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[2011-12 PCSAO FACTBOOK ■ 10TH EDITION]

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PCSAO is proud to present the 10th Factbook edition! We provide this data with the hope that it will lead to better outcomes for children and families across Ohio.

While child protection professionals across the state work tirelessly to assure the safety and stability of Ohio's children, it is broadly recognized that in order to achieve a safe family for every child, we must work in partnership with the entire community. In order to enlist the support of others, we must be accountable for the job we do.

The PCSAO biennial Factbook is produced with the goal of presenting accurate, standardized and easy to read information on the conditions that impact child abuse and neglect, self-sufficiency, children in custody, agency expenditures and workload. The Factbook is a sincere effort to provide accountability for the child welfare system.

We look forward to working with you, our local and statewide partners, in achieving Ohio's child welfare mission: safe children, stable families and supportive communities!

Sincerely,
The Staff of PCSAO



Left to right: PCSAO Past President Eric Fenner, Kay Marshall, Rhonda Reagh, Crystal Ward Allen, Gayle Channing Tenenbaum, Jeed Jitprasert, and Greg Kapcar

OHIO LEADS THE NATION

[IN A SAFE REDUCTION OF FOSTER/GROUP CARE]

While Ohio's economy has faltered, many families with children have struggled to maintain safe and stable homes. Jobs have been lost, homes lost and many community based services have been reduced due to budget cuts. Food pantry lines have lengthened.

Nevertheless, Ohio's child welfare system has worked to maintain child safety while delivering services in a way that supports and strengthens families. At a time when outside resources were scarce, it was critical that agencies carefully assess the risk and need, and target support and services to immediately stabilize families – thus avoiding costly and traumatic out of home placement.

While reports of child maltreatment increased, Ohio continued a safe reduction of children in out of home care. There are many ways to view this, but this edition of the PCSAO Factbook demonstrates that this is a durable trend, and not one dimensional.



Figure 1: This figure shows the number of children in placement at the end of January and June, for each year beginning Jan. 2000 through Jan. 2010. The number peaks in 2002, followed by a steady decline.

“While reports of child maltreatment increased, Ohio continued a safe reduction of children in out of home care.”

STEADY, INTENTIONAL OHIO PERFORMANCE

Ohio has achieved a steady reduction of children in foster and group care. Between 2002 and 2010, there has been a 42% Safe Reduction in out of home care! Figure 1 is from Roger Ward, Data Project Manager for the Supreme Court of Ohio's Court Improvement Project and ODJFS. Individual county performance and county size groupings are available on the Supreme Court of Ohio website at www.summitonchildren.ohio.gov/AttySvcs/cfsr.

OHIO AND NATIONAL PERFORMANCE

Figure 2 shows data from the federal Adoption and Foster Care Reporting System (AFCARS) and shows Ohio's performance compared to other states. Ohio leads the nation in the rate of Safe Reduction of out of home care, over time. Four of the top five performers (OH, CA, FL and IL) have flexible Title IV-E Waivers, allowing federal funds for investment in services to strengthen birth and extended families thus, diverting many traumatic and costly placements. You can view more data by visiting the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Children & Families website at www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/stats_research/index.htm#afcars.

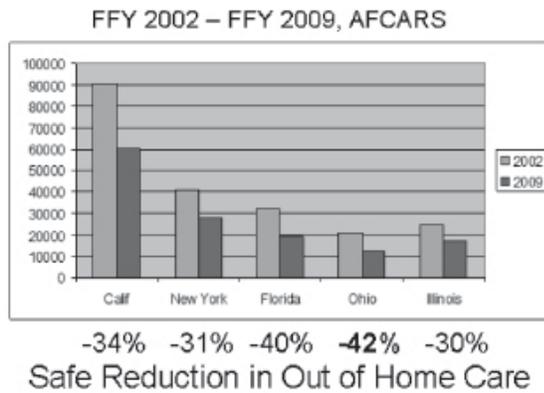


Figure 2: This figure shows Ohio's rate of Safe Reduction of out of home care as 42% - the highest rate compared to other top performing states.

HOW DID OHIO ACHIEVE SUCH IMPRESSIVE RESULTS?

