foster care. Based upon this multi-faceted analysis it was determined that county specific focused technical assistance should be limited to two counties rather than four counties. An amendment to the PIP was requested and the request was granted. The two counties targeted for focused technical assistance are Cuyahoga and Franklin.

- **Benchmark 2** - The booklet, *Child Maltreatment Recurrence: A Leadership Initiative of the National Resource Center on Child Maltreatment*, published by the National Resource Center on Child Maltreatment in January 2003, was reproduced for distribution to each of the 88 PCSAs. Data on the characteristics of children and families involved in recurrent reports for each county was produced on March 24, 2004. Letters to each PCSA director, providing county specific data on the percentage of recurrent cases as well as the characteristics of children and families involved in recurrent reports were mailed April 28, 2004. Several directors contacted ODJFS to discuss the data for their agencies.
- **Benchmark 3** - Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services (CCDCFS) and Franklin County Children Services (FCCS) were selected to provide focused technical assistance in order to assist the agencies in reduce the number of incidents of repeat maltreatment. In order to develop focused technical assistance strategies, it was decided that meetings needed to occur with staff at the respective agencies to determine what they identified as issues contributing to their recidivism percentages.

Cuyahoga County – Prior to meeting with CCDCFS staff, a DART report was produced to determine the agency’s recidivism rates for CY2003. According to the data, the compliance level for CCDCFS was 11.3%. It was determined that the on-site meeting with agency staff to review the data should occur at the same time ODJFS was conducting its CPOE State V monitoring review. The CPOE Entrance Conference was held on April 5, 2004 and the focused technical assistance discussions related to repeat maltreatment occurred on March 19, 2004. By combining these two activities, ODJFS and CCDCFS could also validate the agency’s assumption that workers have concerns regarding the definitions of “substantiated” and “indicated” and that internal policy and procedures may be impacting the agency’s recidivism rate.

The report from the CPOE on-site review of cases has not been completed. An exit conference to review the findings from the CPOE Stage V monitoring review is scheduled for July 9, 2004. Once the CPOE report is finalized, staff will begin working with the agency to develop the QIP to address the findings from the on-site review and identify focused technical assistance strategies.

Franklin County – Prior to meeting with FCCS, a DART report was produced to determine the agency’s recidivism level for CY 2003. Data indicated that the compliance rate for FCCS was 4.1%. Since ODJFS conducted its CPOE Stage V monitoring review during this quarter, it was decided to wait for the final results of the monitoring review and the agency’s development of its QIP prior to engaging in discussions with the agency on focused technical assistance strategies. During CPOE Stage V monitoring, outcome indicator 2D: *Recurrence of Substantiated/Indicated CA/N within Six Months* revealed FCCS’ recidivism level was 4.66%.

The on-site visit to further discuss ODJFS and FCCS's strategies for focused technical assistance will occur on July 1, 2004.

- **Benchmarks 4-8- *These benchmarks are not scheduled to occur at this time.***

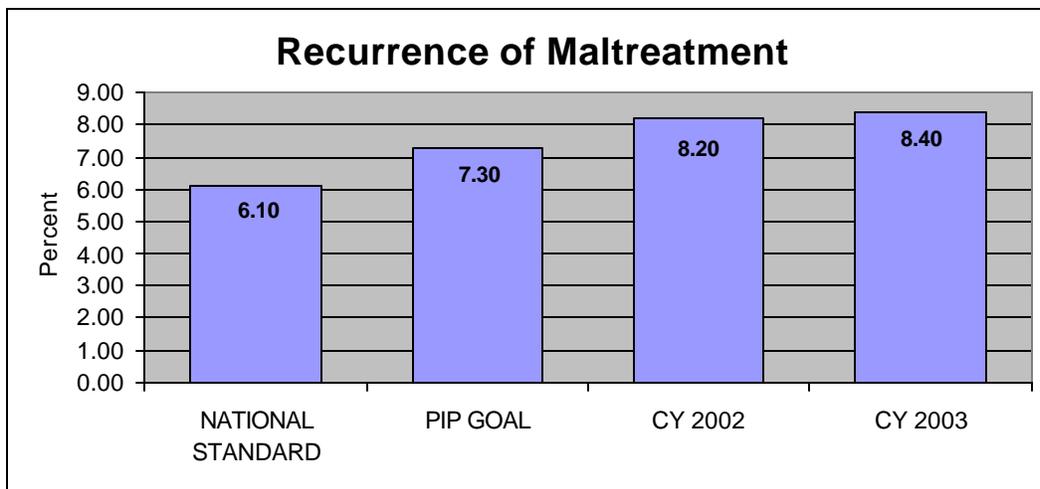
Summary:

PIP Goal: 7.3%

National Standard: 6.1% or less

- 2002 NCANDS data indicated Ohio was at an 8.2% level of compliance with the national standard for recurrence of child abuse and neglect.
- 2003 NCANDS data indicated Ohio was at an 8.4% level of compliance with the national standard for recurrence of child abuse and neglect.

The following chart depicts the information presented above:



SAFETY OUTCOME S1:

Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect

Item 2B. *Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care.*

Goal: In two years, Ohio will meet the National Standard of .57% indicated or substantiated abuse and/or neglect by substitute caregivers in substitute care settings.

Action Step A:

Provide county specific, focused technical assistance (TA) to the two (2) PCSAs with the highest percentage of children who were abused/neglected in a substitute care setting by a substitute care provider and that have the greatest adverse impact on overall statewide performance in protecting children in substitute care from abuse/neglect.

Status Report:

- **Benchmarks 1 and 2** - These benchmarks have been achieved, as reported in the first quarterly report.
- **Benchmarks 3, 4 and 5** - Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services (CCDCFS) and Franklin County Children Services (FCCS) were selected to provide focused technical assistance. Although both agencies are meeting the CFSR National Standard for this indicator, meetings are still being conducted to discuss how child abuse/neglect by foster caregivers (referred to as out-of-home care child abuse and neglect investigations) are handled and to share any strategies learned statewide.

Cuyahoga County – Prior to meeting with CCDCFS staff, the *Five Year Report of Abuse By The Foster Parent* was produced and reviewed. Below is the breakdown by CY1999 through CY2003. The mean for the five years was determined. Using the mean as the base, a rating was calculated to determine the agency's performance with the CFSR National Standard for this data indicator. According to the data, the compliance level over the five year period was 47.62%.

Number Of Children Abused By Foster Caregivers	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Mean For 1999-2003	0.57% Goal
CUYAHOGA	136	93	100	81	30	88	1.05%

It was determined that the on-site meeting with agency staff to review the data should occur at the same time ODJFS was conducting its CPOE State V monitoring review. The CPOE Entrance Conference was held on March 19, 2004. The first focused technical assistance meeting was held on April 5, 2004 with Mr. James McCafferty, Director of the CCDCFS, and the agency's administrative staff responsible for child welfare programs, administrative internal programs and quality assurance. During the entrance conference ODJFS staff addressed how the CPOE Stage 5 monitoring review would be handled; the purpose of focused technical assistance in relation to the Program Improvement Plan (PIP); and how the agency's policies, procedures and internal processes would assist the department and agency determine their affect on compliance with the national standards. On April 7, 2004 the CPOE Outcome Indicator and focused technical assistance discussions related to abuse and neglect in foster care occurred. By combining these two activities, ODJFS and CCDCFS could also validate the agency's assumptions regarding achievement of the CPOE Outcome Indicator and review the internal policies and procedures that impact this data indicator.

CCDCFS staff that participated in the April 7, 2004 meeting included representatives from Self Evaluation, Information Services, the Hotline Unit, Intake, Licensing, Resources and Placement, Kinship Care and the Special Investigations Unit (SIU). A concern that other states have posed is how the decision is made as to whether the allegation of abuse or neglect against the foster parent is abuse or really a licensing violation.

CCDCFS has a written policy regarding how these types of investigations are handled. A determination is made at the Hotline regarding whether information received constitutes an allegation of child abuse/neglect to be investigated by the agency's Special Investigations Unit (SIU) or is a licensing rules violation to be referred to the resource manager (worker assigned to provide support to the foster family), and to the a licensing specialist. Hotline staff has written materials clarifying out of home care child abuse and neglect investigation OAC rules and OAC licensing rules available to aid in making these determinations.

Once the determination has been made, information judged to be a report of child abuse/neglect is referred to SIU for investigation. The child's assigned worker and the resource manager receive copies of all reports and dispositions. However, the SIU worker completes the investigation. When it is deemed helpful, the resource manager can accompany the SIU investigator during the investigation. A safety assessment is completed on all assigned cases. When information is judged to be a licensing rules violation, it is referred to the resource manager so they can address the issues identified with the foster family.

As part of OAC rules, PCSAs are required to include in the agency's Memorandum of Understanding, how out of home care child abuse and neglect investigations will be handled. CCDCFS notifies law enforcement through use of a standardized letter. Law enforcement rarely accompanies the SIU, unless there is an allegation of

criminal activity.

A discussion ensued regarding exclusion of relative caregivers who have been involved in child abuse/neglect allegations that are not licensed foster parents, in calculation of Ohio's national standard. Some CCDCFS staff felt that this group of caregivers should be included in this indicator. Staff also asked whether foster child abuse by another foster child in the same setting is reported. Up until a year ago, the agency automatically stopped reporting out of home care child abuse and neglect investigations as neglect of the foster parents into FACSIS.

A review of data in the mainframe data system, revealed some discrepancies between children identified as having been abused in foster care by their caregivers in the outcome indicator. Additionally it is not clear how the agency is reporting alleged child victims of abuse at the hands of another child. For example, CCDCFS is listing both caregivers and other children or adults as alleged perpetrators in child abuse/neglect allegations where a foster child may be an alleged child victim of abuse at the hands of another child or adult and alleged child victims of neglect by foster caregivers. By listing numerous alleged perpetrators under one incident, CCDCFS may be mixing the dispositions of these separate allegations and, as a result, may be inflating the number of foster children who are counted as abused by their caregivers.

There appeared to be some discrepancies regarding uniform reporting of this CPOE Outcome Indicator. Although the agency does not have to develop a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) to address this CPOE Outcome Indicator, focused technical assistance activities will be conducted. Further discussions with agency staff and a through analysis of the data will be conducted. Based on the discussions with staff as well as discussions with other PCSA staff in the state, ODJFS may need to provide written clarification and guidance regarding the federal interpretation of this indicator.

The report from the CPOE on-site review of cases has not been completed. An exit conference to review the findings from the CPOE Stage V monitoring review is scheduled for July 9, 2004. Once the CPOE report is finalized, staff will begin working with the agency to develop the QIP to address the findings from the on-site review and identify focused technical assistance strategies.

Franklin County – Prior to meeting with FCCS, the *Five Year Report of Abuse By The Foster Parent* was reviewed to determine the agency's compliance with this indicator. Below is the breakdown by CY1999 through CY2003. The mean for the five years was determined. Using the mean as the base, a rating was calculated to determine the agency's performance with the CFSR National Standard for this data indicator. According to the data, the compliance rate over the five year period was 31.99%.

Number Of Children Abused By Foster Caregivers	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Mean For 1999-2003	0.57% Goal
FRANKLIN	26	21	2	14	1	12.8	.22%

Since ODJFS conducted its CPOE Stage V monitoring review during this quarter, it was decided to wait for the final results of the monitoring review and the agency's development of its QIP prior to engaging in discussions with the agency on focused technical assistance strategies. The on-site visit to further discuss ODJFS and FCCS strategies for focused technical assistance will occur on July 1, 2004

- **Benchmarks 6-8- These benchmarks are not scheduled to occur at this time.**

Action Step B:

Monitor PCSAs and PCPA compliance with new Ohio Administrative Code rules, which were effective January 1, 2003, requiring an increase in the mandated training hours and revisions to the mandated topics that included child maltreatment issues as a required topic for all foster caregivers.

Status Report:

The first 3 benchmarks have been achieved, the 4th is not due (by OAC rule) until May 2005.

- **Benchmark 1-**This benchmark has been achieved, as reported in the first quarterly report.
- **Benchmarks 2 and 3 –** Benchmarks 2 and 3 are ongoing activities with no end dates for these activities. Benchmarks 2 and 3 are considered to be achieved through the ongoing and regularly scheduled on-site reviews and technical assistance reviews.
- **Benchmark 4-** The PCSA, PCPA and PNAs written evaluation/assessment of the effectiveness of the training program is not required to be submitted by OAC rule until May 2005. This requirement has been discussed with agencies during on-site reviews.

Action Step C:

Support the passage of Ohio HB 117 that would require professional certification of youth care workers employed in residential facilities/ group homes.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1- HB 237 and HB 117:** HB 237, has been tabled in committee and is not expected to move until the General Assembly resumes business in the fall. There are questions regarding whether the department can lend its support to HB 237 at this time due to the lack of formal educational programs currently available in Ohio to support the bill's certification and registration requirements.

HB 117 was signed by Governor Taft on June 4, 2004. It will become effective in 90 days, or by September 2, 2004. The enactment of HB 117 will require continued training for foster caregivers, based on a written individual training needs assessment (ITNA) and continuing training plan for each foster caregiver. The plan will be written by the caregiver's recommending agency and training will be delivered specific to the caregiver's training needs based on the children currently placed or planned to be placed in the caregiver's home. OAC rules to implement this provision are currently being drafted and should be enacted by approximately October 1, 2004. They are as follows:

OAC rule 5101:2-9-03 currently requires 52 hours of staff training for child care workers within the first year of employment including 20 hours of initial orientation on the following topics:

- (1) Familiarization of the employee with emergency and safety procedures of the residential facility.
- (2) The principles and practices of child care.
- (3) Administrative structure, procedures, and overall program goals of the residential facility.
- (4) Appropriate techniques of behavior management.
- (5) Techniques and methodologies of crisis management.
- (6) Familiarization of the employee with the discipline policy of the residential facility and training in the techniques and methodologies of passive physical restraint.
- (7) Procedures for reporting suspected child abuse or neglect.
- (8) The emergency medical plan of the residential facility.
- (9) Universal precautions.
- (10) If a child care staff person will be providing care for a youth expected to remain in substitute care until the youth's eighteenth birthday, the person shall be prepared adequately with the appropriate knowledge and skills to understand and address the issues confronting adolescents preparing for independent living, and provide such services as are needed and appropriate. To the extent possible, such services shall be coordinated with the life skill services required to be provided by rule 5101:2-42-19 of the OAC.

Per OAC rule 5101:2-9-02, a child care worker cannot be left unsupervised with children until at least 40 hours of training has been attained. All child care workers are also required to obtain and maintain current certification in first aid (within 6

months of employment) and CPR (American Red Cross training or equivalent).

