



PCSAO Weekly Update

February 23, 2010

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URGENT ACTION TO CONTINUE OHIO'S MEDICAID MATCH (FMAP) — There is only one opportunity left for Congress to amend a Jobs Bill to allow the Stimulus (ARAR) dollars that states received to support their Medicaid Programs to be extended for an additional two quarters after December 31, 2010. Before Ohio's new FMAP rate for SCHIP and Medicaid, Ohio's rate was \$63.42 on the dollar, and with the new FMAP rate it is \$73.47 on the dollar. To illustrate further, if Congress does not extend this FMAP rate Ohio will lose \$ 700 million dollars that would have to be made up in GRF dollars in 2011.

Please email or call your [Congressman and US Senators](#) today and ask them to support an extension of FMAP in order to protect jobs as well as the health care of millions of children and persons with disabilities in Ohio. If you can only make one call today please call Senator George Voinovich with this important message. His DC # is 202-224-3353

Please email Gayle at Gtenenb@aol.com and let us know what kind of a response you are receiving.

HB 371, CHIPS LEGISLATION— we continue to hear from a variety of counties and individuals and are working to integrate all feedback and respond to ensure anything that passes better serves children and families vs. hurting or bankrupting the system. In the past four months, we've held a dozen meetings (membership, district, RTCs, cmtes, Trustees) to discuss the bill and gather big picture questions in preparation for the multi-disciplinary stakeholders' meeting today in Columbus hosted by the sponsors. For example:

- Concern about **current levies being able to fund CHIPS** has been IDed by many and we are working to ensure some solution (probably language that would grandfather in any existing PCSA levy funds).
- **Case law applying to CHIPS?** Indiana was NOT plagued by a clean slate of case law when using CHINS (child in need of services). And another point of interest in Indiana: they have 16 CHINS categories vs. Ohio's proposed 7 categories.
- **Increase in children coming into care?** Indiana's experience was quite the opposite. Decrease in number of children, especially in residential placement by intervening w/CHINS and shifting philosophy from prosecutorial model to meeting child's needs.
- **Educating school systems, court, med providers, other mandated reporters** is also a common one IDed, and we are working with many stakeholders in and outside child welfare, courts, schools, service providers, etc.
- **SACWIS accommodating CHIPS** is already in the bill and we expect more specific language to be drafted. It is important to the sponsor that this be addressed.
- **Ensuring CHIPS accommodates FINS.** Good catch and we're working on it.
- **Maltreatment by family member other than parent and Central Registry.** Good catch and we can learn from Indiana's experience around this issue.
- **Skyrocketing/bankrupting prediction.** The bill maintains health and safety of children as being paramount, PCSAs will continue to maintain responsibility to intervene when child is at safety risk, but PCSA professionals will also continue to be trained, and use CAPMIS tools to make informed, professional decisions. Just as there is a continuum of how 88 county agencies act now, there will still be professional and county decision making.

CCAO GENERAL GOV'T & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE— many thanks to Beth Tsvetkoff and Larry Long for inviting Greg Kapcar, Legislative Director at PCSAO and John Fisher, immediate past president of OJFSDA and Director of Licking Co JFS to walk them through HB 371, CHIPS. Greg reviewed the "pinwheel" visual of how CHIPS fits into Child Welfare Reform efforts in Ohio and an outline of the bill. John talked through OJFSDA's questions/concerns with the bill and pointed out OJFSDA is not opposing the bill, but the association is attempting to represent and resolve members' concerns. CCAO is generally supportive of the intent to make the law more clear to protect children, and has similar concerns already expressed (existing levy language referencing A/N/D; costs, children in care; protection from public duty rule changes). It is our understanding the Committee and Board were excited to hear that the bill is an evolving piece of legislation, and that the sponsor is open to discussing changes. Thanks again Beth and Larry and we look forward to continuing to work with you!

