

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

[INITIATIVES | BUDGET ADVOCACY | LEGISLATION | PRACTICE | PUBLIC EDUCATION]

With the help of an active association membership and many key partners, much has been accomplished in 2009-2010. Our mission has guided 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.”

Major Child Welfare Initiatives

Safe Reduction – Safe reduction in the number of children in out of home care has occurred at the same time reports of child abuse, neglect or dependency have increased.

Differential Response – There are 25 Ohio Differential Response counties who are using Alternative Response to reduce family crisis and avoid out of home placements; expansion is expected in 2011.

Enhanced Kinship Navigator – PCSAO is the umbrella project manager for a federal grant to provide enhanced Kinship Navigator Services to seven Ohio counties; evaluation is providing great information for better serving kin caregiver families. www.KinshipOhio.org was launched to assist kinship caregivers statewide.

Title IV-E ProtectOhio Waiver Renewal– PCSAO and partners worked to secure a new five year extension for flexible federal funding for 18 Ohio counties. The Consortium has developed a practice manual, training and evaluation for Family Team Meetings and Kinship Support Strategies.

Judicial – Agency Leadership – Supreme Court’s Advisory Committee on Children, Families and the Courts, and Subcommittee chaired by PCSAO’s Assistant Director has guided the Differential Response effort and made major recommendations concerning Child Welfare Law Reform.

Intake Screening Task Force – This group, facilitated by the Institute for Human Services, delivered revised interactive Intake Screening Tools.

Trauma Informed Care and Early Childhood Mental Health – OCWTP has enriched trauma-related curricula for

workers; PCSAO and partners enhanced communities’ capacity for mental health services.

Child and Family Services Review– Ohio met its most recent round of Program Improvement Plan goals; HHS approved Ohio’s Program Improvement Plan.

Budget and Legislation

Enhanced FMAP for Title IV-E and Medicaid as part of ARRA – Enhanced rates extended through June 2011; many millions of additional reimbursements to Medicaid and an estimated \$13 M in additional IV-E reimbursements.

Tangible Personal Property Tax Solution (levy funds) – PCSAO continues to seek a permanent solution to local levy fund losses.

CHIPS bill – Establishes clearer definitions of circumstances to intervene in order to protect a child from maltreatment.

Budget Neutral Kinship bill – Expands Grandparent Power of Attorney and Caregiver Authorization Affidavit forms to other kin caregivers; includes requirements from the federal Fostering Connections to Success Act of 2008.

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.

HB 10 Civil Protection Order – Child – Civil protection orders for children in violent dating relationships; includes foster parents under scope of domestic violence laws. Passed, now law.

Training, Workforce and Organizational Excellence

PCSAO Annual Conference – Scarce resources redesigned the conference from

three to two days; over 500 attended. Professionals gathered to expand their skills, knowledge and inspiration for the important work of protecting children.

Ohio Child Welfare Training Program – PCSAO co-chairs this statewide program that trains caseworkers, supervisors, adoption assessors and resource families. The new E-Track training MIS system was launched to assist with scheduling and tracking.

Council on Accreditation – Funds support accreditation fees and training for agencies in the accreditation process. Twenty-five local PCSAs are accredited, accounting for 60% of the child population; seven additional agencies are in progress.

University Partnership Program – Ohio universities, ODJFS, the Institute for Human Services and PCSAO partner to support a tuition reimbursement program for future public child welfare professionals.

Public Awareness Successes

PCSAO 10th Edition Biennial Factbook – Provides clear data for vulnerable children and families in 88 counties and the state of Ohio. Recommendations based on the data are provided.

PCSAO Weekly Update & HeartBeat Newsletter – The electronic Update provides quick reads / linkages for more information. The HeartBeat reaches thousands of child welfare partners at the local, state and federal levels, examining key child welfare topics.

Updated PCSAO Levy Guide – Covers innovative public education strategies, levy basics, campaign strategies, and handling the outcome. **Children services levies have enjoyed great success in recent years.**