In addition, after the first year of employment, child care workers are required to obtain an additional 24 hours of training each year. Each year, each child care worker is required to have an annual review of acceptable methods of physical restraint.

ODJFS has convened a committee to review its physical restraint policies and, if necessary, will revise the training requirements on this issue by October 1, 2005.

- **Benchmarks 2-3- *These benchmarks are not scheduled to occur at this time.***

Action Step D:

Promulgate Ohio Administrative Code rules requiring increased continuous quality improvement (CQI) efforts targeting reduction of child maltreatment in residential facilities/group homes operated by PCSAs and private agencies and monitor compliance with the rules.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-** Staff continue to examine other state agencies policies and procedures regarding their continuous quality improvement process. Research also continues in examining public and private agency practices. Research findings will assist in the development of OAC rules.
- **Benchmarks 2-5- *These benchmarks are not scheduled to occur at this time.***

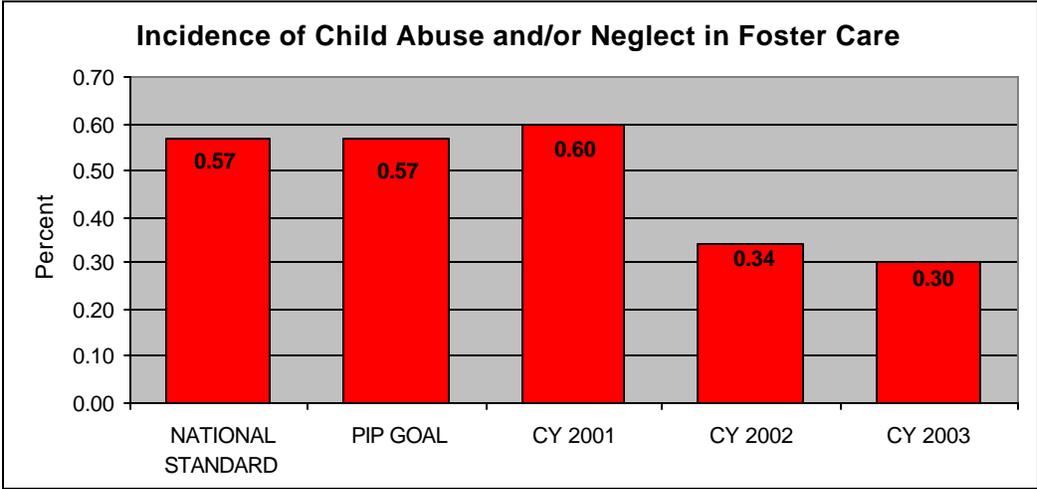
Summary:

PIP Goal: .57% or less

National Standard: .57 or less

- 2001 NCANDS data indicated Ohio was at a .60% rate of compliance for the national standard for child abuse and neglect in foster care.
- 2002 NCANDS data indicated Ohio was at a .60% rate of compliance for the national standard for child abuse and neglect in foster care.
- 2003 NCANDS data indicated Ohio was at a .30% rate of compliance for the national standard for child abuse and neglect in foster care. Ohio believes this data is inaccurate because of some missing fields.
- For the second half of CY 2003, the CPOE Outcome Indicator data on the incidence of reports on child abuse and neglect in substitute care revealed .25% of children placed in substitute care were abused or neglected (cases were substantiated or indicated).

The following chart presents the information cited above:



SAFETY OUTCOME S2:

Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.

Item 3. *Services to family to protect child (ren) in home and prevent removal.*

Item 4. *Risk of harm to child (ren).*

Goal: *In two years, improve the assessment of risk of harm to children through the use of new assessment tools.*

Action Step A:

Strengthen workers' skill in the assessment of safety and risk in order to appropriately identify service needs for children and families through the use of the Family Assessment and Planning Model (FAPM).

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-** This benchmark has been achieved, as reported in the first quarterly report.
- **Benchmark 2-** Baseline data on repeat maltreatment and foster care re-entries for all four (4) counties was received on December 17, 2003. Data on frequency of case plan amendments has not been received. Staff was trained on the DART application on January 26, 2004 and was able to obtain data on these outcomes beginning with the first quarter of 2001 through the first quarter (January to March) of 2004 (See Appendix A).
- **Benchmark 3-** The first round of case reviews to collect data for the process and outcome pilot evaluations was conducted in November 2003. A second round of case reviews was conducted in February 2004, and the worker and supervisor surveys completed and returned to ODJFS in March 2004. ODJFS submitted the case review and outcome data and survey responses to the project vendor in March 2004. The final report was received from the vendor on June 11, 2004 (See Appendix B).

In addition to the FAPM pilot, the department is reviewing and analyzing available risk assessment technologies (i.e., clinical and actuarial tools) to determine what is best suited for practice in Ohio. To that end, the department has: requested an independent evaluation of risk assessment technology by Dr. Mark Testa of the Children and Family Research Center; and sponsored a Risk Assessment Symposium on May 11, 2004 which included research supporting the elements of the draft FAPM as well as demonstrations of the draft FAPM and SDM model being utilized in Cuyahoga County. As a result of these activities, finalization of the FAPM tools will be delayed, and the briefings scheduled for Fall 2004 will include

information related to selection of an assessment technology rather than presentations on a finalized model. Once this decision is made (tentatively expected in September 2004), activities geared toward finalizing an assessment and case planning model will resume.

- **Benchmark 4- *This benchmark is not scheduled to occur at this time.***

Action Step B:

Increase the frequency of service reviews to ensure that services being provided are addressing the concerns identified in the safety and/or risk assessment through the use of the Family Assessment and Planning Model (FAPM).

Status Report:

Refer to Status Report for Action Step A.

PERMANENCY OUTCOME P1:

Children have permanency and stability in their living situation

Item 5. *Foster care re-entries.*

Goal: *In two years, reduce the number of children re-entering foster care within 12-months from 13.1% 2002 AFCARS baseline data to 11.75%.*

Action Step A:

Reduce incidents of foster care re-entry by identifying and addressing safety concerns and/or service needs prior to/at the time reunification through use of the Reunification Assessment Protocol (a component of the Family Assessment and Planning Model).

Status Report:

Refer to Status Report for Items 3 and 4, Action Step A.

Action Step B:

Provide county specific, focused technical assistance on foster care re-entries to two PCSAs with the highest percentage of re-entries of children into foster care; and that have the greatest adverse impact on overall statewide performance.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-** This benchmark has been achieved, as reported in the first quarterly report.
- **Benchmark 2-** This benchmark has been achieved, as reported in the first quarterly report.
- **Benchmark 3 -** Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services (CCDCFS) and Franklin County Children Services (FCCS) were selected to provide focused technical assistance in order to assist the agencies in reducing the levels of foster care re-entries. In order to develop focused technical assistance strategies, it was decided that meetings needed to occur with staff at the respective agencies.

Cuyahoga County – Prior to meeting with CCDCFS, a DART report was produced to determine the agency's rate of foster care re-entries for CY 2003. According to the data, the compliance level for CCDCFS was 18.5%. It was determined that an on-site meeting with agency staff to review the data should occur at the same time ODJFS was conducting its CPOE State V monitoring review. The CPOE Entrance

Conference was held on March 19, 2004 and the focused technical assistance discussions related to foster care re-entries occurred on April 7, 2004. By combining these two activities ODJFS and CCDCFS could also validate the agency's assumption the high rate of re-entries is significantly impacted by children returning from AWOL status; children leaving custody when the agency loses the initial temporary custody hearing – only to have the child be ordered into agency custody shortly thereafter; and the procedure of “re-filing” for custody which makes it appear the child left custody and returned to care even though the child's physical placement never changed (court issue).

The report from the CPOE on-site review of cases has not been completed. An exit conference to review the findings from the CPOE Stage V monitoring review is scheduled for July 9, 2004. Once the CPOE report is finalized, staff will begin working with the agency to develop the Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) to address the findings from the on-site review and identify focused technical assistance strategies.

Franklin County - Prior to meeting with FCCS, a DART report was produced to determine the agency's level of foster care re-entries for CY 2003. Data indicated that the compliance level for FCCS was 17.9%. Since ODJFS was conducting its CPOE Stage V monitoring review during this quarter, it was decided to wait for the final results of the monitoring review and the agency's development of its QIP prior to engaging in discussions with the agency on focused technical assistance strategies. During CPOE Stage V monitoring, Outcome Indicator 7B: *Foster care re-entries within 12 months* revealed FCCS' re-entry level was 17.67%.

The on-site visit to further discuss ODJFS and FCCS's strategies for response to CPOE Stage V findings and focused technical assistance strategies will occur on July 1, 2004.

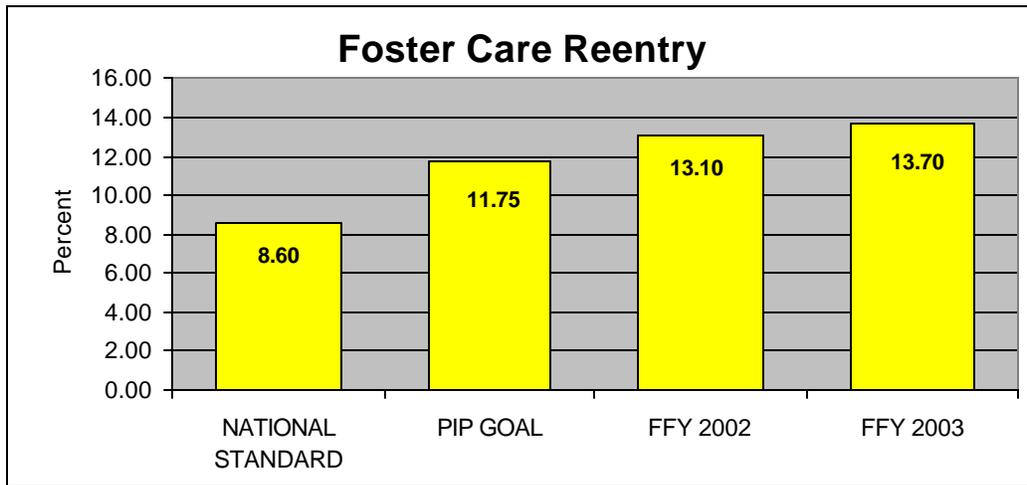
- **Benchmarks 4-7- *These benchmarks are not scheduled to occur at this time.***

Summary:

PIP Goal: 11.75%
National Standard: 8.6% or less

- FFY 2002 AFCARS data indicated Ohio was at a 13.1% compliance level for reentry of children into foster care.
- FFY 2003 AFCARS data indicated Ohio was at a 13.7% compliance level for reentry of children into foster care.

The following chart presents the above mentioned information.



PERMANENCY OUTCOME P1:

Children have permanency and stability in their living situation

Item 6. *Stability of foster care placement.*

GOAL: *In two years, Increase the stability of children in foster care placements from 84.5% 2002 AFCARS baseline data to 86.4%.*

Action Step A:

Provide county specific, focused technical assistance to two (2) PCSAs with the highest percentage of children who have been in foster care less than 12 months who have experienced more than 2 placement moves; and that had the greatest adverse impact on overall statewide performance.

Status Report:

- **Benchmarks 1 and 2-** Following a review of data in DART for CPOE Outcome Indicators 6A and 6C, it was determined that it would be more appropriate to utilize FFY2002 AFCARS data since it was a better measurement of this indicator. An analysis of the AFCARS data was conducted to determine: (1) level of compliance with the national standard for stability of foster care placements; and (2) selection of counties for focused technical assistance. ODJFS received approval from HHS to provide focused technical assistance to two counties, Cuyahoga and Franklin, which represent the largest child population base in Ohio. In addition, of the 88 counties in Ohio, current placement data in DART shows that these two counties combined have nearly 40% of the children in substitute care and, in turn, have the greatest impact on overall statewide performance for all the data indicators.

- **Benchmarks 3-4 –**

Cuyahoga County - Based upon FFY 2002 AFCARS data Cuyahoga CCDCFS was at 86.6%, which is 0.17% below the national standard. A review of FFY 2003 AFCARS data revealed that Cuyahoga CDJFS was at 87.8%, thus exceeding the national standard. This was an improvement over the past three years and compliance needs to be sustained. It was determined that on-site meetings with agency staff to review the data should occur at the same time as the CPOE Stage V Entrance Conference. Although Cuyahoga had problems in meeting placement stability standards in the past, things appear to be improving. During the meeting, management staff described some of the initiatives and programming that were implemented in order to ensure the stability of foster placements. Although some children in the care of Cuyahoga County experience multiple moves, staff was quick to point out that most of these moves are due to children being “stepped down” to lower and less restrictive levels of care. This may appear to increase the number of

moves; yet the moves are in the child's best interest, and move them closer to permanency.

One of the most important things the agency was doing to keep numbers low related to moves is to avoid using shelter care when a child first comes into the custody of the agency. When it becomes apparent that there is a need for out-of-home placement, and a relative placement is not possible, the county uses a placement assessment and matching tool to match the child with a placement that best meets his or her needs. The placement assessment tool, or level of care tool, assesses the needs of the child based on his or her experiences and case plan. Prospective homes are assessed and matched with children based on the placement resource's ability and capacity to provide for the needs of the child. The tool was developed by the Institute for Human Research in Baltimore, Maryland and consists of six levels ranging from Level I (placement into an agency foster home) to Level VI (placement into an intensive treatment home or residential treatment facility). This tool is not used when determining whether or not a child will be placed in an unpaid placement with a relative or kin – it is used only for placement with a paid resource. Staff at Cuyahoga indicated that one of the reasons why the tool works is that from its inception, purchased service providers were involved in the development of the tool, and in the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of its usefulness.

County staff that work with foster families also utilize a “discussion guidebook” when they are working to match children and resource families. More homes licensed under the county agency are being used than previously (and more relatives are also being licensed), so staff is better able to communicate with the families that they use. The Individual Child Care Agreement (ICCA) that is used with families has been revised so that it is more comprehensive when it is developed between the agency and the foster family or relative/kin resource. There is also more staff involvement with agency foster and relative homes. An agency policy requires that a resource manager visit the foster home once a month when there are children placed with the family, and once every other month when no children are placed with the family. The resource manager is not the child's case manager (who also visits the child in the home) but is a member of the team that works with resource homes in order to ensure a child's needs are being met as they work with children in the home.