PCSAO LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE – met Monday, Feb 22 via conference call (to accommodate travel and solution to inclement weather in parts of the state). The main item on the agenda was HB 371, CHIPS legislation (see separate articles above...). We also looked at HB 446, Rep. Harris' Out of State Placement bill that would require facilities outside of Ohio to meet the same standards as in-state, Ohio facilities serving our state's abused, neglected, dependent, unruly, and delinquent children. You can access the bill at http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=128_HB_446. Several questions raised (who's responsible for

monitoring? In state institutions' ability to meet needs? ...). If you have specific input on the bill, please email greg@pcsao.org. Next meeting March 15, 10 am – 2 pm, FCCS, 855 W. Mound St, Cols 43223.

NEW EXECUTIVE ORIENTATION BEING PLANNED If you are a new agency exec who hasn't been through orientation at PCSAO or you have a new child welfare administrator or other managers you would like to go through orientation, please be in touch with Rhonda Reagh (rhonda@pcsao.org). We are targeting the end of April for this two day orientation. No date is firm yet, but we need to know the number of people interested. Send Rhonda an email or call her at (614)224-5802. Firm dates will be available in the next two weeks.

OCWTP RESOURCE PAGE FOR NEW EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION— The OCWTP has developed a new resource page for new employee orientation. The orientation resources are designed to orient new staff to the overall field of child welfare, to their specific agency, and to their community. Counties can use the resources and content outline as a roadmap to design an orientation program that meets the unique needs of their new employees. The resources include an outline of recommended orientation topics and content; resources and links to recommended orientation content; and worksheets and activities designed to help new employees gather and keep track of information specific to their agency and their community. <http://www.ocwtp.net/Orientation.html> . For more information contact Sally Fitch at sfitch@ihs-trainet.com

ADOPTUSKIDS NAMES STACEY HATTE CASEWORKER OF THE MONTH— AdoptUsKids named Stacey Hatte, a foster care and adoption homestudy specialist with Butler County Children Services, as the February Caseworker of the Month. The award is part of AdoptUsKids' national initiative to celebrate caseworkers for their dedication to children and families. Stacey was nominated by Connie Ledford, a prospective foster-to-adopt mom from Middleton, Ohio, who notes that Stacey's efficiency and calm demeanor helped make the homestudy process run smoothly. Click [here](#) to see AdoptUsKids' full article on Stacey's achievement. Congratulations Stacey!



BRYAN SAMUELS CONFIRMED - On February 11, 2010, the Senate confirmed Bryan Hayes Samuels, of Illinois, to be Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Families, Department of Health and Human Services – Bryan is well regarded in the world of child welfare, and a number of key decisions, including responding on State Flexible Funding Waiver renewal requests, have awaited his leadership. Ellen Gloninger Murray, of Virginia, was also confirmed as Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services.

NACAC ADOPTION FACTSHEETS – The North American Council on Adoptable Children has created state factsheets, you can link to Ohio's at <http://www.nacac.org/policy/statefactsheets/OH.pdf>. This factsheet gives GREAT info about who is waiting, who we are successful in achieving permanency on, and thoughts about potential strategies and opportunities to move on permanency for our waiting children and youth. Thanks, NACAC!

NOAS RURAL ADOPTION OUTREACH REPORT - entitled "*Recruiting, Preparing, and Supporting Successful Adoptive Families – A Step-by Step Recruitment Guide to Educate and Empower Agencies for Recruiting Adoptive Families in Rural Communities.*" is now available on-line at www.noas.com/reports.asp. This recruitment guide can be a valuable resource tool for your recruitment staff, rural or urban. It is packed with marketing samples and links to actual websites. Our primary goal was to recruit adoptive families for the nearly 6,000 Ohio children who still linger in foster care. NOAS' report is the result of a federal grant, and includes lessons learned, great strategies, etc. - they made the phone ring—they received over 1,800 adoption inquiries that developed into 64 adoptive placements.

