

Ohio's Title IV-B Child and Family Services Plan & What it Means for Supervisors

The October 1st start of the 2015 Federal Fiscal Year also marks the beginning of another important event: implementation of Ohio's Title IV-B Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP). Why should you be interested in this? Because the CFSP lays out the vision, goals and actions that Ohio will be taking to improve outcomes for children and families over the next five years. Collaboratively developed by the ODJFS Office of Families and Children alongside county and state child welfare partners, Ohio's strategies address the full continuum of child welfare services, incorporating many activities that impact supervision, including:

- Strengthening a state-wide system of Continuous Quality Improvement.
- Developing resources to support staff in quality engagement of families, including fathers.
- Creating user-friendly data reports that supervisors can use to track critical activities and outcomes.
- Enhancing SACWIS and CAPMIS training.
- Developing additional tools and resources to help supervisors integrate Ohio's Differential Response Practice Profiles into daily worker supervision.

Ohio is fortunate to have significant and successful innovations to build on, e.g. Differential Response, *Safe and Together™*, Family Team Meetings, Permanency Roundtables, Family Search and Engagement, and Parent Partner programming. The CFSP can help supervisors envision how each integrates within the broader picture, transforming these changes from a series of disconnected initiatives (overwhelming!) to one cohesive, system-wide shift in the way we work with our families from the "front door" through case closure. These practice innovations were selected as strategic priorities in Ohio's five-year plan because they build upon and complement one another. Their shared elements include:

- Enhanced engagement strategies;
- Meaningful partnerships with parents, youth, and family supports;
- Attentiveness to safety and well-being concerns; and the
- Urgency of permanency.

Accomplishment of the activities and objectives in the CFSP will help our state as we prepare for the next round of the federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). We know that change is a process that requires the investment of time. Although Ohio is not scheduled for Round 3 of the CFSR until 2017, it is today's work that will make the critical difference in improving state outcomes prior to the review.

How you can help!

Successful CFSP implementation will rely on continued dialogue with our partners, and you are a critical part of this process. ODJFS will continue to use opportunities, such as quarterly Differential Response meetings with workers and supervisors, regional meetings and other venues for communication and joint assessment of our progress on the CFSP. As training, resources and tools become available through our implementation of the CFSP, we hope that you will take advantage of these opportunities, support your staff in participating in these activities, and help us to assess their impact. You might also have ideas about how to better communicate or support CFSP strategies; we'd love to hear them.

Supervisors are key to Ohio's success! Thank you for all that you do every day to support your staff in serving children and families.

The Child and Family Services Plan can be found at <http://jfs.ohio.gov/ocf/Reports-Plans-and-Presentations.stm>.