The county has also implemented a “placement preservation staffing” that is used when it appears that current placements are not going well. During this staffing, held prior to a decision being made to move a child because of apparent disruption, the foster parents, the case worker/supervisor, a facilitator, and sometimes the child, work together to determine if services can be put in place to preserve the placement. With this technique, disruptions are often avoided. Ongoing team decision meetings are also held during the tenure of the child's placement in foster care. These meetings include the foster family, the child's parent (if possible), and agency staff. A discussion is held specifically about the individual child, his needs, and his likes/dislikes. These team meetings assist agency staff and foster families to secure

any needed wrap around neighborhood services to help maintain the placement. Some foster families have formed cluster or support groups that are run at the neighborhood level and attended by agency staff.

Although Cuyahoga now meets the national standard relative to foster care stability, due to its large population, which can significantly impact Ohio's statewide numbers, ODJFS will continue to provide focused technical assistance regarding continued achievement of this standard. ODJFS plans to review a random sample of cases to determine what strategies and innovative practices the agency used to enable them to exceed the national standard so that ODJFS can share the agency's success with other PCSAs (this is a part of Ohio's PIP).

Franklin County - A review of FFY 2002 AFCARS data for FCCS indicated the agency was at a compliance level of 83.7%. FFY 2003 AFCARS data indicated that FCCS was at a compliance level of 84.3%. Thus, there has been a slight level of improvement over the course of a year. ODJFS is scheduled to make its initial focused technical assistance visit to Franklin County on July 1, 2004. Information regarding the status of this visit will not be available until the next quarterly report.

- **Benchmarks 5-8- *These benchmarks are not scheduled to occur at this time.***

Action Step B:

Assist counties in determining the most appropriate placement for the child, providing support to maintain the child in that placement until the child can return home or be placed in another permanent setting:

- *Develop a best practice resource manual and disseminate to PCSAs.*
- *Coordinate a panel of presenters for workshops at PCSAO's annual Child Welfare Conference to showcase best practices.*
- *Coordinate a panel of presenters for workshop at ODJFS' Annual Foster and Adoption Conference to showcase best practices.*

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-** As mentioned under the above Action Step, FFY 2002 AFCARS data was used rather than information from DART. Sixteen counties having at least 70 children in placement were identified as having met or exceeded the national standard. These counties and the number of children they have in placement are as follows: Ross (211), Richland (213), Trumbull (139), Licking (190), Clermont (168), Lorain (225), Guernsey (76), Wayne (133), Mahoning (129), Warren (79), Jefferson (123), Columbiana (77), Fairfield (107), Muskingum (125), Preble (78), and Greene (82). It was important to assure that the counties that met or exceeded the national standard had a significant number of children in placement so that the percentages would not be impacted by a small number of children.

- **Benchmark 2** – ODJFS has developed a preliminary draft of questions for the purpose of surveying the counties to obtain information regarding how they are structured as well as their program philosophies and practices that may contribute to the stability of placements in their counties. This survey will be put through an internal clearance by June 30, 2004 before soliciting responses from the counties in July 2004 to assure that all the right questions are being asked to enable ODJFS to compile and summarize its findings in a manner that will be meaningful to other counties.
- **Benchmark 3** - Counties will be surveyed beginning in July 2004 once the survey instrument has been finalized. At that point, ODJFS will review the data gathered from the sixteen counties to begin the process of compiling Ohio specific information for inclusion into a best practice manual.
- **Benchmark 4** – Staff will also review materials gathered from other states in July 2004 regarding practices promoting foster care stability to determine how this information may be useful and incorporated into the best practice manual.
- **Benchmarks 5-7- *These benchmarks are not scheduled to occur at this time.***

Action Step C:

Sponsor resource family attendance at annual conferences to help them gain information on meeting a foster child's needs.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-** A contract with the Ohio Family Care Association (OFCA), a network of resource families including foster parents and respite care providers, was executed in February 2004 in order to sponsor training for resource families. One hundred fifty-eight resource providers participated in the conference held on February 26, 27, and 28, 2004, in Columbus. Subjects covered in the workshops included: mental health treatment, respite, prescription drug abuse, parenting the hurt child, conflict resolution, preventing abuse allegations, stress management, and helping youth achieve self-sufficiency. Overall evaluations were excellent. There are two additional resource family conferences scheduled. The next conference will occur in June 2004 and the last one will occur in August 2004.

Action Step D:

Assist counties in the recruitment of resource families.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-** Foster Family recruitment items were distributed at the end of March 2004 to all 88 Ohio counties according to the number of children in care. Items included tote bags and license plate frames, which included the slogan, “*Foster a Brighter Tomorrow*”, Become a Foster Parent.
- **Benchmark 2-** ODJFS continues to be in the preliminary stages of working with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service’s executive consultants John and Judith McKenzie for Ohio to be part of the Adopt U.S. Kids initiative. This initiative is designed to help managers prepare for upcoming national campaigns and give states guidance in developing their Title IV-B Plan and working to get local agency staff involved in recruitment efforts. The McKenzies came to Ohio for a two-day strategic planning session on March 17, 2004 and March 18, 2004. This effort is designed to develop a statewide marketing campaign to recruit and retain foster caregivers and adoptive parents.

The first strategic planning session included Ohio's major metropolitan counties, which have the greatest number of children in custody. The Department as well as each county represented developed goals to be achieved.

As part of the initiative, Adopt U.S. Kids contracted with a vendor in Ohio, Ohio Family Care Association to assist them in the national recruitment effort of resource families. The vendor has created a web site for interested parties inquiring about fostering or adopting.

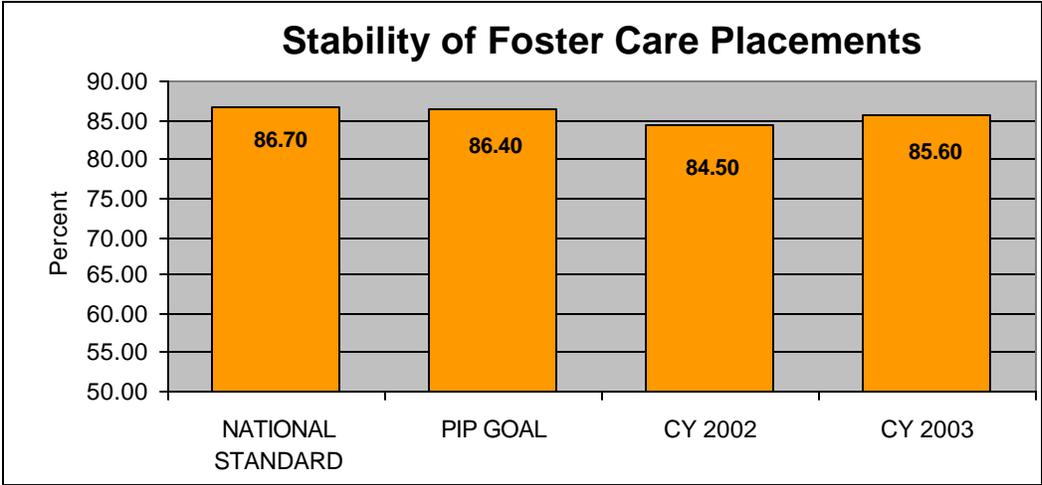
- **Benchmark 3- *This benchmark is not scheduled to occur at this time.***

Summary:

PIP Goal: 86.4%

National Standard: 86.7% or more

- FFY 2002 AFCARS data indicated Ohio was at a 84.5% level of compliance with the nation standard for stability of foster care placements.
- FFY 2003 AFCARS data indicated Ohio was at a 85.6% level of compliance with the national standard for stability of foster care placements.



PERMANENCY OUTCOME P1:

Children have permanency and stability in their living situation

Item 8. *Reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives.*

Goal: *In two years, increase the percentage of timely reunifications, guardianships or permanent placements with relatives within 12 months of entry into foster care from 73.0% 2002 AFCARS baseline data to 75.4%.*

Action Step A:

Standardize or increase the consistency of the use of concurrent case planning by PCSAs.

Status Report:

- **Benchmarks 1-3- *These benchmarks are not scheduled to occur at this time.***

Language was drafted to amend Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 2151.412 (I) to require the following: "A concurrent plan for locating a permanent family placement, shall be included as part of the case plan for purposes of division (D) of this section. *Division D requires the agency to attempt to get agreement among all the parties involved with the case plan and the court to journalize the case plan.* This is being considered for the 2006-07 budget bill.

Benchmark 4 and 5- A teleconference with Lorrie Lutz, from the National Center for Permanency Planning, was held to discuss the plans for provision of technical assistance on concurrent planning. August 20, 2004 has been set for Lorrie to meet with state staff to begin assessing Ohio's needs and developing a plan to provide technical assistance. Subsequent technical assistance days are being scheduled for September 2004 and October 2004 to meet with the targeted focused technical assistance counties (Franklin and Cuyahoga). It is proposed that two days be spent in each county assessing their current concurrent planning activities and providing focused technical assistance.

- **Benchmarks 6-7- *These benchmarks are not scheduled to occur at this time.***

Action Step B:

Standardize the process of apprising parents of their rights by provision of a pamphlet to parents on parental rights, inclusive of involvement in case plan process, to be provided by the worker at the time of initial contact. (Refer to PIP Items 17, 18 & 25, and 20.)

Status Report:

- C **Benchmark 1-** Capital University Center for Adoption Law and the American Bar Association will collaborate on the development of a guide to inform parents of their rights when involved with a child welfare agency. ODJFS will be involved in the development of the guide to ensure that it addresses various stages of a family's involvement with an agency and is user friendly. ODJFS is currently providing the university and the ABA with parameters for the guide.
- **Benchmarks 2-3- *These benchmarks are not scheduled to occur at this time.***

Action Step C:

Participate in the OCWTP development of competencies for the early identification, assessment and involvement of kinship caregivers in the placement selection and case planning process. Refer to PIP Items 14 and 15.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1 and 2-** The Institute for Human Services (IHS), contractor for child welfare curricula development in Ohio and ODJFS staff worked together in November 2003, to develop a set of standard competencies for kinship caregivers. The curriculum is currently being developed, and is based on the collaboration efforts between IHS and ODJFS. In addition, IHS will participate in ODJFS' meetings with the National Resource Center for assistance with development of training on concurrent planning.

Action Step D:

Provide county specific, focused technical assistance (TA) to two (2) PCSAs with the highest percentage of non-compliance in achieving reunification of a child within 12 months of removal from the home; and that have the greatest adverse impact on overall statewide performance.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-4-** Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services (CCDCFS) and Franklin County Children Services (FCCS) were selected to provide focused technical assistance in order to assist the agencies in assessing their strengths and weaknesses in meeting the established goal for reunification within 12 months of removal from the home. A DART report for CPOE Outcome Indicator 13(A): *Length of time to achieve reunification* for 2003 was received on April 2, 2004. Analysis of CY 2003 data identified the percentage of cases that reunified within 12 months of removal from the home occurred, for each of the 88 public children services agencies in the calendar year. In CY 2003, 52 counties complied with the reunification within 12 months of removal requirement of 76.2% or more. The

statewide average was 73.34%.

Cuyahoga County – CCDCFS' percentage of reunification within 12 months for CY 2003 was 55.69%. ODJFS participated in the CPOE Stage V data discussions with Cuyahoga County personnel on April 7, 2004 to discuss internal and external barriers, philosophical perspectives and other possible contributing factors that result in the low percentage of achievement associated with this item. Some of the factors identified as contributing to the low percentage of achievement for this item were:

- Decrease in the number of staff
- Decrease in funding
- The agency focuses on permanency planning for children who have fewer barriers which leaves those children who are harder to reunify waiting longer.
- No formalized concurrent planning process. This is a growth area for the agency. Workers need training. Better documentation of concurrent planning in case record.
- Substance abuse cases are treated differently by the court. Requires longer time until reunification due to treatment issues.
- Lack of adequate housing is a barrier to reunification.
- The entry of the reunification data for a child can be delayed after the child is actually reunified, until the agency receives the court's journal entry, which releases the child from agency custody.
- Lack of appropriate services to the parents.
- Multiple need families.

Some of the improvements the agency has made to shorten the length of time to reunification included:

- Expedited reunification hearing process in which all parties to the case plan agree on reunification. The court journalization process was reduced from 4 months to 2 weeks.
- Dedicated staff to conduct parental and relative searches. Use of genograms at initial meeting to identify family members.
- Family team meetings focus on family issues, includes foster parents.
- Increased efforts for more frequent family visitation.
- Neighborhood partnerships that will offer services to the family and keep the child in the family.

Subsequent meetings will be scheduled to coincide with the CPOE Stage V exit conference and Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) discussions.

Franklin County - FCCS' percentage of reunification within 12 months for CY 2003 was 77.73%. ODJFS conducted FCCS' CPOE Stage V monitoring review in December 2003. A total of 10 records were reviewed for the time period of July-December 2002, to determine compliance with Length of Time to Achieve Reunification. The results of this review were issued January 2004. Franklin

County achieved 78.20% compliance with this item, which exceeds the national standard. FCCS staff attributes the utilization of family centered neighborhood based practices as a reason for exceeding the national standard. Part of this process includes a family case planning conference that can include a facilitator, parent, family members, the child, agency social work staff and service providers. A goal of this meeting is to develop a case plan. The planning process consists of identification of relative or kinship placements, availability of supportive services within the community and concurrent case planning is also considered. Service team meetings are held weekly. An emphasis is placed on the utilization of Risk Assessment and Youth Assessment Matrix throughout the life of the case and Semi-annual Administrative Reviews are completed timely.

A review of FCCS' CPOE Stage V Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) will take place prior to engaging in a discussion about compliance with PIP Item 8 with the county on July 1, 2004.

- **Benchmarks 5-8- *These benchmarks are not scheduled to occur at this time***

Action Step E:

Services are accessible to families and children during placement and post-placement. Refer to Items 5 and 36.

Status Report:

Refer to Items 5 and 36.