NATIONAL INCIDENCE STUDY (NIS-4) – HHS Administration for Children and Families (ACF) recently released a study examining the national incidence of child abuse and neglect (NIS-4 reflecting 2005-06 data). The report is a Congressional mandate that began in 1974, which led to the first NIS report that collected data in 1979-1980. **The findings show an overall decrease, 19 percent, in the incidence of maltreatment since the last issued report (NIS-3).** The report found that 1.25 million children (or 1 in every 58 children in the U.S.) experienced maltreatment during the NIS-4 study year. To access the full or executive summary (recommended for busy people) report visit: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/abuse_neglect/natl_incid/

The NIS-4 report also noted that children whose grandparent cared for them had lower rates of physical abuse compared to those with no identified grandparent caregiver: they had two-thirds the rate of Harm Standard physical abuse and less than four-fifths the rate of Endangerment Standard physical abuse – this is a significant finding, once again confirming good practice strategies for supporting kinship caregivers.

KINSHIP NAVIGATOR GRANT UPDATE – the seven Enhanced Kinship Navigator Grant counties (Ashtabula, Clark, Crawford, Hardin, Lorain, Portage, and Richland) met two days last week. They had a fabulous Community Mapping Training by HSRI and Advocacy/Systems Change training from PCSAO – which really leads to Community Organizing! HSRI also covered many items for the rigorous evaluation attached to the grant – we are really analyzing what works for improved services and outcomes for children and their kinship caregiver families. We hope this will significantly contribute to a furthering of kinship policy, practice and supports in Ohio and nationally. Watch for our kinship website announcement later this week.

CALIFORNIA DREAMING – After attending the National Institutes of Health Community Participatory Research Conference with Greg Kapcar, and before meeting with the Colorado County Social Services Directors Association, Crystal had the chance to vacation in California a few days – here's to dreaming of beautiful sunsets along the Pacific Coast Highway.

APPLY NOW TO BE A PART OF THE FIRST PPCWG INSTITUTE— The American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) and its affiliate, National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators (NAPCWA), in partnership with Casey Family Programs are pleased to announce the launch of the [Positioning Public Child Welfare Guidance \(PPCWG\) Institute](#).



The Positioning Public Child Welfare Guidance Institute is a culmination of work that has been developed by leaders and stakeholders in the public child welfare field to define what we do, how we do it and how we must hold ourselves accountable. The PPCWG Institute will use the Guidance as curriculum to work with states and local agencies to advance change within their organization to improve performance.

APHSA, NAPCWA and Casey Family Programs are currently accepting applications from **state and local public child welfare agencies** to participate in the upcoming 2010 PPCWG Institute. Attached you will find more information about the PPCWG Institute, how to apply and the guidelines. Applications will be accepted until March 1, 2010.

The Institute is for seven days and will take place on the following dates: May 20 and 21, 2010, July 8 and 9, 2010, August 12 and 13, 2010 and December 3, 2010. The May 20 and 21, 2010, Institute dates will take place in the Washington DC area. The locations for the following dates are to be determined dependant upon selection of participants. The PPCWG Institute will cover the costs of the Institute, lodging and food for the participants. Travel will be expected to be provided by the selected state/locality.

You may want to consider using the Dan Schneider Leadership Fund to finance this Institute. For more information, please contact Rhonda Reagh at 614-224-5802 or rhonda@pcsao.org.

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS OHIO REPORT – The Attorney General Task Force on Trafficking in Persons (sex and labor, adult and minors) released a subcommittee report recently, estimating the scope of the issue here in Ohio. You can read the report at <http://www.pcsao.org/WeeklyUpdate/2010/OHTraffickingStudyCommission.pdf>. PCSAO is represented on the Task Force, Crystal chairs the Prevention and Outreach subcommittee, primarily working on awareness materials.

COURT FORMS TRANSLATED INTO 5 LANGUAGES – As the result of a translation project initiated by the Sprme Crt of Oh, 27 common forms used in general, domestic relations, ***juvenile*** and probate common pleas court divisions and municipal courts throughout the state have been translated into five major languages: Arabic, Mandarin

Chinese, Russian, Somali, and Spanish. The Court said they are the “most commonly requested” by non-English speakers. More details about the initiative are on the SCO website at www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/JCS/interpreterSvc/default.asp.

