

PCSAO 2011 Thanksgiving Progress Report

Building Value for our Work, Improving Performance thru use of Data and Program Excellence, and Advocating for Sound Public Policy

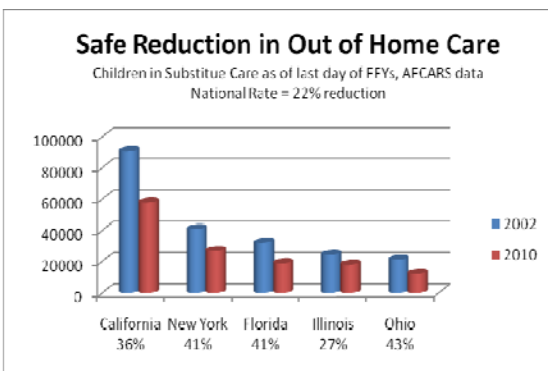


PCSAO works to create a big picture for Ohio's child welfare system to improve outcomes for our children and families. This includes building value with the public, media, policy makers, partners, even ourselves about what we do and the challenges and opportunities in today's environment. We constantly build strategic partnerships, find a common vision, seek a civil dialogue to address more difficult issues. We bring evidence to the table – to display positive outcomes, to describe the need, and to create credibility demonstrating we are worthy of investment. We are informed by the essential support of our active and involved membership.



We are pleased this year to report a number of positive themes:

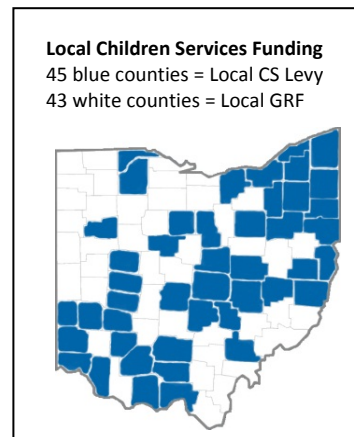
- Continued **positive statewide performance for Protecting Children by Strengthening Families**, thereby reducing traumatic and costly child placements



- **Strengthening our practice focused on Safety and Permanency**, including Differential Response, use of the CAPMIS Toolkit, Family Search and Engagement, Permanency Roundtables and more
- **Success at the Federal level** with renewed Title IV-E ProtectOhio Flexible Funding Waiver, and Title IV-B reauthorization at current funding
- **Available, timely and accessible ROM and BIC Data** so agencies can track performance outcomes and target scarce workforce and fiscal resources

- **Ongoing research efforts for evidence-based practice** and ensuring wise resource investment
- **Continued success with local voters** for local children services levies – 3 ½ years of 100% passage

Child Welfare is Complex and Challenges are Great – child safety, stability and permanency are not controlled by county public children services agencies, yet the State and our communities depend on us for just those goals. Public opinion can swing based on the latest headlines. While we work to build and embrace evidence-based practice, research is in its early stages; efforts to improve outcomes sometimes have surprising implications. Support services such as behavioral healthcare are inadequate; state and local government resources have declined, and dependence on local funding causes serious resource inequities.



Structure and Funding of Ohio's Child Welfare System

Ohio has a state-supervised, county-administered child welfare system, one of only thirteen in the nation. Ohio depends upon local funding at a greater proportion than any other state in the nation, *with only 10% of total child welfare investment coming from the State* (41% local funding, 49% federal funding). While local funding comes with benefits of local control, ownership and accountability, it causes the dilemmas of local taxpayer fatigue and of inequities across the state, especially in less populous rural communities. ***45 counties (comprising 80% of the child population) have a local levy, while 43 counties (comprising 20% of the child population) depend upon local general revenue for supplemental funding.***

The Value of Public Children Services Association of Ohio

Given that child protective services is administered by the 88 counties, a strong statewide association provides the forum for cross-county sharing - from best practices to a quality workforce to organizational excellence. Pockets of excellence regularly bubble up for others to observe and adapt to local opportunities and culture. Trends, evaluation and research can be examined on a state level to inform local decision making. Public education about child welfare is important in today's instant media world.

The significant local fiscal investment of the 88 counties also generates great interest in state and federal policy affecting children and families, and interpretation of federal law at the state level. Thus, our collective local voice is heard at the state and federal level to advocate for positive public policy supporting county agencies in their work for safe children and stable families. Thanks to the active participation of our members, PCSAO often provides that collective voice.

A strong Ohio Department of Job and Family Services is key to child welfare success locally. ODJFS serves as the pass through for our federal funding; the liaison for federal opportunities and oversight, including the federal Child and Family Services Review; ODJFS provides essential support and supervision both to public agencies, and the private provider agencies counties often contract with; ODJFS manages SACWIS, Ohio's web-based child welfare information system, and has recently delivered timely trend and outcomes data from SACWIS. PCSAO has been an active participant with ODJFS as the MCWIC initiative focuses on improving the state/county working relationship by streamlining rules and enhancing technical support.

PCSAO's Mission Guides Our Work:

PCSAO is a membership-driven association serving Ohio's 88 County Public Children Services Agencies through the support of program excellence and sound public policy for safe children, stable families and supportive communities. We do this through member dialogue, active sharing of information, building partnerships, research, training and technical assistance, and advocacy at the state and federal level.

2011 Environment

Ohio's economy has not improved during 2011, with families continuing to experience unemployment, financial insecurity and stress – resulting in increasing rates of children and families being referred to children services. Community-based services have suffered as well, due to reduced resources and increased need. It has taken intentional strategic child welfare practice and investment to focus on strengthening families and relatives to maintain child safety while minimizing significant governmental intervention and out-of-home placements. PCSAO Membership is dedicated to continued innovations for quality services to achieve our mission of safe children and stable families within supportive communities.

