

**Office for Children and Families
Executive Leadership Committee
Meeting Notes – August 20, 2003**

Members	Present	Members	Present
China Widener	-	Julie Mogavero	X
Barbara Riley	X	Jim Smith	-
Rick Smith	-	Chip Spinning	X
Michael Ring	-	Crystal Allen	X
Buzz Long	-	Terry Miller	-
Loretta Adams	Judy Chavis	Dean Sparks	X
Suzanne Alexander	-	Mike Trivisonno	X
Kim Newsome	-	Jim Beard	-
John Saros	-	Jim McCafferty	-
Rhonda Reagh	X	Suzanne Burke	X
Kevin Holt	-	Tom Schied	X
Bruce Anderson	X		
OCF Staff:	Present	OCF Staff	Present
Terrie Hare	-	Sally Pedon	-
Joan Van Hull	X	Dennis Blazey	X
Nancy DeRoberts	X	Ronald Browder	X
Evelyn Bissonnette	-	Jessie Tower	-
Candace Novak	X		
Kristin Gilbert	-		
Linda Ciciretto	X		
Carrie Anthony	X		

Due Process and Child Welfare: Michael Ring updated the ELC on the progress of the ELC Screening Workgroup. The Workgroup had its first meeting on August 11, 2003, and discussed current screening practices and the upcoming Stage V CPOE Review of agencies' screening practices. The Workgroup's next meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2003, with the goal of having recommendations to the ELC by the first of 2004. Meeting notes from this Workgroup have been forwarded to all Directors, members of the ELC and they will be posted on the OCF internet site.

Randi Lewis provided handouts/information on due process. The due process issues affect us as a state regardless of whether or not we have a central registry; it does not change due process of central registry. ORC 2151.421 (H)(5), although not really clear, details what information can be provided to alleged perpetrators. Because of this we must be prepared for possible statutory changes or litigation. Other states provide all information, other than the name of the reporter and since Ohio's statute is so limiting, we will be challenged. The Directors questioned the role of the Risk Assessment in due process and stated that the RA was meant to be shared with the families and developed "in conjunction" with the families. Philosophically, we must determine our policy and then provide the appropriate training (in terms of filling out the RA) to caseworkers; with focus on the transfer of learning from the classroom to the practice field. The Directors agreed that they do not have a problem sharing the RAs with families and indicated that the size of the document lends itself to reader difficulty. While the RA pilot, currently being conducted, has reduced the size of the RA some Directors felt that it is still too cumbersome for families to understand and to support. In addition to the RA effort, the PIP focuses on the need for caseworker communication with families and the RA

is one tool for sharing this information is the RA. However we decide to pursue this issue, all must be consistent and confidentiality must be examined and protected.

Michael Ring related this discussion to the larger concern of what happens at the initial phone call into the county agency relating to due process and parents rights.

Randi Lewis requested county directors forward any examples/issues of this topic. Lucas County CSB offered "can we interview a child in a school without parental consent"?

TOPS:

TOPS was suspended due to funding mechanisms. Alphrena Prince provided to PCSAO TOPS specific data related to the number of child welfare staff involved in the TOPS program, the dollars associated with each student and the institution information. TOPS was suspended because the Board of Regents state subsidy could not longer be claimed as a match. State universities were claiming both which was greater than the cost of tuition. We can pay tuition and we use state match; however, this violates federal law. We need nonfederal share for tuition and there are now issues with the donation of match under the federal regulations. In order to have TOPS, county agencies must use the tuition reimbursement program, at a 67% cost to the county agencies. ODJFS will compensate the funding mechanism at state level and all county agencies will enter county code per worker per program area. ODJFS will pass through federal reimbursement and withhold the 67% from the SCPA. County Directors raised the issue of those counties unable to afford the 67% and, as of now, there is no solution. County Directors also raised the following questions:

1. What about using OCWTP?
2. Can they create a rotary account at the local level where anybody can donate? Are there potential audit issues?

The first rule draft of the Tuition Reimbursement Program will be released by the end of the week.

To Do: OCF will send the first rule draft notice to all 88 county directors and ELC.

DART:

Gwen Harris worked with MIS on a response to county complaints that DART users were being "kicked-off" DART. A handout was provided that detailed the following analysis:

"The main problem we have with DART and other projects is that a server process stops responding. This process is used to run reports. When this process stops responding, we try to restart it. Sometimes it doesn't restart and we are forced to reboot the server. This usually takes 5 minutes and would disconnect any user currently on the system. The solution from COGNOS is to upgrade to its latest version of the product. We have purchased additional hardware that will allow us to upgrade within the next two weeks. We have been working with our Bureau of Network Support to install the new hardware that will enable us to upgrade. Users of the system have been instructed to email the Decision Support mailbox to report any issues with the system, including access problems. This is mentioned in the email we send when notifying users of their granted access to the system. Our log is dependent upon users notifying us via Decision Support. We also track incidents of downtime when we experience problems that have not been reported by other users. Data:

Total DART user errors: 5

Acrobat errors :	3
Logon/Access:	19
Other questions:	24
Reports of system down:	4

Air Center Power Outage: 6/26, 7/8, 7/17, 8/14"

SACWIS:

We are moving towards the SACWIS contract. The final phase of the selection process will be completed by the end of August and in early September; we will send the packet to HHS for approval. HHS will have 60 days to review the packet and, once approved, we can begin the contracting process with DAS. Our goal is to have a purchase order by October 2nd and to have a contract kick-off in early November. We are still working on space expansion at the Air Center to accommodate SACWIS staff. We have secured a test lab and we are hiring staff. The contract is through 54 months, including 12 months mandatory post implementation training.

We began SIS implementation in June with a pilot in Madison County. We hit the 7th county implementation and learned of problems. The implementation was delayed to research the problems, including the recoding of the application and the fact that the server was not robust enough to support the current number of users. The recoding has finished (BUILD 67) and built into the 7 counties and they have seen significant increase in performance. They are still seeing a lag in performance around 1-3 in the afternoon and this is a network issue. We have received the new server and are working with the configuration of the server and moving the application to the new server. New SIS implementation should resume the second week in September. We are focusing on good, clean data in SIS to improve the SACWIS conversion. As for non-networked PCSAs, we are still urging them to use the network. We are down to detailed negotiations (specifically Lorain and Franklin Counties).

AA:

ODJFS will not appeal the Lake County AA case as we would get a horrible statement of facts. The new AA rules should tighten this for us and the public hearing for the new rules is scheduled for September 8, 2003. County input would be appreciated.

To Do: OCF will email Public Hearing information to all PCSAs.

The Adoption Workgroup is continuing their analysis of this situation.

ELC Composition:

OCF will propose to the General Assembly, members of the ELC, and members of the Day Care Advisory Council that the Day Care Advisory Council be seen as a Child Care ELC. The recommendation will go before the Sunset Review Committee; Barbara Riley is scheduled to testify. The new Child Care ELC will represent county interests versus provider interests, will increase by 4 the number of county agencies and we seek diversity for membership. Three county agencies volunteered to join the new Child Care ELC: Hamilton, Licking, and Franklin.

PIP:

We have been seeking feedback from HHS and receiving technical assistance from two national resource centers on the compilation of our PIP. All Directors will receive a copy of the PIP for comments. The clearance for the PIP will be short as the PIP is due to HHS by September 15.