CHILD WELFARE JOURNAL SPECIAL ISSUE: DEDICATED TO STRENGTHENING THE CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE— Child Welfare: Journal of Policy, Practice and Program, Volume 88 #5 (2009) is a special issue dedicated to strengthening the child welfare workforce by promoting recruitment and retention. If it is sitting in your reading pile, it's worth pulling out and reading! Many counties in Ohio are using some form of realistic job previews (RJPs) such as worker panels, DVDs, etc. during the hiring process to convey to applicants the realities of the field. There is a great article by Faller, et al. reviewing these practices. Other articles examine employee selection protocols, strengthening skills of supervisors, and predictors of undesired turnover.

NOMINATIONS FOR FOSTERCLUB OUTSTANDING YOUNG LEADER AWARD - DEADLINE MARCH 15, 2010— FosterClub works and learns from countless young people from the foster care system who are true inspirations. These young leaders have persevered through challenging circumstances and are now finding different ways to give back to their community and disprove negative stereotypes about young people in foster care. In honor of their successes, FosterClub will be recognizing 100 of these young people with the FosterClub Outstanding Young Leader Award.

Nominees must be aged 16-24 as of May 1, 2010 and must have spent some time in foster care. Nominations are not open to FosterClub staff or interns (including All-Stars). **The Nomination form will be open February 15th to March 15th.** To nominate yourself or someone you know, please visit: <http://www.fosterclub.com/article/nominate-2010-outstanding-young-leader>

Please note: The nomination form takes about an hour to be completed. We encourage you to download a practice application, review the questions, and write out practice essay questions (which you can then use to copy into the nomination form). If you are nominating someone else, you may not be able to complete all of the questions - but we encourage you to fill it out the nomination form as completely as possible.

OHIO YAB PARTNERS WITH OHIO CASA— We ran this article about the OHIO Youth Advisory Board in the February 9 Weekly Update; however the links were not working. We have included the links for the flyers that were developed by OHIO YAB to provide awareness of the CASA/GAL program. Please distribute these flyers to youth so that they may learn more about these important programs:

- Handout: <http://www.pcsao.org/WeeklyUpdate/2010/OhioCASAhandout.pdf>
- Card: <http://www.pcsao.org/WeeklyUpdate/2010/OhioCASAcad.pdf>

NEWS AND UPDATES FROM VOICE FOR ADOPTION—Voice for Adoption (VFA) is a national coalition of child welfare organizations working to represent the interests of foster youth, and the families who adopt them. They recently posted some informative articles in their own weekly update that were so relevant we decided to pass them on:

- **It's Time to Make Older Child Adoption a Reality: Because Every Child and Youth Deserves a Family:** Despite the nation's goal to achieve permanency for children the number of youth who age out of foster care without a family has steadily risen over the past decade. In 2007 more than 28,000 youth aged out of foster care. Younger children have a greater chance of finding a permanent family. Once a child reaches 9 years of age their chances for being adopted are much less likely. About 43 percent of waiting children are nine or older, but 72 percent of children who get adopted are under the age of nine. The North American Council on Adoptable Children released a publication highlights successful strategies to achieve adoption and break down barriers that inhibit permanency for older youth. To access this publication visit: <http://www.nacac.org/adoptalk/MakeOlderChildAdoptionReality.pdf>
- **Permanency: More Than Just Homes:** The Fall 2009 issue of the National Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association magazine, contains an article that provides feedback and tangible tools for volunteers, mentors, caseworkers, and others working to find permanency for children in foster care. Martin Westerman, a father and an author, writes the article. The column focuses on the importance of finding permanency for children and identifies two easy-to-use tools that help young people understand permanency by identifying significant people in their lives. The Connectedness Map, courtesy of the Santa Cruz County CASA Program, is a diagram that adults can use with children to gain an idea of the people who the child feels connected to. To access this resource visit:

http://nc.casaforchildren.org/files/public/site/publications/theconnection/Summer2009/Connection_CoverStory_Summer2009.pdf

- **Healthy Foster Care America website:** The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) developed a new web site for professionals and partner organizations to access the latest information, facts and figures on the health care of children and teens in foster care, including useful resources and tools. Families raising children and teens may also find these materials helpful in caring for the health needs of children in their care. To access this site visit: <http://www.aap.org/fostercare/>

To learn more about Voice for Adoption, visit their website at www.voice-for-adoption.org.

