

Ohio Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) Leadership Committee

January 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Present: Karen Anderson, Cuyahoga County PCSA; Angie Bergefurd, OMHAS; Carla Carpenter, ODJFS; Crystal Williams, Project Fellow; 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; 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. There were also resource members present from ODJFS including: Alicia Allen, Anna Wyss-Zilles, Sue Williams, Renee Lupi, Collen-Tucker Buck, Tequilla Washington, Lakeisha Hilton, and Roger Ward. Amy Blackburn from The Institute for Human Services, and Lindsay Williams from Ohio Children's Trust Fund.

Not Present: Casey Family Programs staff members; Kent Butler, Hocking Valley Residential Center; Nicole Caldwell, Guernsey County Children Services; Penny Jordan, Kinship Caregiver; Jody Lynch, OMHAS; Brittany Miracle, ODE; Joel Potts, OJFSDA; John Rowan, Oakview Residential Center; Jeff Spears, DYS.

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.
- In response to feedback shared during the last meeting, we modified the seating arrangements and included color-coding on name tents to identify voting and non-voting members/subject matter experts.
- **New Project Manager:** Crystal Williams was introduced. She is a Fellow with Foster America. Foster America is a national organization that works to place professionals from a variety of backgrounds with child welfare organizations and governmental agencies. Crystal has child welfare experience as a foster youth advocate and Independent Living Assistant. She then pursued her MBA and lived and worked in India for one year through a different fellowship program. Crystal just returned from a week of training in Washington, D.C. with Foster America, and indicated that several of her colleagues commented on Ohio being ahead of the game on preparing for the implementation of FFPSA.
- **Purpose and Non-purposes of the meeting reviewed: See design document.** Governor DeWine has spotlighted Children and Families initiatives and we are excited about the prioritization being given to those we serve. This is a time of thoughtful and planful transition, as ODJFS will have a new Director, Kimberly Hall, who will begin February 1, 2019. Michael McCreight has been named Interim Director in the intervening weeks.

- **Review and Approve the last meeting minutes:** A motion was made to approve the minutes as written and second motion was made in support. A vote was held and the minutes from the December 5, 2018 meeting were unanimously approved. They will be posted to the website.

Updates:

1. **Data sharing and discovery:** Patty Harrelson and her staff provided a link to the group to submit data questions. There were multiple data requests included within the 9 responses received. The group consensus was to open the link back up for further submissions. Some of the data requested cannot be generated from SACWIS, so we will need to consider other ways to gather some data elements.
 - a. How many group homes with 6 or fewer beds? Answer was 114.
 - b. Could these potentially qualify as family foster homes in the future? Yes.
 - c. Working on breakdown geographically of where children are placed. How far from home county.
2. **Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) Readiness Assessment:**

Roger Ward, ODJFS presented. Ohio Children's Alliance and Public Children Services Association of Ohio worked with Mainspring Consulting to develop the readiness assessment survey. Roger is working to complete the data analysis from survey responses received from November to this point in time. Fourteen domains for readiness were identified (see handout). Roger proposed to cross-reference each of these domains with four provider types (Group Home, Children's Residential Center, Independent Living Facility, ICF/DD) and provide a Red/Yellow/Green rating of how ready each provider type as a group is to implement FFPSA. This will help us better identify provider types who may need additional assistance and support to bolster their readiness.

While completing a preliminary analysis of the data, it became apparent that many current IV-E eligible placement providers did not complete the survey, so the data is incomplete at this point. The plan is for ODJFS Licensing Specialists to reach out to residential agencies that have not completed the survey and request that they answer the survey questions, so the state has more complete data as to the agencies' levels of readiness. Staff will also be reaching out to OhioMHAS to request that they send the survey out to residential agencies who did not complete the survey and are licensed by OhioMHAS.

There was consensus that we should include out of state providers in this survey too. Court operated residential programs were also discussed. All four programs of this type that we know of did respond to the survey.

Suggestion to organize data by most common type of congregate care/group home setting. The question was asked: was there a testing period for the survey? Some of the questions may have been up to interpretation? Answer: Yes, there was testing completed. Oesterlen completed user testing and helped make needed revisions.

3. **Leadership Committee Vision Statement:** When the workgroup met, the team brainstormed several themes they wished to include in the statement: community, empowerment, strength-based, family-focused, connectedness, trust - families run to us instead of away from us.

A draft vision statement was developed to present to the full FFPSA Leadership Committee for discussion.

