

INITIATIVE #1: Measuring Outcomes and Information Management

CURRENT STATE:

The current Family and Children Services Information System (FACSIS) collects management and case tracking information to support foster home licensing, Title IV-E payments and federal reporting requirements. Counties do not have direct access to this data. There are currently 24 child welfare outcome measures that are generated by the Department to counties for feedback and planning to improve services.

ODJFS has secured Executive approval, county support and federal/state funding for a Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS). Currently, Information and Technology and child welfare resources dedicated to the SACWIS project are insufficient. A Request for Information (RFI) has been released that will result in the issuance of a Request for Proposal (RFP) and eventual vendor selection. The RFP is well underway to completion.

Ohio is in the process of the Federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). The outcome of the review will provide an opportunity to continuously improve our child welfare systems and practice.

The Bureau of Child Care and Development collects data that tracks payment and participation information on all consumers of publicly funded child care and demographic information on certified home providers. A second data system collects information on child care centers. No data is used to measure outcomes.

TWO-YEAR GOAL:

We will have immediate access to FACSIS data at both state and county levels for analysis and to guide program, policy and data improvement initiatives. Core statewide/federal measures will continue to be used to determine outcomes. SACWIS will be in the process of implementation at the county level with ongoing training. ~~A self-evaluation process will be in place in all 88 counties to continuously improve our child welfare system and practice by measuring outcomes.~~ **A self-evaluation process is in place within the Office for Children and Families to continuously improve our child welfare, adult welfare and child care systems and practice by measuring outcomes.** We have updated the child care data system and will be analyzing existing child care data to affect policy decisions that promote child well-being and safety. We will have a uniform data collection tool for Adult Protective Services developed and implemented in all 88 counties.

FIVE YEAR GOAL:

We will have information systems in place to collect data to measure and inform communities and systems on the safety, permanency, self-sufficiency and well being of children, adults and families.

TEN YEAR GOAL:

Invest in meeting the basic needs of it's members. Develop and sustain networks of accessible resources, services and support. Recognize the rights and needs of children, adults and families as it's highest priority and agree on common goals for protecting their health and well being by building on strengths of families.

ASSUMPTIONS:

DRIVING FORCES:

Child care- County support; current system; child care advocacy groups.

Child welfare- Executive support; have an existing system; have current outcomes (baseline for measurement); county support; have historical data.

RESTRAINING FORCES:

Child care- Can't use existing data to measure outcomes; unsure of executive support.

Child Welfare- Uncertain of the 2004-2005 budget; competing MIS priorities; inadequate IT human resources; turnover of ODJFS executives in the past.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS:

Child care- CDJFS'; Bureau staff; MIS staff; advocacy groups; Tom Hayes; Barbara Riley; General Assembly.
Child Welfare- PCSAs; MIS Staff; Tom Hayes; Barbara Riley; Advocacy groups; General Assembly; District offices

SUCCESS MEASURES: Outcome measures 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.
- 1. 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. Commitments

- Youth successfully transition into adulthood.