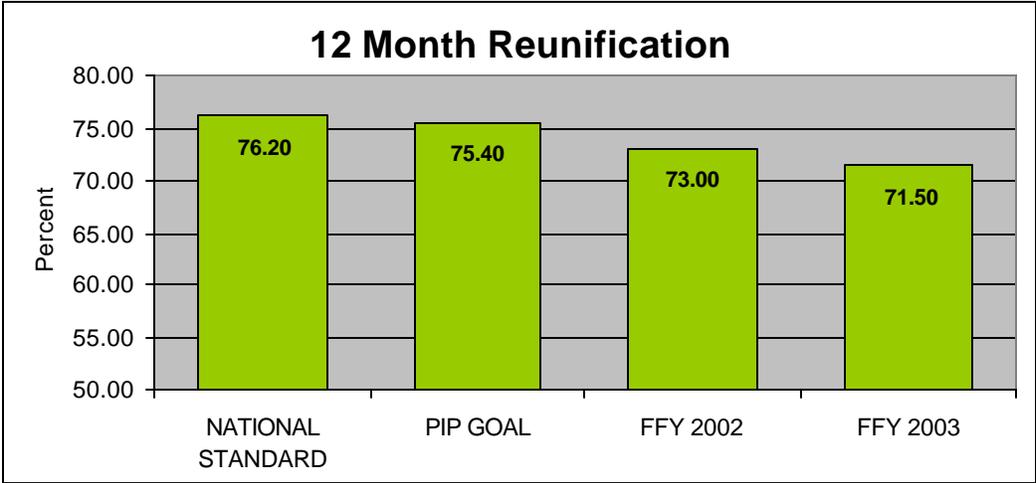
Summary:

PIP Goal: 75.4%
National Standard: 76.2% or more

- FFY 2002 AFCARS data indicated Ohio was at a 73.0% level of compliance with the national standard for reunification of children within 12 months of the last placement episode.
- FFY 2003 AFCARS data indicated Ohio was at a 71.5% level of compliance with the national standard for reunification of children within 12 months of the last placement episode.

ODJFS will be conducting for the analysis of the characteristics of children who are not reunified within 12 months in order to identify if there are common barriers to reunification of children.

The following chart displays the information mentioned above.



PERMANENCY OUTCOME P1:

Children have permanency and stability in their living situation

Item 9. *Adoption.*

Goal: *In two years Ohio will increase the percentage rate of finalized adoptions from 28.2% 2002 AFCARS baseline data to 31.1%.*

Action Step A:

Improve relationship with courts in order to improve case flow through courts and enhance existing policies and procedures to decrease the length of time to achieve permanent custody.

- \$ Decrease the length of time to filing TPR cases*
- \$ Determine if comments regarding the appellate process are a result of improper judicial practice or unrealistic expectations.*
- \$ Increase communication and nurture positive relationships between county, state and court personnel in an effort to decrease adverse relationships between entities.*

Status Report:

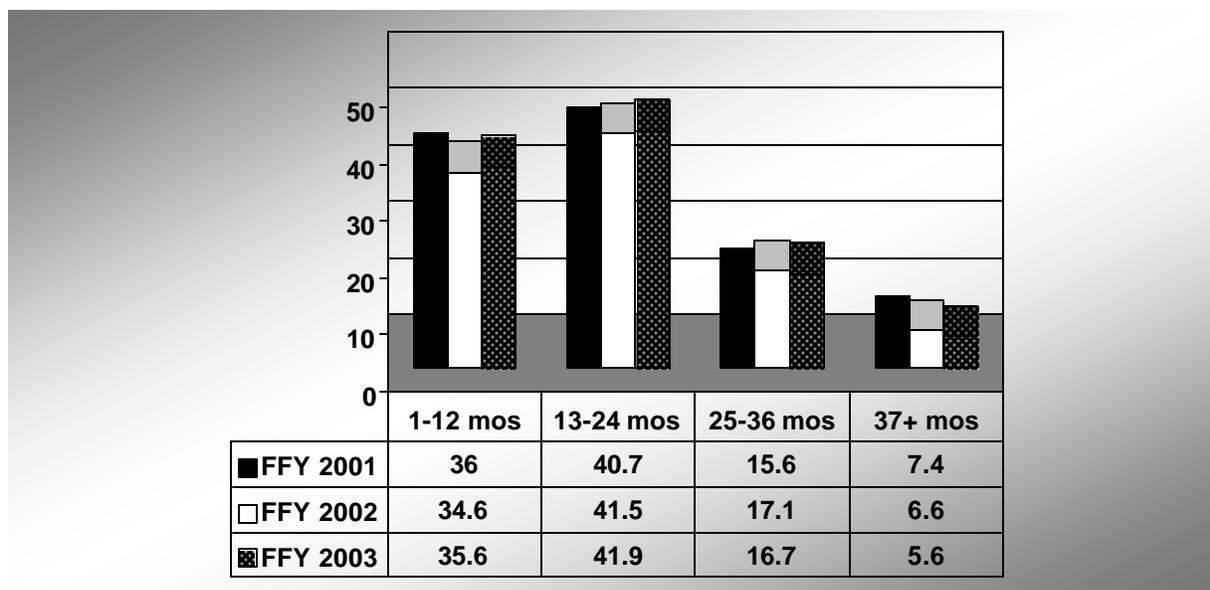
- **Benchmark 1-** Analysis of statewide data was conducted by ODJFS to determine the amount of time it took to receive permanent custody of children from the time that initial custody was granted to an agency. The table found on the next page shows the number and percentage of cases statewide who reached permanent custody in three different federal fiscal years and the amount of time it took to achieve permanent custody status from the time of initial custody. The largest proportions of cases, about one quarter, reach permanent custody between 13 and 18 months. There is virtually no change over the three years in the proportion of children who reach permanency by the 18th month; each year the figure is between 60.2% and 60.8%. By the 24th month, 77.5% reached permanent custody in FFY 2003 compared to 76.1% in the previous year and 76.7% in 2001.

The greatest percent of children who require only three months has declined since FFY2001; however it is somewhat larger than last year, 8.7% compared to 8.2%.

Length of Time Between Initial Custody and Permanent Custody: Ohio						
Months Between IC and PC	FFY2001		FFY 2002		FFY 2003	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0-3 months	203	10	187	8.2	195	8.7
4-6 months	166	8.2	192	8.4	152	6.8
7-9 months	150	7.4	184	8.0	220	9.8
10-12 months	209	10.4	227	10.0	231	10.3
13-18 months	497	24.8	589	25.8	551	24.6
19-24 months	320	15.9	358	15.7	387	17.3
25-36 months	313	15.6	390	17.1	374	16.7
37 or more months	148	7.4	151	6.6	126	5.6
Total	2,006		2,278		2,236	

The graph below summarizes the information for three 12-month periods. It shows that there is an improvement in the proportion of children who require 37 or more months to reach permanent custody from initial custody. That is, 24 percent fewer children required that amount of time in FFY 2003 compared to FFY 2001.

Percent of Children Achieving Permanent Custody by Year and Timeframe: Ohio



Appendix C shows the breakdown of the information by county. Three metro counties were compared to determine if there was a difference in the amount of time it took to reach permanent custody. These counties were selected because they represent the largest number of children adopted within 24 months yet they vary greatly in the percent

of children who achieved their adoptions within 24 months of initial custody. The table below shows the eight counties in the state with the most adoptions and the most within 24 months. Lucas County has the second highest number of children adopted in 24 months (66) but, at 40.5%, almost twice the proportion adopted within that timeframe¹. Cuyahoga has the greatest number of children adopted, 130, but only 22.1% within 24 months while Franklin has the third highest as shown in the table below but only 19% within 24 months.

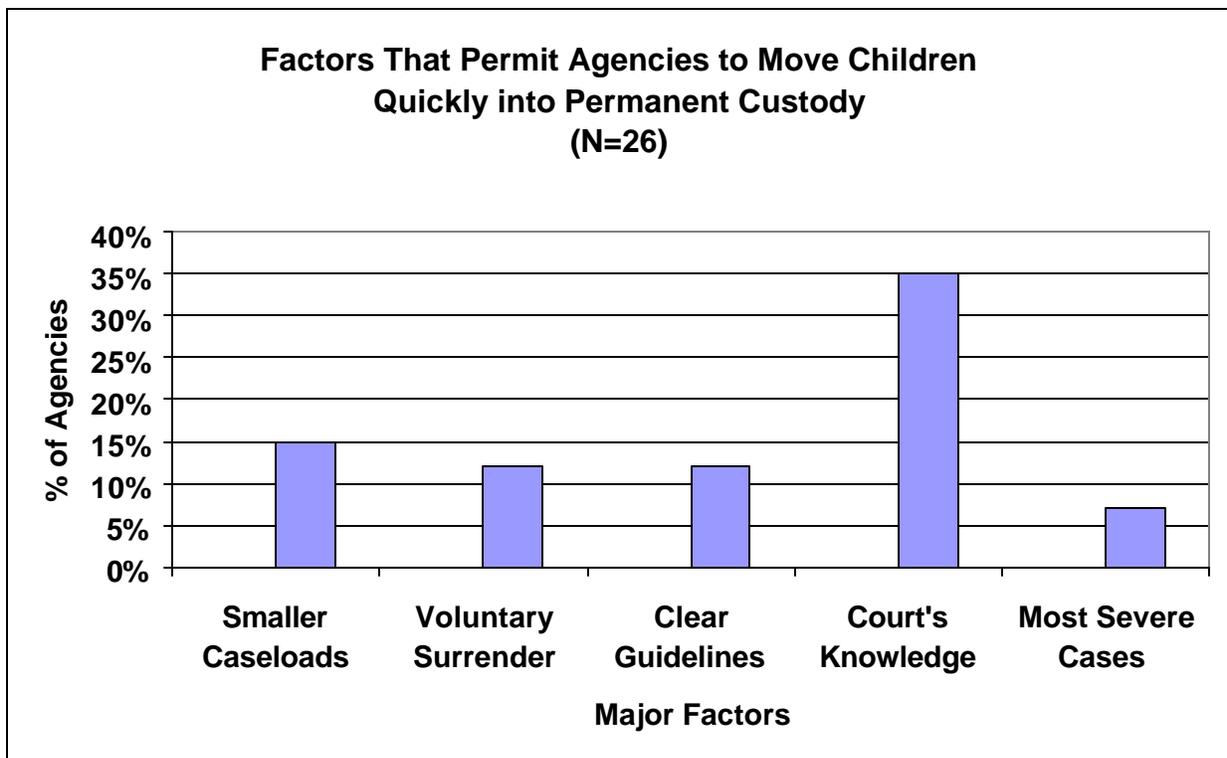
Success of Eight Largest Counties in Achieving Adoption in 24 Months				
County	2001 Cohort	Entry	Number Adopted Within 24 Months	Percent Adopted Within 24 Months
Cuyahoga	589		130	22.1%
Lucas	163		66	40.5%
Franklin	253		48	19.0%
Montgomery	127		28	22.0%
Hamilton	113		23	20.4%
Summit	92		11	12.0%
Stark	86		21	24.4%
Butler	42		7	16.7%

The table below illustrates the results. It shows that there is a strong correlation between the percent who achieve permanent custody within 18 months and the percent adopted within two years. Lucas County has 77.5% of their children achieve permanent custody in 18 months compared to 56% in Cuyahoga and 48% in Franklin. Thus, while the percent adopted in Lucas within two years is about twice as high as the other two counties, the percent with PC in 18 months is about one third higher than the other two. By the 24 month mark 90% of the children in Lucas have permanent custody compared to 73% and 65% respectively in Cuyahoga and Franklin. It stands to reason that if children are to be adopted within 24 months of initial custody counties need to receive permanent custody within 18 months. Roughly half of those will be adopted by 24 months.

Time between IC and PC for Counties with Most Children Adopted in 24 Months			
Time from IC to PC	Lucas	Franklin	Cuyahoga
18 months	77.5%	48%	56%
24 months	90%	65%	73%

Other counties in the state have higher proportion of children adopted within 24 months, but far fewer children adopted overall are: Lorain (58.6%, 34 children); (Ashtabula, 51.4%, 18 children); and Clermont(45.8%, 11 children). Counties who have more than 20 children in the entry cohort with the lowest number adopted within 24 months are: Trumbull (22.7%), Licking(15.8%),and Greene (17.9%).

In a recent survey conducted by ODJFS counties were asked what factors helped or hindered counties ability to achieve custody in a timely manner. Twenty-six counties responded to this question, or about 30% of the counties including the three analyzed above. When asked what factors from the point of initial custody permit them to move children quickly to permanent custody, 81% of the respondents reported five major factors that move children into PC faster: the court's and attorney's knowledge of adoption laws; smaller caseloads per caseworker; parental voluntary surrender of custody; clearer guidelines for Ohio adoption legislation and subsidies; and the severity of the abuse case, with more severe cases moving quicker. As shown in the chart below, agencies believe that the court's understanding of the adoption laws is the most frequently cited factor by far.



Nine agencies said that continuances, appeals and full court dockets delayed receipt of permanent custody. Additionally, these agencies reported it was crucial to have a judge who abided by the timeframes and that the county has legal representation that understood adoption laws and legislation. Almost 40% of agencies reported that they

need attorneys invested in permanency for kids, and judges who understand how the effects of continuances and appeals delay permanent placement for children awaiting adoption.

Five agencies said that smaller caseloads would permit them to do more intensive casework to reunify each child. Fifteen or fewer children per worker would enable caseworkers to concentrate on child specific recruitment for older children or those with special needs and move them into permanent custody faster. Smaller caseloads would help assign direct permanent custody cases to assessors who specialize in finding relatives or foster families who are willing to adopt children who are ready.

Four agencies said that parental voluntary surrender and the most severe cases permit them to move a child into permanent custody faster. Providing there are no court appeals and if both parents refuse to follow a case plan, abandon the child, were responsible for the death of a sibling, or if they had a child in permanent custody before, the agency can move a child quickly into foster to adopt homes. Two of these agencies noted that if there is no progress within the first six to twelve months then they look at permanent custody for the child.

Three agencies said that clearer guidelines on subsidies and legislation such as HB 484, Ohio's Adoption and Safe Families Act and the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) have been effective in moving children into PC, but more clarity and periodic staff training would be helpful. The remaining agencies reported that they make a conscious effort at initial placement to find parents that are willing to adopt their foster children. They also reported using a team approach and having an organized staff helps to move children into permanent custody more quickly.

This information will be compiled into a larger report and will be disseminated to PCSAs.

- **Benchmarks 2-9- *These benchmarks are not scheduled to occur at this time.***

Action Step B:

Develop a best practices model for expediting permanency planning for children once an agency files a motion for permanent custody or once the court has granted the agency permanent custody.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-** The quality assurance vendor, Hornby-Zellar has provided a new report that discusses the length of time it takes from initial custody to permanent commitment. The report will be disseminated to county agencies.
- **Benchmark 2 and 3 -** ODJFS received Length of Time to Adoption On-line Survey data from 32 county agencies. Data analysis began April 30, 2004. A subset of the data was compiled for use in the proposed revision to OAC rule 5101:2-48-16,

Adoptive Placement Procedures, which was also required to be revised as a result of the Corrective Action and Resolution Plan (CARP) for the Multiethnic Placement Act. The proposed revisions include the following timelines for staffing permanently committed children and transfer to the adoption assessor:

- C Within 15 days from the pre-adoptive transfer conference and no more than 45 days from the issuance of the permanent custody order, the child's case record and the responsibility for case planning and adoptive placement decision-making shall be transferred to an assessor in the agency's adoption program.
- C Within 90 days of the issuance of the permanent custody order, unless the order is under appeal or otherwise not final and non-appealable, in which event the actions called for by this subsection must be completed within 45 days of the order being affirmed, a matching conference shall be conducted by the adoption program area of the custodial agency.

