

Ohio Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) Leadership Committee

December 5, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Present: Karen Anderson, Cuyahoga County PCSA; Nicole Caldwell, Guernsey County PCSA; Carla Carpenter, ODJFS; Donna Clark, Seeds 4 Life; China Darrington, Parent; Amanda Davis, Foster Care Alumni; David Edelblute, Ohio Supreme Court; 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; Joel Potts, OJFSDA; Sean Reilly, UMCH-Central; John Rowan, Oakview Residential Center; Angela Sausser, PCSAO; Jeff Spears, DYS; Wendi Turner, OFCA; Tim Weitzel, Lorain County Domestic Relations Court; and Katie Zawisza, Lutheran Homes Society. There were also resource members present from ODJFS, Institute for Human Services, Ohio Children's Trust Fund, and Casey Family Programs.

Not present: Angie Bergefurd, OhioMHAS; Kent Butler, Hocking Valley Residential Center

Facilitators: Kikora Dorsey, Holly Merz, Candice Ward

Scribe: Renee Lupi

Welcome, Introductions, and Updates

- Carla Carpenter gave opening remarks and welcomed committee members.
- Discussion of the overall purpose of the committee.
- Committee members and guests introduced themselves.
- Carla explained there were invited guests from several residential treatment centers this morning due to the interest in the work this committee is doing. The group also gained a few new members: John Rowan, Katie Zawisza, and Lindsay Williams.
- ODE-representative Brittany Miracle will join us next month.
- Candice from Casey Family Programs went over the group agreements: step up and step back, everyone contributes, responsible for your own experiences, withhold judgment, respectful listening and consideration, and strategic patience.
- Carla reported that ODJFS is working toward hiring a Project Manager for this endeavor through Foster America. There has been an individual identified. The approval of the contract for the position will need to go to controlling board in December and a possible start date would be January 2019.
- Mark reported the QRTP readiness assessment was sent out. The data is still being analyzed. They did not receive as many results as they hoped for. ODJFS is also analyzing SACWIS data. Ohio Children's Alliance, PCSAO and ODJFS are partnering on this effort.
- The preventive services assessment is 98% complete in design and will be going out soon.
- ODJFS has created a section on the ODJFS/OFC webpage for Family First. This is where we will post federal program instructions, the minutes, and other important milestones as we move through this work. The link will be sent out statewide and is listed in the Charter. A request was

made to post the roster with contact information for members. No concerns voiced during the meeting.

Leadership Committee Charter Development Discussion

Charter Presentation: Alicia Allen

- Effective 11/15/2018 through completion of this group's charge.
- It was suggested the charter needed a road map of deliverables. Therefore, updates were made to include this under the section on Purpose of the Leadership Advisory Committee. Additionally, changes were made to the Values and Ways of Work section including transparency language, remaining solution focused, being honest about challenges, and adding voting/nonvoting resource members.
- Responsibilities were updated to say:
 - Share the perspective of the agency you represent not your personal values.
 - Report back to stakeholders and peers.
 - Share feedback from the stakeholders with this committee.
 - Engage respective agencies at the state or local level.
 - Committee Chair ODJFS-Deputy Director
 - Telephone participation will be permitted in extenuating circumstances. Do not miss more than 2 consecutive meetings.
- Question posed whether to have a quorum or majority standard for voting?
 - The group decided a majority vote would be fine.
 - If an emergency vote was needed members could always be present by phone.
- Communications:
 - There shall be a repository for communication. The link to the OFC website is included in this section of the charter.

 - Work in tandem with ODJFS PFOF Advisory Board to assure in line with CFSR/CFSP and other strategic initiatives. Will also communicate with OYAB, HOPE etc.
- Subcommittees:
 - A family and youth voice should be present on each subcommittee.
 - Subcommittees shall be small in nature.

A motion to accept the charter was made by Patty Harrelson and seconded by China Darrington. A final version will be sent out to the group.

A motion was made to accept the minutes from the last meeting by Mark Mecum and it was seconded by Sandy Oxley from ODH.

There was also group discussion of a unified template for the development of subcommittee charges and a subcommittee report template for monthly progress reports by subcommittees to the Leadership group. This will help keep the Leadership Committee informed of the basic activities and progress of the subcommittees. The group determined to utilize both the subcommittee charge template and the monthly progress report template moving forward.

IV-E presentation: Alicia Allen (power point provided)

General funding information:

- The pyramid of funding was displayed. A basic description of each funding type and how they are used was provided.

IV-E History:

- Pre 1980- Foster care eligibility based on the child and a welfare grant was awarded to the family caring for them. This created foster care drift.
- Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980-federal program that subsidized foster care and AA. The goal was to reduce reliance on out of home care and encourage reunification and permanency planning.
- ASFA passed in 1997 and placed rigid requirements on foster care payments. This is when best interests and reasonable efforts became required plus the AFDC relatedness test had to be used.
- IV-E waiver project was discussed-15 counties. 22 years. \$72 million capitation-An up-front monthly payment is made to the county. They are able to use it creatively. The funds are flexible. The federal government has chosen to sunset this project in September 2019. Counties will have to return to traditional claiming. As agencies transition from receiving their payments at the beginning of each month to receiving reimbursements after costs have been paid out, they will experience two to three months without reimbursement. This will result in the delay of as much as \$18 million dollars in IV-E funding.

