



Ohio Legislative Children's Caucus

*Learning, connecting, and problem-solving
together. Our children are counting on us.*

*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

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/synagogue/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).



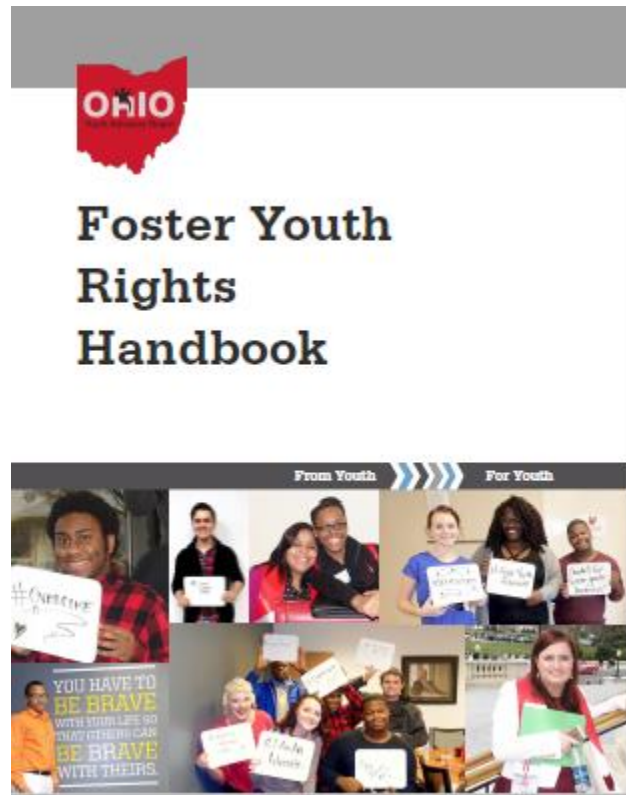
Children Services Transformation Recommendations

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



- ABOUT
- FOR FAMILIES
- FOR ORGANIZATIONS
- RESOURCES
- CONTACT

HOME | PASSS

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.**

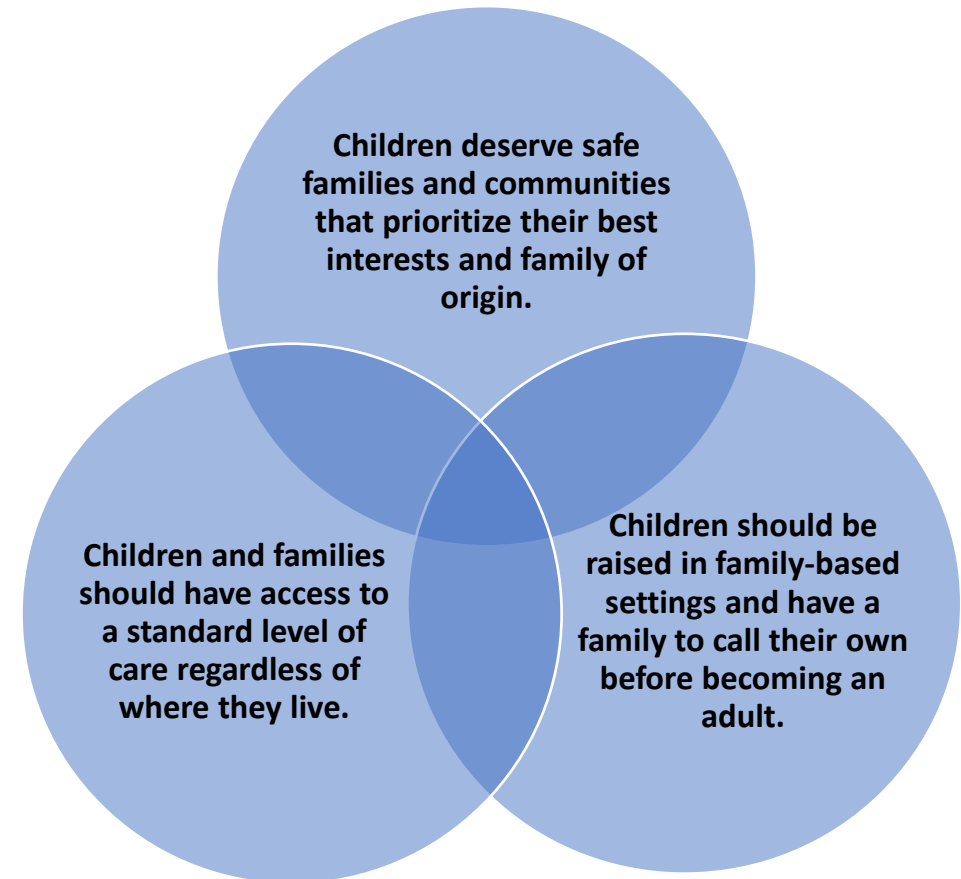


- Overview
- Purpose
- Eligibility
- How to Apply
- Contact
- FAQs
- Download PDFs
- Request Packet by Mail



Youth and Family Ombudsmen Office

Ensuring a future in which all Ohio children have a safe and healthy place to live, with adults who love and support them.