A Collective Effort

The credit for these accomplishments goes not to PCSAO and its staff, but to the 88 PCSAs, ODJFS leadership, innovative local, state and national leaders, and valued assistance from Casey Family Programs, the George Gund Foundation, and others. As an opportunity-seeking organization, and based on the membership-driven PCSAO strategic plan to work on improving child welfare outcomes, PCSAO has worked to facilitate key investments, policies, practice reform, evidence-based information, and action based on data. We are proud of your local accomplishments!

2011 PCSAO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PCSAO is governed by a dedicated group of 15 County PCSA Directors, geographically representative and representing the diversity of Ohio's communities - including population, agency structure, levied and non-levied agencies. PCSAO is grateful for their dedication of time, talents and expertise:

Chip Spinning, MPH / Madison JFS & Franklin CCS – President

Denise Stewart / Mahoning CCS – V President

Randy Muth, JD / Wayne CCS – Secretary

Moira Weir, MPA / Hamilton JFS – Treasurer

Teresa Alt / Huron JFS

June Cannon / Miami CCS

Gary Crow, PhD / Lorain CCS

Scott Ferris, MSW / Allen CCS

Cathy Hill / Hocking CCS

Kate Offenberger / Carroll JFS

Dwayne Pielech / Belmont JFS

Andrea Reik / Athens CCS

John Saros, JD / Summit CCS

Corey Walker / Paulding JFS

Lisa Wiltshire / Scioto CCS

PCSAO STAFF

More at <http://www.pcsao.org/AboutPCSAO/staff.htm>

Crystal Ward Allen, MSW, LSW - As Executive Director, I strive to ensure active statewide input and participation in PCSAO activities and to ensure PCSAO staff have support for their work with and on behalf of county agencies. I also seek to be vision driven by tracking state and federal data, trends, evidence and promising practices to build on opportunities and improve child and family outcomes.

Gayle Channing Tenenbaum, MSW - PCSAO's Director of Policy and Governmental Affairs continues to bring immediate credibility and influence with policy makers and the media, due to her personal passion and political savvy. Gayle ensures child welfare concerns are heard in broad budget and human services contexts, especially re behavioral healthcare transformation, at the state and federal level.

Greg Kapcar, MPA, LSW - As Legislative Director, Greg is recognized as an effective and inclusive advocate and manager of state policy development. Greg has become a sought-after presenter on child welfare policy within the broader health and human services world; he is also the project manager for the PCSAO Biennial Factbook, and lead for a major research effort using factbook data.

Scott Britton - As Assistant Director, Scott works with the PIO and Human Resources Committees. Among other things, he will be applying his significant management experience re philanthropy and grant processes as PCSAO seeks to support collective county efforts for Ohio to take advantage of child welfare grant opportunities, as well as tech-savvy skills for internal and external communications.

Jeed Jitprasert, MBA - As Operations Manager, Jeed is the glue that holds PCSAO together. She leads the statewide committee for PCSAO's annual conference, manages PCSAO's websites, serves as fiscal manager for grants and in-house bookkeeper, tracks safety incidents, and coordinates our meetings.

Kay Marshall - Kay is our part-time administrative support staff, especially assisting with special event details such as with the PCSAO Conference, special scheduling and more.

Rhonda Reagh, PhD, LISW - Despite her retirement as Assistant Director in April, PCSAO maintains a formal investment with Rhonda, to provide enhanced support to our statewide child welfare executive leadership.

Thanks to PCSAO Associates who have moved on...

Rachel Lewis, Student Intern, Winter 2011 - as a High School Intern in association with the John Glenn School of Public Affairs at The Ohio State University, Rachel served as Editor of the PCSAO Weekly Update, taught staff technological tricks and competently provided support with other activities.

Thad Townsend, 2012 JD Candidate, Student Extern, Summer 2011 - as a Policy Fellow with the National Center for Adoption Law at Capital University Law School, Thad provided legal analysis on several pending federal policies (which were well received by Ohio's Congressional members) and legal analysis on Ohio case law interpretation of statutes, in collaboration with the PCSAO Legislative Committee.

PCSAO 2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Major Child Welfare Initiatives

1) **Continued Safe Reduction of Children in Out of Home Care** – While the chart on the front page of the 2011 PCSAO Thanksgiving Progress Report is worth a thousand words, there are many ways to view this, and of course numerous ways to impact – diversion of placing children in the first place, minimizing their length of stay with aggressive reunification activities, or timely moves into permanent relative or adoptive homes. Please note that Ohio’s child welfare system has accomplished this safe reduction while reports of child abuse, neglect or dependency have increased.

Statewide Trends	% Change CY 2002 - 2010
Children in custody at least a day	34 % decrease
Children in custody at year-end	43 % decrease
Children awaiting adoption	46 % decrease
Reports of maltreatment	15 % increase

2) **Differential / Alternative Response Expansion** – Differential Response allows county agencies to apply different approaches to different situations as reported to the child welfare system. A Traditional investigation and assessment with a resulting finding and naming of an alleged perpetrator can be applied for sexual abuse, serious injury cases and other selected cases. Alternative Response allows county agencies to partner with willing families in low to moderate risk cases, working together to safely reduce family crisis and avoid out of home placements. The evaluation of the 18 month ten county pilot was completed in 2010. Highlights of AR cases as compared to traditional investigation and assessment included fewer out of home placements, fewer long term open cases, increased provision of hard services, and increased success with minority and low income families – all without compromising safety. Read more about the pilot and evaluation at <http://www.law.capital.edu/adoption/AR/>. Ohio was selected as a four year evaluation site by the National Quality Improvement Center for Differential Response, with a six county group, SOAR, led by Clark CDJFS. The 2012-13 Ohio biennial budget authorized a statewide expansion of Differential Response, and with help from Casey Family Programs, ODJFS, Supreme Court of Ohio, American Humane and OCWTP the DR/AR counties has grown to 33, with more to be announced soon and a rollout schedule is in joint development with PCSAO membership and ODJFS. PCSAO enthusiastically supports this successful effort, and is an active member of the DR Leadership Council.

