

## *Supporting Good People to be GREAT Foster Parents*

### **FOSTER CARE REFORM TRAINING & SERVICES BILLS**

#### **HB 214 (Representative Jeff Wagner, sponsor)**

#### **Foster Parent Investments and Supports**

- Family Foster Parent Pre-Placement Training requirement increased from 24 hours to 36 hours (Sec. 5103.031)
- Two certified foster parents will join the mandated members of the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program Steering Committee (5103.391)
- Pre-Service Training Stipends (to support travel and child care costs) to be paid in lump sum as determined by ODJFS through rules (Sec. 5103.0312)
- Mentoring a new foster parent, or assisting in training activities will be allowed to count toward continuing education training requirement for foster caregivers (Sec. 5103.032; 5103.035)
- Private agencies will receive reimbursement for FP training according to statewide required hours of training (Sec. 5103.0313)
- Common sense policy to clarify when foster parent information is public – upon license revocation or indictment/conviction of certain criminal offenses. This clarifies public access for the media and others to review weakness and failings of the system, while maintaining a critical level of confidentiality for child safety purposes and allow privacy for these volunteer foster caregivers (Sec. 5101.29)

#### **Enhancing Partnerships between Child Protective Services and MRDD**

- Mechanism created to allow local MRDD Boards ten days to determine service responsibility and arrangements for foster children placed out of county; includes children currently receiving services or in need of assessment for eligible services (Sec. 5126.04[B])
- ODJFS and ODMRDD to partner for regional cross system briefings for PCSA and MRDD professionals to learn more about each other's services (Temporary law Sec. 5 in HB 214 & Sec. 8 in SB 164)
- ODJFS and ODMRDD to partner to develop curriculum for foster caregivers caring for children with MRDD needs (Temporary law Sec. 5 in HB 214 & Sec. 8 in SB 164)

#### **Improving Placement Decisions and Options**

- ODJFS to establish up to a ten county pilot, and have an independent evaluation of the Child Placement Level of Care Tool, which was developed and has been widely used by Cuyahoga Department of Child and Family Services, and 50+ private provider agencies. Evaluation to track child stability, length of stay and other key child outcomes, as well as costs, worker use, etc. ODMH to do concurrent analysis of child's behavioral health functioning levels, using Ohio Scales data. (*this entire provision, along with funding, was included in Sub HB 119, Biennial Budget, as signed by the Governor.*)
- ODJFS allowed to seek US Department of Health and Human Service approval to create an alternate category of Title IV-E reimbursable foster care with individuals that already have a substantial relationship with the child(ren). Certification would focus on child specific recruitment, maintain criminal background checks and other key safety standards, while allowing a simplified certification process; it would be limited to providing care solely for that child or sibling group. Research shows children have improved behavior and performance outcomes, and equal safety indicators, with safe kinship families vs. non-related foster caregivers. (Temporary law Sec. 4 in HB 214; Sec. 7 in SB 164)
- Existing Interstate Child Placement Compact language restored, pending other states' approval of new and improved ICPC language, which Ohio approved in SB 238 May 2005. (Temporary law Sec 6 – 9 in HB 214 & Sec. 9 – 12 in SB 164)
- Language to allow Juvenile Courts to provide Title IV-E services for youth “at risk of placement” as well as youth in placement. (Sec. 2151.152)



Outlined by Crystal Ward Allen, updated Feb. 2008

614-224-5802 • Fax 614-228-5150

[crystal@pcsao.org](mailto:crystal@pcsao.org), [www.pcsao.org](http://www.pcsao.org)

As passed by Senate and House, & sent to Governor Strickland; Page 1 of 1