

Ohio Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) Leadership Advisory Committee February 21, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Present: Director Kimberly Hall and Shancie Jenkins-Chief of Staff from ODJFS; Chelsea Cordonnier, Children’s Initiatives Coordinator, Marissa Weisel-Deputy Director Medicaid, Crystal Ward-Allen, Casey Family Programs; Angie Bergefurd, OMHAS; Nicole Caldwell, Guernsey County PCSA; Carla Carpenter, ODJFS; Crystal Williams, Project Fellow; Donna Clark, Seeds 4 Life; China Darrington, Parent; Amanda Davis, Foster Care Alumni; Melissa Flick, South-Central PCSA; Megan Garbe, Foster Caregiver; Julie Gilbert, Butler County PCSA; Jewell Good, Montgomery County PCSA; Patty Harrelson, Richland County PCSA; Nancy Harvey, Community Teaching Homes; Kim Hauck, DODD; Chad Hibbs, Ohio Family and Children First Council; Sarah Jones, Medicaid; Penny Jordan, Kinship caregiver; Matt Kresic, Home for Kids; AJ Lill, Erie County PCSA; Sharon Marconi, NYAP; Mark Mecum, Ohio Children’s Alliance; Sandy Oxley, ODH; Sean Reilly, UMCH-Central; Angela Sausser, PCSAO; Jeff Spears, DYS; Wendi Turner, OFCA; Tim Weitzel, Lorain County Domestic Relations Court; and Katie Zawisza, Lutheran Homes Society, Moira Weir, Ohio Job and Family Services Director’s Association (OJFSDA), Hamilton County JFS Director.

There were also resource members present from ODJFS including: Alicia Allen, Anna Wyss-Zilles, Sue Williams, Renee Lupi, Collen Tucker-Buck, and Lindsay Williams from Ohio Children’s Trust Fund.

Not Present: David Edelblute, Ohio Supreme Court; Karen Anderson, Cuyahoga County PCSA; John Rowan, Oakview Residential Center; Amy Amburn from The Institute for Human Services; Tequilla Washington, ODJFS, and Lakeisha Hilton, ODJFS.

Facilitator: Carla Carpenter, Deputy Director ODJFS

Scribe: Renee Lupi, CPS Policy Developer ODJFS

Welcome, Introductions, and Updates

- Carla Carpenter gave opening remarks and welcomed the committee members. This is the 4th meeting of this group.
- Since the committee was convened in November, the following has been accomplished:
 - A charter was drafted for the committee.
 - Subcommittees and workgroup have been established.
 - FFPSA webpage is live and updated regularly.
 - The committee has started to identify data needs.
 - Ohio Children’s Alliance and PCSAO have administered readiness assessment surveys for QRTP and prevention services. A process and framework for analyzing the data and outreach to agencies has been developed.
 - A template for the final product has been developed known as the road map.

- The overarching vision, mission, philosophy, and goals have been drafted and voted on.
- A governance and structure chart has been drafted to organize the roles and responsibilities of all functional groups within the committee.
- **Welcome special guests** Director Kimberly Hall, Chelsea Cordonnier, Shancie Jenkins joining the Leadership Advisory Committee to learn more about the work.
 - Director's remarks - She was delighted to attend the meeting and honored to have the opportunity to serve in this leadership role. She was impressed by everyone who has engaged in this very important work and looking forward to this partnership. Director Hall emphasized the importance of children services to the administration and ensured that this committee will have partnership from JFS leadership. She anticipates that there will be an effort by institutions within our state and beyond to understand this work at a more local level. In the weeks ahead, there will be a focus on the budget, but she hopes to get out and meet folks around the state. We will have Kristi Burre join ODJFS as Director of Child Welfare Transformation beginning in mid-March.
- **Review purposes and non-purpose of today's meeting:**
 - Provide an overview of the Family First model foster care licensing standards;
 - Review and finalize the Committee's vision, mission, philosophy and goals;
 - Establish framework for subcommittees and workgroups;
 - Opportunity for subcommittees to meet face to face to discuss critical elements as most discussions to date have been over the phone;
 - Non-purposes - speculation of final date for implementation and funding and resources to support transition to FFPSA. Director Hall-commented there has been an initial conversation across state departments regarding opportunities to partner on FFPSA implementation efforts at the cabinet level.
- **Review and Approve the last meeting minutes:** Minutes from last meeting needed a correction. Jeff Spears was marked both present and not present. Patty Harrelson made a motion to approve as corrected. Wendi Turner second. None opposed. The minutes will be finalized and posted to the website.