3) **MCWIC Partners for Ohio’s Families** – Knowing that a strong State – County relationship is essential to improving Ohio child welfare outcomes, seeing a culture change with the ODJFS Office for Families and Children is exciting. The MCWIC Rule Review process is in full swing, PCSAO members have joined all the committees, as Co-Chairs and/or Members. Broad county and other stakeholder input is encouraged by commenting on the Rules website at <http://www.mcwic.org/ohio/>. PCSAO staff and members are also part of the Advisory Committee that partnered with ODJFS to outline elements of effective technical assistance, as State staff reform their provision of technical assistance away from compliance – with a focus on two way communication, matching TA to the need, and offering a menu of TA methods.

4) **Renewed Title IV-E ProtectOhio Flexible Funding Waiver** – the flexible federal funding enjoyed by the 18 counties (comprising 1/3 of Ohio’s child welfare population) has helped to lead the way in our success to Protect Children thru Strengthening Families. PCSAO worked in partnership with the ProtectOhio Consortium, ODJFS and HSRI to secure a five year extension which was finalized in spring 2011, effective Oct. 2010. Activities included educating members of Congress on the value of this budget neutral waiver, uniting with the other five States with IV-E Waivers and national organizations to expand our message, and communicating with key leaders at HHS on the value of the waiver. View the PCSAO ProtectOhio brief at

<http://www.pcsao.org/InTheNews/2010/ProtectOhio.pdf>. In fact, Ohio was seen as a model for Flexible Funding, and PCSAO was invited to testify at the US Senate as they considered extending IV-E Waiver authority to other states. PCSAO's Testimony, For the Record Response to followup questions and more is at <http://www.pcsao.org/LegislativeIssues/LegislativeIssues/legislation.htm>.

5) **Enhanced HHS Kinship Navigator Grant** – supporting informal kinship cases that often have no open case with the child welfare system is a valuable diversion from governmental intrusion for many children fortunate enough to have welcoming kin families, and for our agencies working to manage budgets while keeping children safe and in stable homes. PCSAO is Project Manager for the three year HHS Family Connections grant to provide enhanced Kinship Navigator Services in seven counties. Programming includes info and referral to existing services, case management for some, regular kinship support groups, legal assistance for many, special events or supports during the year, and local advisory groups that build on unique community resource opportunities for kin families. PCSAO has developed a resource website, www.kinshipohio.org, and worked on statewide issues, including legal challenges. In fact, PCSAO was a presenter on Improving Legal Paths for Kinship Caregivers, at the American Bar Association's Conference on Children and the Law, <http://www.pcsao.org/WeeklyUpdate/2011/KinshipLegalPathsABACConf.pdf>. Year Two of the grant has concluded, with inspiring expansion of services and supports, local and state partnerships, and great information for better understanding the characteristics and needs of kin caregiver families. Summary Reports and Evaluations by HSRI are at <http://www.kinshipohio.org/resources.htm>.

6) **Data Tools for Child Welfare Leaders** – Managing precious and often declining workforce and fiscal resources demands careful consideration of a community's current trends, performance, and forecasting, in order to decide how best to invest tax resources to make the biggest impact. 2011 really brought timely data sources to the field:

- a) **CFSR Statewide and County specific outcomes data** posted on the Supreme Court of Ohio's Child Summit Data webpage, <http://www.summitonchildren.ohio.gov/data/default.asp> - available as public trend data for Courts and others, interactive and drillable thru the Innerweb on SACWIS' BIC (Business Intelligence Channel) for PCSAs. Roger Ward, Data Project Manager, Court Improvement Program, ODJFS (with the support of Casey Family Programs) continued to travel for demonstration and dialogue with the field to maximize use of the data.
- b) **ROM (Results Oriented Management)** also came to fruition in 2011, after much mapping work by the State SACWIS team, in conjunction with county PCSA experts to test that results accurately reflect the intended measure. ROM training is in progress this fall, and anticipated as a valued tool for use by PCSA Supervisors as they can drill down to both cases and workers for how to immediately identify areas for improved outcomes.
- c) **Supreme Court of Ohio is also developing a report card for courts regarding the timeliness** of child safety and permanency hearings, in partnership with Roger Ward. Spearheaded by Supreme Court Justice Yvette McGee Brown, data and leadership is a powerful tool for improvement.
- d) **Fun Video** - Not new, but still pertinent – as an intro to the value of performance data, check out this short You Tube video, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JtzNd5Q-6DM>

7) **State Judicial – Agency Leadership** - The Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on Children, Families and the Courts, co-chaired by Dr. Gary Crow, Director of Lorain Co. Children Services, and the Honorable Debra Alspach, Juvenile Court Judge in Marion County, considers common issues of importance, link at http://www.sconet.state.oh.us/Judicial_and_Court_Services/family_court/default.asp. Accomplishments include hosting two past Children's Summits and the Beyond the Numbers forums, tracking family court timeliness and child welfare outcomes data <http://www.summitonchildren.ohio.gov/data/default.asp>, development of new Guardian Ad Litem standards and training. The full Committee also established the Subcommittee to Respond to Abuse and Neglect (chaired by Dr. Rhonda Reagh, former Assistant Director at PCSAO), which guided the Alternative Response effort, and made major Child Welfare Law Reform recommendations and Child In Need of Protective Services bill (more at <http://www.ohiochildlaw.com>). This Subcommittee has more recently embraced legal challenges and opportunities for kin caregivers.

8) **Behavioral Healthcare for our Children and Families** – much has been done on this topic, as child maltreatment and out of home placement is now known to cause significant childhood trauma. Primarily led by Gayle Channing Tenenbaum, much state level work is in progress to allow availability and accessibility of critical trauma informed services.

