

**Office for Children and Families
Executive Leadership Committee
Meeting Notes - March 19, 2003**

<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>
China Widener	X	Julie Mogavero	X
Barbara Riley	-	Jim Smith	X
Rick Smith	X	Chip Spinning	X
Michael Ring	X	Crystal Allen	X (+1 representative)
Buzz Long	X	Terry Miller	X
Loretta Adams	-	Dean Sparks	- (1 representative)
Suzanne Alexander	-	Charles Ashmore	-
Kim Newsome	-	Jim Beard	X
John Saros	X (+1 representative)	Jim McCafferty - (2 representatives)	
Rhonda Reagh	X	Suzanne Burke	-
Kevin Holt	X	Tom Schied	X
Bruce Anderson	X		

<u>OCF Staff:</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>OCF Staff</u>	<u>Present</u>
Terrie Hare	X	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	-

Budget:

- # APS mandatory language has been added back into the budget bill. While the mandatory language has been added, the appropriations have not been added. This means that county agencies will have to finance their APS programs either through their county consolidated funds or through other local dollars. The change in the language is the deletion of the “our responsibility to pay”.

- # Head Start and Child Care still consumes a lot of time and is receiving a majority of attention from members of the General Assembly. House Bill 40 rules regarding cost containment are in clearance and have been shared with the OJFSDA child care subcommittee. Please provide comments.

- # Federal Budget:
It is estimated that the work participation requirements in HR 4 will increase the demand for child care in Ohio by 16.96 million hours in Federal Fiscal Year 2004 and rising to 24.83 million hours in Federal Fiscal Year 2008. Expressed as consumers, this would be 8,152 new full year children in Federal Fiscal Year 2004 and 11,934 new full year children in Federal Fiscal Year 2008. The cost for this additional demand is forecast to be \$43.4 million in Federal Fiscal Year 2004 and \$63.55 million in Federal Fiscal Year 2008. These are high end estimates and should actually prove to be lower - though not materially lower. The additional child funding contained in HR 4 should bring Ohio between \$8 and \$16 million in new federal revenue annually. This comes as

we reduce eligibility and increase co-pays in order to reduce current enrollment by 18,000 children and constrain future growth.

- # Adoption budget changes include the following:
 1. Special Services Subsidy is being removed from law as there has not been any state money supporting the subsidy program in 15-20 years; the subsidy dollars came from the county allocation dollars. Participants raised concerns as to how families, not eligible for other subsidy programs, will now have access to Medicaid coverage. Many county agencies were using the Special Services Subsidy as the method for creating eligibility for Medicaid. Other concerns included: (1) language to grandfather in current population; (2) number of children that will lose/transfer coverage; (3) philosophy for doing this when the Department is unaware of the volume of the program.
 2. SAMS will no longer be available to children over the age of 18. PCSAs have been providing SAMS to 19/20 year olds and, on July 1, 2003, this activity will stop. The decision to do this was based on the ORC's definition of a child as being under the age of 18. Primary concern among participants revolved around the volume of this caseload and what happens, after July 1, 2003, to the current population age 19 and over receiving SAMS.
 3. PASSS services will still be provided although families will now be required to provide at least a 5% co-payment and the maximum amount per child/per year was reduced from \$15,000 to \$10,000.

To Do:

- # SAMS - OCF staff will have conversations with Legal, data and policy staff on the volume and impact of the SAMS program at the county level. The goal is to have a complete picture, analysis, of all pieces of this debate and to make an informed decision on how to proceed.
- # SSS - OCF staff will have conversations with Legal regarding the removal of the Special Services Subsidy and the impact of this at the local level.

AdoptOHIO Update:

- # Due to budget constraints, all general revenue fund dollars associated with the AdoptOHIO program are gone in SFY 04 and 05. This means that the AdoptOHIO program will have only TANF funding of \$2.5 million in SFY 04 and \$5 million in SFY 05.
- # The AdoptOHIO program has been restructured based on the Child and Family Services Review and the Adoption and Safe Families Act. Goals include to increase the number of children adopted, increase the timeliness with which children are placed, and to improve the quality of services.
- # To maximize usage of the TANF dollars and to meet the three goals stated above, it was recommended that the PCSAs focus on concurrent planning and the recruitment/retention of resource families for children who are permanently committed in FFYs 2002, 2003 and 2004. The recommended route for achieving this is to solicit bids through an RFP for one vendor capable of partnering with specified PCSAs in the development of regional community-based approaches for resource family recruitment.
- # Goals of the contract would include the development and management of a resource family recruitment program and targeting specific counties and specific groups of children to improve statewide data. Based on the AdoptOHIO 2002 Performance Report and the CFSR, in order to

effect change in the problem areas, dollars would be targeted to Cuyahoga, Franklin, Stark and Summit Counties.

Participants raised many concerns with this proposal including the following:

1. Limited dollars should focus on intervention with the courts.
2. Foster parent training must be merged with adoption approval.
3. Dollars should be used for systems - change in courts and hearing negotiations instead of recruitment.
4. Need understanding of fiscal piece and impact on vendor.
5. Dollars should be used to hire a magistrate in Cuyahoga and Franklin Counties to hear only PC cases.
6. Judicial delays.
7. Provide information on statewide and targeted problems, by county.
8. Set up RECLAIM type program for judges.

OCF staff will further research these issues and provide an update at the next OCF ELC meeting.

DART Placement Cube Analysis:

Due to limited time, OCF staff provided a brief overview and analysis of the Placement cube. They also provided a review of cubes currently in the testing phase and should be ready to be rolled out by mid-April or early May.

SACWIS:

The SACWIS bids are currently being reviewed by the Data Evaluation Team consisting of State and County MIS/IT staff and representatives from DAS. The Data Evaluation Team will be finished and a vendor chosen by mid April. Contracts will then be developed for the deliverables through DAS and ODJFS.

PIP:

OCF is currently undergoing the PIP development and modification process. Time lines for the Final Document include submission to HHS by April 8, 2003. Teams/Committees with Leads are working now to submit their changes to the PIP prior to this April 8th submission date.