

INITIATIVE #3: Kinship Care, Placement and Adoption

CURRENT STATE:

The increased focus on permanency for children in our care has sped up legal decisions, improved public/private adoption efforts, renewed efforts to support relative caregivers and spurred family-centered, neighborhood-based practice. Ohio is struggling, however, to manage the numbers and the complex treatment and permanency needs of the children in our care. Our continuing struggle to access community based, supportive mental health, AOD treatment and relative support services causes unnecessary placements, multiple moves and delayed permanency. The absence of assessed and diagnosed treatment needs and clear data on family availability and group/residential resources limit our effective management of resources

TWO-YEAR GOAL:

Every child will have an identified, permanent family by: increasing the availability and use of FCNB resources; developing integrated programs and policies for effective use of kinship, foster (family and specialized), adoptive and respite families; assessing and diagnosing treatment needs and levels of care for all children in out of home care; and coordinating group and residential treatment resources and developing cross-system strategies for improvement.

FIVE-YEAR GOAL:

We will work for children, adults and families by mutually educating and engaging communities and systems to jointly provide services to achieve safety, permanency, self-sufficiency and well-being.

TEN-YEAR GOAL:

Entire Vision for Ohio is achieved.

ASSUMPTIONS:

Driving Forces:

Caring families exist with public support; Supportive cross systems initiatives that have enhanced professional and public awareness toward community based care; FCNB, Family Stability, Adopt Ohio, Protect Ohio, Reclaim Ohio; AFSA and other initiatives timelines; Local levy support/community; Cross-systems awareness; FCF Councils; LOEO-Residential study; Kinship Navigator; Billing system; Data validates need; New legislation regarding juvenile justice; Strong advocacy groups; Child and Family Service Review; MEPA; CPOE.

Restraining Forces:

Declining economy; Narrow eligibility criteria; State budget; HB 332 challenges; Federal Policy; Inadequate data collection system; Inadequate and underfunded support services (drug and alcohol; MH); Lack of best practice standards across systems; Post adoptive services unavailable or inaccessible for all; Term limits; State department structure; School crisis- funding, tolerance for kids; Inadequate of lack of residential services; Lack of standard diagnosis and level of care criteria; Conflict between public and private providers.

Key Stakeholders:

Congressional delegation; Cabinet Council; General Assembly; ODJFS; Local PCSAs and CDJFS'; PCSAO - OJFSDA; Resource families/OFCA/Grandparent coalition; OACCA; Tom Hayes; Schools- state and local

SUCCESS MEASURES: Outcome measure that will be impacted directly by full implementation of this initiative.

I. Safety

- Children and adults are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.
- Children and adults are safely maintained in their own homes whenever possible and appropriate

II. Permanency

- Children and adults have permanency and stability in their living situations.
- The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children and adults.

III. Well Being

- Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.
- Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.
- Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

IV. Ohio Commitments

- Children and youth succeed in school.
- Youth choose healthy behaviors.
- Youth successfully transition into adulthood.