- a) **The OCWTP Trauma Informed Services curricula** has been a popular training topic for our child protection workforce.
- b) **Early Childhood Mental Health Screening projects** for children 0-6 at risk of coming into care, at risk of being moved into another placement or who were showing some indication of a social emotional problem in care began in 15 counties in January of 2011, with ARRA funding, partnering with the Ohio Department of Mental Health and ODJFS. Since the program's inception through September 30, 2011 1,379 children were screened and 59% continue to receive mental health treatment.
- c) **Help Me Grow, Home Visiting and Medicaid** - PCSAO worked in the Home Visiting Coalition, the Ohio Partnership, to access federal Home Visiting grants for target areas, and during the Biennial Budget to ensure Ohio's state Medicaid plan covers portions of Help Me Grow services (re CAPTA Parts B & C).
- d) **"Tele-medicine" for Behavioral Health in Rural Ohio and more** - psychiatrists and psychologists can now offer direct patient care or physician to physician consultation in areas lacking trained BH professionals. Staff from PCSAO serves on the LAUNCH State Steering Committee, promoting health and mental health treatment in underserved Appalachian Counties and on the BEACON Council (Best Evidence for Advancing Child Health in Ohio Now) promoting improved health outcomes for children throughout Ohio and working on access issues for children needing mental health services.
- e) **Health Homes, Ohio Office of Healthcare Transformation, EPSDT, Intensive Home Based Services and federal Healthcare Reform** – PCSAO staff and membership are actively participating in ODMH workgroups, communicating with Kasich Administration staff and federal CMS staff as Ohio looks to embrace new opportunities and transform our physical and behavioral healthcare system. We are seeking every opportunity possible to ensure quality behavioral healthcare and services for our children and families.

9) **Evaluation and Research** – Lessons learned and evidence based practice is critical as the public and policy makers consider ongoing investments in child welfare. PCSAO continues to seek and promote evaluation and research to further our practice and target our scarce resources.

- a) **ProtectOhio Title IV-E Waiver Evaluation** – HSRI (Human Services Research Institute) has tracked and evaluated common strategies for use of flexible funding – Family Team Meetings, increased kinship supports and more, to compare along side use of paid placement days reduced length of stay. See a variety of reports, including the full Comprehensive Evaluation report for 2004-2009 at <http://www.hsri.org/project/evaluation-of-ohio-title-iv-e-waiver/news/>
- b) **Differential / Alternative Response** – The AIM team evaluation of Ohio's 18 month ten county pilot informed Ohio's decision to move toward gradual statewide implementation and policy. Information, overview and full reports are available at <http://law.capital.edu/adoption/AR/>. The Institute of Applied Research is conducting ongoing Ohio evaluation for this effort. Ohio will also benefit from the National QIC Differential Response Initiative including a four year evaluation of the six county SOAR group. The North Resource Center for Child Welfare will publish a survey of several states' DR research findings, and American Humane has ongoing research and evaluation.
- c) **Enhanced Kinship Navigator Grant Evaluation** – HSRI is also the evaluator to examine the impact of enhanced navigator services on children living with kinship caregivers. Initial evaluation findings have created an informative profile of our kin caregiver families, and their identified needs. A variety of Summary Reports and Evaluations can be found at <http://www.kinshipohio.org/resources.htm>.
- d) **Child Welfare Financing Research** - PCSAO partnered with professors at the Universities of Buffalo and Rochester, NY to examine child welfare outcomes based on financing structure. Following a number of funding efforts, a generous **grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has just been awarded, effective Nov. 15, 2011!** PCSAO will continue to work for evidence re the value of flexible federal and local funding.

- e) **University Partnership Program Evaluation** – a well educated and trained workforce is critical to child welfare outcomes, view the recent evaluation of Ohio’s UPP program at <http://www.pcsao.org/UPP/2010/2007Evaluation.pdf> .
- f) **Kinship Permanency Incentive program tracking and evaluation** has revealed much about who kinship caregivers are, as informed policy makers used data to manage budgets. Over 8,000 children are supported by this program, and diverted from paid foster care. Final SFY 2011 data continues to show a high level of stability, and excellent child safety record, with a minimal state investment.
- g) **The Child Welfare Research Partnership** has been a valuable group to advise on how best to move forward on scouring available evidence, using available data for analysis re outcomes, and framing evaluations. This group was responsible for the Rapid Evidence Assessment leading to the interactive Intake Screening tool available at <http://www.pcsao.org/standards.htm>; research on Reunification and Foster Care Re-Entry and more, materials available at <http://www.pcsao.org/research.htm>.

Federal Budget, Biennial Budget & other Legislation

With Ohio’s economy continuing to reel (high unemployment, reduced state and local revenues, property values declining, needs increasing), PCSAO continues to raise our voice at both the state and federal levels.

Congressional and Federal Activities:

1) **Title IV-E ProtectOhio Flexible Funding Waiver renewed in March 2011, effective Oct. 1, 2010** – PCSAO partnered with the ProtectOhio Consortium, ODJFS, others IV-E Waiver states, to promote renewal HHS action. PCSAO facilitated Senate and House Congressional Delegation sign on letters urging renewal. We met with the Secretary of US Health and Human Services, the Commissioner of the Administration of Youth and Children, and we built value for our waiver in the media and with other national partners. PCSAO was an invited guest to testify in front of the US Senate Finance Committee about Ohio’s IV-E Flexible Funding Waiver experience, citing Ohio’s ProtectOhio Consortium successes, and similar replication in other counties. Three waiver counties – Franklin, Lorain and Richland – were particularly highlighted, showcasing their innovations with flexible funds and related successful outcomes at the US Senate Finance Committee, link to materials <http://www.pcsao.org/LegislativeIssues/LegislativeIssues/legislation.htm>. Throughout, PCSAO continues to build value for broader flexible funding federal finance reform.

