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OFFICE OF FAMILIES & CHILDREN

Welcome to the July 2021 First Friday Bulletin!

A Message from OFC Deputy Director Jeff Van Deusen



Jeff Van Deusen

As a new fiscal year begins, Ohio's health orders have been lifted. And as we continue to work our way out of this pandemic, our children services workforce continues to focus on the health and safety of children and their families in innovative ways. We learned a lot during 2020 and 2021. We will continue to value the ability to connect with friends, families, and co-workers in person, through communication, and multiple media resources. We've also grown in the ability to stay connected with our sister agencies and community partners. We are committed to continuing to work together to improve systems and processes collaboratively by utilizing the best

resources we have, which is YOU!

Our agency is in the process of finalizing plans for the work model moving forward. At this time, we continue to work remotely.

Family First Updates

On March 10, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) announced that the Case Western Reserve University Center for Innovative Practices at the Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education, a part of the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, had been awarded a two-year, \$3.6 million contract to coordinate a new statewide Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Center of Excellence (COE).

The COE is primarily responsible for building and sustaining a standardized assessment process, evaluating the effectiveness of services, and expanding service and care coordination capacity for children with complex behavioral health needs and their families. The center also provides orientation, training, coaching, mentoring, and other functions/supports as needed to support Ohio's statewide child caring provider network. OhioMHAS partnered with Governor Mike DeWine's Children's Initiative, the Ohio Departments of Medicaid, Job and Family Services, Health, Youth Services, Developmental Disabilities, and Ohio Family and Children First on the new center.

At present, the COE is working with state partner agencies to support the addition and/or expansion, implementation, sustainability, and/or monitoring and evaluation of the following services/processes, including expansion of access through use of telehealth:

- High Fidelity Wraparound
- Functional Family Therapy
- Multisystemic Therapy
- Healthy Families America
- Parents as Teachers
- Ohio START
- Mobile Response and Stabilization Service
- Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment

The new COE will bolster Ohio's ongoing system transformation and improvement efforts, which to date have included: expanding the behavioral health continuum of care to better serve youth and families; implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act (Family First), which includes the development of a tiered treatment foster care model and statewide foster and adoptive parent recruitment efforts; and development of OhioRISE (Resilience through Integrated Systems and Excellence) – a specialized managed care organization with expertise in providing services for the most complex multisystem youth.

Among the services that Ohio is requested approval in its Title IV-E Prevention Services Plan include, Functional Family Therapy (FFT), Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST), Healthy Families America, Parents as Teachers, and OhioSTART. Current efforts are underway to build capacity for Multisystemic Therapy and Functional Family Therapy in the Family First pilot counties. In addition to targeted overviews and technical assistance to sites, the COE is implementing a number of incentives to support provider agency uptake of these evidence-based services.

These incentives include:

1. Utilizing COE funds to offset the first-year training and consultation fees for 5 new FFT teams and 5 new MST teams.
2. Implementation grants to offset initial agency startup costs (FY22).
3. Payment for MST and FFT services for youth with open cases and who are not eligible for Medicaid.
4. Paying for MST Therapist Adherence Measure (TAM-R) reporting through the MST Institute.

These efforts resulted in significant agency interest for both FFT and MST where these services do not currently exist: Lucas (FFT), Fairfield (MST, FFT), Licking (MST; FFT), Knox (MST), Butler (MST; FFT), and Stark (FFT).

The process to become a fully functioning team does take time (three to four months) and includes site readiness assessment by the FFT or MST; hiring and training staff (licensed or license-eligible), establishing referral flows, building community awareness, and other implementation and readiness activities. Additionally, Ohio is working with the COE to address statewide expansion as we move toward full implementation in October 2021.

Children Services Transformation Updates

As a part of the Children Services Transformation (CST) Governance Structure, the first CST Update meeting has been scheduled for 2 p.m. July 20. These meetings are open to the public and are held every four months to provide updates on progress, gather input, and discuss other related initiatives occurring within the state that impacts the children services system. Please see the attached flyer for more information, including the link to attend.

Both the **Resource Family Bill of Rights** and the **Foster Youth Bill of Rights** rules have been placed on the Rule Review site.

New and Improved Automated Systems Functionality

What is RTIS?

RTIS stands for Residential Treatment Information System. ODJFS, in partnership with OhioMHAS and our public and private agencies, is committed to designing, developing, and implementing a comprehensive case management system that will assist residential treatment staff in meeting and managing their compliance with the Discharge Planning and Aftercare Support Qualified Residential Treatment Program requirements. RTIS is a sub-system of Ohio SACWIS Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System.

What are the benefits of RTIS?

- RTIS was designed to have one system for agencies to record the QRTP Requirements for discharge planning, family-based aftercare services, and monthly contacts once the youth discharges.
- RTIS and SACWIS share a database to ensure the data for children in custody of a Title IV-E Agency is always in sync. This means RTIS will have more comprehensive medical, demographic, and educational information for children who are placed and in the custody of a Title IV-E Agency.
- RTIS will ensure there is accurate and consistent documentation for youth who are placed into a residential setting.
- RTIS ensures that information from the youth's prior residential QRTP placements is available to the next placement, which prevents youth from repeating their stories and ensures continuity of care.
- Agencies will be aware of the previous discharge planning efforts conducted with a youth to assist the team in development of the current treatment plan.
- Provides an accurate account of all youth placed in a residential setting in Ohio by either a Title IV-E Agency or the youth's parent(s)/guardian(s) at any point in time.