Rule 5101: 2-48-16 was placed in statewide clearance the week of June 14, 2004 and should be filed in August, 2004.

ODJFS continues to analyze the data and a final report will be prepared by June 30, 2004.

- **Benchmarks 4-6- *These benchmarks are not scheduled to occur at this time.***

Action Step C

Prevent delays in finalized adoptions due to lack of preparation of children and families.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1, 2 and 3-** On June 7, 2004 the Subsidy Guide "JFS 01985" was placed on the AdoptOHIO website. Public Children Service Agencies, Private Child Placing Agencies and Private Non-Custodial Agencies, Prospective foster and adoptive families have internet access to The Subsidy Guide, "JFS 01685". Several changes were made to OAC rules that govern the state adoption subsidy program. The changes were made to clarify existing rules to ensure compliance with federal regulations for Medicaid eligibility for children in receipt of adoption assistance. In addition, the Department will revise the Adoption Disclosure Form, "JFS 01667" to include a statement of assurance that adoptive families are informed about The Subsidy Guide.
- **Benchmark 4-** This benchmark was achieved by October 2003, as reported in the last quarterly report.
- **Benchmark 5-** In April and May of 2004, ODJFS staff met with the Institute of

Human Services personnel, Betsy Keefer regarding the Adoption Assessor curriculum for caseworkers. The curriculum was revised collaboratively so that the best information could be provided to assist caseworkers in meeting the needs of children and prospective families. This is a continual benchmark as ODJFS staff provides input on all curriculums involving permanency for children. In addition, the competencies of the curriculum "*Kinship Parenting*" have been reviewed.

- **Benchmark 6-** ODJFS has participated in state level discussions related to the best approach to collaboratively provide training to state level and county personnel regarding hearing processes. It appears the majority of state hearings for the Office of Children and Families are related to Adoptions. The OCF Adoption Section attends administrative hearings to discuss individual state hearing cases with hearing section officers related to initial state hearings analysis.

OCF is currently working with the Office of Legal Services to develop a comprehensive report of the results of State Hearings. The reports will list each state hearing, reason, result and whether the Office of Legal Services agreed with the result.

OCF will provide technical assistance to Franklin County regarding hearings in July.

- **Benchmark 7 -** Under the Program Improvement Plan (PIP), Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services (CCDCFS) and Franklin County Children Services (FCCS) were selected to receive focused technical assistance in order to assist the agencies in improving their ability to finalize adoptions within 24 months of the latest removal episode. In order to develop focused technical assistance strategies it was decided that meetings needed to occur with staff at the respective agencies to determine what they identified were the barriers for achieving the national standard.

Cuyahoga - Prior to meeting with CCDJFS staff a DART report was produced to determine the agency's current level of compliance. According to the data, CCDCFS was at a compliance level of 23% in achieving finalized adoptions within 24 months of the latest removal from home. The compliance indicator shows a decrease toward achieving the national standard.

It was determined that on-site meetings to review the data should occur at the same time ODJFS was conducting its CPOE Stage 5 monitoring review, which commenced on March 19, 2004. By combining these activities, ODJFS and CCDCFS could also validate the agency's assumptions during the CPOE Stage V, Adoption Case Record Review. On-site discussions of the 24 month indicator were held on April 21, 2004. On-site discussions involved staff from the following program areas: Protective, Placement, Recruitment, Information Systems, and Adoption.

CCDCFS staff indicated that the following activities assisted the agency in achieving

74 adoptions within 24 months of initial custody:

- Proceed directly to a straight filing for PC, if there is a previous history of children removed from the family and being permanently committed.
- Established two Caregiver Units in 1999. If the child is identified as a foster to adopt, a social worker from the Caregiver Unit is assigned at the time of the PC filing. Approximately 65% of CCDCFs' adoptions are foster to adopt. The caregiver social worker completes the adoption homestudy and negotiates the adoption subsidy prior to PC, so that within 90 days of receiving PC the placement can move to finalization. This will assist the child in moving more quickly from PC to finalization; however, if the PC was not granted timely it will not necessarily result in an increase in the 24 month measure. CCDCFs indicates that in 1997 it took an average of 34 months to move a foster to adopt case to finalization and in 2003 it took an average of 8 months.
- The majority of CCDCFs resources are licensed as foster parents and approved as adoptive parents.
- Established an internal policy that cases of children who are permanently committed should be transferred to the Adoption Unit with 40 days of the date of the PC hearing. A checklist has been developed of all of the items that must be in the case before it is transferred to the Adoption Unit. This includes: the Child Study Inventory; Social and Medical History Form; birth information, including birth certificate; and documentation of good-bye visits.
- Developed a report that the Adoption Chief can generate which lists the cases that have been PC'd over 40 days and have not been transferred to the Adoption Unit.
- In March, 2003, established a policy that the Child Study Inventory and Social and Medical History should be completed at the time of permanent commitment.
- The Level of Care tool was revised in October 2003 and enables a more detailed effective initial assessment, thus better matching at the foster care level.
- In April there were 170 children in direct service units who had been permanently committed for more than 40 days and not transferred to the Adoption Unit. CCDCFs has a Review Panel to review these individual children's situations. The Review Panel is made up of Direct Services and Adoption Services staff. Cuyahoga has seen a significant decrease in the number of cases that have not been transferred in 40 days.

As a result of our first meeting, the CCDCFs MIS is going to develop the list of the 74 children who were finalized within 24 months of initial custody in FFY 2002 and compare the demographics of the children with those who were not finalized within 24 months.

The barriers to achieving adoption within 24 months of initial custody generated from the meeting included:

- Many initial cases are not heard in 90 days and therefore must be re-filed for custody. It was suggested that this practice is fairly common in Cuyahoga.
- The court used to do ex-parte cases, current process is to file for temporary custody.
- Appeal cases generally take 180 days to 2 years to resolve.
- Cases are not transferred in a timely manner due to documentation of cases not complete. (this issue is being addressed with the policy stated above)
- Younger social workers may have a difficult time in articulating trial testimony the reasons for requesting PC. Workers receive CORE training in their first year but may not get a OPC case for several years. Need a refresher course offered.
- Some judges are still reluctant to grant PC unless the agency has an identified family.
- Certified copy of the birth certificate is frequently lost; the certified copy is needed to finalize an adoption. It usually takes at least six weeks to receive a certified copy of the birth certificate. The case can be transferred to the Adoption Unit if the Ongoing Unit has requested the birth certificate at least 40 days before the transfer. If the child is born out of state or if the child is not born in a hospital, this can significantly delay the agency's ability to obtain the certified birth certificate.
- Agency lacks a standardized policy on concurrent planning.

ODJFS staff will meet with CCDCFS in July 2004 to continue planning for focused technical assistance related to the 24 month measure.

Franklin County - Prior to meeting with FCCS staff, a DART report was produced to determine the agency's current level of compliance. According to the data, FCCS was at a compliance rate of 18% in achieving finalized adoptions within 24 months of the latest removal from home. The compliance indicator shows a decrease toward achieving the national standard.

Since ODJFS was currently conducting its CPOE Stage V monitoring review during this quarter it was decided to wait for the final results of the monitoring review and the agency's development of its Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) prior to engaging in discussions with the agency on focused technical assistance strategies. On-site discussions with FCCS of the 24 month will be held on July 1, 2004. On-site discussions will involve staff from the following program areas: Protective, Placement, Recruitment, Information Systems, and Adoption.

During CPOE State V, ten cases were reviewed to examine compliance with timeliness and consistency in implementing established primary and secondary goals ensuring children stability, safety and well-being. FCCS staff indicated that the following activities assisted the agency in achieving 64 adoptions within 24 months of initial custody in 2003:

- Foster parents adopt approximately 62% of the children in its Permanent Court Custody.
- Effective utilization of concurrent planning as part of the Family-to Family case planning conference.
- A total quality management philosophy that kinship/relative care is the most desirable out-of home placement option for children who cannot live with their parents on a temporary or permanent basis.
- Intense and diligent recruitment of prospective families.
- A specialized adoption unit with an infrastructure that utilizes community based and internet resources and special funding sources to defray adoption cost.

As OCF proceeds through the focused technical activities with FCCS, the agency will be asked to develop a list of the 64 children who were finalized within 24 months of initial custody in FFY 2003 and compare the demographics of the children with those who were not finalized within 24 months.

The barriers to achieving adoption within 24 months of initial custody generated from the CPOE Stage 5 finding are:

- Difficulty in identifying adoptive placements for older children.
- Older children not wanting to be adopted.
- A large majority of PCC cases appealed.
- Juvenile Court not being favorable to granting permanent commitment within 24 months of the child's removal from home.

FCCS' emphasis on placement of older children resulted in the offering of monetary incentives and increased provision of post finalization adoption services to foster caregivers who were willing to adopt children in their home. Agency personnel continue to indicate that as increased efforts in placement of older children are successful, the agency tends to decrease in the 24 month measure.

During the past three federal fiscal years FCCS experienced its greatest increases in the finalizations of children ages 10 to 18. Finalizations for children between 13 and 18 nearly doubled between FY 2002 and 2003.

Age of Child	FFY 2000	FFY 2001	FFY 2002	FFY 2003
10-12	11	35	50	64
13-15	10	21	25	47
16-18	7	8	8	15

Additionally, FCCS almost doubled the finalizations of children who had been waiting over three years between FFY 2000 and 2003. The following table displays the intensive efforts that FCCS has directed to the waiting children.

Time in Custody	FFY 2000	FFY 2001	FFY 2002	FFY 2003
2 - 3 years	38	55	85	80
Over 3 years	92	163	148	182

Statewide Information

As of June 22, 2004, for CY 2004, Ohio has finalized 186 of the 683 adoptions within 24 months, which equates to 27.23% of the adoptions. CCDCFS has finalized 48 of 211 adoptions (22.75%) within 24 months and FCCS has finalized 31 of 80 adoptions (38.75%) within 24 months. At the present time FCCS is achieving at a higher rate than the CY 2003 percentage of 17.66% and CCDCFS is achieving at a slightly lower rate than the CY 2003 percentage of 23.30%.

Action Step D:

Components of supplemental case planning (concurrent case planning) processes implemented by counties will consist of viable activities to implement secondary goals of case plans.

- *Define the advantages of utilizing supplemental case planning (concurrent planning).*
- *Define the advantages of utilizing foster to adopt placements with counties.*
- *Ensure adoption case paperwork is completed expeditiously.*

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1** - A teleconference with Lorrie Lutz, from the National Center for Permanency Planning was held to discuss the plans for provision of technical assistance on concurrent planning. August 20, 2004 has been set for Lorrie to meet with state staff from the Protective, Placement and Adoption Services Sections and the Bureau of Outcome Management to begin assessing Ohio's needs and developing a plan to provide technical assistance. Subsequent technical assistance days are being scheduled for September 2004 and October 2004 with the focused technical assistance counties (Franklin and Cuyahoga). It is proposed that two days be spent in each county assessing their current concurrent planning activities and providing focused technical assistance.
- **Benchmarks 2-3 (page 110)** - *These benchmarks are not scheduled to occur at this time.*
- **Benchmark 1 (page 110)** – This benchmark has been achieved, as reported in the first quarterly report.

- **Benchmark 2 (page 110)** - *This benchmark is not scheduled to occur at this time.*

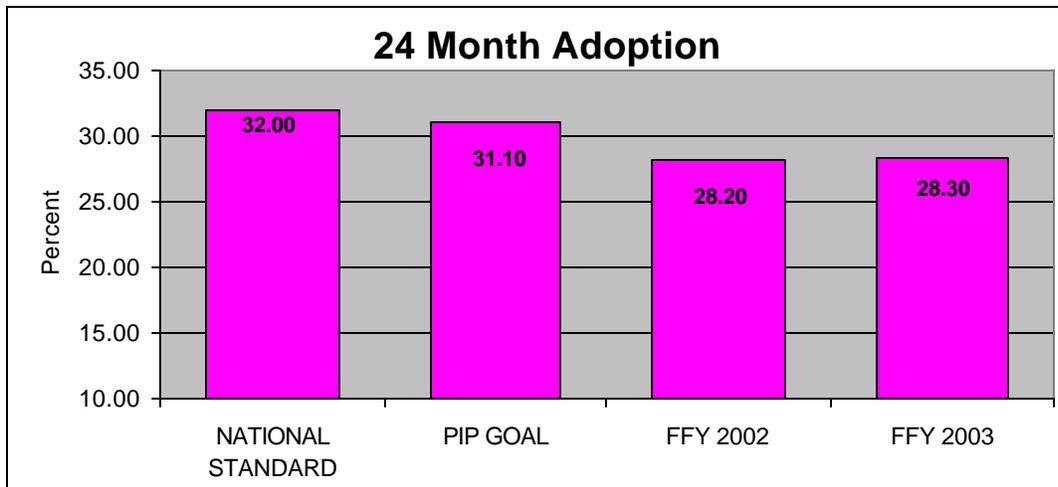
Summary:

PIP Target: 31.1%

National Standard: 32.0% or more

- FFY 2002 AFCARS data indicated that Ohio was at a 28.2% level of compliance with the national standard for adoption of a child within 24 months of the latest placement episode.
- FFY 2003 AFCARS data indicated that Ohio was at a 28.3% level of compliance with the nation standard for adoption of a child within 24 months of the latest placement episode.

The following chart displays the information presented above.



PERMANENCY OUTCOME P2:

The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children

Item 14. *Preserving connections.*

Item 15. *Relative placement.*

Goal:

Increase worker's skills in working with families whose children are in substitute care placement so they will be able to preserve primary connections of the child while the child is in foster care placement.

Action Step A:

Provide training to local children services agencies to encourage workers to:

- *Explore visitation and placement with non-custodial parents (particularly fathers), unless it is not in the child's best interests.*
- *Consider utilizing family group decision-making to engage parents and others in addressing the needs of children and allow children to remain in their own homes or be safely reunified*

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1 and 2-** ODJFS requested and received approval (December 23, 2003) for 10 days of technical assistance from the National Resource Center to conduct workshops and offer a training of trainers session regarding involving fathers in case planning and engaging the family in group decision making. As part of the family engagement, the involvement of paternal relatives in the process will also be addressed. ODJFS initiated discussions with the National Resource Center in May 2004 to discuss how Ohio might approach the technical assistance needs around concurrent planning and family engagement. It was determined that it would be best for the National Resource Center to conduct a preliminary dialogue with all of the applicable state level staff who work with and provide technical assistance to the county administered agencies. The dialogue was deemed necessary to bring everyone at the state level on the same page and assure that there was some uniformity and consistency in communication with the counties. This session is scheduled to take place on August 20, 2004 which was the first day that the National Resource Center had available.