We employed a multi-pronged effort including a quality risk and safety assessment tool, focus on strengthening families with up front services to prevent placement, family engagement strategies, integrating services with community based partners, identification and support of relatives and other kin caregivers, and flexible funding. Flexible funding consists primarily of local funds (half of Ohio's child welfare investment) and Title IV-E ProtectOhio flexible federal funding for one third of Ohio. In addition, Ohio's child welfare system continues to receive high marks for fiscal management and accountability.

The story can be told many ways, additional data is provided below in Figure 3.

OHIO PRACTICE REFORM AND INNOVATIONS

Ohio child welfare has reformed how we do business, with an intentional focus on enhancing safety and quality services, while managing budgets. Ohio child welfare leaders have

discovered how best to invest their resources to address safety, stability and permanency. The long view has been taken, it is reaping rewards while laying out the next steps.

NEXT STEPS

Ohio's intentional path for a multi-pronged system improvement has been outlined above and discussed. Our next steps include the following:

Differential Response expansion

Ohio has thoughtfully moved forward with Differential Response practice reform by beginning with a ten county pilot, engaging outside expertise and facilitation, and ensuring a rigorous evaluation. Many families desperately want to positively raise their children and keep their families intact. In low and moderate risk cases, we have found families much more open to services when we initially engage them using strength-based, partnership approaches rather than investigative tactics. When infusing key, hands-on, non-traditional services at the outset, many children can be safely maintained in their own homes without traumatic and costly removal. The formal involvement with the system is shorter as well, saving time and budgets and evaluation showed no reduction in child safety.

There are currently 25 counties practicing differential response. Additional counties have applied for the next ten spots for supported implementation in summer 2011 and another invitation for additional counties is expected in fall 2011. More information is available on the Ohio Child Protection Law Reform website www.law.capital.edu/adoption/AR/.

Figure 3: Statewide Trends	2009	% Change 2001 - 2009
Children in custody at least one day	23,139	34 % decrease
Children in custody at year-end	11,721	42 % decrease
Children awaiting adoption	2,897	46 % decrease
Reports of maltreatment	116,216	15 % increase

Kinship Policy Continuum

Identification and support of relative and other kin caregivers has been a key to the safe reduction of children in care. However, a full continuum of kinship care must be available. Ohio's federal Kinship Navigator Grant is demonstrating that supporting kin caregiver families that are not formally involved in the child welfare system assists with keeping children safe and healthy and avoids costly, traumatic placement. Clarifying simplified legal paths, including legal documentation for kin caregivers that do not have custody, as well as paths to obtain custody without intrusive child welfare involvement, are needed.

Ohio's Title IV-E Waiver counties are also investing in and evaluating enhanced support services for those kin caregiver families that are formally involved in the child welfare system.

Finally, Ohio's Kinship Permanency Incentive program, supporting 8,000 children in safe kin environments demonstrates that providing a modest fiscal incentive facilitates safe and permanent homes for our children. It is cost effective and good for Ohio's kids.

Permanency for Older Youth

Like other states, Ohio has too many youth emancipating out of foster care without permanent families and safety net services. Research clearly documents that these young adults struggle with success on their own. We are aggressively pursuing technical and practice strategies to improve our performance to connect youth to permanent families, including Family Search and Engagement strategies upon initial placement and for lingering foster youth. We are also looking to implement Permanency Roundtables for these youth, which uses a specific team approach to relentlessly search for permanency solutions for individual youth.

Child In Need of Protective Services Legislation (CHIPS)

The Supreme Court of Ohio's Advisory Committee on Children, Families and the Courts embraced

the need to review and improve our patch-worked child welfare law. After years of review, discussion and drafting, this impressive multi-disciplinary group has done the work and passed it on to the General Assembly. CHIPS legislation would focus our work on engaging families, while clarifying child maltreatment into seven well defined categories that would be easier for all to understand and for courts to more consistently define and rule on specific cases of child maltreatment.



Representative Connie Pillich receives a PCSAO Legislator of the Year Award from Greg Kapcar, PCSAO Legislative Director, for her work to protect critical health and human services funding in the state budget and lead sponsorship of Child In Need of Protective Services legislation.