Updates:

1. **QRTP readiness assessment:** Mark Mecum - still not enough OMHAS and ODJFS licensed facilities that completed the survey. Received another 20 or so responses. New round of analysis is underway. Prevention Services assessment survey sent to a much broader audience. The period to respond has not closed. Responses are due by March 1. Results will be analyzed and then reported out. Angela from PCSAO reported that 140 responses were received so far. For the prevention services survey, there is no way to know how many responses should be received, as this survey has been distributed to a broader audience than the QRTP survey. QRTP survey will remain open if other entities wish to go back and respond. ODJFS and OMHAS continue to reach out to their licensed agencies to encourage them to respond to the survey.

2. **Leadership Committee Vision Statement:** Carla shared a recap from the last meeting regarding the brainstorming exercise to establish a FFPSA Leadership Advisory Committee vision statement. Crystal took the notes from this meeting and created several draft statements incorporating the brainstorming feedback from the committee. Crystal then administered a survey that allowed the committee members to vote on the vision, mission, philosophy, and goals of the group. Crystal presented the final votes for each statement back to the group. The group also discussed the governance structure of the committee and the functions of all subcommittees and workgroups.
3. **Communication Workgroup:** The Communications Workgroup hosted their first meeting to discuss a plan to create a robust bi-directional communication strategy. Crystal Williams and Wendi Turner were selected as co-leads for this group. This group is also brainstorming ways to encourage workgroups and subcommittees to communicate about what data is needed from families and youth to inform their work and what questions or opportunities are needed from the field to help inform FFPSA recommendations.
4. **Prevention Subcommittee - Framing a charge for prevention services -** Angela Sausser and Sue Williams will co-lead the Subcommittee. An initial call was held where the group drafted a proposed charge. Separate workgroups will be formed on; 1) In-home parenting, 2) mental health prevention and treatment, 3) substance abuse prevention and treatment, and 4) cross-system financing.

The group will also work on the definition of candidacy for foster care in relation to prevention services. The subcommittee will use outcomes from surveys and sister agency initiatives to build upon. This subcommittee will also work to align in-home parenting efforts with the existing work of the Ohio Children's Trust Fund.

5. **QRTP Subcommittee:** Colleen Tucker and Mark Mecum are the co-leads of this group. The charge was approved at the last meeting and recruitment of workgroup members is underway. A spreadsheet of members was distributed to all committee members. Workgroup members will continue to be added to ensure diverse representation. Mark stated CARF (an accrediting body) will be available as needed for questions. Potential deliverables of each of the workgroups to be discussed later.

Patty H. – There is a need to reach down to get line workers involved in this process. Additionally, judicial/court representatives are needed for the Court Oversight Workgroup. We will be partnering with the Supreme Court of Ohio's Subcommittee on Responding to Child, Abuse, Neglect and Dependency to jointly convene this workgroup.

6. **Model Foster Care licensing standards presentation: Tara Shook.** HHS released the model standards on 02/04/2019. A draft was supplied over the summer and public comments were received. 1,273 comments received. Ohio did supply comment. Many of the comments were in response to the provisions on vaccinations. From the initial draft to the final version,

there were very few changes, only some clarifications. There are eight major categories of standards -eligibility, emergency preparedness, health and safety, capacity, sleeping arrangements, transportation, training, and foster parent assurances. Please see the [Family First webpage for PowerPoint summary of the model standards](#).

- i) Next Steps: By January 1, 2020 Ohio needs to adopt the model standards or respond with our differences and justifications. Director Hall emphasized that stakeholder engagement is important on this topic-as someone in the audience mentioned, these should not be edicts, but rather, there should be room for discussion on how Ohio would like to proceed. The Director would like to see a multi-faceted approach. Wendi Turner is already planning regional forums with family and kinship caregiver groups and youth alumni in April and May 2019. This would be a good opportunity to gather feedback.