What information is required to be entered into RTIS?

- Residential Agencies must ensure all youth placed within their setting, regardless of custody status, are listed. If the youth is in the custody of a Title IV-E Agency, the Title IV-E Agency will record the placement in Ohio SACWIS and then it will display in RTIS.

- Residential Agencies must document discharge planning activities, including the required monthly meetings to discuss the youth's discharge plan.

Residential Agencies must document Aftercare Support Activities provided for a minimum six months post-discharge and any aftercare services the youth and/or family is referred to and/or receives.

Kinship Support Program (KSP) in Ohio SACWIS

Since the program inception, 3,066 distinct kinship caregivers have received a KSP payment for 4,548 distinct children. ODJFS has issued \$4,153,134 to the KSP-eligible kinship caregivers. In Ohio SACWIS Build Release 4.13, the second phase of KSP functionality will be deployed. This will include new screens to monitor payment exceptions, KSP payments, and warrants issued to kinship caregivers. The system will be able to support adjustments being made to payments for when placement, kinship assessment, or other data changes within the system. KSP payments will be created daily and sent to OAKS on the 10th of each month with a mechanism to expedite these payments during emergencies. Agencies will be able to see the status of KSP warrants and monitor if a provider owes back funds. A webinar was held on June 2 and posted to the SACWIS Knowledge Base.

Prevention Services in Ohio SACWIS

Ohio SACWIS will be deploying Prevention Services updates over the course of the next four releases. Ohio SACWIS Build Release 4.13 will contain the Evidence-based Practice Service Referral and ongoing Prevention Services Eligibility records. The releases after Build 4.13 will contain Prevention Services Reimbursability, new reimbursement logic, and updates to payment processing and federal reporting. These changes will be discussed in several soon-to-be-scheduled meeting/presentations/webinars. Upcoming Prevention Services Pilot County Biweekly Meeting will be held to review the funding flows, as well as an Ohio START presentation, where we will be reviewing Prevention Services flows/changes and discussing in depth the START funding flow, and upcoming trainings in August and September with IV-E policy.

If you have any questions about the upcoming system changes, please contact the SACWIS Help Desk at sacwis_help_desk@jfs.ohio.gov.

ODAPS Upgrade

The Ohio Database for Adult Protective Services (ODAPS) Case Management System was, beginning a few years ago, implemented on a Salesforce Classic platform. The Bureau of Automated Systems is currently collaborating with the Office of Information Systems Team on a new initiative to upgrade ODAPS infrastructure to a Lightning platform.

Lightning offers the ODAPS Integrated Project Team (IPT) several new features and capabilities that Classic currently doesn't have. In addition to significantly enhancing the overall user experience, Lightning would facilitate improved application performance and continued supportability of the ODAPS application with minimal service interruption. Planned enhancements to the system will require shorter completion timeframes, as there will be faster and easier application development and the Lightning AppExchange ecosystem is better equipped for ready-to-install solutions. Lightning's tools will allow the IPT to quickly build and launch apps and services with simple clicks that won't require complicated code

changes. The ODAPS Referral form and the entire user experience will be quicker, more streamlined, and easier to maintain. Lightning also offers access to Kanban-type list views that allow for status updates with drag-and-drop functionality.

The Lightning Upgrade Project will be implemented in two phases:

- a. **Phase 1 (Analysis)** – Review pertinent documents and conduct necessary research to gather requirements, assess impact to the associated sections of the software, and plan code conversion to ensure a successful migration experience.
- b. **Phase 2 (Implementation)** – Implement changes as agreed upon or finalized during the Analysis Phase.

The ODAPS IPT hopes to fully realize this Lightning upgrade by summer 2022.

Title IV-E Policy

Peer-to-Peer Adoption Assistance Community Resource Series Information Sessions

In July 2019, the Office of Families and Children (OFC) hosted its first installation of Peer-to-Peer training sessions to assist counties with best-practice standards when negotiating adoption assistance subsidies. The one-day peer-to-peer training event included topics centered around adoption subsidy negotiations, with breakout sessions on negotiation tools, the state hearing and mediation preparation process, and preparing adoptive parents for negotiation.

With the overwhelming positive response to the first Peer-to-Peer series, we have created a second series. This series will consist of four one-hour sessions and provide public children services agency staff information about available community resources from several state agencies to include State Hearings, OFC/Ohio Department of Medicaid, Ohio Association of County Board of Developmental Disabilities, and Ohio Family and Children First Council. As an agency and prospective adoptive family come together to plan for the needs of a child, it is important to know and understand what resources, services, or programs are available in Ohio. Registration information for the live event will be forthcoming.