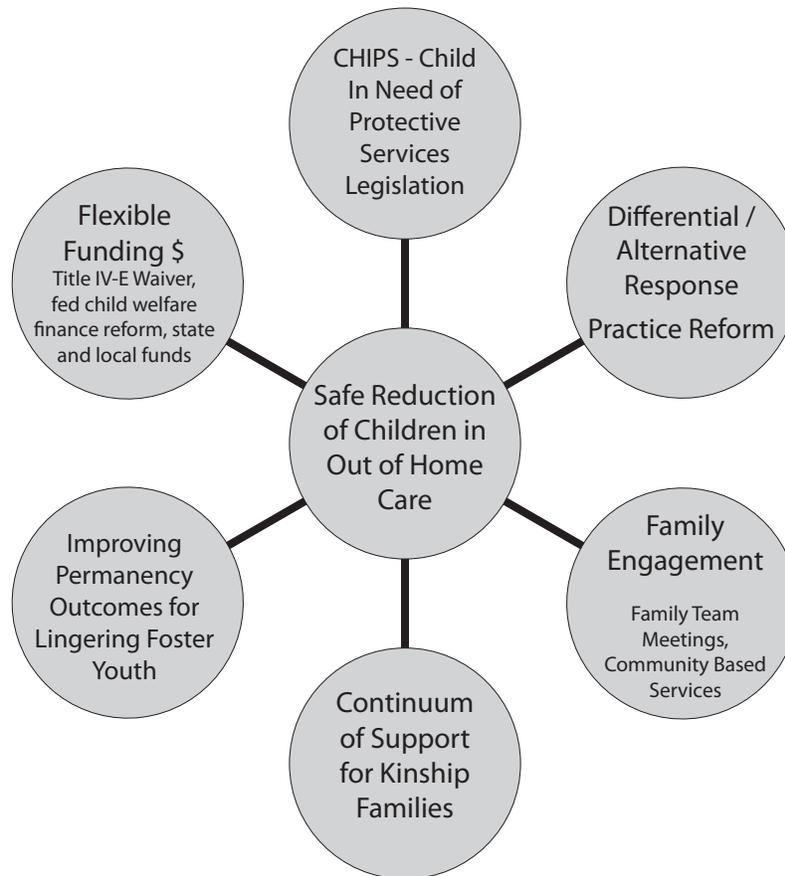
Mental Health

In order to continue to protect children in Ohio's child welfare system and provide the upfront services that support programs, such as Differential Response for families, Ohio's fractured mental health system must be strengthened. It is estimated that 35-50% of parents with children in the child welfare system have behavioral health problems (either mental health or addiction, or both) and 35,947 of the children in our system struggle with behavioral health issues of their own.

We also recognize that evidence-based programs can be used to prevent, intervene early and provide treatment when necessary.

Next Steps: Mental Health (continued on page 6)

[OHIO CHILD WELFARE REFORM]



Building on our Proud Accomplishments: Between 2001 and 2009, Ohio has experienced a 42% safe reduction in the number of children experiencing the trauma of out of home care. Recent statewide accomplishments include CAPMIS (safety, risk and family planning tool), supports for kinship care, and a statewide SACWIS MIS system. It is time to create a legislative foundation for reform, and to bring other innovations and initiatives to scale statewide, including:

CHIPS Legislation – focusing practice and legal procedures on the Needs of a Child, within the philosophy of engaging and strengthening families.

Differential / Alternative Response – after the initial pilot and promising evaluation, ODJFS is leading a gradual rollout, with 25 counties practicing, ten more scheduled for launch in early summer 2011, and an invite for more in the fall of 2011.

Family Engagement – promoting Family Engagement through Family Team Meetings, Group Decision Making, Community-based collaboration and services.

Kinship Families – enhancing Kinship Caregiver policies and support (legislation and partnership with Supreme Court of Ohio to clarify and simplify legal path for kin caregivers, HHS Kinship Navigator grant).

Permanency – improving Permanency Outcomes for Lingerin Youth by expanding Child Specific Recruitment and Family Finding strategies, expanding Permanency Roundtables, enhancing education and workforce outcomes for youth, reducing foster and teen pregnancies.