2) **Congressional Reauthorization of Title IV-B (at current funding levels), HHS authorized to award additional Title IV-E Flexible Funding Waivers** – in addition to Congressional testimony mentioned above, PCSAO also provided support to key Ohio Congressional delegation members and other Congressional leaders as they considered Title IV-B reauthorization at current levels, during the Deficit Reduction crisis debates, <http://www.pcsao.org/Testimony/OHSupportChilFamSrvclmpvmtInnvtAct2011.pdf>.

3) **Federal Deficit Reduction Advocacy** - As part of 314 state and local members of Advocates for Ohio’s Future, providing input to Senator Rob Portman (member of the “Super Committee”, and the full Ohio Delegation to protect vital services for vulnerable children and families vs primarily addressing the deficit through health and human services cuts, see more at <http://advocatesforohio.org/perch/resources/columbus-news-release-ltr.pdf>.

State Legislative Activities:

4) **2012-13 Biennial Budget Outcomes** – with a \$6 – 8 Billion structural deficit, PCSAO and all health, education and human services advocates worked hard to stave off proposed severe budget cuts. In the end, funds were completely restored for Adoption Subsidies, mostly restored for Kinship Permanency Incentive, partially restored for County TANF and CSEA allocations, Fatherhood Commission funds were mostly restored. New funds were allocated for Transitioning Youth, Partial Hospitalization and CPST (community based psychiatric services) for children and youth in court ordered



protective services or custody were protected from ODMH cost containment caps and the Ohio Children's Trust Fund county allocations were not allowed to be directly claimed by any one service or vendor but will depend upon local needs assessment and plan. You can view the final chart at <http://www.pcsao.org/BiennialBudget.htm>.

- 5) **129th General Assembly Bills** – PCSAO's Statewide Legislative Committee, staffed by PCSAO Legislative Director Greg Kapcar provides ongoing review and input for staff education and makes policy recommendations to the PCSAO Board of Trustees.
- a) **HB 92 Adult Adoptions** – creates a feasible path to adult adoption for our youth aging out of care from Permanent Custody or Planned Permanent Living Arrangement, and Kinship. Passed, Eff. 9/30/11. http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=129_HB_92
 - b) **HB 86 Criminal Sentencing & JJ Reform** – criminal sentencing reform with goal of moving large numbers of “low level, non-violent” offenders from prison to probation/community based programs (projected to save approx \$62 M). Foster youth community notification provisions threatened to be part of the final bill, but were removed following advocacy by PCSAO, Youth, and others. Passed, Eff. 9/30/11. <http://www.pcsao.org/LegislativeIssues/LegislativeIssues/legislation.htm>
 - c) **HB 279 Budget Neutral Kinship Bill** – Expands successful Grandparent Power of Attorney and Caregiver Authorization Affidavit forms to other qualified relative (and other kin) caregivers; includes requirements from the federal Fostering Connections to Success Act of 2008. Receiving hearings. http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=129_HB_279
 - d) **HB 281 Ohio Prevention First Act** – PCSAO supports this bill and believes all youth should have access to sexual health services and information about sex and healthy relationships. Receiving hearings. http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=129_HB_281
 - e) **CHIPS Legislation** – establishes clearer definitions of circumstances to intervene in order to protect children from maltreatment. PCSAO is working with ODJFS, NCALP, Legislative leadership and other stakeholders in having this legislation re-introduced in the 129th General Assembly with the improvements made as a result of input from multiple stakeholders meetings last year.

Training, Organizational Excellence and Practice Support

- 1) **2011 PCSAO Annual Conference** – this year's event was a creative collaboration, time well spent learning and networking with Ohio's child welfare professionals from across the state. Over 500 people attended, including 36 vendors and over 50 presenters. With tremendous supports from our PCSA county members and partnership from different agencies such as Institute for Human Services, CareSource and Ohio Children's Hospital Association, we were able to provide our Ohio Child Welfare professionals with a quality training event, and celebrate our child welfare champions. More about the conference and highlights is at www.pcsao.org/AnnualConference.htm.
- 2) **PCSAO Expanded Opportunities for Executive and Administrator Development in 2011** - In recognition of many retirements and appointments of new county child welfare leadership, and attempting to build on the opportunities for Executives and Administrators to network and learn, PCSAO, primarily led by Rhonda Reagh, re-energized our opportunities for child welfare executives and senior managers. Our goal is to continue to grow these initiatives in 2012 to further enhance the benefits of PCSAO membership:
- a) **Retooled New Executive Orientation** - held in late April 2011 with 27 execs and administrators in attendance. They received information about PCSAO benefits, legislative issues and training on strategic communication and leadership, county financing and performance data.
 - b) **Executive Coaching** - formally launched with the assistance of OCWTP in July 2011. Eight executives and administrators have been matched with retired executives to receive coaching in the areas of their choice. Interested? Contact Rhonda Reagh at Rhonda@pcsao.org.