CHILD WELFARE IN THE NEWS— Child Welfare in the News highlights important child welfare news and articles that focus on a positive program or effect of an Ohio public children services agency, and other agencies across the country

- Sack, Kevin; and Pear, Robert. [States consider Medicaid cuts as use grows](#). *The New York Times*. February 18, 2010. Facing relentless fiscal pressure and exploding demand for government health care, virtually every state is making or considering substantial cuts in Medicaid even as Democrats push to add 15 million people to the rolls. In some states, governors are trying to avoid the deepest cuts by pushing for increases in tobacco taxes or new levies on hospitals and doctors, but many of those proposals are running into election-year trouble in conservative legislatures.
- Minor, Robyn L. [CASA seeks to aid at-risk foster teens](#). *The Daily News*. February 13, 2010. Foster children who become “of age” and leave the state’s custody are at risk of becoming homeless, a victim or even a criminal. It’s those circumstances that mentoring programs, such as “Fostering Teens” planned by Court Appointed Special Advocates of Southern Kentucky, seek to change.
- Wilson, Loresha. [Mental health court keeps children out of jail](#). *The Times*. February 15, 2010. Eyes glassy from lack of sleep and prescription mood stabilizers, the 13-year-old sat on the sofa in his parents’ home and muttered angrily under his breath. A moment later he yelled at his mother. He is on probation for assaulting a staff member at a local medical facility and hurting another child, and suspended from seventh grade for threatening a teacher. At age 5, he set the schoolyard on fire. “While in kindergarten, my baby was the only elementary student in an alternative school for bad children. ... He’s always in and out of trouble, and we’re always in and out of court,” said Robin Blair, the child’s mother. Although diagnosed in 2001 with bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, attention deficit hyperactive disorder and moderate retardation, he is just now getting the help he needs. He is one of 110 children who have received services through the Caddo juvenile mental health court.

JOB OPENINGS— for more information, please visit <http://www.pcsao.org/Employment.htm>

| Posted Date | Organization | Available Position |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 2/22/2010 | Franklin County Children Services | Systems Analyst Supervisor |
| 2/22/2010 | Highland County Children Services | Ongoing Caseworker and Intake/Assessment Case Worker |
| 2/19/2010 | Athens County Children Services | Caseworker |
| 1/29/2010 | Richland County Children Services | Program Supervisor I |
| 1/29/2010 | Clinton County Children Services | Adult Protective Service and Fraud Investigator |
| 1/27/2010 | Huron County Children Services | Children Services Supervisor |

UPCOMING MEETINGS

| WHEN | WHAT | WHERE |
|-----------|------------------------------|--|
| Feb 24 | PCSAO HR/Safety Committee | PCSAO Office |
| Feb 30 | PCSAO Rule Review Committee | ODJFS, Conference Rm. C606 |
| March 3 | Board of Trustees | PCSAO Office |
| March 5 | PCSAO PIO Committee | PCSAO Office |
| March 12 | PCSAO Conference Committee | PCSAO Office |
| March 15 | PCSAO Legislative Committee | FCCS 855 W. Mound St. |
| March 17 | SW PCSAO District Meeting | Golden Lamb Restaurant |
| Mar 24-25 | Executive Membership Meeting | Riffe Ctr, Downtown Cols |
| Mar 25 | Legislative Breakfast | Riffe Ctr, Studio Lobby, 4 th floor |

GREEN LIVING TIP— Recycling polystyrene – aka Styrofoam: [Here's](#) a few tips as to what you can do with polystyrene to keep this material out of the waste stream for as long as possible.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK— “Every adult needs a child to teach; it’s the way adults learn.” – Frank A. Clark

OHIO FACT— Story Mound State Memorial in Chillicothe is the first recognized remains of the Adena Indian culture.