

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Ohio Child and Family Services Review

Program Improvement Plan

(Spring 2009 - ____ 2011)

Umbrella: A Statewide Collaborative Approach

Themes

1. Reduce the number of children entering care.
2. Ensure the safety of children in foster care and shorten the length of stay for children who must be placed in out of home settings.
3. Reduce the number of children re-entering foster care.
4. Youth will successfully transition to Adulthood.
5. Community partners share responsibility for Ohio's children and families.

Data Driven Planning, Training and Technical Assistance

Providing county-specific data to assist in tracking performance and improvement on specific CFSR indicators. Data will also be used to track trends and develop targeted technical assistance.

County/Region Specific Initiatives

- ProtectOHIO
- Alternative Response
- Partnerships for Success

Statewide Initiatives Implemented at County/Region Level

- Comprehensive Assessment and Planning Model- Interim Solution
- Summit on Children
- Systems of Care
- Trauma Informed Care
- Ohio Fatherhood Commission
- Cross-system licensing projects
- Service Coordination Mechanisms
- Emancipation Services

Statewide Initiatives Implemented at State Level

- Rule Changes
- Health Care expansions
- Child in Need of Protective Services legislation
- Expansion of Intensive Home and Community-Based Treatment
- Seclusion-Restraint Policy Reviews
- Child Centered Recruitment Task Force
- AdoptOHIO

Collaborative Partners

Youth and Families
Ohio's 88 Counties
Ohio Family and Children First
Supreme Court of Ohio
National Governor's Association
Advocacy Groups
Institute for Human Services and the Regional Training Centers
National Center for Adoption Law and Policy, Capital University Law School

Project Descriptions

ProtectOHIO: A federal Title IV-E Demonstration Project designed to reduce the number of children in foster care, decrease the time children remain in foster care and promote adoptions. Currently active in 18 counties: Ashtabula, Belmont, Clark, Coshocton, Crawford, Fairfield, Franklin, Greene, Hamilton, Hardin, Highland, Lorain, Medina, Muskingum, Portage, Richland, Stark and Vinton.

Alternative Response: An alternative option of responding to accepted reports of child maltreatment that focuses on enhanced family engagement strategies and provision of supportive interventions. Currently being piloted in 10 counties: Clark, Fairfield, Franklin, Greene, Guernsey, Licking, Lucas, Ross, Trumbull, and Tuscarawas.

Partnerships for Success: A community-based process to collaboratively plan, implement and invest in interventions designed to address local child, family and community well-being concerns. Currently active in 53 counties.

Comprehensive Assessment and Planning Model- Interim Solution (CAPMIS): A tool used to guide and document caseworkers' decisions related to children's safety, permanence, and well-being at all key points throughout the life of the case (e.g., intake, removal, reunification). CAPMIS' focus on safety and risk assessments enables workers to more accurately identify service needs and provide effective interventions.

Summit on Children: A joint initiative of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio and the Governor to improve collaboration among courts, child protective services agencies, schools, service providers, and funders. Local teams establish short- and long-term action plans, identify program barriers and highlight successful, innovative practices.

Systems of Care (SOC): A multi-departmental initiative established to: increase availability of coordinated services and supports across the developmental spectrum and age continuum; increase family engagement in diverse communities; and reduce costly out of home placements, including institutionalizations. The goal of the SOC is to enhance the array of effective, home and community-based services available to Ohio families while maintaining flexibility of the local partners to select programming.

Trauma Informed Care: a multi-departmental initiative convened by the Ohio Department of Mental Health to increase use of effective services and interventions which promote survivors' healing and avoid re-traumatization.

Ohio Fatherhood Commission: the entity under the Governor's Office of Faith and Community-Based Initiatives charged with "enhancing the well being of Ohio's children by inspiring and supporting diverse groups and communities to improve the quality of fatherhood."

Cross-system licensing projects: Collaborative efforts being undertaken by the OCF foster care licensing section, ODMH, ODMRDD, and ODADAS to decrease duplication of state regulations. Note: This work may lead to joint site inspections and auditing procedures.

Service Coordination Mechanisms: Statutorily mandated processes undertaken by local Family and Children First Councils to identify and implement effective interventions necessary to meet the challenges experienced by multi-need children and their families.

Emancipation Services: programming and supports provided to children who are expected to age out of foster care, as well as additional supports provided to former foster youth aged 18-21 who request assistance.

Health Care Expansions: Multi-departmental projects established to increase access to, and affordability of health care services. In addition, these initiatives seek to increase coordination of services, improve the quality of care, and enhance related administration and information systems. These projects include, but are not limited to: the Children's Buy-In Program, School-based Medicaid Services, dental care programs, partnerships with Federally Qualified Health Care Centers, the Ohio Child Health Improvement Partnership Program (OCHIP), the Executive Medicaid Management Administration, and the Medicaid Information Technology System.

Child in Need of Protective Services (CHIPS) legislation: A revised maltreatment definition to address inconsistent application of Ohio's current child protection statutes, and the related variance in screening decisions, investigatory practices and adjudications throughout the state. CHIPS seeks to increase emphasis on the child's needs while decreasing the stigma and adversarial approaches characterized under the traditional categories of abuse, neglect and dependency.

Expansion of Intensive Home and Community-Based Treatment: a planned approach to decreasing dependence on costly residential treatment models by supporting the establishment of local evidence-based treatment models. Decreased lengths of stay and enhanced family stability are also linked to increased access to, and utilization of these services.

Seclusion-Restraint Policy Reviews: A multi-departmental effort to increase the use of alternatives to seclusion and restraint practices for children placed in out of home settings.

Child Centered Recruitment Task Force: A statutorily mandated body established to create a statewide adoption recruitment model that can be used by agencies throughout Ohio.

AdoptOHIO: An initiative designed to enhance local capacity to increase the number of successful adoptive placements. (Note: these funds may/may not be available due to significant budget cuts.)