

**Office for Children and Families
Executive Leadership Committee with Advocates
Meeting Notes - April 17, 2003**

<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>
China Widener	-	Julie Mogavero	X
Barbara Riley	X	Jim Smith	-
Rick Smith	X	Chip Spinning	X
Michael Ring	X	Crystal Allen	X
Buzz Long	-	Terry Miller	-
Loretta Adams	-	Dean Sparks	X
Suzanne Alexander	-	Charles Ashmore	-
Kim Newsome	-	Jim Beard	-
John Saros	X	Jim McCafferty	Jerry Blake
Rhonda Reagh	-	Suzanne Burke	-
Kevin Holt	-	Tom Schied	X
Bruce Anderson	X	Penny Wyman	X
Dot Erickson	X	Jackie Ashby	-
Lucy Cormier	X	Cheri Walter	-
Peg Arnold	X	Tom Swindel	Mary Kay Hawkins
Alicia Leatherman	-	Eileen Cooper Reed	Erin Joyce Brandt
Ryan Gies	X	Peg Burns	X
Jessie Cannon	-	Chris Stoneburner	X
Erika Taylor	-	Don Medd	X
Jann Heffner	X	Tom McIndoe	X
Barbara Haxton	-	Jackie Wilson	-
Nancy Neylor	X	Doug Stephens	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	-
Nancy DeRoberts	-	Ronald Browder	X
Evelyn Bissonnette	X	Jessie Tower	X
Candace Novak	X	Rich Bitonti	-
Kristin Gilbert	X		

Budget:

The State Child Protection Allocation was held harmless at SFY 2003 levels; there is no increase from SFY 2002 to SFY 2003. The SCPA contains the Foster Parent Training, APS, AdoptOHIO (GRF share). The House Introduced version did not contain GRF for APS; however the mandate language was restored. \$1.7 million was earmarked for APS from the county consolidated line for APS. The Independent Living match has gone into the child protection line item. There is a change in the foster parent training delivery as the budget is tight and we don't know if we can move forward as planned. If it stays we will have to revisit the stipend amount to fit what is available and we'll try to better revise estimates on the numbers of foster parents needing training and stipend amounts. The stipend may have

to be decreased from \$15 to \$12/hour. All will be asked to be involved in these revisions. The OCF staffing line item was cut; ½ of the funding is gone for SACWIS staff. The MIS budget was slashed \$5 million in SFY 2004 and \$16 million in SFY 2005. These dollars fund all MIS functions. Senate testimony begins May 1, 2003.

Child Care Cost Containment:

The Bureau is still doing monitoring and evaluation on a monthly basis to ensure accurate projections for SFY 2004 and 2005. Proposed child care cost containment rules have gone through the clearance process and comments have been received. The public hearing is scheduled for 4/24/04 at 10:00 a.m. in the RSOT Hearing Room. JCARR has not been scheduled but we are anticipating mid-May. A general letter to the parents will be sent by the end of April with information regarding the proposed changes. CDJFS' will send specific information to parents after the JCARR review. In addition, the OCF TLC Newsletter will be utilized to notify 13,000 certified home providers of the rule changes (after the JCARR review) and ODJFS will send a letter to all child care centers and Type A homes (after the JCARR review). The MTL #51 (rules) and MTL #52 (forms) have been released and will be mailed to every center by the end of April. Trainings are scheduled across Ohio (10-11 dates) and the MAPS software is being updated. The Resource and Referral RFP will be released on 4/25/03.

To Do:

1. OCF will follow up and provide information on the availability of the market rate surveys.

AdoptOHIO:

ODJFS lost \$757,000 in GRF funding for AdoptOHIO and this significantly reduces the availability of federal funds. Therefore, ODJFS has to restructure how funding will be provided to assist PCSAs in the provision of adoption services. The defined goals of the AdoptOHIO restructuring are to increase the overall number of adoptions with an emphasis on older and hard to place children, and to increase the timeliness of adoption finalizations to meet the CFSR goal. Strategically, ODJFS will provide public agencies flexible funds to strengthen the court system; recruitment activities; collaboration with private agencies; matching efforts; and systemic issues. The proposal is to provide incentive payments to PCSAs to increase the number of finalized adoptions; increase finalizations of children age 10 years and over who are in permanent custody for 2 or more years; and to increase the finalizations of children within 24 months from removal from the home. The division of available funds would be 1/3 to increase the total number of adoptions, 1/3 to increase the number of hard to place children and 1/3 to increase the number of children finalized within 24 months. The new AdoptOHIO program will be a statewide focus with all PCSAs eligible to receive incentive dollars. In addition, certain PCSAs which will have a greater impact on overall state numbers will receive a higher level of incentives. Four PCSAs finalized on 56% of children: Cuyahoga, Franklin, Lucas, and Montgomery. These will be the targeted PCSAs eligible for higher level of incentive dollars. The remaining 84 PCSAs finalized on 44% of the children. Targeted PCSAs will receive \$2.5 million in SFY 2004 and the remaining 84 PCSAs will receive \$1.5 million. The distribution of funds for SFY 2005 may increase as increased funds are available within TANF and additional PCSAs will be targeted. For example, by adding Hamilton, Stark and Summit County PCSAs, 69% of the children finalized are included. The funding methodology follows:

	Targeted PCSAs	84 PCSAs
--	----------------	----------

Increase Number of Adoptions	Each child beyond county baseline will receive \$6,000 per child. Baseline = the number of finalized adoptions during the previous FFY.	Each child beyond county baseline will receive \$4,000 per child. Baseline = the number of finalized adoptions during the previous FFY.
Increase Number of Hard to Place Children	Each child finalized who is age 10 or older and has been in PC for 2 or more years will receive \$2,500.	Each child finalized who is age 10 or older and has been in PC for 2 or more years will receive \$1,500.
Increase Number of Children Finalized in 24 Months	Each child finalized within 24 months will receive \$2,500 per child.	Each child finalized within 24 months will receive \$1,500 per child.

Public agencies will receive an advanced payment for adoption that will occur in SFY 2004, payments will be made semi-annually, and overpayments must be reconciled at the end of the FFY. This proposal emphasizes both waiting children and new children for CFSR measure, it provides statewide programming and target counties which will have a greater impact on the CFSR measures and overall statewide numbers, and will allow agency flexibility in spending.

Cuyahoga County and Franklin County raised many issues about this new AdoptOHIO restructuring.

To Do:

1. ODJFS will have further conversations with Cuyahoga and Franklin Counties regarding their concerns.
2. Any other county agency concerns should be forwarded to Michael Ring, OCF.