Adoption Assistance Peer-to-Peer Information Sessions (four-week series):

July 6 – State Hearings 10-11 a.m.

July 13 – OFC/Ohio Department of Medicaid 10-11 a.m.

July 20 – Ohio Association of County Board of Developmental Disabilities 10-11 a.m.

August 11 – Family and Children First Council 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Disclaimer: These webinars will be recorded. To prevent any inadvertent disclosures of recipient information, specific case questions will not be addressed by facilitators during the live event.

30 Days to Family® Ohio

First, 30 Days to Family® Ohio is expanding into new counties! 30 Days is a specialist short-term intervention that utilizes the strategies of diligent searching and relentless engagement to identify potential connections, support, and kinship caregiving options for children at risk of or currently placed in foster care. 30 Days' expanded eligibility has advanced our practice to serving children not just at the time of entering foster care. 30 Days is now serving children in prevention and in ongoing/permanent custody. Please check out the [Kinnect 30 Days to Family® website](#) for a 90-second overview video and additional program information. If you are interested in 30 Days to Family® program implementation in the next state biennium, please contact Stephanie Bealeal, program director, 30 Days to Family® Ohio, at stephanie.bealeal@kinnectohio.org.

Also, 30 Days to Family® is embarking on a two-year pilot with Ohio START. The goal is to increase family search and engagement strategies in Ohio START cases to prevent or decrease the length of time children are in care to safely support Ohio START Family First Prevention Services case eligibility. The pilot strives to enhance the family centered recovery model through strengthening each family's natural support network, and ensuring families stay connected and together throughout their healing journey.

As parents begin engaging in recovery services established with their Ohio START caseworkers, behavioral health providers, and family peer mentors, additional child-specific needs may arise. Access to childcare while the parent is attending appointments, transportation to parent and child services, respite care during the recovery process, and many other stabilizing supports can be provided through a natural support network. Many families impacted by substance-use disorders may find that their natural support network may change as they embark on their recovery journey, and new supports may be needed to engage in their commitment to sobriety and safety for their children. The 30 Days to Family® specialist will locate an increased number of family and kinship connections and engage those connections in thoughtful, specialized planning. They will develop a robust Roadmap to Family® that outlines how each connection will partner with the family to support their recovery and keep children safe, stable, and within their community.

COA Reimbursement Available to PCSAs

Did you know ODJFS can reimburse public children services agencies for up to 50 percent of their Council on Accreditation (COA) costs? To request reimbursement, simply send an invoice and all supporting documentation to Alicia Allen at Alicia.Allen@jfs.ohio.gov. Information about the COA standards and process is available [here](#).

Rule Review Update

The following Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rules were posted to the Ohio's Families and Children Rule Review website at www.ohiorulereview.org during the month of June 2021:

For 30 days from June 7, 2021 through July 7, 2021:

Chapter 5101:2-5 Child Services Agency Licensing Rules

- 5101:2-5-35 Foster Youth Bill of Rights

Chapter 5101:2-42 Substitute Care

- 5101:2-42-20 Resource Family Bill of Rights

For 30 days from June 15, 2021 through July 15, 2021:

Chapter 5101:2-25 Title XX Social Services Program: Administration

- 5101:2-25-01 Uniform definitions of Title XX services and other definitions of terms used in Chapter 5101:2-25 of the Administrative Code
- 5101:2-25-02 Title XX administration
- 5101:2-25-03 Title XX county profile
- 5101:2-25-07 Title XX reimbursement dependent upon correct determination of recipient eligibility

Please continue to visit the site periodically for new postings. We welcome your input and hope you use this opportunity to share your experiences. The website received 598 page views during June 2021.

Missed an issue of First Friday?

All First Friday updates are posted on the OFC website under the Partners for Ohio's Families button. [Click here](#) to check them out!

Global Communications

The following emails were sent in June to PCSA directors and/or private agency directors:

June 1	Ohio SACWIS Changes for Kinship Support Program Webinar Link
June 4	OFC First Friday Bulletin
June 7	Court Cafe – Quality Hearings in Abuse, Neglect, Dependency Cases
June 9	OFC Touchpoint Meeting
June 10	Policy and Practice Guidance Document (PPGD) #009 - Leave from a Placement due to AWOL/Trial Home
June 11	June 9 OFC Touchpoint Meeting Notes
June 15	Elder Abuse Awareness Day
June 17	Quarterly Training – Pathways to Community Plans of Safe Care
June 21	ODJFS Series of “Peer-to-Peer Adoption Assistance Community Resources” Training Webinars

June 21 FCASPL 371 Updated COVID-19 Pandemic Guidance – Lifted State of Emergency

June 22 CST Update Meeting

June 24 Supreme Court of Ohio – Family First (FFPSA) Quality Residential Treatment Programs (QRTP Court) Oversight Webinar

June 25 Turning Point Residential Services

June 28 Plan of Safe Care Listening Sessions

June 29 Ohio SACWIS Changes Due to Implementation of RTIS Webinar

June 30 Virtual Reality Headset Orders through The Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association (OCCRA)