Draft Vision Statement:

Ohio's children and families are safe, strong, connected and empowered. This vision will be achieved through all child and family-serving partners working collaboratively to transform the way that we engage families and children. Ohio's Family First Prevention Services Act implementation roadmap will serve as a springboard for achieving this vision by prioritizing child safety and family-driven services.

The FFPSA Leadership Committee reviewed the proposed vision statement and had small group breakout discussions to generate additional ideas and themes for the vision statement. Five questions designed to help shape the vision of the group were discussed. Group members were asked to consider, "Five years in the future when FFPSA is fully implemented in Ohio..."

1. What were the critical elements that led to the success of FFPSA implementation?
2. What specific outcomes have improved as a result of your work?
3. What about the vision statement inspired you about the FFPSA work?
4. How is the family experience different now?
5. What were some of the main challenges in the journey?

From these questions, several key themes emerged and are listed below.

- **Children are safe**, there is a reduction of repeat abuse, fewer placements
- **Strong System collaboration** and alignment, thoughtful planning; More prevention options available before child welfare involvement; timely services
- **Resources available** to implement the work including monetary, technology, staff, etc.
- **Comprehensive, Trauma-Informed, Evidence-Based Service Continuum** with proven outcomes that includes prevention; wrap-around services
- **Dynamic Workforce Development** that values staff and ensures quality work.
- **Intentional Family Engagement** that elevates youth and family voice; there is less stigma attached to families who seek support; families build trust for services.

Crystal Williams took flip chart notes during the group activity and will review these notes and reword draft vision statement options to present to this group at the next meeting.

4. **Potential charges for QRTP subcommittee:** Lakeisha Hilton and Colleen Tucker convened a subcommittee to develop a working charge to address the QRTP provisions of FFPSA. The purpose of the QRTP subcommittee is to:
 - a. Evaluate provisions of Family First to ensure readiness for implementation of QRTP requirements within the act.
 - b. Solidify the recommendations to create an implementation plan to ensure statewide compliance with federal requirements.
 - c. Make recommendations to the leadership advisory committee on provisions to ensure QRTP readiness.
 - d. Establish workgroups to prioritize and sequence work within the following key areas:
 - Treatment Model Considerations
 - Independent Level of Care Assessment
 - Licensing & Contracting Considerations
 - Accreditation Steps/Requirements
 - QRTP Agency Readiness
 - Court Oversight

Representatives from the workgroups will elevate their recommendations to the QRTP Subcommittee, who will provide detailed recommendations to the Leadership Advisory Council. These recommendations will then be included in a comprehensive implementation plan that complies with federal requirements. The subcommittee will make sure there is diversity in function and geography at the table, and at least two subcommittee members will be on each workgroup to ensure communication transfer between workgroups and the subcommittee. The subcommittee nominated co-chairs: Colleen Tucker and Mark Mecum.

The subcommittee will meet monthly and will finalize workgroup membership by the first week in February. Workgroups will be responsible for:

- a. Estimating work effort in terms of number of in-person meetings, webinar or teleconferences;
- b. Setting priorities pertaining to each workgroup topic and reporting back to the subcommittee to ensure a comprehensive plan that aligns with priorities set by the advisory committee;
- c. Identifying challenges and key considerations as deliverables are defined to be consistent with the subcommittee's vision and implementation plan; and
- d. Keeping the subcommittee apprised of its recommendations to ensure inconsistencies and barriers are addressed timely.

David Edelblute suggested the Court Oversight Workgroup tap into representatives on the Supreme Court of Ohio Subcommittee on Responding to Child Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency, as that committee already has potential members who are engaged in improvements to child welfare and the court process.

Prevention Services Requirements Overview:

Alicia Allen provided an overview on the Prevention Services provisions of FFPSA. These provisions are intended to reduce entry of children into foster care and to reduce the trauma experienced when children are separated from their parents. States may decline to implement prevention services. If states opt in to prevention services, the requirements to draw down IV-E funding for the services are:

1. Eligibility: children who are at imminent risk of removal including disrupted adoptions, pregnant or parenting youth in foster care, parents and kin caregivers. There is no income test for eligibility. Services are limited to 12 months; however, they may be used multiple times. Services may start the day a child is determined to be a candidate or the day the pregnant or parenting youth is found in need. There is no federal definition of parenting/pregnant youth or candidate for foster care. States have the liberty to define these terms.
2. Prevention plan elements: A prevention plan must be created for each pregnant or parenting youth or candidate. The plan must include a prevention strategy and list of services to be provided. If the plan is for a pregnant or parenting youth it must also be included in youth's case plan and must describe the strategy for preventing the youth's child from entering foster care.
3. Services that may be reimbursed: mental health prevention and treatment, substance prevention and treatment, in home parent skills-based. The in-home services do not have to take place in the home. The services must be included in the state's IV-E plan. The services must be trauma-informed and evidence-based meeting standards of Promising, Supported, Well-Supported (at least 50% of offered services must be in this category to draw down federal funding).

