

April 13, 2018

Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review Hearing (JCARR)

JCARR Hearing on Chapter 5101:2-36, Screening and Investigation Rules

Trumbull County Children Services

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Good afternoon Chairman Uecker, Vice-Chair Duffey, and members of the Committee. I am again providing testimony regarding the Chapter 5101:2-36, Screening and Investigation Rules, on behalf my agency.

On March 5, as you may recall, I testified before this Committee in opposition to the proposed changes to these rules. At that hearing, I, along with my colleague from Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO), raised concerns about proposed revised language in 5101:2-36-01, Intake and Screening Procedures, regarding pre-screening collateral contacts. At that hearing, at the Committee's request, ODJFS agreed to withdraw the rules and place them in "to be re-filed" status.

In the version of these rules that were re-filed on April 5, to allow for more stakeholder dialogue and involvement, ODJFS removed the language in question from 5101:2-36-01.

With this testimony, we want to thank the Committee and ODJFS for responding to our concerns regarding this matter. We look forward to working with ODJFS on engaging stakeholders to explore the judicious use of pre-screening collateral contacts and the implementation of these rules. We are also glad that PCSAO plans to keep you informed about the progress of the stakeholder process, should there be a need for statutory language.

In addition to this testimony, I will also provide a brief statement at the JCARR Hearing on Monday.

Thank you.