- c) **Distance Learning** - two Distance Learnings were offered in 2011 with the assistance of the OCWTP. Over 60 county agency staff participated in the Go-To-Meeting webinars without leaving their offices.
 - d) **The Dan Schneider Executive Leadership Fund** has also been popular during 2011, supporting ___ for the Leadership program of their choice; learn more about the opportunity at http://www.pcsao.org/about_pcsao.htm.
- 3) **Ohio Child Welfare Training Program** – OCWTP is a premier child welfare training program in the US, view the annual report at <http://www.ocwtp.net/PDFs/Annual%20Report/2010%20Annual%20Report.pdf>. PCSAO's Scott Britton assumed the role of Co-Chair of the OCWTP with ODJFS; the Institute for Human Services is the Statewide Coordinator. The new E-Track training MIS system is now implemented. The exciting coaching, distance learning and other initiatives are explained at <http://www.ocwtp.net/Current%20Initiatives.htm>. The OCWTP Fiscal Whitepaper <http://www.pcsao.org/WeeklyUpdate/2011/OCWTPWhitePaper2011.pdf> examined available resources, investments and distributions for our membership and key stakeholders to review and for CQI, reinforcing to all the value of our investment in ensuring a well prepared, train workforce.
- 4) **University Partnership Program** - PCSAO partners with ODJFS, OCWTP and participating Universities for BSW and MSW Title IV-E tuition reimbursement programs that prepare students to immediately join the child welfare workforce. UPP students attend a complimentary day at the annual PCSAO Conference, and enjoy a reception with PCSAs looking for recruits. Nine universities across the state participate. More information, including an evaluation, can be found at http://www.pcsao.org/univ_partnership.htm.
- 5) **Council on Accreditation** – PCSAO strongly advocates and supports this organizational excellence strategy for PCSAs to become accredited; ODJFS offers a partial reimbursement for initial or reaccreditation fees. At this time, 26 Ohio counties are accredited (with a couple more almost there), accounting for 66% of the child population. For more information go to <http://www.pcsao.org/coa.htm>.
- 6) **Human Resources / Safety Committee** – the HR Committee continues to build accessible resources re: Employment Law, salary information, safety standards and trends, and more, at http://www.pcsao.org/HumanResources_Safety.htm. The materials provide a wealth of information as agencies and individuals research how best to recruit and retain a quality workforce, and manage excellent organizations with efficiency and accountability. Their partnership with the University Partnership Program includes supervision of such students, and is building a quality workforce from the ground floor.
- 7) **Enhanced Family Team Meeting and Kinship Support Practice Strategies** – the ProtectOhio Consortium committed to two major strategies using their flexible funding for this five year period. They have agreed to common staffing elements, training, assessment, service delivery and data tracking for Family Team Meetings for all open cases, and Enhanced Kinship Supports for all open kinship cases (irregardless of custody status). Their work will provide essential trend and outcome data for the rest of Ohio as well as SACWIS implications. The excellent practice manuals developed and training done in partnership with OCWTP will facilitate replication in other counties.
- 8) **Transitioning Youth Initiatives** – following years of hearing the voice of current and former foster youth, a wealth of activities are in progress at this time
- a) **OhioReach** – PCSAO is part of the OhioReach Advisory Board aimed at supporting foster youth reaching for higher education. OhioReach hosts a wiki site <http://ohioreach.wikispaces.com/> which is chock full of information; has NACADA Affiliate status (a national higher education organization); and now counts 25 Ohio college campuses that have an identified Foster Student Liaison. The 3rd OhioReach Summit in May which was fully funded by an anonymous donor, nearly two hundred professionals, half higher education, half child welfare heard state and national expert speakers and youth contribute knowledge and skills to supporting youth reaching for higher education.

- b) **TANF Independent Living Allocation and ODJFS Foster Youth Initiative with WIA** – PCSAO strongly supports state leadership in supporting our foster adolescents and transitioning young adults to gain the skills they need for successful living and working.
- c) **Transitioning Youth and Housing** – PCSAO joins the National Center for Housing and Child Welfare to cohost a FREE conference on transitional youth housing, in December 2011. Join regional housing, child welfare, and youth services leaders to galvanize housing resources and supportive services to prevent and end youth homelessness. More info at <http://www.pcsao.org/WeeklyUpdate/2011/HousingOptions.pdf>

Public Education Successes

- 1) **PCSAO's 10th Biennial Factbook** was released in early 2011, providing clear data about each community's children and families, and child protection challenges of our state, and each of the 88 counties. Books were provided to federal, state and local policy makers, state agencies and association members to distribute locally. The current PCSAO Factbook continues to be the most utilized child welfare and public assistance resource for counties and Ohio. It is available free on-line at <http://www.pcsao.org/pcsaofactbook.htm>.
- 2) **PCSAO launched a Facebook page this year**, giving members and supporters a new way to stay involved and interact. Be sure to "Like" us on Facebook - [Follow us on Facebook!](#) 
- 3) **Statewide Public Information Committee** – http://www.pcsao.org/Committee/pio_committee.htm - this vibrant committee, expanded to include foster home recruitment staff as well as PIOs, and has provided a wealth of resources for PCSAs statewide –
 - a) **Resource Family Recruitment Guide** – initial publication Oct. 2011
 - b) **The 2010 Levy Guide** – as county budgets suffer loss of the Local Government Fund to distribute among many local entities, and voters demonstrate strong support for Children Services in counties that have a levy, more non-levy counties may choose to seek a levy, this resource is invaluable.
 - c) **Choose Your Partner Carefully Campaign** – continues to be a hit in Ohio and elsewhere, it is a toolkit ready for use by any community to promote safe strategies re: leaving a child with others, <http://www.pcsao.org/PCSAOTools/2009/CampaignToolkit2009.pdf>.
 - d) **2008 Media Guide**, including Crisis Response strategies, <http://www.pcsao.org/Publications/2008/PCSAOMediaGuideAugust2008.pdf>.
 - e) **Adoption Resources Page** - <http://www.pcsao.org/adoptionresources.htm> , including a variety of promotional and public records information pieces.
- 4) **KinshipOhio Website** - www.KinshipOhio.org, was created as a friendly, informative tool to assist Kin Caregivers to navigate existing resources. It has been well received in Ohio and outside of the state. Originally built as part of the HHS Ohio Enhanced Kinship Navigator Grant, it is now open to all counties to post local resources and contact information – take a look and contact us if your county is not yet linked.
- 5) **PCSAO Weekly Update** – this electronic weekly newsletter, full of additional active links, keeps our membership and other local, state and federal partners informed about what is happening in relation to child protective services in Ohio and nationally. The ease of the internet results in a high level of response and input to PCSAO – many PCSA Execs forward it out to agency staff members and other partners. For recent editions, link at http://www.pcsao.org/weekly_update.htm
- 6) **PCSAO HeartBeat Newsletter** – a quarterly publication addressing key child welfare topics; it is mailed to key stakeholders and child welfare partners at the local, state and federal level but is available in electronic form for anyone – just let us know. You can access the most recent edition on the PCSAO homepage at <http://www.pcsao.org/>.