7. Governance and structure/charges:

- a. Crystal Williams presented the final results of a survey to establish the final vision, mission, and philosophy, and goal statements that were submitted to and voted on by the Committee. The group briefly discussed final results and all statements were approved.
- b. Crystal outlined the proposed [Leadership Committee Governance Structure](#) and gave a handout to the group to review. Crystal asked the group if the current structure captures all of the subcommittees that need to exist in order to meet all FFPSA requirements.
 - The group discussed a need to address the child fatality requirements of FFPSA. The act requires the state to specify how it is working to reduce child maltreatment fatalities. Executive cross-system group points out a need for key supports to combat the opiate problem.
 - Is the prevention track to keep kids from entering foster care or is it further upstream to educate, reduce, and prevent child maltreatment to reduce fatalities? The group discussed this topic impacts a lot of stakeholders in addition to this committee. Carla shared that it makes sense to address the issue within this committee given the FFPSA guidelines but there is other work going on outside of this group and we do not want to duplicate.
 - Kinship navigator will be working on a tight time frame and with laser focus.
 - Angela Sausser-PCSAO is convening a workgroup focused on recommendations for a tiered system of foster care, which will tie in with FFPSA efforts.
 - Carla mentioned that we could form a model licensing standard subcommittee out of this group and cross represent FFPSA with PCSAO members, Casey, and ODJFS. By June-July recommendation would have to be made so that the rule package could be started by policy. Original filed by January 2020 deadline and final filed by March 31, 2020. Perhaps, the group takes a similar approach with a subcommittee on family-based care (licensing group).

- Crystal Ward Allen mentioned that there is a gap in the subcommittees between prevention and QRTP. There is a need for some sort of family-based support. As a result, the group decided to create a Family-Based Care subcommittee to address work on the Model Licensing standards as well as additional family-based foster care options and supports for youth and foster caregivers. Interested parties to send an email to Crystal Williams.

8. **Preventive Services Requirements Overview:**

- a. Reviewed the charge document.
- b. Voted to approve it.
- c. Sue Williams and Angela Sausser co-chairs. First order of business to define candidate for foster care. The subcommittee will form workgroups on:
 - In-home parenting skill-based programs
 - Mental health, Prevention, and Treatment
 - Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment
 - Cross-system financing
- d. Compile subcommittee findings and recommendations for possible inclusion in the ODJFS Prevention Services Program, Ohio IV-E Plan.
- e. The Prevention Services subcommittee charge draft was voted on and approved by the Leadership group.

9. **Any other Feedback**

- a. **Additional Subcommittee** - Placement of children with parents in licensed substance use disorder treatment facilities needs deeper examination. Recommendation to include this work along with the focus on the model foster care licensing standards into the Family-Based Care Subcommittee. Child maltreatment fatalities should be a unique focus area. There is ongoing work currently in Ohio related to reduction of child abuse and neglect fatalities and near fatalities that we should consider building upon. Recommendation made to create a placeholder for a new Child Maltreatment Fatality Subcommittee, but allow the other subcommittees an opportunity to get further along with their work before launching an additional group.
- b. **Candidacy for Care** – Wendi shared that the topic of defining candidacy for foster care should be looked at by whole subcommittee. This will have to fit in to our current rule structure and there will be options for definitions for the group to vote on.
- c. **The Implementation Considerations** section at the bottom of the governance chart should be visited later. There is a need to add training, Technical Assistance, licensing, workforce development, and funding. May need a solid group to do this down the road who knows the science behind this type of work.

10. **Communications Resource Group follow up** - Wendi explained that communication should be bi-directional between subcommittees and the smaller workgroups. Key decisions: How the group will share/disseminate information? What's working and what's not? Who in

the community needs to be updated and identifying what needs communicated to them? There is also a need to develop key FFPSA talking points for the leaders within this group to share with stakeholders to limit miscommunications. [Casey Family Programs Family First Communications Toolkit](#) is available and Kikora Dorsey from Casey suggested the Communication group review it. There are templates available for FFPSA talking points.

11. Timeline-Key Tasks

- a. Our goal is to have preliminary workgroup recommendations by June.
- b. Regular meeting schedule was discussed to consider the subcommittee and workgroup meetings that will begin taking place. It was proposed that perhaps the larger group should meet every other month in person and touch bases via calls on off months. The goal is to allow groups to get started on their work so the committee plans to hold the March meeting by phone/webinar. This group will meet again in person in April.
- c. Use as a monthly report-out for subcommittees to provide updates on key tasks and to allow the committee to give feedback and suggestions on the subcommittee and workgroup work. There is a template for the monthly report.
- d. Meeting adjourned and the group broke into subcommittees. Prevention met for an hour and the QRTP subcommittee opted not to utilize this time to meet as a group.