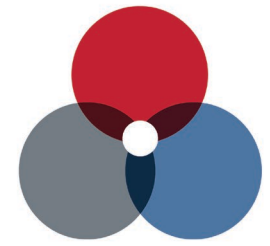


Friday Webinar Series: How Counties and Caseworkers Are Responding to COVID-19

May 1, 2020



THE CENTER FOR EST. 1913
COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS
RESEARCH • ANALYSIS • ACTION



The Center for Community Solutions

We are a non-partisan, nonprofit that aims to improve health, social and economic conditions through nonpartisan research, policy analysis, communications and advocacy.

www.communitysolutions.com

Twitter: @CommunitySols

Our Priorities



Advancing Wellbeing of
Older Adults



Enhancing Behavioral Health
Access



Improving Maternal and
Infant Health



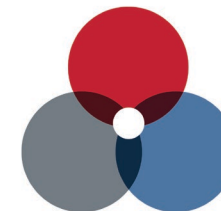
Promoting Comprehensive
Reproductive Health
Education



Strengthening Health and
Human Services Safety Net



Supporting Sound Medicaid
Policy



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Advocates for Ohio's Future

Advocates for Ohio's Future (AOF) is a nonpartisan coalition of over 500 Ohio organizations that promotes health and human service budget and policy solutions so that all Ohioans live better lives.

Our coalition believes in investing in our state's most valuable resource—our people—to ensure that they are safe, healthy, and can access pathways to prosperity for themselves and their families.

Kelsey Bergfeld, Coalition Manager

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Ohio Job and Family Services Directors' Association

May 1, 2020

County JFS Response & Adaptation to COVID-19

Today's Presentation:

- How county JFS departments and front-line workers have responded and adapted to the pandemic
- Challenges counties are facing
- Advocacy we are doing
- Challenges and changes we are anticipating in the future
- Spotlight: one county's approach



*Joel Potts
OJFSDA*



*Roxane Somerlot
Director
Marion CDJFS*



*Jeanne Carroll
OJFSDA*



*Laura Abu-Absi
OJFSDA*



Immediate Needs Being Addressed by County JFS Departments

Unemployment Insurance:

- State-administered, but counties are the “face” of JFS programs
- Over 1 million claims have been filed in the last 6 weeks

Public Assistance Applications:

- **Medicaid** – First 3 weeks of April averaged **approximately 3000 new apps/day**
- **SNAP** – First 3 weeks of April average **approximately 3700 new apps/day**
- **TANF (Ohio Works First)** – First 3 weeks of April averaged **approximately 460 new apps/day**

Prevention, Retention & Contingency (PRC)

- COVID-19 Response Fund
- Regular PRC

Maintaining JFS Operations Through the Crisis

- Waivers
- Remote Work



Waivers

Many were obtained for Medicaid, SNAP & TANF

- No processing of Medicaid Renewals or Adverse Actions
- Extension of SNAP recertification periods
- No Interim Reporting for SNAP
- Relaxed Paper Verification Requirements – all programs
- Verbal Signatures for SNAP, OWF, PRC and Title XX



Remote Work Critical to Protect Employees

- Ohio Benefits, IVR and EDMS systems vital to success of remote work
- Increase in Productivity and Moral

Remarkable State Partnership

- Requesting Waivers
- System Changes Done Quickly
- Communicating Changes
- Worked in Tandem to Switch from Agency Based Operations to Home Based Operations



WHAT'S NEXT?

We are facing two historical crises:

- The public health emergency
- The economic fallout resulting from necessary steps to curb it

Getting back to “normal”

The Rising Tide:

- Public Assistance
- Protective Services
- Child Support Enforcement
- OMJ Centers



Marion County Experience

Supporting Families Through:

- Public Benefits
- Emergency Assistance
- One Time Assistance

Supporting the Economy Through:

- Business Services
- Job Seekers
- Youth Services

A Note of Appreciation

- Ohio's Job and Family Services Department has shown uncompromising leadership
- Employee morale is high with even more willingness to go above and beyond





Public Children Services Association of Ohio

COVID-19 Impact on Children Services

Advocates for Ohio's Future
Friday, May 1, 2020





Mary Wachtel

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PCSAO

PCSAO is a membership-driven association of Ohio's county Public Children Services Agencies (PCSAs) that advocates for and promotes child protection program excellence and sound public policy for safe children, stable families, and supportive communities.





PCSAO

- We are open for business during the pandemic, but it's not business as usual
- PCSAs have a statutory mandate to perform child protective services regardless of the pandemic:
- PCSAs must be available to the public to accept reports
- PCSAs must initiate timely contact and safety investigations for screened-in reports
- PCSAs must ensure the safety of children in open and ongoing cases
 - In-home services
 - Temporary custody
 - Permanent custody





PCSAO

Three key issue areas

Child safety

Placement challenges

Worker safety





- Ohio START is a children-services-led initiative bringing together caseworkers, behavioral health providers and family peer mentors into teams dedicated to helping families recover from substance use disorders. It has been shown, when implemented with fidelity, to improve outcomes for both parents and children.
 - Began in 2017 as a pilot project of 14 Appalachian counties and expanded each year, with 46 counties currently participating.
 - Funded by grants from the ODJFS, OMHAS, the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) program at the Ohio Attorney General's Office.
 - Led by and housed at PCSAO.





Sarah Neff

Ohio START
Family Peer Mentor
Warren County Children
Services





Ashley Durst

Ohio START
Caseworker

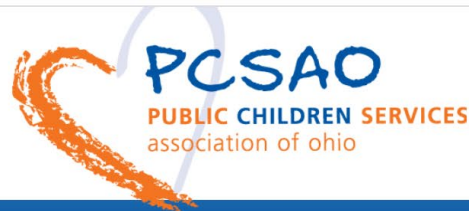
Trumbull County Children
Services





PCSAO Resources

PCSAO.ORG



Advocating for safe children, stable families,
and supportive communities

37 West Broad Street, Suite 1100
Columbus, OH 43215 — 614-224-5802



PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAMS & EVENTS PUBLICATIONS & RESOURCES WHO WE ARE EMPLOYMENT MEMBERSHIP  

Weekly newsletter and Factbook

Publications & Resources

Want the latest updates, data, trends and policy analysis on public child protection and children services in Ohio? PCSAO publishes several helpful resources to keep you apprised of changes in the field.

[Subscribe](#) to our **Weekly Update** for a quick rundown of news and events. Also, our biennial [PCSAO Factbook](#) offers county-by-county as well as statewide trend data on all facets of child protection.



Questions?



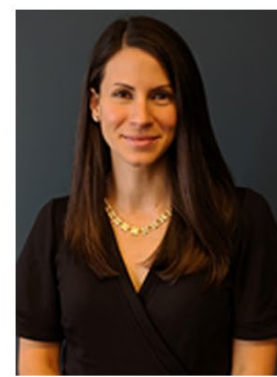
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