



Department of
Job and Family Services

John R. Kasich, Governor
Michael B. Colbert, Director

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TO: PCSA Directors and SACWIS Super Users

FROM: Jennifer R. Justice, Deputy Director
Office of Families and Children

SUBJECT: SACWIS Update

SACWIS Upgrade Transition on Memorial Day Weekend ~ A critical target date has been established to transition to the new SACWIS development environment over the Memorial Day weekend, May 25th through May 29th. ***This means SACWIS will be in “read only” mode during the long weekend.*** We realize this is an inconvenience, but hope to impact the fewest number of caseworkers. While some transition issues are expected, state staff will be available to resolve issues quickly and reduce local work disruptions. We appreciate your support/patience. If you have questions, please contact Iroabuchi Arum and/or the SACWIS Help Desk.

Court Module/Living Arrangement Changes & 2/2/12 Webinar ~ Approximately 13 counties (Muskingum, Montgomery, Summit, Perry, Lucas, Franklin, Hamilton, Greene, Cuyahoga, Lorain, Portage, Stark and Richland) participated in recent SACWIS testing to review Court / Living Arrangement modifications anticipated in the February 9th deployment of Build 1.117. These changes are critical to support ProtectOHIO as well as those counties who did not want to enter initial removal records and/or register kin as formal SACWIS providers for non custody youth. Based upon feedback from counties, additional follow-up will occur to address “reasons for living arrangement” as well as concerns regarding automatic Safety Plans. A “Living Arrangement/Court Changes” webinar is scheduled for February 2nd from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/548858810>. Thank you for your continued partnership to improve SACWIS and ensure critical information is recorded consistently.

Services Review Functionality and Pending Procedure Letter ~ Changes to ensure “unlinked” or “never linked” services pull into SACWIS case review functionality were incorporated into Build 1.116 in early January 2012. These enhancements improved the case review functionality to ease data entry while ensuring consistency with state/federal laws. Many counties have actively participated in multiple design and testing sessions to ensure service changes are made to not only improve availability of required information, but reduce/simplify work load. Entering services and linking them to case plans is a critical aspect of assessing the impact of child welfare strategies to expected safety, permanency and well being outcomes. Additional flexibility to expand roles and apply services to multiple members was implemented to reduce data entry burden on caseworkers. Services information is also critical to understand the total cost of care, document reasonable efforts and comply with state and federal laws. We realize counties have some apprehension about documenting services in SACWIS and many are at different stages of readiness. The Policy team is partnering with

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SACWIS staff and counties to review the anticipated workload for “linking” and/or “ending” services. A procedure letter will be released soon on this topic. We are currently targeting a June/July completion date for counties to ensure services are linked and/or ended, but would like your feedback/help. If you need assistance with this functionality, please contact the SACWIS Help Desk.

A Note on Repeat Maltreatment/Recurrence ~ We need your help in reviewing and reducing Ohio’s Repeat Maltreatment/Recurrence rate. We are close, but have not yet met the national standard. We are at risk of financial penalties through the federal Child Family Services Review Performance Improvement Process if we are unable to improve performance. We want to ensure all incidents of maltreatment are actual new incidents (not instances of duplicate data entry for the same incident). We will be looking at recurrence in more detail to understand trends/potential factors and asking for your review/input. It is also important to note, SACWIS data will increasingly be utilized for assessing trends and outcome performance. *Thank you to those counties who continue to focus on data quality and performance improvement. We appreciate your efforts.*

Business Intelligence Channel “BIC” & Results Oriented Management “ROM” ~ The SACWIS team continues to work on fixing issues identified in the initial ROM training sessions. The majority of the issues that impacted multiple ROM reports are now fixed in ROM Production (visitation report issues, management level inaccuracies). As progress continues, the team hopes to resume ROM training sessions within the next several months. County testers are encouraged to continue reviewing reports/providing feedback. Kansas University is also in the process of upgrading ROM to incorporate new federal visitation standards into the visitation report(s). Stay tuned!

Private Agency Roll Out ~ Initial feedback from private agencies has largely been supportive and helpful as we eagerly anticipate Phase 1 of the Private Agency Roll Out (currently targeted for March 2012). Thirteen private agency procedural videos have been posted on the SACWIS training page, <http://jfs.ohio.gov/sacwis/training.stm>. An initial overview webinar was held on January 10, 2012. An additional webinar is scheduled for February 10th from 10:00 to noon for private agency staff who will access SACWIS. The initial phase of Private Agency Implementation targets foster and/or adoptive training data entry, foster parent stipend and allowance payments, and updating the acceptance characteristics and placement criteria for foster and adoptive homes.

CRIS – E Interface ~ Initial requirements are complete and the team is moving forward with development work to ensure CRIS-E information is easily exchanged for child only IV-E custody and Adoption Assistance youth. Continued discussion with counties and state and federal TANF staff is underway to explore additional concerns expressed by PCSAs who want information exchanged during the Investigation/Child Protection phase of case work activities.

SACWIS Statewide User Group Feedback ~ Approximately 30 counties provided feedback to the informal e-mail request on ways to improve SACWIS User Group meetings. Counties overwhelmingly voiced a preference for onsite Columbus meetings, while many also

appreciated options to participate via webinar and/or video conferences. While a few counties recognized the need for focus groups, most felt User Group meetings need to continue to ensure county review of anticipated functionality as well as information exchange/relationship building activities to reinforce our critical partnership. The next SACWIS User Group Meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 27th from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. via three attendance options (in person, video conference or webinar). Before February 23rd, requests for reservations can be sent to gaye.crawford@jfs.ohio.gov.

NCANDS Submission~ In late 2011 SACWIS staff re-coded all of the mapping for the NCANDS data submission, which was formally submitted on January 31st. SACWIS staff members are contacting county partners to verify identified data abnormalities and complete any needed data corrections. The team is also working within the application to reduce the likelihood of potential errors.

County Onsite SACWIS Report Follow-Up Discussions ~ OIS and SACWIS staff continue to meet with county agencies to discuss performance and report needs. An initial discussion with Montgomery County occurred in December. Upcoming meetings are scheduled with Richland, Portage, Summit and Cuyahoga during the week of February 6th. *Thank you to state and local staff who continue to share honest dialogue about mutual needs and accomplishments.*