Flexible Funding – just renewed for another five years, the budget neutral Title IV-E ProtectOhio Waiver supports the full continuum of prevention, diversion, placement and reunification services vs. only placement costs. Special focuses include Family Team Meetings and Kinship Supports. Flexible federal, state and local funds contribute to the safe reduction of children in care and reduced trauma.

All efforts must track and address the disproportionate rate of minority children in care.

As the Kasich Administration moves to a model of integrating health and behavioral health, PCSAO supports continuing programs where data has shown outcomes and health indicators improving for children and their families. For example:

- Working with the Office of Health Care Transformation to provide the most timely and best behavioral health screening, early intervention and treatment for the 35,947 children and youth involved with the child welfare system; at the same time working with this Office to find a funding mechanism to fund services for parents who are not Medicaid eligible.
- Supporting the Pediatric Psychiatric Network (PPN) for primary care physicians throughout Ohio, where no psychiatric support exists. The PPN provides access to child and adolescent psychiatric decision support, education and triage services to help diagnose and treat their patients with psychiatric issues. A toll-free telephone number provides parents with 24/7 access.
- Approval of a change in the ODMH Medicaid Plan by the end of 2011 to permit In-Home Based Services for the treatment of children, youth and their families.

Father Confronts Challenges, Succeeds at Goals – Then Works with Others to do the Same

A PCSAO Birth Family of the Year: Larry's Story

Having grown up with many family challenges, Larry was struggling himself with alcoholism, housing, and financial challenges. A single dad, his children were placed in foster care. During the next year, Larry engaged with Fathers and Sons of Northeast Ohio, began regular visits with his children, achieved and maintained sobriety, attended Alcoholics Anonymous, worked a steady job, and set up a functioning budget. By 2009, Larry had made dramatic progress and custody of his two children was returned. He is a loving father with a stable home, stable employment, and an extensive support system.

Through the Fathers and Sons Program, Larry is now a mentor and an advocate for other fathers involved with the child welfare system. He has been asked to be a speaker for the Northeast Ohio Regional Training Center and is learning how to help train social workers be more effective with fathers. He was recognized by Ohio Commission on Fatherhood as an example of the type of father they were established to help. Many people have obstacles in their life, but few have as many, and yet come as far, as Larry.



Larry is surrounded by family and friends as he receives the honor of PCSAO Birth Family of the Year.

- Home Visitation Services for targeted populations of first time mothers with certain risk factors, including: poverty, previous involvement (during their own childhood) with the child welfare system, mental illness, addiction and/or domestic violence.
- Continued inclusion of child welfare in the Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Program to screen, identify and provide treatment for children in the child welfare system ages 0 to 6, who are experiencing social-emotional problems sometimes related to trauma.

CHILD WELFARE FINANCING

Careful Investment and Reinvestment!
Ohio has made a steady, intentional safe reduction in the number of children in out of home care by investing our resources to strengthen families and recognizing that most parents and/or relatives want to raise their own children, but sometimes need immediate help to stabilize situations. We know that preventing placement into foster care avoids further traumatizing children and reduces immediate placement costs as well as longer term costs in a variety of systems, including rehabilitation and corrections. The child placement costs saved can then be reinvested into our family strengthening efforts for safe children and stable families.

Complex Revenues

As one of only thirteen state supervised, county administered child welfare systems in the nation, Ohio families benefit from the local community knowledge and relationships, investment, and accountability. However, as a state, Ohio provides the lowest investment in child welfare in the nation, with only 8-10% of the total cost of child welfare services; local funds and federal funds provide the rest in nearly equal proportions. In recent years, Ohio has invested state funds to support a statewide child welfare management information system, known as the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS), which allows real time access

to critical safety information for caseworkers – a necessary tool in today’s mobile society.

While local taxpayers have been very generous in many communities, they are certainly fatigued and stressed with increased demands to fund a wide variety of items including education, other human services, public safety services, libraries, etc. Further stressing local budgets, recent tax reform eliminated the local Tangible Personal Property tax for businesses and established the state Commercial Activity Tax, thus shifting tax revenues from local to state – without reinvesting lost revenues for child safety and stability. PCSAO is working with other local government entities and state policy makers for a sustainable fix to the loss of local revenues.