After the August 20, 2004 session, the National Resource Center will work to refine the content of the technical assistance sessions in response to the feedback received from ODJFS staff. Cuyahoga and Franklin, the two counties that were selected for focused technical assistance, will be targeted for intensive on-site

sessions conducted by the National Resource Center on concurrent planning and family engagement. Each county will have 3 workshops scheduled over the course of two days to enable all applicable staff within the county to attend the workshop and have the group sessions small enough to permit dialogue. Due to the time needed between the ODJFS session and the sessions to begin with the counties and the schedules of both the National Resource Center and agency staff, September 16, 2004 and September 17, 2004 have been tentatively set aside for the focused technical assistance in Cuyahoga County and October 13, 2004 and October 14, 2004 for the focused technical assistance in Franklin County. ODJFS has requested an additional 10 days of technical assistance for this purpose for the next Federal Fiscal Year to assure Ohio has federal approval past September to complete this effort. ODJFS would also like to have the National Resource Center conduct a larger technical assistance or training session for the remainder of the counties after ODJFS has had an opportunity to obtain feedback on the sessions provided within Cuyahoga and Franklin, however this is not proposed to occur until 2005.

Action Step B:

Increase knowledge of local agency staff on the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).

- *Present the requirements to seek written verification of a child's heritage and membership with a tribe prior to placement.*

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-** This benchmark has been achieved, as reported in the first quarterly report.
- **Benchmark 2-** A guidance letter containing background information regarding the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and a protocol for contacting Tribal representatives was drafted in December 2003 and forwarded internally through channels for comments during a clearance process. The guidance letter was sent out to agencies and a video conference was conducted in concert with Jack Trope, Consultant with the National Indian Child Welfare Association on April 13, 2004. Mr. Trope's discussion of the sovereignty of Indian Nations preceding the colonization of America and the formation of the United States, the intergovernmental relationship between Indian Nations and the United States, and the historical issues in regard to attempts to acculturate Indian children were invaluable in providing county staff with the proper context for understanding the impetus behind the ICWA. Mr. Trope also discussed ICWA's intersection with other legislation and perspectives on practice issues, which enriched participants' experience and made the presentation relevant to their work.

The guidance letter is being finalized as a result of comments received from clearance and feedback during the video conference sessions to improve its

usefulness to counties. The guidance letter should be finalized by July 15, 2004.

As a result of the interface ODJFS has developed with the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA), the department plans to continue the collaboration with utilization of NICWA's on-line Indian Child Welfare Course, if NICWA is successful in being awarded a Technology Opportunity Program grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce in response to their proposal. This course will allow workers to update their knowledge and skills at their own pace, receive continuing education credits, and not have to spend three days at once away from their jobs. Interactive webcasts will also be part of this grant.

- **Benchmarks 3-4-** Information has been obtained from HostFACIS that indicates that in March 2004, 55 children in the custody of local agencies were listed as Native American/Alaskan Native. Of these children, 54 were in the custody of PCSAs, and 1 in the custody of a private agency (Latter Day Saints Social Services). ODJFS staff who have worked in these county agencies in the past indicate that the actual number of children listed who meet the ICWA definition is much lower (perhaps as much as 50%). The next step in the process is to survey the counties listed to gain an understanding of the definitions they use and how determinations are made regarding a child's Indian heritage. This will be completed by July 15, 2004. Technical assistance will be provided to all public and private agencies by August 31, 2004.

Action Step C:

Include in the best practice resource manual referenced under Item 6, how agencies are effectively working with non-custodial fathers and extended relatives to assure that connections are preserved.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-** As mentioned under item 6, FFY 2002 AFCARS data was used to select sixteen counties having at least 70 children in placement that met or exceeded the national standard to survey regarding their practices, which may contribute to the stability of their foster care placements. How agencies are working with non-custodial fathers and extended relatives will be part of this practice manual. ODJFS staff have developed a preliminary draft of questions for the purpose of surveying the counties to obtain information regarding how they are structured as well as their program philosophies and practices, which may contribute to the stability of placements in their counties. This survey will be put through an internal clearance by June 30, 2004 before soliciting responses from the counties in July 2004 to assure that all the right questions are being asked to enable ODJFS to compile and summarize its findings in a manner that will be meaningful to other counties. Counties will be surveyed beginning in July 2004 once the survey instrument has been finalized. At that point, ODJFS staff will review the data gathered from the sixteen counties to begin the process of compiling Ohio specific

information for inclusion into a best practice manual.

Action Step D:

Incorporate into CPOE case record review instrument monitoring the preservation of connections and relative placements.

Status Report:

- **Benchmarks 1 and 2- *These benchmarks are not scheduled to occur at this time.***

CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING OUTCOME WB1:

Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their childrens needs

Item 17. *Needs and services of child, parent, foster parents.*

Item 18. *Child and family involvement in case planning.*

Item 25 *Process for ensuring each child has a written case plan to be developed jointly with the child's parent(s) that includes the required provisions.*

GOAL: *In two years, increase parent, child and caregiver participation in case planning by 3%.*

Action Step A:

Establish baseline for outcomes in order to measure level of improvement.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-** Case record reviews from CPOE Stage V monitoring reviews had been conducted in more than 44 counties by the end of May 2004. Cases were separated into three (3) categories and a baseline for each case category was calculated from the first 44 counties reviewed. The categories are: 1) In-home supportive services cases; 2) Protective supervision cases; and 3) Substitute care cases. Baselines for each of the categories were:
 -
 - **In-home supportive services**
 - Documentation that the PCSA provided parents, guardians or custodians the opportunity to participate in the development of the case plan – **85%**
 - PCSA obtained agreement on the content of the case plan and provided a copy to the parents, guardians or custodians – **72%**
 - **Protective supervision**
 - Documentation that the PCSA provided parents, guardians or custodians the opportunity to participate in the development of the case plan and provided each with a copy – **71%**
 - **Substitute care**
 - Documentation that the PCSA provided parents, guardians, custodians, pre-adoptive parents, if applicable, and GAL or CASA, if one has been appointed, the opportunity to participate in the development of the case plan – **70%**

- Documentation that the PCSA provided notice to the substitute caregiver of the opportunity to participate in the development of the case plan – **53%**

Action Step B:

Strengthen workers' skills in engaging families in the case planning and case plan review processes in order to increase parent, caregiver, and child involvement in case plan development and reassessment.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-** Technical assistance from the National Resource Center for Foster Care and Permanency Planning (NRCFCP) was requested and approved (December 23, 2003). Program staff contacted the NRCFCP in March 2004 to request assistance with obtaining research, literature and/or materials from other states to use as a foundation for developing discussion guides for use in Ohio. As of late May 2004 the NRCFCP had just begun working on this request and provided some reference materials that are currently being reviewed by staff. In the interim, staff also reviewed curricula developed by the OCWTP that could be included in the discussion guides and summary tools outlined in Action Step C.

Staff began identifying prospective work group members in April 2004 for the purpose of revising the case plan and Semiannual Administrative Review (SAR) forms, based upon the Family Assessment tool in the FAPM (see Action Step D). ODJFS planned to use these same work group members to review the draft discussion guide and summary tool and provide feedback to ODJFS prior to publication and distribution. However, when work on finalizing the FAPM was suspended, the work group was not convened which will delay completion of this Action Step.

On May 27, 2004, a decision was made to change the charge of the work group from revising the case plan/SAR tools to reviewing and providing feedback on the draft discussion guide and summary tool. Staff are in the process of contacting individuals to participate on the work group.

- **Benchmarks 2-6- *These benchmarks are not scheduled to occur at this time.***

Action Step C:

Inform parents, children and caregivers of the concerns identified in the assessment and their right to participate in development of case plan activities to address the identified concerns.

Status Report:

Benchmark 1-5- *These benchmarks are not scheduled to occur at this time.*

Action Step D:

Revise case plan and Semiannual Administrative Review documents to be more understandable by families and caregivers (to be completed concurrently with Action Step B).

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-** Staff began identifying prospective work group members in April 2004 for the purpose of revising the case plan and Semiannual Administrative Review (SAR) forms, based upon the Family Assessment tool in the FAPM. However, when work on finalizing the FAPM was suspended, the work group was not convened which will delay completion of this Action Step.

On May 27, 2004, a decision was made to change the charge of the work group from revising the case plan/SAR tools to reviewing and providing feedback on the draft discussion guide and summary tool (see Action Step B). Once the assessment technology decision is made (anticipated, September 2004) and an assessment tool is selected and finalized, the same work group will begin work on revising the case plan and SAR tools.

- **Benchmarks 2-7- *These benchmarks are not scheduled to occur at this time.***

CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING OUTCOME WB1:

Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their childrens needs.

Item 20. *Worker visits with parent(s).*

Goal: *In two years, increase frequency of worker visits with all parties listed on the case plan by 3%.*

Action Step A:

Establish baseline for outcomes in order to measure level of improvement.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-** This benchmark has been achieved, as reported in the first quarterly report.

Action Step B:

Revise case plan rules for voluntary (no court order) cases to provide guidelines on frequency and purpose of workers visits with parent(s) and clarify expectations for visits with absent parent.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-** OAC rule 5101:2-39-08 *Requirements for PCSA case plan for in-home supportive services (no court order)* has been revised to specify that the worker will attempt face-to-face contact with each parent, guardian or custodian and child listed on the case plan no less than monthly to monitor progress on case plan objectives. The rule will be submitted for Clearance no later than June 30, 2004.
- **Benchmarks 2-6-** *These benchmarks are not scheduled to occur at this time.*

Action Step C:

Develop tools to enhance worker skills in conducting outcome focused worker visits with parents, children and caregivers.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1 -** See Item 17/18/25, Action Step B.
- **Benchmarks 2-6 -** *These benchmarks are not scheduled to occur at this time.*

CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING OUTCOME WB2:

Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs

Item 21. *Educational needs of the child.*

Goal: *Enhance the delivery of services needed to help children achieve academic success that is commensurate with their abilities.*

Action Step A:

Partner with the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MRDD) to assist school districts, which are/would like to be Community Alternative Funding System (CAFS) providers.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-** During the CPOE Stage 4 reviews, which ended on June 30, 2003, PCSAs were monitored on completion of the JFS 01443, *Education Services*. Of the 85 counties reviewed (three counties were not reviewed during CPOE Stage 4 because they participated in the CF SR review) it was determined that statewide compliance was at 63%. CPOE Stage 5 commenced on July 1, 2003. As of this date, 44 county CPOE Stage 5 reports have been completed, statewide compliance with this requirement is currently at 72%. Thus far, there has been a 9% level of improvement in completion of the JFS 01443.

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Action Step B:

Provide information to PCSAs regarding student rights and how to request development of Individualized Education Plans (IEPs).

Status Report:

- **Benchmarks 1-2-** *These benchmarks are not scheduled to occur at this time.*

Action Step C:

Work with Ohio Family and Children First to promote an integrated network of educationally based supportive services.

Status Report:

- **Benchmarks 1 and 2-** The Healthy Youth Steering Committee met on December 9, 2003 to review school-based survey instruments that could be utilized to better identify presenting issues of students. Participants in the meeting included

representatives from the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH), the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services (ODADAS), the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), the ODJFS, and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH); *Partnerships for Success*; and The Ohio State University. The Governor's Cabinet Council continues to review the possible assessment tool options identified by the Healthy Youth Steering Committee. The current work of the Healthy Youth Subcommittee, designated to establish an integrated network of school-based supportive services, has been incorporated into the *Behavioral Health Care Budget and Policy Initiative* described in Item 36, Action Step A.

Action Step D:

Monitor completion of ODHS 1443, Child Education and Health Information.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-** This benchmark has been achieved as reported in the first quarterly report.

Action Step E:

Support joint initiatives by ODMH and ODE, which address emotional and behavioral problems that compromise student success.

Status Report:

See Item 36, Action Step D.

CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING OUTCOME WB3:

Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs

Item 22. *Physical health of child.*

Goal: *Strengthen inter-system collaboration to better meet the physical health needs of children in the child welfare system.*

Action Step A:

Clarify PCSA and PCPA responsibilities for:

- *effectively assessing health needs*
- *coordinating the provision of appropriate services to meet health needs*
- *documenting services needed/provided and services needed but unable to be provided and the reasons why.*

Status Report:

Benchmark 1- A review of OAC rules governing health care was completed in March 2004 to determine whether revisions were required so that agencies can better understand their responsibilities to the children under their care. The rules reviewed included OAC rules 5101:2-42-43, 5101:2-42-66, 5101:2-42-66.1, 5101:2-42-66.2, 5101:2-42-90, 5101:2-39-07, and 5101:2-42-082. The following information contains a summary of the review.

Rule #	Title	Content
5101:2-39-07	Supportive Services	Directs PCSAs on their responsibility to provide supportive services to children and their families in order to prevent removal from the home, enable reunification, or transition youth to independent living. Discusses the need for all services provided to be coordinated with community agencies.
5101:2-39-082	"Child's Education and Health Information" Form	Indicates the PCSA's responsibility to complete the JFS 1443 " <i>Child's Education and Health Information</i> " form for each child placed in substitute care or at the time a case plan document is completed; and to update the form whenever changes are necessary.
5101:2-42-43	Requirements of Semiannual Administrative Review (SAR)	Directs agencies (PCSA and PCPA) to conduct an SAR no later than six months after the original case plan was completed, a complaint was filed or the child entered substitute care, or a case plan was filed with court.

Rule #	Title	Content
5101:2-42-66	Administrative Procedures for Comprehensive Health Care for Children in Placement	Defines the federally mandated program of comprehensive preventative health services available to Medicaid-eligible children. The rule points out that a health exam and screening constitutes comprehensive health care for all children in placement, and that the agency must develop written interagency procedures to implement comprehensive health care for children in placement.
5101:2-42-66.1	Comprehensive Health Care for Children in Placement	Directs PCSAs, PCPAs, and PNAs in their responsibility for the supervision of comprehensive health care including physical health exams and developmental/psychological assessments, for each child in their care or custody and placed in substitute care. Includes requirements around timeframes for securing exams and assessments, and instructions for documentation.
5101:2-42.66.2	Documentation of Comprehensive Health Care for Children in Placement	Provides instruction to PCSAs, PCPAs, and PNAs on how health care information is to be maintained in the case record. The agency is also to document if they could not obtain certain information and why.
5101:2-42-90	Information to be Provided to Caregivers, School Districts and Juvenile Courts; Information to be Included in Individual Child Care Agreement	Points out the PCSA/PCPA responsibility to provide health information (both physical and mental) to caregivers, the courts, school districts, and other service providers. Requires that health information be included as part of the individual childcare agreement made with the substitute caregiver.