7) **Teen and Unintended Pregnancy Communications and Successes** – PCSAO continues to share messages and resources for prevention of teen and unintended pregnancy.

- a) **The National Campaign's Teen Quiz Day** in May, <http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/national/> is particularly promoted.
- b) **Family Health Coalition Convener**, <http://www.coalitionforfamilyhealth.org/>, a grassroots organization that promotes access to reproductive healthcare services for all women. As a member for year, PCSAO's Crystal Allen serves as the Convener this year. Our third annual Conference was a success, attracting service providers and policy makers from across the state.
- c) **Ohio's Medicaid Family Planning Option** – a 90% reimbursement rate for all contraceptive and STD treatment services and devices, this was recently approved by CMS with effective date of Jan 2012 ; the start up funds necessary for Years One and Two were included in the Biennial Budget, long term savings projections are great.
- d) **ODHealth received a three year federal grant that will provide teen pregnancy prevention curricula** (including a financial literacy component) to teens in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Regional leads have been selected thru RFP processes, trainings should begin in 2012.

8) **Ohio YAB & FosterClub All Stars** – The Overcoming Hurdles In Ohio YAB transitioned from PCSAO's staff support to guidance from Lisa Dickson (Foster Care Alumni of Ohio). PCSAO has continued as an active partner to promote issues and opportunities, maintaining and updating the OHIO YAB webpages at <http://www.pcsao.org/ohioyouth.htm>. Along with Franklin County Children Services, PCSAO also jointly sponsored an Ohio youth, Dauntea Sledge, as a FosterClub All Star – Dauntea elegantly spoke on behalf of transitioning foster at our PCSAO conference, on the radio and at events throughout the country.

9) **Human Trafficking Resources** – Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine continued the Human Trafficking Commission, with reports are posted on the Attorney General's website, at <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/files/Publications/Publications-for-Law-Enforcement/Human-Trafficking-Reports>. The *Report on Strategies to Increase Awareness of Human Trafficking in Ohio*, from the Subcommittee chaired by PCSAO's Crystal Allen, suggests strategies and provides speaker/trainer resources for your community trainings/briefings. More resources are in development.

10) **Prominent Events** – often led by PCSAO, in collaboration with others, high profile events 2011 included:

- a) **2011 Adoption Advocacy Event**, Nov, 2011 - sponsored by the Ohio Adoption Planning Group (PCSAO is a proud member) garnered much media and policy maker attention. Click [here](#) to view the slideshow of Ohio's waiting children (slides change every 10 secs; or use your arrow keys. Photos from the event are available on PCSAO's Facebook, [here](#).
- b) **OhioReach Summit**, May 2011 – the third annual event was fully funded by an anonymous donor, featured youth, national speakers and a mix of experts for higher education and child welfare. Nearly 200 targeted professionals – half higher education, half child welfare - attended.
- c) **PCSAO Annual Legislative Breakfast** March, 2011 - attendance was superb, with key elected officials networking with child welfare leadership

11) **Media Coverage and local press materials** – PCSAO is a frequent voice and background resource in the print, TV and radio media for child welfare on topics of the day (i.e. federal and state budget impact, federal law change, kinship caregiver issues, adoption / foster care, transitional youth, behavioral health, teen and unintended pregnancy prevention, impact of funding and political changes, etc).

12) **Advocates for Ohio's Future** garnered 220 organizational endorsements for its mission to protect Ohio's most vulnerable populations, collected hundreds of online petitions for the legislature, and generated 7,500 emails and hundreds of calls to legislators to influence the state budget. Since July, AOF has turned its attention to the federal budget and the deficit-reduction Super Committee. Its popular webinars and county fact sheets have inspired Ohioans to contact Members of Congress.