A group conversation was held about the waiver program. Patty Harrelson answered several other members' questions as she is the Director of a IV-E waiver county. Richland County uses the funds creatively and has been able to implement family team meetings for all cases and expand their kinship program.

Crystal Ward-Allen pointed out that because of the success of strategies waiver counties created like family team meetings and more expansive kinship supports, other non-waiver counties have duplicated these practices. Carla Carpenter stated one positive out of this situation is that FFPSA will offer funding for these efforts statewide. There has been recognition by the federal government this transition will create a financial gap for waiver counties. Assistance will take a congressional action. There have been various flexible fund proposals but none have passed thus far. Ohio did submit our kinship program to the California Clearinghouse to be considered for approval as an evidence-based practice.

There are 16,000 children in foster care in Ohio and 7,200 foster homes. Congregate care costs are high. Opiate and methamphetamine use has resulted in more placements. There has been a national uptick in placements due to substance abuse. FFPSA presents us with the opportunity to find alternatives to foster care for affected children.

FFPSA was signed into law on February 9, 2018. It amends IV-B and IV-E. Allows matching for preventative services to keep high risk youth in their homes.

Goals: remain safe in homes, least restrictive settings, and expectations of high standards of care.

Crystal Allen Ward noted Ohio is one of the best claimers of the federal IV-E dollars. We really know how to maximize our funds.

Angela Sausser verified 51/88 counties have levies. They rely on the majority of funds available at the local level to operate.

QRTP Presentation-Afternoon session-Carla Carpenter

Exceptions to the QRTP provision are: supervised IL settings, pregnant and parenting youth, sex trafficking, and family foster homes (no more than 6 children in placement - currently Ohio allows 5 with some exceptions for siblings or other special circumstances). Federal model foster care standards are in development currently, and states will have to explain any areas where the state is not aligned with federal standards.

New provisions:

IV-E maintenance payments for a child who is in agency custody but placed with a parent in a licensed substance abuse treatment facility. (ODJFS submitted a IV-E state plan amendment and is currently working on OAC revisions to accommodate this change.)

10/1/2019 is the earliest date for implementation of FFPSA. Ohio has decided to delay implementation. A readiness survey was sent out to providers. The data is being analyzed but it is going to take some time for Ohio's residential treatment programs to become compliant with the new law. The latest date for implementation is 10/1/2021. The prevention services portion will not be IV-E reimbursable until full implementation occurs, including QRTP provisions. QRTP's must follow: a trauma informed treatment model, provide family outreach and engagement, discharge planning with 6 months of after care, and be licensed and accredited. There must be an upfront assessment by an independent assessor within 30 days of placement and court review and approval within 60 days to assure the appropriateness of the placement. There are no time limits on how long the funding will continue so long as the placement continues to meet the youth's needs as demonstrated through ongoing assessment.

There must be a Nurse available 24/7. This does not have to be an employee. It could be a contractor.

At every permanency hearing the custodial agency will need to document the ongoing need for placement in QRTP. 30 days to transition if placement is deemed not appropriate.

Mark suggested a state approach rather than county approach to address the QRTP criteria and monitor compliance. Most in the room agreed this bill will force better practice in assessing the needs of our children in QRTPs and a harder look at permanency options.

Big picture:

Ohio currently has more than 2100 kids in congregate care, representing over 13% of the foster care population.

Once a child has been in congregate care there is a greater risk of re-entering care after exit. Teens-age 15 or older make up the majority of children in these facilities, with the second-highest age group being 12-14 years old.

Children and youth need families. Goals:

1. Come into compliance
2. Reduce reliance on congregate care.

A question was posed as to whether there was any cross-system data matching to assess how many youth that emancipate from residential care go on to the adult jail/prison system? Unknown in Ohio. Crystal stated there is some data on this from the west coast. The numbers support those in family homes, with similar needs, had far better outcomes than their peers in residential settings.

Angela asked whether the number of youth in congregate care includes out of state youth? Yes. Can we decipher what characteristics those children have in common and why they were placed out of state? May help with treatment models.

Breakout Session-Holly, Casey Family Programs

A reflection-what/so what/now what?

Break outs/ sharing through discussion

Action steps from the groups.

The group decided to consider the following four topic groupings for prospective subcommittees focused on Ohio's planning for the QRTP provisions:

1. Treatment models
2. Independent LOC Assessments
3. Licensing, Accreditation & Contracting
4. Court Oversight

Carla suggested possibly combining or sequencing the treatment and licensing topics.

Holly suggested-we use a design document - over all purpose: There needs to be a VISION statement in the design document.

Have a few standing sub-committees and then some pop-up or short- term groups as needed.

Add a data committee. The information learned will be resourced to the other sub-committees. Lindsay stated there is one for CQI. It is comprised of many of the experts the members of this group would select. No need to reinvent the wheel.

Most in the group wanted to have basic data first before we make some of these other decisions about sub-committees.

Homework/Action Steps:

1. Is there a group within this committee that would like to develop the VISION statement/communication? Carla, Angela, Patty, Mark, Crystal, China, and Lakeisha
2. What data do we want/need? ODJFS will work on some immediate data analysis and develop a data sub group later. Leadership Committee members can submit data needs/ideas through a survey that Patty Harrelson will establish.
3. Small group to develop prospective QRTP subcommittee charges using the agreed upon template and look at the sequencing of events? Nancy, Karen, Jewel, Sharon, Colleen, Julie, Lakeisha, Mark, Katie, Donna & Megan.