The results of the review indicate that there is no indication these rules need revision for the purpose of clarity. Rules 5101:2-42-66, 5101:2-42-66.1, and 5101:2-42-66.2 clearly spell out the responsibilities of agencies for securing and documenting physical and mental health screenings and treatment for children in care or custody. OAC rule 5101:2-39-082 is very clear in directing agencies on how health information is to be documented, and what types of information must be kept – it also contains information on how often this information must be updated. OAC rule 5101:24-2-43 also reinforces the above mentioned rules by requiring that a Semi-annual Administrative Review (SAR) of the child’s case plan be undertaken every six months, with the review examining all services provided to the child and their family, a look at future steps, and h

ow this is documented in the case record.

- **Benchmark 2** - Some of the Quality Improvement Plans for addressing the health care requirements are as follows:
 - Create a system that notifies 90 days in advance of medical exam.
 - Reminder notice included in newsletter for Foster Parents to turn in Med. Forms.
 - Develop checklist for completing Med/Ed form.
- **Benchmarks 3- *These benchmarks are not scheduled to occur at this time.***

Action Step B:

Work with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to provide information to PCSAs regarding utilization of public oral health services.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-** A meeting was held with representatives of the ODJFS, OCF and the ODH divisions of: Community Services, Oral Health Care, and School Nursing on February 2, 2004, to initiate discussions regarding inaccessibility of services for children in the child welfare system and options for care.

Discussions were held with a representative of the Ohio Family Care Association on February 11, 2004, regarding various means of increasing foster parent awareness of health care service providers and specialized programming.

- **Benchmark 2-** Initially, this benchmark was designed to distribute printed resource guides to the PCSAs regarding available public health care services in their communities. However, in an effort to provide the PCSAs with continuously updated resources in the most cost efficient manner, inter-system web linking is now being considered.

Action Step C:

Increase PCSAs' awareness of available local health care services.

Status Report:

- **Benchmarks 1 and 2 - These benchmarks are not scheduled to occur at this time.** However, BFS met with staff of the ODJFS Office of Family Stability, the ODH, and the ODE on May 6, 2004 and June 3, 2004 to address implementation issues of the CAPTA requirement for referrals of all children under age 3 involved in a substantiated report of CA/N to early intervention. Topics discussed at these meetings included: funding for the evaluations, and appointments of parent surrogates to consent to the evaluation when the child is in the custody of the PCSA.

ODJFS, in conjunction with ODH, will be presenting information to PCSAs regarding the referral process during rule overviews in June-August, 2004.

CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING OUTCOME WB3:

Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs

Item 23. *Mental health of child.*

Goal: *Enhance the accessibility of mental health services provided to children and families in the child welfare system.*

Action Step A:

Support Ohio Department of Mental Health's (ODMH) efforts to increase the consistent utilization of assessment tools.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-** This benchmark has been achieved, as reported in the first quarterly report.

Benchmarks 2- ODMH presented an overview of *Ohio Scales* at a meeting hosted by PCSAO on September 2, 2003. Increasing PCSA staff's awareness of mental health assessment tools will be featured in an upcoming training regarding use of a level of care placement tool in July 2004 (**Refer to Item 36, Action step F**).

Action Step B:

Provide training to therapists, caseworkers, adoptive and foster parents regarding the special behavioral healthcare needs of children in out-of-home care and in adoptive placements.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-** The ODMH, in conjunction with local child welfare staff and private providers presented two workshops at the Department of Job and Family Services Directors' Association conference in April 2004. These trainings provided information regarding risk and protective factors, resiliency and asset building, and recommended strategies for effective interventions for children aged 0-6. Seventy-five participants attended these workshops. Evaluation results are pending.

Action Step C:

Promote the provision of specialized programming for children of parents who are addicted to alcohol or other drugs

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-** Staff of OCF and ODADAS met in January 2004 and May 2004 to review 484 expenditures for services to children who are addicted to alcohol or other drugs.
- **Benchmark 2-** ODADAS expanded the program reimbursement of prevention services under funding provided via the HB 484 in the Fall of 2002. Boards were initially notified of this change on October 2, 2002. Since that time, staff of ODADAS has met with providers to discuss related program designs. ODADAS forwarded a matrix of reimbursable services under appropriate funding streams to all county ADAMHS/ADAS Boards in June 2004.

Action Step D:

Provide further technical assistance to PCSAs and local treatment providers regarding initiatives, best practice methods and funding resources for behavioral healthcare programming.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-** During the Fall of 2003, representatives of ODADAS and ODJFS, ODJFS Office of Family Stability met to revise a matrix delineating funding reimbursement streams for all billable substance abuse services. Categories include: Medicaid, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), HB 484 funds, and the ODADAS State Block Grant. While completed, ODADAS has not yet released this document due to delays in the completion of an Inter-Agency Agreement between ODADAS and ODJFS associated with the transfer of TANF funds. The funding matrix was released to the county ADAMHS/ADAS Boards in June 2004.

Technical Assistance was provided to The Youngstown Neil Kennedy Center on March 4, 2004 and the Marion/Crawford County Board on March 24, 2004.

Action Step E:

Identify behavioral healthcare treatment capacity, gaps in services and needs for specialized programming.

Status Report:

Refer to Item 36, Action Step A.

Action Step F:

Serve in an advisory capacity on program evaluation projects, conducted by ODADAS and ODMH, to assess the effectiveness of behavioral healthcare treatment services

Status Report:

Refer to Item 36, Action Step B.

Action Step G:

Work with ODMH and Ohio Health Plans to expand the continuum of mental healthcare services.

Status Report:

Refer to Item 36, Action Step C.

Action Step H:

Support the partnership designed to provide assessment, intervention and treatment services within the school system.

Status Report:

Refer to Item 36, Action Step D.

Action Step I:

Provide training to PCSAs and treatment providers regarding issues associated with federal confidentiality laws.

Status Report:

Refer to Item 36, Action Step E.

Action Step J:

Work with the Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO) to improve consistency in purchasing of services among PCSAO (See Item 36, Action Step F).

Status Report:

Refer to Item 36, Action Step F.

SYSTEMIC FACTOR 2:

Case review system

Item 27. *Provides a process that ensures that each child in foster care under the supervision of the state has a permanency hearing in a qualified court or administrative body no later than 12 months from the date the child entered foster care and no less frequently than every 12 months thereafter.*

Goal I: *To increase ODJFS' ability to identify the percentage of children who have had timely hearings.*

Action Step A:

Develop a formal process for identifying courts that consistently exceed prescribed time frames for judicial hearings (Reference Item 9).

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-6- *These benchmarks are not scheduled to occur at this time.***

SYSTEMIC FACTOR 2:

Case review system

Item 27. *Provides a process that ensures that each child in foster care under the supervision of the state has a permanency hearing in a qualified court or administrative body no later than 12 months from the date the child entered foster care and no less frequently than every 12 months thereafter.*

Goal II: To examine the efficacy of the state system of juvenile court case processing and identify ameliorative steps for correction.

Action Steps A:

Determine if overcrowding of court dockets is contributing to Ohio's timeliness of reviews .

Action Step B:

Determine if comments regarding excessive continuances are a result of improper judicial practice or unrealistic expectations.

Status Report:

The benchmarks for Action Steps A and B are the same. The intent of these action steps is to establish a collaborative system between ODJFS and the Supreme Court of Ohio (SCO) in order to:

- jointly evaluate court functioning in relation to child welfare issues;
- identify jurisdictions that are functioning effectively and/or experiencing difficulty;
- identify causes of success and/or difficulty; and
- provide on-site assistance to communities in implementing effective practices.

The following represents current status of benchmarks 1- 6.

- **Benchmark 1-** This benchmark has been achieved, as reported in the first quarterly report.
- **Benchmark 2-** This benchmark has been achieved, as reported in the first quarterly report.

- **Benchmark 3-** SCO and ODJFS staff jointly embarked on a series of informational presentations regarding the process, appearing at a range of professional membership meetings for both judges and public children services agencies. These have included presentations at:
 - Executive Leadership Council
 - Ohio Association of Juvenile Judges
 - Ohio Judicial College (event)
 - Ohio Association for Court Administration
 - Supreme Court of Ohio Senior Staff

- **Benchmark 4-** This benchmark has been achieved, as reported in the first quarterly report.

- **Benchmark 5-** The Supreme Court of Ohio and ODJFS have had early, initial conversations with a representative of Franklin County Juvenile/Domestic Relations Court. Efforts continue to develop a process and outcome that will be most effective and appropriate for the community.

- **Benchmark 6-** The written report on the Cuyahoga County findings as measured against best practices set forth in the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges' "*Resource Guidelines*", and various guidelines set forth by the American Bar Association and the National Center for State Courts has been submitted to Cuyahoga County and is under review by the judiciary.

The Supreme Court of Ohio has opened initial conversations regarding effective methods to address the issues raised in the site review.

Action Step C:

Determine if comments regarding the appellate process are a result of improper judicial practice or unrealistic expectations.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 6-** Results of the Appellate Court Review was prepared in report format and presented to the Ohio Appellate Judges and the Ohio Appellate Court Administrators. The data currently is under review by the courts.

Action Step D:

Identify state trends or system barriers that contribute to extended case processing.

Status Report:

Progress on this action step is being made as a part of Action Steps A-C. Additionally,

the following represents the current status of Benchmark 7 as it relates to the completion of this Action Step.

- **Benchmark 7-** The Bureau of Outcomes Management prepared the data elements identified in the previous quarter report on a state and aggregate basis. Reports were presented to the Ohio Association of Juvenile Judges, along with a verbal description of the CFSR process and an explanation of the data .

Courts are meeting on a regional basis to determine the most appropriate methodologies to address the issues identified. This effort will be carried out through Goal III (A).

SYSTEMIC FACTOR 2:

Case review system

Item 27. *Provides a process that ensures that each child in foster care under the supervision of the state has a permanency hearing in a qualified court or administrative body no later than 12 months from the date the child entered foster care and no less frequently than every 12 months thereafter.*

Goal III: *To address systemic barriers that impedes effective interface of the child welfare and legal system*

Action Step A:

To establish "best practice" guidelines for courts' handling of dependency cases.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-** In December 2003, SCO and ODJFS established a planning group (Group) consisting of staff from SCO Judicial and Court Services, Ohio Judicial College, and ODJFS to design and schedule a symposia. The Group expanded the concept from a one-time series of events to on-going events. The Group continues to meet for planning purposes, and has accomplished the following during the period of the past quarter:
 - Sponsored a Statewide meeting of Judiciary on May 7, 2004 to focus on "*The Role of the Judiciary in Abuse & Neglect Cases.*" The session featured closing remarks by Chief Justice Moyer in which he urged judges to step beyond their role as simple trier of fact to the role of community leader. The session was led by National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges President, Judge James Ray, and also featured a presentation entitled "*The System through the Eyes of A Child*"; on the CFSR findings; by the Director of the Ohio Ethics Commission; and, by Judge Leonard P. Edwards of Santa Clara California. The two year strategic plan, entitled "*Abuse and Neglect System Reform,*" also was discussed.
 - A judicial planning committee consisting of statewide representation of judges and magistrates has been formed with full backing of the Ohio Juvenile Judges Association. The two year process has been adopted as with full support and participation of the association.
 - The first of judicial district meetings to prepare for the regional meetings has been set. This meeting was held on June 18, 2004 for the northwest quadrant of the state and included ODJFS participation.

- **Benchmark 2-** “Best practice” guidelines from symposia outcomes will be established by October 2005.
- **Benchmark 3-** This benchmark has been achieved, as reported in the first quarterly report.

Other Ohio courts, including Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court, have expressed interest in becoming a Model Court. SCO is beginning exploration of adding another National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges site in Ohio.

Resource Guidelines are being promoted through symposia and trainings over the next 18 months.

- **Benchmark 4-** ODJFS confirmed its commitment to the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges to serve as the national site. ODJFS staff will participate in a planning meeting convened by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges in July 2004.

Action Step B:

To utilize SCO Advisory Committee to implement initiatives that impact on judicial systems.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1 –** SCO and ODJFS have developed and released a Request for Proposal seeking a vendor to develop curriculum and recruit instructors for a statewide training program.

Action Step C:

To increase judicial opportunities for family law education.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-** ODJFS confirmed its commitment to the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges to serve as the national site. ODJFS staff will participate in a planning meeting convened by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges in July 2004.

SYSTEMIC FACTOR 5:

Service array

Item 36. *The services in item 35 are accessible to families and children in all political jurisdictions covered in the state's Child and Family Services Plan.*

Goal: *Enhance accessibility of local supportive services throughout the state.*

Action Step A:

Identify behavioral healthcare treatment capacity, gaps in services and needs for specialized programming

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-** In February 2004, Ohio's First Lady Hope Taft, and the Directors of ODH, ODADAS, and ODMRDD met with members of the Governor's Cabinet Council to inaugurate Ohio's Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Project. With funding from the Centers for Disease Control this multi-system initiative will address issues associated with pre-natal substance exposure and launch prevention strategies.

Workgroup members participated in a training sponsored by the Centers of Disease Control on June 22, 2004 . This workshop was held to assist Ohio in its design of a Statewide Town Meeting, which will be held on Sept. 11, 2004. The Town Meeting will provide an opportunity for FAS/E effected individuals and service providers to educate policy-makers about the issues associated with pre-natal alcohol exposure and needed programming.

- **Benchmark 2-** ABC Workgroup members identified three areas for targeted program development. These are: Prevention and Early Intervention for Children, Youth and their Families; Early Screening, Assessment and Treatment for Behavioral Health Care Needs of Children and Youth 0-18; and Treatment of Multi-need Children, Adolescents, and Families (May 2004).

ODJFS, ODMH, ODADAS, and ODYS proposed the establishment of a specialized project to build local community capacity to serve children that have multiple needs and/or who are at risk of imminent placement because of a behavioral disorder. This project is currently under review by the Governor's Office (June 2004).

ODJFS, Office of Ohio Health Plans, presented an overview of Medicaid claims data associated with FAS/E to Ohio's Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Project Workgroup on May 17, 2004.

