One Year Later: Severe Crisis Continues in Ohio’s Children Services System

December 2018
Impact of Opioid Epidemic on Children

50% of children taken into custody in 2015 had parental drug use

% Removals with Parental Drug Use

- No data
- 1 to 25%
- 26 to 50%
- 51 to 75%
- More than 75%

Impact of Opioid Epidemic on Children

28% of children taken into custody in 2015 had parents who were using opioids at time of removal

Opioid Epidemic =

The Invisible Victims:
The Children
Opioid Epidemic ➔ Tsunami of Need

Children entering foster care at higher rates than ever before

17% more kids or 2,385 in the last 24 months

Children in Foster Care

Source: ODJFS SACWIS special data run
Point in Time Data for July 1, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018
Opioid Epidemic → Tsunami of Need

Higher reliance on families to provide kinship care

Children in PCSA Custody Placed with Kin

- 2013: 2,175
- 2015: 2,480
- 2016: 2,866
- 2017: 3,577
- 2018: 4,175

Source: ODJFS SACWIS special data run
Point in Time Data for July 1, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018

$15m/year TANF earmark in the SFY18-19 budget to provide child care assistance but more support is needed.
Opioid Epidemic ➔ Tsunami of Need
Traumatized children services workforce

➢ 53% of the children services workforce has elevated levels of secondary traumatic stress meeting the threshold of PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder)

Source: Quality Improvement Center for Workforce Development Center survey of nine representative Ohio county PCSA staff, 2018.

1 out of every 4 caseworkers left their positions in 2016 & 2017
Opioid Epidemic ➞ Tsunami of Need
Skyrocketing foster care placement costs

Placement Costs for State Fiscal Years

Source: ODJFS SACWIS special data run
State Fiscal Years, 2013, 2016, 2018

12% increase in just 2 years or $39m more; $95m more in 5 years

34% increase

$369,644,380

$330,575,009

$275,000,000

2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018
How Children Services Is Funded in Ohio

Counties fund over 50% of children services expenditures by relying on local government funds and dedicated levies

- $352 million (38% Local)
- $490 million (52% Local)
- $96 million (10% State)

Only half of the state share is distributed to counties

Source: SFY 2016, from ODJFS SACWIS special data runs for unduplicated count. Additional calculations by PCSAO.
Opioid Epidemic → Tsunami of Need

The rising costs of children services has resulted in a surge in local levies

51 out of 88 counties have a dedicated children services levy

Source: PCSAO internal tracking
State Responded in SFY2018-19

➢ Attorney General granted $6 million and Dept. of Mental Health and Addiction Services granted $2 million for Ohio START pilot in 33 counties since March 2017

➢ Legislators reestablished state general revenue fund appropriation to counties at $60 million/year (up from $45 million/year)

BUT ... placement costs alone had increased $39m in SFY2018
Tsunami is Here ➔ Reform is Needed

If current conditions continue, Ohio will have nearly 19,000 children in foster care by 2020

Estimated Children in Foster Care by 2020

Tsunami is Here ➔ Reform is Needed
Skyrocketing foster care placement costs require more State resources

Estimated Placement Costs by 2020

$275,000,000  $325,000,000  $375,000,000  $425,000,000


$275,000,000  $330,575,009  $369,644,380  $391,823,043  $414,001,706

Source: ODJFS SACWIS special data run, received Dec. 2018. SFY13, 16, 18. Additional calculations by PCSAO.

At least $44m more will be needed in 2020 just for placement costs!
Reform Solution
Children’s Continuum of Care

- Divert children from foster care with prevention, intervention and crisis services
  - Better address children’s trauma

- Develop robust options for professional foster care
  - Reduce how long children stay in foster care

- Build after-care and reunification services to sustain permanency
  - Fewer children enter/re-enter foster care

- Develop more appropriate residential care services
  - Reduce use of residential care and number of children placed out of state

Strengthen families
Reduce cost to taxpayers
Reform Solution

• Learn more about the reform plan: www.pcsao.org

• Check out who endorses the reform plan:
  Casey Family Programs, Ohio Children’s Alliance, Ohio Family Care Association, Ohio United Way, Ohio Children’s Defense Fund, Ohio Children’s Hospital Association, Ohio Chapter – American Academy of Pediatrics, Voices for Ohio’s Children, Kinnect, Family & Youth Law Center, & more!

#FosterHope4OHKids
Who We Are

PCSAO is a membership-driven association of Ohio’s county Public Children Services Agencies that advocates for and promotes child protection program excellence and sound public policy for safe children, stable families, and supportive communities.
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