Finally, such dependence on local funds means significant inequities among communities for child safety and permanency. While a county with a healthy economy can afford a children services levy (45 counties have one), poor communities have difficulty levying tax dollars (43 counties have no children services levy).

“Federal outcomes data confirms it – allowing flexible use of federal funding improves child outcomes.”

Fiscally Accountable

Ohio has once again shown we are excellent stewards of the federal tax dollar. Ohio’s most recent Title IV-E Eligibility Review found Ohio’s child welfare system to be at a 96+% compliance rate. With the help of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio’s 88 County Public Children Services Agencies (PCSAs) and many Juvenile Courts accountably and aggressively claim federal funds, in order to invest in Ohio’s children and families. We are proud of our continued excellence. In addition, Ohio voters clearly have a value for safe children and strong families, as 100% of all children services levies passed in the May and November 2010 elections.

Federal Child Welfare Financing

Federal outcomes data confirms it – allowing flexible use of federal funding improves child outcomes. The AFCARS data show four of five high performing states, including Ohio, had budget neutral IV-E Waivers, allowing reinvestment of available funds to support and strengthen families (birth, kinship and adoptive). Traditional Title IV-E funding only invests in placement (foster care and adoption).

It is time for Congress to allow additional states to seek Title IV-E Waivers, like Ohio's.

More importantly, it is time for Congress to pass comprehensive federal child welfare financing reform. Flexible use of funds for all children (vs. continuing the antiquated 1996 Aid to Families with Dependent Children, or AFDC income standard currently attached for accessing Title IV-E funds) will benefit all our children and families.



United States Senator Sherrod Brown received a PCSAO Legislator of the Year Award for his work on federal legislation supporting relative caregivers and improving outcomes for foster/adoptive children; plus efforts in child welfare financing reform and much more.

CONTINUED INNOVATIONS AND EFFICIENCIES

Administrative Capacity Building

Across Ohio, local county agencies that make up the child welfare, public assistance, child support, behavioral health and developmental disability systems are actively striving for efficiencies. The various agencies are streamlining within and across counties, as well as creating shared administrative expertise, functions and positions.

Cross System Collaboration

Targeted investment and partnerships with other systems are also paying off. For instance, evaluation has shown that immediate, on-site behavioral health assessment for child welfare families is effective – the immediacy engages families at the time of crisis, better working relationships form between the professionals, and referrals are more accurate vs. a standard behavioral health referral. As a result, appropriate behavioral health services are targeted to children and families who are engaged and show up (avoiding waiting lists of no-shows and unengaged clients). We have also seen that engaging education professionals for foster youth to encourage and track their school work is paying off with improved educational performance – sorely needed as our foster students are typically behind in school, and have poor graduation and post secondary school success rates.

Innovative Piloting

County agencies are piloting innovative approaches to maintaining quality local services during a time of increasing need but declining budgets. In Northwest Ohio, a pilot project called "CollaborEight" involves eight county agencies creating one public assistance call center for individuals/families from any one of the eight counties. In Southeast Ohio, a group of Appalachian county agencies is looking at forming a Council of Governments. Another pilot project involves child welfare agencies voluntarily merging their child maltreatment screening hotlines.

PARTNERS FOR OHIO'S FAMILIES

A collaborative project between Ohio's Office of Families and Children and the Midwest Child Welfare Implementation Center to develop and implement a new technical assistance model.



Work plan highlights

Readiness and Assessment

- Develop OFC Child & Adult Protection mission and vision
- Conduct regional forums
- Conduct Organizational Social Context (OSC) Assessment
- Develop new Technical Assistance (TA) Model
- TA Model implementation
- Develop plan for vision implementation
- Review all current rules

Field Monitoring

- Conduct assessment of new TA model implementation

Communication

- Engage existing workgroups and advisory bodies
- Project Advisory Board meets quarterly
- OFC promotes new model

Staffing/ Infrastructure

- OFC staff duties aligned with new TA model

Training to Support New TA Model

- Identify OFC training needs
- Develop and deliver specialized OFC training

Which will result in the following system impacts

- Improved working relationship between OFC and the public and private agencies it serves
- OFC practice is transformed to be public and private child serving agency focused



For more information visit www.mcwic.org

Partners for Ohio's Families

An important part of Ohio's systemic effort to improve its child welfare outcomes is the Partners for Ohio's Families project. Ohio was competitively selected to receive this three and one-half year federal grant that supports collaboration between the Office of Families and Children (OFC) at the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Midwest Child Welfare Implementation Center (MCWIC).

