Foster Care Awareness Month: Children Services Transformation
May 16, 2022
Opening Remarks:
Rep. Susan Manchester

Ohio Legislative Children’s Caucus Co-Vice Chair

Cosponsor of recently passed House Bill 4
Ohio Department of Job & Family Services

Jeffery Van Deusen
Deputy Director
Office of Families and Children
Recommendation Statuses

- Fully Implemented: 5
- Partially Implemented: 11
- In Process: 20
- Beginning in June: 1
- Total: 37
**Children Services Transformation Recommendations**

**Fully Implemented**

- Incorporate “resource parent” terminology
- Establish a Resource Family Bill of Rights
- Establish a Foster Youth Bill of Rights
- Create regional best practice training/TA hubs
- Establish a consistent onboarding program for caseworkers and supervisors

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**You have the right:**

- To be treated with dignity and respect by all.
- To be free of discrimination regardless of race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, military status, disability, age, or genetic information.
- To be trained and receive support to strengthen your parenting skills to meet the needs as the provider for children in your care.
- To review the non-confidential information in your home study.
- To receive clear expectations on your role in partnership with the child in foster care, the child’s family, and all other team members.

- To access a staff person at both your recommending agency, as well as the child’s custodial agency, inside and outside of normal business hours.
- To be informed of all known information about a child placed in your home, including information that may impact the health, safety, and well-being of any member of your family and community.
- To be invited to, and attend court hearings and agency meetings, including the right to share information during those hearings and meetings, concerning the child in your care.
- To receive training on the reasonable and prudent parent standard and, once trained, to act as the reasonable and prudent parent in making decisions for the children in your care so they can participate in normal childhood activities that still maintain their health and safety.
- To participate with the agency in efforts to achieve the permanency goal identified in the case plan, to support supplemental planning, and to participate in treatment planning, which may include independent living skills for older children (age 14 and up) in your care.
- To be informed of the process available to submit grievances and/or complaints, including these rights, and to make your concerns known without fear of retaliation.
- To be informed of allegations of maltreatment made against you, points of contact, and what to anticipate while under investigation. This includes the right to be informed of what supports and resources are available to you during the process and how the outcome may affect your relationship with the agencies you work with.
- To be informed if the rights of a resource caregiver conflict with the rights of a youth in foster care, and if the rights of the youth will preempt the rights of the resource family or resource caregiver. (Example: If the youth does not want to attend a church/volleyball/mosque, or practice in a faith, and the resource family wants them to attend, the youth’s right to determine for themselves will preempt the resource family in this instance, as outlined in OAC 5101:2-5-35).
Children Services Transformation Recommendations

Partially Implemented

- Establish statutory requirements and tools for family finding and due diligence
- Elevate foster youth and caregiver recognition and appreciation
- Ensure the successful implementation of the Statewide Foster Care and Adoption Assessor Registry
- Develop trauma-informed training for all
- Expand child-centered recruitment efforts
- Integrate and expand peer parent partner work in Ohio

- Invest in services, training, and supports for parents
- Identify collaborative strategies for family finding in other system
- Support an implementation plan for multidisciplinary legal representation for parents
- Review and evaluate CASA/GAL programs to identify opportunities for recruitment and expansion
- Strengthen guidance to reinforce the established 12-month court requirements
Children Services Transformation Recommendations

Coming Soon

Foster Youth Rights Handbook

PASSS

Starting July 1, 2022, applications for the Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy (PASSS) program will be submitted directly to OhioKAN. Please find all PASSS related resources below. Call 1-844-OHIOKAN (1-844-644-6526) Monday - Friday 8:30am - 6:30pm with any questions.
Ensuring a future in which all Ohio children have a safe and healthy place to live, with adults who love and support them.

Children deserve safe families and communities that prioritize their best interests and family of origin.

Children and families should have access to a standard level of care regardless of where they live.

Children should be raised in family-based settings and have a family to call their own before becoming an adult.
Youth and Family Ombudsmen Office

Amended House Bill 4:
Establishes a Statewide Ombudsman Office
  • Amended House Bill 4 has passed through legislation and will become effective May 30, 2022
  • Youth and family involvement critical in development
  • Youth and Family Ombudsman Office Live – May 2022

The Youth and Family Ombudsmen Office will perform all of the following duties:
  • Receive, investigate, and attempt to resolve complaints from citizens, including children in the custody of a public children services agency or in the care and placement of a Title IV-E agency, related to government services regarding child protective services, foster care, and adoption;
  • Establish procedures for receiving and resolving complaints, consistent with state and federal law; and
  • Provide an annual report to the governor, speaker of the house of representatives, president of the senate, minority leadership of the house of representatives and senate, the director of job and family services, and representatives of the overcoming hurdles in Ohio youth advisory board.
Deanna Jones MPA, BSSW, LSW

Children’s Defense Fund-Ohio Consultant and former foster youth in Ohio’s Child Welfare system
The Ripple Effect of Resilience
Thank you for sharing this space with me today!

- Thank lawmakers for your work on the passage of HB4 as well as your commitment to listen to youth and teaming with youth on this legislation.
- Thank you Kim, Alison ane CDF for allow me to privilege to share my experiences with you today.

We are so appreciative of what you do!
DECADES LATER...

ADVOCATE
WE NEED YOU!

OMBSDMAN
WHAT A DIFFERENCE ADVOCACY MAKES...
THE AGENDA

Ombudsman Office
Youth Experience Survey
Youth Input Driven Work
Allow me to introduce myself...

Because I had an advocate...
THANK YOU!

Thank again to legislators and advocates for their commitment to improving the experiences of youth who are in care. Thank you to The Children's Defense Fund for inviting me here today!

If you find that you have any feedback or questions later that you'd love to share feel free to connect!
Questions & Answers

Moderated by Anastasia Kotkovskaya, Legislative Aide for Rep. Manchester

For legislators and legislative staff, please feel free to unmute yourselves to ask questions or share feedback.

For all other participants, please use the chat or Q&A feature, and we will do our best to answer in the time allotted.
Thank you for joining today’s webinar!

For more information on upcoming Ohio Legislative Children’s Caucus webinars and meetings, please contact:

Alison Paxson, apaxson@childrensdefense.org