The Federal Program Instruction on Prevention Services is PI 18-09 and was published on November 30, 2018. The PI includes an initial clearinghouse list. ABT Associates will maintain and update the list. To date, the only prevention services included are:

Mental health approved services:

Parent-Child Interaction Therapy
Trauma Focused-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
Multisystemic Therapy
Functional Family Therapy

Substance abuse approved services:

Motivational Interviewing
Multisystemic therapy,
Families Facing the Future
Methadone Maintenance Therapy

In-Home Parent Skill Based services:

Nurse-Family Partnership
Healthy Families America
Parents as Teachers

Additional State Requirements: State must submit a Prevention and Services Program Plan as part of the IV-E State Plan which will include details on how the program will be administered, how caseworkers will be trained, how outcomes will be tracked, how fidelity will be monitored, etc.

From the point our state implements the provisions of FFPSA through 2026, the reimbursement rate for prevention services is at 50%. Effective FFY 2027, the reimbursement rate is the state's FMAP rate which is typically around 63% for Ohio. States may also claim reimbursement for administration costs at a rate of 50%. This rate will continue even after 2026.

What's next:

Spring 2019 - Instructions for Clearinghouse.

Summer 2019 - Additional programs will be added. We previously submitted our state's Kinship Intervention for consideration by the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse.

Incorporation of the Prevention Services components into Ohio's Roadmap.

Roadmap Presentation & Discussion of Subcommittee Charges:

Following the last meeting, feedback was received that it would be helpful for the team to conceptualize the final product that the Leadership Advisory Committee is working toward. In response, ODJFS created a draft template for a Roadmap document that will be the final product of the FFPSA Leadership Advisory Committee. We will fill in the content of the Roadmap as detailed recommendations are developed. Carla walked through the draft template identifying various components of the Roadmap to be completed, including:

- Background information on the FFPSA Leadership Advisory Committee
- Context for FFPSA Planning Efforts in Ohio & Inter-connected Priorities (Title IV-E Waiver History, Differential Response, Child and Family Services Review Program Improvement Plan)
- Data examined in planning
- Comprehensive list of FFPSA Decisions & Key Implementation Considerations, including key decisions connected to QRTP implementation, prevention services implementation, kinship navigator services, child fatality reviews, model foster care licensing standards, and fiscal planning.

The group identified the need to include an additional topic in the roadmap related to the provisions of FFPSA on placements for children in care with parents who are receiving residential treatment for substance use disorder. A placeholder for this topic will be added to the roadmap.

Wendi from OFCA noted that if there is data we need to gather from families/foster caregivers they are going to do a FFPSA forum and can collect it for this group.

As timeframes connected to the implementation of key decisions on the roadmap are developed, we'll need to bear in mind that legislative, rule and SACWIS changes will likely be needed.

Motion to adopt the road map made by Patty and Karen. No opposing votes. The Implementation Roadmap template was adopted.

Following the roadmap discussion, the group circled back to review the QRTP subcommittee and workgroup structure proposed earlier. Motion to approve the planned subcommittee & workgroup structure. A vote was taken, and the proposed subcommittee and workgroups were approved.

There was also discussion on how to approach planning for the prevention services piece of the Act. There was a proposal to follow a similar process that was done for the QRTP subcommittee above -follow the same format and have a group of volunteers flesh out the charge and what sub-workgroups will be. Volunteers for the Prevention Services Subcommittee: Lindsay, Sue, Julie, Angie-OhioMHAS, Angela, Shaun, Wendi, Mark, Amanda, China, Chad and Megan. Organizers are Sue and Angela.

There was also discussion on the need for a dedicated workgroup on Stakeholder Engagement and Communications. Volunteers for this group include: Wendi, Julie, Patty, Lakeisha, China, Carla, Amanda, Dave, Colleen and Alicia.

Meeting adjourned.