Children’s Continuum of Care Reform
#FosterHope4OHKids

October 2018
Who We Are

PCSAO is a membership-driven association of Ohio’s county Public Children Services Agencies that advocates for and promotes child welfare program excellence and sound public policy for safe children, stable families, and supportive communities.
WHY A CHILDREN’S CONTINUUM OF CARE REFORM PLAN?
Ohio’s Children Services System = CRISIS

“Lack of placement options”
“Have to place in other counties”
“Have to place out of state”
“Remaining in residential or hospitals TOO Long”
“No resources to intervene early”
“Not enough services”
“Ran out of local funding”
Ohio’s Children Services System Is Strained

More children are entering foster care at alarmingly higher rates than ever before

67% of children in foster care are 12 and younger; 28% are 3 and younger.

27% increase overall
16% increase in 2 years

Source: ODJFS SACWIS special data run, received Nov. 2017, supplemented July 2018.
Point in Time Data for July 1, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018
Ohio’s Children Services System Will Explode

If the opioid epidemic continues at its current pace, Ohio will have over 20,000 children in foster care by 2020.

Only 7,200 foster homes available; not increasing at the same pace – 2.5% increase/year

Impact of Opioid Epidemic on Children

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

Impact of Opioid Epidemic on Children

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

Ohio’s Children Services System Today

Children coming into care have very complex needs

Reasons for Removal

Total = 13,683 as of 7/1/16

- 31% Dependency
- 24% Neglect
- 27% Other
- 13% Abuse
- 4% Delinquency

Source: ODJFS SACWIS, calculations by PCSAO, SFY2016
Ohio’s Children Services System Is Strained

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

66% paid with local dollars, 34% paid with federal dollars

Source: ODJFS SACWIS special data run, received Jan. 2017. Additional calculations by PCSAO.
Ohio’s Children Services System Will Explode

The skyrocketing cost of foster care in Ohio is reaching levels that will require substantially more State resources.

An additional $175M will be needed in 3 years - just for placement costs!

Source: ODJFS SACWIS special data run, received Jan. 2017. Additional calculations by PCSAO.

SAFE CHILDREN, STABLE FAMILIES, SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES
Ohio’s Children Services System is in a Crisis

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Reform Is Needed
Reform Outcomes

1. Reduce the number of children entering foster care
2. Reduce the length of stay in foster care
3. Reduce the use of residential care
4. Reduce children experiencing trauma
5. Reduce the cost to taxpayers
Continuum of Care Reform

Four Strategic Areas

1. Prevention, Intervention, Crisis & Diversion
2. Professional Foster Care
3. Aftercare & Reunification
4. Appropriate Residential Care
Looking for Partners

• Learn more about the reform plan and provide endorsement here: www.pcsao.org

• Current endorsements include: Casey Family Programs, Ohio Children’s Alliance, Ohio Family Care Association, Kinnect, Family & Youth Law Center, Ohio United Way, Ohio Children’s Defense Fund, Ohio Children’s Hospital Association, Ohio AAP, Voices for Ohio’s Children & more!
Endorse the Children’s Continuum of Care Reform Plan & #FosterHope4OHKids
Thank You!

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