

**Office for Children and Families
Executive Leadership Committee
Meeting Notes - January 15, 2003**

<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>
China Widener	X	Julie Mogavero	X
Barbara Riley	X	Jim Smith	
Rick Smith	X	Chip Spinning	
Michael Ring	X	Crystal Allen	X
Buzz Long	X	Terry Miller	X
Loretta Adams	X	Dean Sparks	X
Suzanne Alexander		Charles Ashmore	
Kim Newsome		Jim Beard	X
John Saros	X	Jim McCafferty	X
Rhonda Reagh	X	Suzanne Burke	X
Kevin Holt		Tom Schied	X

<u>OCF Staff:</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>OCF Staff</u>	<u>Present</u>
Terrie Hare		Sally Pedon	
Joan Van Hull	X	Dennis Blazey	X
Nancy DeRoberts	X	Ronald Browder	X
Evelyn Bissonnette	X	Jessie Tower	X
Candace Novak	X	Rich Bitonti	X

PIP:

Joan Van Hull indicated that a courtesy copy of the CFSR Final report was provided to the Department on 1/7/03. The Department has until 1/15/03 to submit factual errors to the final report to HHS. She announced that the PIP kick-off would occur at the Child Welfare Managers meeting on 1/16/03. The Department will be establishing five PIP Subcommittees to work on the PIP including: Adoption, Safety, Stability of Foster Care, Abuse and Neglect in Foster Care, and Behavioral Health Care. A notice from the TAMS will be sent this week to all PCSA Directors requesting county participation on the work groups. The Executive Summary of the CFSR Final Report was distributed to the ELC members.

Adoption Workgroup Update:

The following information was provided to the OCF ELC by Rhonda Abban, Adoption Section Chief, Office for Children and Families.

**TITLE IV-E ADOPTION ASSISTANCE/PASSS WORKGROUP MEETING MINUTES
January 9, 2003**

The first Title IV-E/PASSS workgroup was held on January 9, 2003. Drenda Lakin from the Spaulding National Resource Center was present to provide Technical Assistance.

Attendees: Franklin Co., Scioto Co., Allen Co., Hocking Co., Lorain Co., Tuscarawas Co., Hamilton

Co., PCSAO, Ohio Family Care Association (2 adoptive parents), ODJFS policy staff, ODJFS Legal staff, Drenda Lakin-National Resource Center for Special Needs Adoption

TITLE IV-E ADOPTION ASSISTANCE

Following were list of issues that were viewed as barriers to negotiation of subsidy

- Special needs definition lacks consistency among counties
- Consistent state wideness of program
- Financial support equal to special needs of child
- Lack of standardized negotiation process
- Limited county finances
- Interpretation of AA payment amount negotiation factors (i.e., lifestyle of the family, future education)
- Adoptive family's financial commitment
- Public agency's financial commitment
- Renegotiation process
- Needs of children are more challenging
- Exceptional cases require legal involvement and administrative time
- Agency philosophy for support of adoption
- State hearing decisions
- Increase financial commitment by the state (\$250)
- Discrepancy between AA payment amount and SAMS payment (state participation capped at \$250)
- Potential increase in non-IV-E eligible population due to 1996 ADC need standard and deprivation requirements
- Technical assistance to agencies on AA program requirements
- Lack of Medicaid service providers
- State legislature's understanding of financial issues
- De-link income eligibility requirement for SAMS

Dennis Blazey presented the fiscal picture.

Drenda had a different interpretation than previous interpretations from HHS regarding the inclusion of life style in the negotiation process. Drenda was also unsure of the federal; policies regarding the use of certain type of tools for subsidy negotiation. Rhonda will obtain the notes from the State Program Adoption Managers Meeting which will be held in Washington D.C., later this month to ascertain further interpretation from HHS.

The group requested to have data regarding geographical locations of State Hearings, types of hearing and outcomes.

They also requested to have a breakdown of services which are paid for under PASSS.

Next meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2003.

Comparison of Percentage of Accountability of Encumbered PASSS Funds for SFY 02

January 9, 2003

The following analysis of PASSS funds expenditures and release patterns outlines those agencies which appear to be managing the PASSS funds more effectively. PCSAs with 90 to 100 percent accountability of funds encumbered by their agency were viewed as approaching maximum usage of the PASSS funds. The percentage of accountability includes the amount invoiced through Fiscal and any amount released by the deadline in December, 2002, compared with the total amount of county encumbrance.

These agencies have effectively followed the ODJFS procedures including:

- Submitted PASSS applications to ODJFS to have monies encumbered,
- Invoiced for the amount encumbered, and/or
- Released funds which were not needed by the families by the ODJFS deadline.

If the percentage is between 101% and 110%, the agency has invoiced slightly over what had been encumbered; however, since PASSS is on a monthly cash basis, a small percentage of overspending is understandable because invoices for June are not paid until September.

County	% Accounted of Encumbrance
Geauga	102.2%
Huron	107.5%
Jefferson	97.9%
Medina	93.2%
Miami	104.9%
Monroe	100%
Paulding	100%
Warren	104.1%
Wayne	106.2%

A total of \$607,747.40 was left unspent by the metropolitan counties.

County	% Accounted of Encumbrance	Amount Unspent
Cuyahoga	66.4%	\$122,003.60
Franklin	55%	\$208,934.95
Hamilton	124.8%	(15,096.84)
Lucas	79.7%	\$84,933.89
Montgomery	49.4%	\$101,729.80

Summit	83.6%	\$90,145.16
Total		\$607,747.40

A total \$366,799.80 was left unspent by seven additional agencies:

County	% Accounted of Encumbrance	Amount Unspent
Athens	59.2%	\$62,733.25
Clark	78.3%	\$76,064.69
Fairfield	59.9%	\$49,980.25
Greene	55.2%	\$47,597.90
Portage	15.8%	\$34,114.43
Stark	70.9%	\$64,714.71
Trumbull	67.4%	\$31,594.59
Total		\$366,799.80

The total left unspent of the above 12 agencies is \$974,547.22.

This analysis may provide some direction as we view the SFY 03 encumbrances, patterns of invoicing and releasing of PASSS funds.

DART Presentation: Due to time constraints, the DART presentation was moved to the next meeting agenda.