The Opioid Epidemic’s Impact on Children Services in Ohio

Spring 2017
**Opioid deaths in 2015**

Age-adjusted death rates (per 100,000) for overdose deaths from all opioid drugs

**Heroin deaths in 2015**

Age-adjusted heroin overdose death rate (per 100,000)

**Synthetic opioid deaths in 2015**

Age-adjusted synthetic opioid overdose death rate (per 100,000)
Impact of Opioid Epidemic on Children

PCSAO surveyed county PCSAs to determine the impact of opiates on children in custody (out-of-home care). 74 PCSAs responded and revealed:

- 50% of children taken into custody in 2015 had parental drug use
PCSAO surveyed county PCSAs to determine the impact of opiates on children in custody (out-of-home care). 74 PCSAs responded and revealed:

- 28% of children taken into custody in 2015 had parents who were using opiates, including heroin, at time of removal

Source: PCSAO Opiate Survey, April 2016
In-Depth Analysis of the Impact of Opioid Epidemic on Children

• 70% of children in custody under the age of 1 had parents who used opiates, including heroin.

• 60% of children in custody under the age of 5 spend at least one birthday in foster care!

Ohio’s Children Services System Today

More children are in PCSA custody requiring a foster care placement

63% of children in custody are under the age of 12

Source: ODJFS SACWIS special data run, October 2016. Additional calculations by PCSAO.
Ohio’s Children Services System Today
Children are staying in foster care longer due to opiate recovery timelines and relapses

Median Days in Temporary Custody (July 1)

Within 1 year of recovery from opiates, 85% will relapse

Source: ODJFS SACWIS special data run, October 2016.
Ohio’s Children Services System Today

Placement costs have increased due to more children in care and their needs being more complex

Placement Costs for Foster Care & Residential Care (SFY)

Source: ODJFS SACWIS special data run, January 2017. Additional calculations by PCSAO. This data is provisional and will be verified by PCSAO.
Ohio’s Children Services System Today

More relatives are caring for children impacted by the opioid epidemic

Access to affordable child care is the greatest need among kinship families.

Source: ODJFS SACWIS special data run, October 2016. Additional calculations by PCSAO.
Ohio’s Children Services System Today

Caseworkers are first responders in these opioid-related case, leading to secondary trauma in our workforce.

In 2016 .....  

- 1 out of every 4 caseworkers left their positions (including promotions, retirement)

- 1 out of every 7 caseworkers left children services all together with 0 performance concerns

Source: Caseworker data from PCSAO Caseload Survey, 2016.
Ohio’s Children Services System Today

State funding is not keeping up with the demands on Ohio’s children services system

21% decrease in State funding to counties since 2008 while cases have increased

Source: ODJFS SACWIS special data runs for unduplicated count, October 2016. SCPA from ODJFS, reported in PCSAO Factbook 11th, 12th editions, ODJFS special data run, January 2017. Additional calculations by PCSAO.
How Children Services is Funded in Ohio

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

SFY 2016, from ODJFS SACWIS special data runs for unduplicated count, October 2016 and January 2017. Additional calculations by PCSAO.

Less than 5% of the State’s share ($45m) is allocated to the county PCSAs.
Ohio Ranks 50th in Nation for State Share of Children Services Total Expenditures


If Ohio’s state investment doubled, we would still be 50th in the nation.
What Ohio Needs

Additional State Resources so that county PCSAs can:

➢ Recruit additional foster and adoptive homes

➢ Provide additional support to kinship and foster families

➢ Pay rising placement costs (foster care, group homes, residential care)

➢ Recruit and retain a vital workforce
Contact PCSAO for More Information

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