The financial and consultant resources available through this partnership allow Ohio to develop and implement a new technical assistance model which will materially alter how OFC works with Ohio's county-administered child welfare offices, enhancing Ohio's capacity to implement evidence-informed and promising child welfare interventions.

In this move to a mission- and results-driven model, OFC will be redesigning to better meet the needs of public and private agencies and to empower OFC employees' self-growth and engagement in continuous improvement. Work includes a comprehensive rule review that engages public and private agencies, establishes new processes and criteria for rule development, and encourages consistent, proactive and collaborative monitoring.

OACCA Outcomes Data Project

In today's economic and budget environment, evaluating outcomes for purchased services is more crucial than ever.

Since January 2007, the Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies (OACCA) and 19 member agencies have been part of their Outcomes Data Project, resulting in the following findings:

- Average length of stay in treatment foster care and residential care is five months. OACCA is collecting post-discharge data to study the relationship of length of stay to outcomes.
- All programs kept children safe post-placement.
- More than half of the cases achieved the outcome goals for most measures. However, results varied greatly among different programs.
- OACCA is analyzing data to determine whether services are as effective as they need to be and if initial placements are appropriate. At discharge, a quarter of all children had improved mental health status and went to more family-like settings. OACCA will provide support and training for continuous quality improvement.

We appreciate efforts by OACCA and their private agency members contributing to Ohio's intentional path for multi-pronged system improvement and to evaluate the services they provide to children and families objectively and strategically, for outcome effectiveness.

ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

PCSAO is dedicated to Organizational Excellence to improve outcomes for children and families through supporting research, quality improvement and training activities that will enhance local agency practice. This is achieved through strong partnerships and leadership from the agencies themselves, as well as Ohio's training system, university partners and the Council on Accreditation for Children, Youth and Families.

Kinship Care Provides a Large and Loving Support System

A PCSAO Kinship Family of the Year: Kevin and Bonnie

A kinship caregiver is a family member or close friend who is willing to step up and help a family that is struggling, someone who will put their lives on hold to ensure that a child is safe and happy.

Bonnie and Kevin of Logan County assumed this role and stepped in to save their grandchild Drake. Very early in life, Drake was physically abused by his mother's boyfriend. It was through the intervention of his grandparents that Drake received medical treatment, and ultimately a loving, safe, and secure home. With Drake's safety and well-being always the main priority, Bonnie and Kevin recognize the importance of the bond between Drake's mother and father and have been supportive of visits in their home.

Drake's grandparents utilize various community resources to promote his health and happiness, including Help Me Grow for Drake's development and speech. He can now count, say his ABCs, and state his address and phone number. He happily lives in the midst of a large and loving support system thanks to our PCSAO Kinship Family of the Year – Bonnie and Kevin.



Drake is surrounded by the loving network Bonnie and Kevin help create.

Ohio Child Welfare Training Program
The Ohio Child Welfare Training Program (OCWTP), a nationally recognized training system, is a collaboration of the 88 county public children services agencies, Ohio's eight regional training centers hosted in local agencies, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, PCSAO and the Institute for Human Services (I.H.S.). This collaboration works to provide training for caseworkers, supervisors, foster parents and adoption assessors in Ohio's counties.

In 2009 and 2010, the OCWTP continued its efforts to launch E-Track, a new learning management system which replaced their antiquated computer system used to manage training data. They also made strides in fully integrating distance learning and other technology into their training delivery strategies, in addition to the introduction of a toolkit used to enhance worker's assessment skills, and significant revisions to foster/adoptive assessor training.