Key Collaborative Relationships

- 1) **ODJFS Partnership Activities** – ODJFS Leadership has been strong for child welfare and many other issues, and PCSAO has considered it fortunate to have excellent partners for our statewide expansion effort for Differential / Alternative Response, renewal of the ProtectOhio Title IV-E Waiver, making data accessible with BIC and ROM. The MCWIC Partners for Ohio effort holds promise for an even more effective State / County relationship by streamlining rules and enhancing state technical assistance. ODJFS has rapidly moved forward with on-line applications for the public assistance side, and is supporting county innovation for virtual call centers. The Ohio Children’s Trust Fund is also a strong partner for prevention investments.
- 2) **Strong Relationships with the State Administration and Legislative Leadership** – Staff and Board continue to have a positive relationship with the new Kasich Administration including the Governor’s Senior Policy Staff, and the Governor as well as all Health and Human Service Cabinet Directors and the Budget and Taxation Cabinet.
- 3) **Partnering with Our Sister Public Associations** – the dismal state budget environment has continued strong and collaborative relationships with the Ohio Job and Family Services Directors Association, the County Commissioners Association of Ohio, the Ohio Child Support Directors Association, Ohio Co. Behavioral Health Boards Assoc, Ohio Boards of Developmental Disabilities. Coordinated messages and advocacy efforts strengthened our work with policy makers in the General Assembly and Administration.
- 4) **Advocates for Ohio’s Future** formed and developed a coordinated statewide health and human services message to policy makers. 2011 co-Chairs were Gayle Channing Tenenbaum and Margaret Hulbert of United Way of Cincinnati. Funded with foundation and collective non-profit advocacy grants, PCSAO hosts AOF staff as a part of our office and operations.
- 5) **Additional Key Partners** – PCSAO actively collaborates with key child and family serving entities in Ohio including Ohio Family Care Association, Ohio Grandparent/Kinship Coalition, Foster Care Alumni of Ohio, National Center for Adoption Law and Policy, Ohio Adoption Planning Group, Ohio Independent Living Association, Ohio Judicial Conference, Ohio Assoc. of Child Caring Agencies, NAMI, Children’s Defense Fund-Ohio, Domestic Violence Prevention Network, Ohio Coalition for Family Health, Voices for Ohio’s Children.
- 6) **Active Relationships with our Federal Partners** – PCSAO enjoys relationship, access and dialogue with officials at several levels at the US Department of Health and Human Services. Such is critical to be able to present ideas and concerns re a variety of child welfare, behavioral and physical healthcare reform issues.
- 7) **National Memberships and Relationships** - PCSAO is also a proud member of the Assoc. of Public Human Services Administrators (APHSA), National Assoc. of Public Child Welfare Administrators (NAPCWA), and Child Welfare League of America (CWLA). We also have strong relationships with the key child and family groups at the national level, and many child welfare leaders in other states.
- 8) **International Forums** - Crystal Ward Allen joined Dr. Ron Hughes and Dr. Judy Rycus of the Institute for Human Services, others from the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, and representatives from the US Department of Justice, to travel to Russia and share/learn from our Russian colleagues about child protection. Read more at http://www.pcsao.org/Russian_AmericanChildWelfareForum2011.htm.
- 9) **Staff Leadership Mentions** – staff lead and participate in numerous forums.
 - a. **Crystal Ward Allen** continues as Vice-Chair of the Ohio Children’s Trust Fund Board, is on the Advisory Board of OhioReach, is a member of the Attorney General’s Human Trafficking Commission (Chairs the Subcommittee on Prevention), is Convener for the Coalition for Family Health, and serves on the Statewide Kinship Advisory Council, the Statewide Child Fatality Review Advisory Board and the Differential Response Leadership Council. Crystal serves as Fundraising Committee Chair of Mission Council at First Community Church, and was a

- member of the Zonta International Club of Columbus.
- b. **Gayle Channing Tenenbaum** – is Chair of the Ohio Air Quality Authority, she co-chairs Advocates for Ohio's Future, and she actively serves on a number of state level behavioral health groups. She is also an adjunct faculty at Ohio University's Voinovich Leadership Center, and at Case Western Reserve University's Schubert Center for Child Studies. Gayle was awarded the Dan Schneider Leadership in Training Award from the OCWTP in 2011.
 - c. **Greg Kapcar** is a member of the Supreme Court of Ohio's Juvenile Justice Reform Workgroup, on the Executive Committees for Advocates for Ohio's Future, Project Director for a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation research project using PCSAO Factbook data, and on the Planning committee for Ohio's 3rd annual Adoption Advocacy Day. Greg also serves on the boards of the Columbus Early Learning Center (Secretary) and the Cleveland area Riverside Cemetery (Vice-President).
 - d. **Scott Britton** is Co-Chair of the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program Steering Committee, continues part time (2 days/week) as State Coordinator for Advocates for Ohio's Future, and also serves as Vice President for Advocacy for the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus – and he is a proud adoptive father.
 - e. **Jeed Jitprasert** is an active Board member with My Very Own Blanket.
 - f. **Rhonda Reagh** continues to Chair the Supreme Court of Ohio's Sub-Committee on Responding to Child Abuse and Neglect, and is a member of the Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on Children, Families and the Court. She is also an adjunct faculty at The Ohio State University College of Social Work and at the National Center for Adoption Law and Policy at Capitol Law School.

Organizational Stability

1) Excellent Financial Management – PCSAO has enjoyed a history of impressive annual audit results, with no material findings, for over a decade. Under the supervision of PCSAO Trustees and Treasurer Moira Weir, this tradition continued in 2011 with an A-133 Audit. Books were managed internally by PCSAO Operations Manager Jeed Jitprasert, with support from CPA Terra DeLeon of John J. Parisi CPA, Inc.

2) Fiscal Austerity – Like the agencies PCSAO represents, PCSAO has trimmed out budget and creatively managed our resources. *Thus, with our careful fiscal management, PCSAO will freeze membership dues (again, for the third year.)* We will also continue to offer the Dan Schneider Executive Leadership Scholarships to member agencies, without a 2012 training assessment. Membership dues are responsible for about half of PCSAO's operating costs.

3) Strong Foundation Support – we are grateful to the George Gund Foundation, Casey Family Programs, and Annie E. Casey Foundation, which each provided generous financial and/or technical support in 2011. Their investment has furthered our work on behalf of Ohio's PCSAs serving children and families.

4) Staffing Stability – PCSAO is proud to maintain a talented, diverse and stable staff. We are also proud that former staff and student interns use their PCSAO experience to regularly move on to exciting new horizons with opportunity to positively impact policy and practice.

5) Membership Strength – *Statewide membership dues were contributed at 96% of the amount invoiced in 2011.* Various PCSAO regular and ad hoc committees have strong and regular support of county professionals. PCSAO is proud of our active membership, and works hard to ensure value for your membership investment during all times – just as you seek evidence for service investments for your youth and families, we hope this report provides evidence of the value of your PCSAO membership.

*PCSAO invites continued and active membership of Ohio's 88 Public Children Services Agencies, and collaboration with our many local, state and national partners. Our strength is in our ability to convene professionals and consumers dedicated to safe children, stable families and supportive communities, and apply our collective knowledge, expertise and resources to these goals.
Thank you for your contributions.*