



Safe Children, Stable Families, Supportive Communities

Tiered Treatment Foster Care Project

PCSAO proposes to develop new tiered levels of treatment foster care that can meet the needs of children in care. Note that the goal is not to develop specific level-of-care tool(s), but rather new categories, types or targets whereby foster caregivers can be trained, supported, and even incentivized to care for more youth with very challenging, complex needs and achieve better outcomes for the children in their care.

Rationale: Placement and service options for children and families are not increasing at the same rate as children are entering the foster care system. As a result, children move from placement to placement, and often do not receive the services they need, leading to poor outcomes. Children often linger in more restrictive placements such as residential facilities and hospitals as there are no “step-down” options available. In addition, the new QRTP requirements will most likely result in more children needing to be placed in homes of trained, qualified treatment foster parents that can meet their challenging and oftentimes complex needs.

Goal: Expand treatment foster care by creating tiers of care that more appropriately align with the various needs and challenges of children requiring such placement; ensure training, support, and payment align with the expectations of care.

Activities: With available grant funds, PCSAO shall contract with consultant(s) and experts; and work with partners to:

- Research best practices both in Ohio and in other states regarding foster care “levels,” including the “hub” model of foster care and the Care Portal system
- Convene and facilitate a group of PCSAs, providers, families, and other interested stakeholders that would develop a draft plan that meets stated needs in FFPSA and PCSAO’s Children’s Continuum of Care Reform, including:
 - o a base for traditional foster care;
 - o clear definition of the new tiers of treatment foster care;
 - o required training associated with the new tiers;
 - o identified services and supports available for the foster family and children within those tiers;
 - o incentives for minimalized disruptions, additional training, in-home services, in-care and post-reunification engagement;
 - o common outcomes for caregivers/providers;
 - o ranges of per diem payments for various tiers; and
 - o methods to recruit or encourage existing foster parents to move into these new “tiers.”
- Get support for the new tiered model from members and stakeholders; move forward with ODJFS and the Administration to achieve the needed changes.

Timeline: March 2019 – October 2019

- A planning workgroup will convene in late March.
- The FFPSA Leadership Committee plans to have recommendations on the specific provisions of the Act by October. This project will work to meet that deadline.
- A pilot of the new levels will begin in late 2019 and go through SFY20-21.