University Partnership Program
The University Partnership Program (UPP) is a university based partnership among eight Ohio public universities, ODJFS, IHS and the state's public children services agencies to assist in the preparation of bachelor's and master's level social work practitioners who will be employed in the public child welfare field. UPP students take extra courses in child welfare, participate in field practicum seminars and complete a field placement in a PCSA. Upon graduation, they are eligible for partial tuition reimbursement if they secure employment in a PCSA. In 2009, Youngstown State University was welcomed as the eighth Ohio site, the second evaluation report of UPP was released and an electronic data tracking system was developed for the program.

Child Welfare Research Partnership
Since 2004, representatives from PCSAO, IHS, ODJFS, faculty members from several Ohio

Social Work programs and county agencies have convened when needed to discuss issues from the field that require more research. Initial research focused on intervention strategies to reduce re-entries into foster care and screening of referrals. The screening research led to the creation of the Intake Standards Task Force in 2009. During 2009-10 this group revised and updated the PCSAO Standards for Intake Screening and developed new tools to guide telephone screeners in obtaining vital information on child safety and family strengths at the time of referral. These Standards were released in early 2010.

“Child welfare professionals are dedicated, helping professionals who work daily to improve the quality of life for children and families experiencing child abuse and neglect.”

Council on Accreditation
PCSAO continues its commitment to better outcomes for children and families through encouraging PCSAs to achieve accreditation through the Council on Accreditation (COA). Since

2002, when PCSAO and ODJFS first initiated accreditation efforts, the number of agencies achieving accreditation increased from eight to twenty five with four additional agencies actively seeking accreditation by the end of 2011. PCSAO works cooperatively with ODJFS to assure funds are identified as incentives to assist counties with initial accreditation and reaccreditation costs.

Worker Safety
Child welfare professionals are dedicated, helping professionals who work daily to improve the quality of life for children and families experiencing child abuse and neglect. At times, their work includes threats and overt acts of aggression which results in risks to their personal safety. Since the tragic work-related death in 2002 of Nancy Fitzgivens, a Franklin County caseworker, PCSAO and its Human Resources/Safety Committee has been collecting and reporting worker safety critical incidents on a quarterly and annual basis.

In 2009, sixty-six PCSAs reported a total of 240 incidents of verbal aggression, physical assault, verbal and written threats of harm, as well as

Cuyahoga County Youth Advocate Sets the Bar for Excellence in Working with Teens

Outstanding Child Protection Caseworker of the Year: Seanine Cook

Seanine Cook is a Social Worker Teen Specialist currently working in the Independent Living Department of the Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services. She has been with the agency for 16 years and has distinguished herself by earning several awards during that time.

Ms. Cook stands out in a number of ways. She is a true advocate for youth, especially teens. She has a gift for motivating, for building lasting relationships, and for being a trustworthy friend to all. She attends training to upgrade her skills and is a willing resource and source of inspiration to others in the field. She is creative and thinks outside the box. She has successfully tackled projects large and small. She is regarded as helpful and cooperative and a great asset to her agency.



Seanine Cook (center with hat) celebrates her award with adoring youth and colleagues.

personal and agency property damage from adult clients and youth. These incidents were triggered by home visits for the purpose of assessing child abuse and neglect allegations, discussions about custody issues involving children and during routine home visits with active cases.

PCSAO encourages PCSAs to establish and promote Worker Safety Protocols and Safety Committees in all agencies. Many agencies have developed Worker Safety and Risk Management Protocols to reduce the potential of harm to staff, as well as developing a culture of safety with their agencies for both staff and clients. These efforts are supported by training within the OCWTP curricula as well as by specific accreditation risk management standards.

OHIO'S ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

As Ohio entered 2011, it continued to struggle from an economic recession that created

devastating realities for children and families. Since the last publication of this Factbook two years ago:

- The unemployment rate in Ohio jumped from 5.8% to just under 10%.
- One in ten, or 1.6 million, Ohioans receives food stamps.
- One in five people are insured by Medicaid, including 1.5 million children, and Medicaid pays for one in three births.
- 42% of Ohio school children are on the federal free or reduced-price meal program.
- TANF cash assistance has increased from 173,254 in 2008 to 241,669 in 2010.
- Waiting times for essential mental health services can be as long as 3 to 6 months.
- Shortages at food banks across the state occur at the end of the each month.
- Homeless shelters for all people including children and families are full and forced to turn people away.