Action Step B:

Serve in an advisory capacity on program evaluation projects, conducted by ODADAS and ODMH, to assess the effectiveness of behavioral healthcare treatment services.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-** At the recommendation of the Shareholder's Group and the directive of the Governor's Office, the ODADAS Outcomes Initiatives Task Force was merged with the ODADAS Advisory Council. The Council is now comprised of three subcommittees: Planning and Outcomes; Medicaid and Finance; Rules and Policy. Currently, the statutorily ODJFS participant represents the finance division. ODADAS has been contacted regarding the need to include OCF to maintain compliance with PIP objectives.

Benchmark 2- No additional ODADAS/ODMH projects have occurred during this quarter.

Action Step C:

Work with ODMH and Ohio Health Plans to expand the continuum of mental healthcare services.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-** ODMH has been working with ODJFS to establish Medicaid-funded Intensive Home and Community-Based Services. Recent activities on this project include:

- Holding monthly workgroup meetings, comprised of State level personnel, private providers, county ADAMHS/MH Boards, and client advocates, to design the services, standards of practice and reimbursement structures.
- OHP convened a conference call with a subcontractor who has worked with other states on the establishment of ACT/IHCHS-type programming on May 28, 2004 to review ODMH's proposal submitted on February 6, 2004.
- OHP forwarded requests to ODMH for additional information needed for the proposal's readiness for CMS review on June 9, 2004.

- **Benchmarks 2 and 3-** *These benchmarks are not scheduled to occur at this time.*

Action Step D:

Support the Ohio Department of Mental Health – Ohio Department of Education partnership designed to provide assessment, intervention and treatment services within

the school system.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1** - ODMH and ODE are jointly implementing *Shared Agenda*, a project designed to increase school-based mental health programming and improve awareness of mental health issues by students and school personnel. ODJFS, OCF staff serve in an advisory capacity on this project. Recent *Shared Agenda* activities include:
 - A summary of the Steering Committee activities was distributed by ODMH on June 21, 2004. This document highlighted the efforts to date and featured:
 - a) The Eliminating Barriers Initiative- a 3-year, federally funded project to address the stigma of mental illness among students in a school-based setting.
 - b) The establishment of a legislatively commissioned Educator Standards Board.
 - c) The draft Ohio Guidelines for School Safety that are being reviewed for approval by the State Board of Education.
 - d) An Inter-Agency Data reference guide.
 - e) The Goals and Objectives document:
 - 1. Guiding Principles:
 - i. Mental health is crucial to school success;
 - ii. There are shared opportunities for improvements.
 - 2. Goals and Objectives:
 - i. Develop a common understanding among education, mental health, families and other stakeholders of key shared agenda concepts related to the critical links between mental health and school success;
 - ii. Identify/expand/implement evidence-based practices that support the critical links between mental health and school success;
 - iii. Positively influence allocations at the state and local levels;
 - iv. Positively influence the FY 06-07 state budget;
 - v. Expand capacity that will support mental health in schools through pre-service and in-service education, training and professional development.

Action Step E:

Provide training to local PCSAs and treatment providers regarding issues associated with federal confidentiality laws .

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-** An inter-system training addressing confidentiality issues was presented to the Marion-Crawford ADAMHS Board area on March 24, 2004 and presented in Putnam County on April 22, 2004.

Action Step F:

Work with the Public Children's Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO) to improve consistency in purchasing services among PCSAs.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-** The PCSAO Purchase of Service/Care Subcommittee continues to meet. Participants of this group include representatives of: PCSAO, OCF, ODADAS, ODMH, PCSAs, private treatment providers, OACBHA, and OACCA.

To date the following activities are being completed:

- A research study is being designed to validate a Level of Care Placement Tool currently being used by the Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services (CCDCFS):
 - An analysis of placement disruptions has been undertaken by staff of CCDCFS.
 - OCF has obtained additional technical assistance from ODJFS' Office for Research Assessment and Accountability to further develop components of the study.
 - Funding has been allocated to CCDCFS to design training manuals and workshops needed for consistent application of the tool and improve inter-rater reliability factors. The manual has been completed and a training is being scheduled for selected PCSAs and treatment providers in July 2004.
 - Funding has been allocated to Cuyahoga CCDCFS to convert the tool to a more robust computer program capable of meeting the needs of additional counties.
 - A presentation of the Cuyahoga County tool was made at the PCSAO Directors' Meeting on December 4, 2003. Thereafter, PCSAO provided PCSAs with copies of the tool for further review.
- **Benchmarks 3 and 4- *These benchmarks are not scheduled to occur at this time.***

Action Step G:

Encourage the establishment of multi-disciplinary teams and other collaborative models for assessments, case planning, and the monitoring of service provision to address

issues that require involvement of multiple agencies (e.g. domestic violence, mental health, substance abuse, mental retardation/developmental disabilities).

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-** The following training occurred:

Forensic Interviewing

A five-day forensic interviewing by the Children's Trust was held for counties of the northeast training region of the OCWTP. The training was given an average rating of 4.8 out of 5 by participants.

Team Investigation Techniques

This training was hosted by the OCWTP, Northeast Regional Training Center, located at Summit County Children Services Board. The training received excellent ratings.

- **Benchmark 2-** This benchmark has been achieved, as reported in the first quarterly report.
- **Benchmark 3-** This benchmark has been achieved, as reported in the first quarterly report.
- **Benchmark 4-** This benchmark has been achieved, as reported in the first quarterly report. Additionally, a new Family Drug Court has been added in Logan County (Bellefontaine) with additional courts being explored by several counties.

Action Step H:

Through partnership with MR/DD, provide assistance to school districts desiring to become Community Alternative Funding System providers .

Status Report:

See Item 21, Action Step A.

Action Step I:

Work with the ODH to provide information to PCSAs regarding the utilization of public dental health services .

Status Report:

Refer to Item 22, Action Step B.

Action Step J:

Provide further training to therapists, caseworkers, adoptive and foster parents regarding the special behavioral healthcare needs of children in out-of-home care and in adoptive settings .

Status Report:

Refer to Item 23, Action Step B.

Action Step K:

Promote the provision of specialized programming for children of parents who are addicted to alcohol or other drugs.

Status Report:

Refer to Item 23, Action Step C.

SYSTEMIC FACTOR 7:

Foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment, and retention

Item 44. *The state has in place a process for ensuring the 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.*

Goal: *Increase the number of African-American families applying and being approved for adoption by 5% once the FACSIS data has been determined to be accurate.*

Action Step A:

Implement procedures to better assure FACSIS information regarding resource families is accurate and up-to-date.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-** This benchmark has been achieved as reported in the first quarterly report.
- **Benchmark 2, 3 and 4 -** The letter requesting public and private agencies to review the open adoption resources and provide updates was sent in January and was reported on during the first quarter. In March, 2004, a second FACSIS report of open adoptive family resources was prepared. The updated report reflected that 3,000 of the 8,000 PCSA open adoptive resources have been closed. The resources that were closed should have been closed several years earlier however the appropriate FACSIS event had not been entered. The FACSIS Help desk and the OCF Help desk continued to provide technical assistance to numerous agencies in closing the adoptive family resources.

The data from private agencies is entered by ODJFS staff. The one person who is responsible for entering this data has allotted an average of 2 hours per week to closing adoption resource homes. As of this date, 230 private agency adoptive resources have been closed. The backlogs for Family Adoption Services and Lutheran Children's Aid Family Services were completely processed. Approximately 1,950 private agencies' resources still need to be closed, including over 1,000 homes licensed by Lutheran Social Services. At the present rate, the goal of cleaning up the backlog (1,950) by the December deadline is foreseeable.

- **Benchmark 5-** A meeting has been scheduled with the Adoption Vendor on June 30, 2004 to discuss the methods for provision of quarterly reports to agencies

regarding missing demographic data, especially race, and track the entry to new data.

- **Benchmarks 6-8- *These benchmarks are not scheduled to occur at this time.***

Action Step B:

Provide market analysis to county agencies to be used to drive agency efforts to recruit minority applicants.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1, 2 and 3** - A Market analysis has been completed through a contract that the Adopt Cuyahoga program has with Results, a company that provides consultation on adoption marketing issues. The specific market analysis was completed on Cuyahoga County and it's six contiguous counties. Mary Brooks, the president of Results has provided the results of the Marketing Analysis to the seven counties and will be providing training with these counties regarding utilization of the information in direct mail correspondence and other recruitment efforts. The data company that completed the analysis is Claritas and the specific marketing segmentation used is Prizm NE (New Evolution.) As this contract was not directly through ODJFS, the department does not have ownership of this data. Currently ODJFS is reviewing how this data can be purchased or utilized with other counties.

ODJFS has entered into a quality assurance contract with Hornby Zeller Associates who will also be involved in developing profiles of which families adopt and setting the PIP Benchmark #3 "County Benchmarks for Recruitment of Minority Families." Preliminary reporting will be compiled by June 30, 2004; however, more detailed information will be completed by August 30, 2004.

- **Benchmarks 4-5- *These benchmarks are not scheduled to occur at this time.***

Action Step C:

Require each adoption agency to implement a Comprehensive Recruitment plan that includes community partnership efforts, use of market analysis information, and cultural competence training for staff.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-** OAC rule 5101:2-48-05, *Agency Adoption Policy, Recruitment Plan and Bi-annual Comprehensive Assessment Report (CSAR)*, became effective on September 1, 2003 and required public and private agencies submit a MEPA Compliance Self-Assessment Report (CSAR) to ODJFS by March 1, 2004 and every two years subsequent to that date. Question # 1 of the CSAR states:

“Describe how your agency implemented your recruitment plan during the previous SFY. Indicate your diligent efforts to recruit foster and adoptive parents that reflect the diverse population of children in foster care in the state.”

To date ODJFS has received 52 CSARs from public agencies and 46 from private agencies. Steps are being taken to obtain the remaining CSARs from agencies who did not comply with the OAC requirements.

This self assessment report was designed to be used during scheduled agency MEPA site visits as a tool, along with other documents and information, to identify (monitor) and address (compliance) any agency shortcomings relative to MEPA. On February 2, 2004 an information packet was sent out to the directors of all PCSAs, Private Child Placing Agencies (PCPAs,) and Private Noncustodial Agencies (PNAs) detailing the MEPA oversight and site visit plans. Included in this packet was the site visit schedule for all the PCSAs. These site visits commenced on March 2, 2004 for PCSAs and were to be completed by December 8, 2004. Just two weeks after the 2004 site visits began, all of the subsequent scheduled site visits were postponed due to revisions required by OCR and ACF documented in the Corrective Action and Resolution Plan (CARP.) Site visits will start anew beginning January 2005. The MEPA Self Assessment Forms will be discussed in detail with agencies at that time.

- **Benchmarks 2-3- *These benchmarks are not scheduled to occur at this time.***

Action Step D:

Assist counties to create self-sustaining recruitment and retention activities.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-** Ohio was awarded \$1.5 million in Adoption Incentive monies during FFY 2003. Over two-thirds of the available money was used to fund the AdoptOHIO Kids program. The AdoptOHIO Kids is a statewide program in which all 88 counties received allocations to work towards a total quality management program that enhances the recruitment and retention of adoptive resources. AdoptOHIO Kids goals included increasing the overall number of children adopted each year with a special emphasis on:
 - Finalization of children who meet the CFSR measure of 32% of the childrens finalizations being within 24 months from their initial custody, and
 - Finalization of children who are both ages ten or older and who have been in the custody of the agency for 24 months or longer.

ODJFS implemented a Faith Based Initiative that awarded \$300,000 to agencies to assist in their local efforts. Thirty-one agencies responded to ODJFS' December 9, 2003, invitation for agencies to apply for funds to develop or strengthen new initiatives with faith-based entities for the purpose of recruitment and retention of adoptive foster and resource families. On March 28, 2004, 31 agencies received notice of their allocation amounts. Agencies must spend these funds by August 30, 2004. A meeting was held on May 17, 2004 in which many of the faith-based coordinators were present to begin planning for the annual faith based event at the annual Adoption and Foster Care Conference. The consensus was to request Reverend W.C Martin to discuss faith-based partnerships with the Ohio's PCSAs and clergy. An additional meeting will be held by the end of August 2004 to review lessons learned for the SFY 04 Incentive Award period.

- **Benchmark 2** - ODJFS has initiated contact with FCCS regarding outcomes associated with their pilot project in which the agency significantly increased the number of older foster to adopt children finalized through offering monetary incentives directly to the foster parents and provision of post finalization adoption services. A draft survey was developed by the Quality Assurance vendor, Hornby Zeller Associates. The department anticipates that analysis of the survey will be completed by October 2004.

Action Step E:

Identify and promote best practices; examine policies and requirements; and identify ways of removing barriers for African Americans completing the home study process.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1-** ODJFS held a strategic recruitment planning session facilitated by John and Judy McKenzie, of Adopt US Kids on March 17 and March 18, 2004. ODJFS asked five counties to participate in the planning session: Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Montgomery, and Summit. The final stakeholder group included approximately 30 State and county administrators, supervisors, recruiters, front-line workers, private agencies and resource parents. Prior to the meeting, each county completed an assessment tool provided by AdoptUSKids, which includes Children's Bureau requirements for State recruitment plans and best practices. In addition, the format requests that each county identify its areas needing improvement and strengths in recruitment and retention. AdoptUSKids consultants consolidated the findings from the county assessments, which included goals, critical issues and strategies into one report.

Additionally in March 2004, ODJFS through Adopt US Kids, (Jeremy Manning) also provided training to several larger counties regarding the AdoptUS Kids Photo Listing website. Six PCSAs are currently registering children on the site. ODJFS has appointed an AdoptUS Kids coordinator who administers the PhotoListing web site registrations in Ohio.

- **Benchmarks 2-5-** These benchmarks are not scheduled to occur at this time.

Action Step F:

Develop the capacity of mental health providers that will understand adoption issues and provide support to finalized adoptive families, which will encourage African American adoptive families to refer others to become foster/adoptive families.

Status Report:

- **Benchmark 1 and 2** - Following the November 2003 training of mental health providers on adoption issues, ODJFS collaborated with Jefferson County Children Services to administer the first regional mental health training. Jefferson County Children Services was selected due to their ten years of experience in organizing an annual tri-state attachment and bonding conference. Not only did they have the experience in working with these adoptions related mental health issues, but they also had developed a local sponsoring base where the community business and organizations helped cover the expenses of the conferences. Because Jefferson County Children Services levy failed in 2004, Jefferson County Children Services was unable to adequately support the training and subsequently withdrew.

ODJFS then requested Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services (CCDCFS) to hold two regional mental health institutes for the northeastern counties. CCDCFS has submitted a proposal for the two mental health institutes. Institutes are scheduled to be held on July 9, 2004 and August 25, 2004. ODJFS has approved funding for the mental health institutes.