Youth and Family Ombudsmen Office

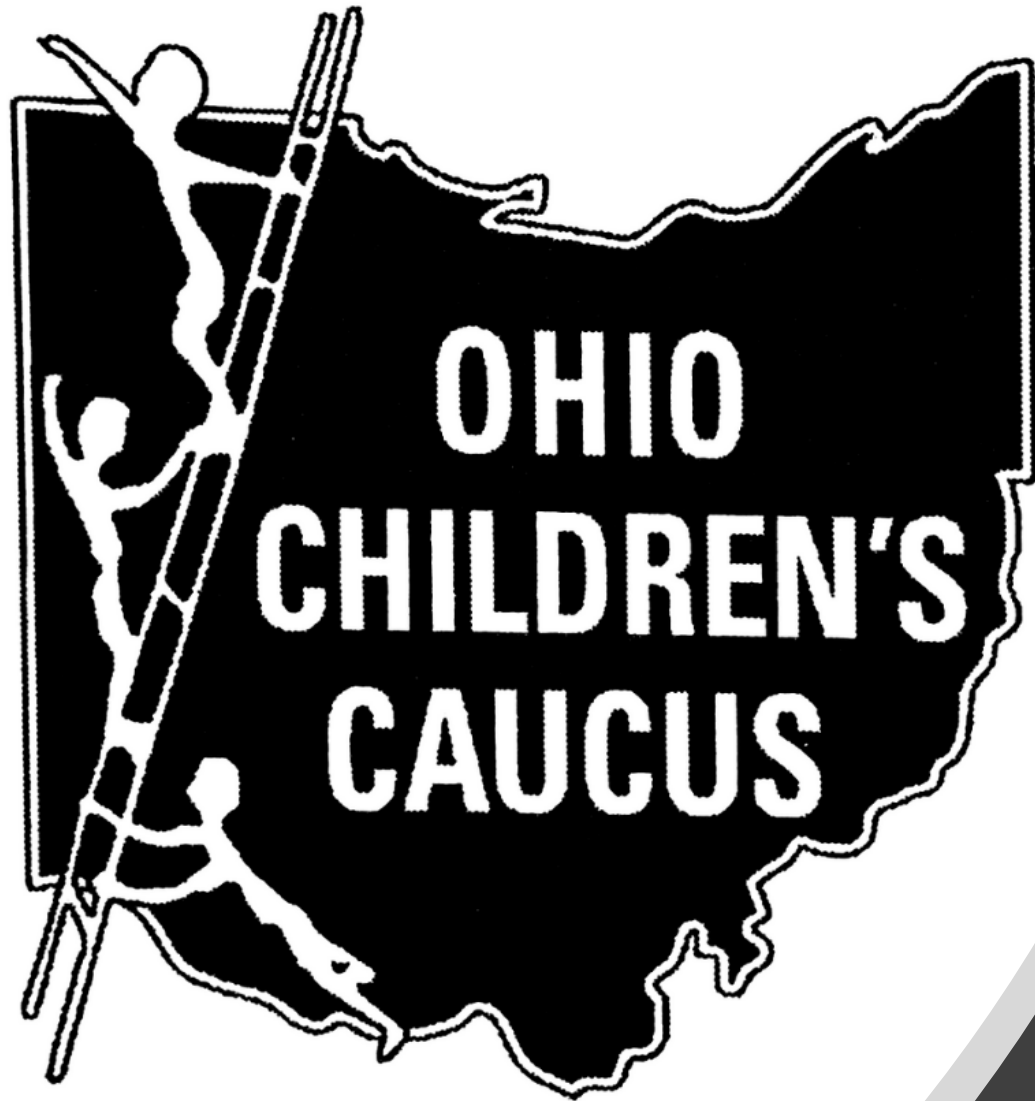
Amended House Bill 4:

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

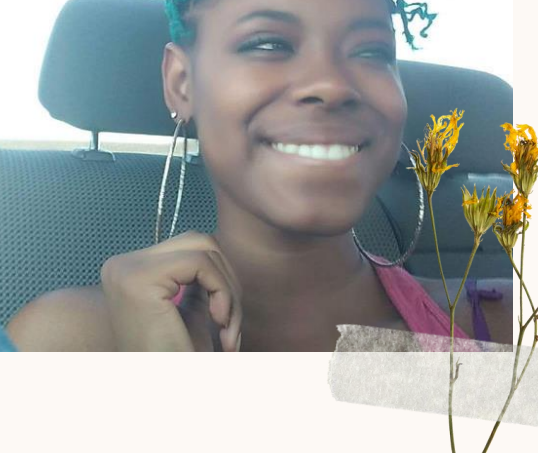
The Youth and Family Ombudsmen Office will perform all of the following duties:

- 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.

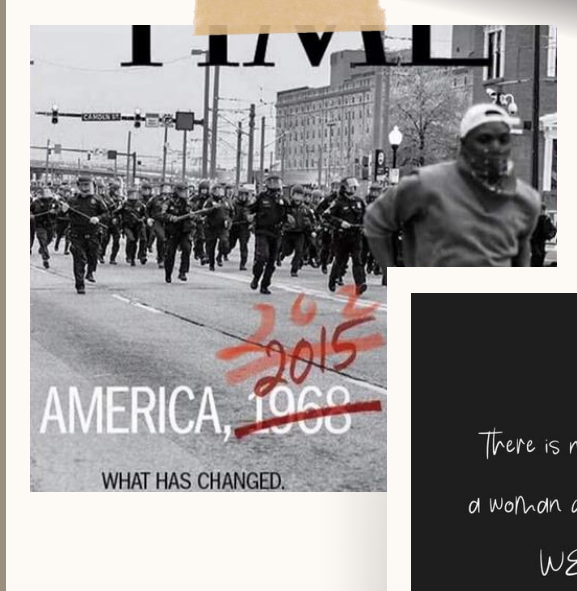


**Deanna Jones MPA,
BSSW, LSW**

Children's Defense Fund-Ohio
Consultant and former foster youth in
Ohio's Child Welfare system



The Ripple Effect of Resilience

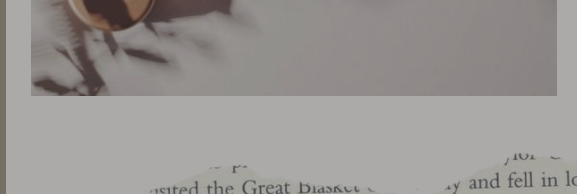


There is no force equal to
a woman determined to rise
WEB DuBois

@DeannaJSpeaks



OH ME,
OH MY,
YOU'RE THE APPLE OF MY EYE ♡



...sted the Great Diasket...y and fell in love with it.
...dition to rebuild the village as a holiday



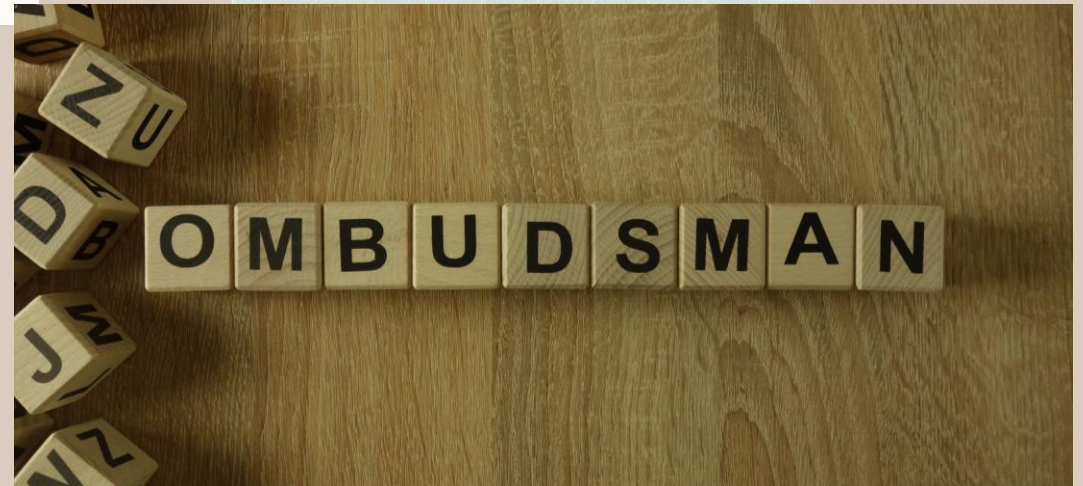
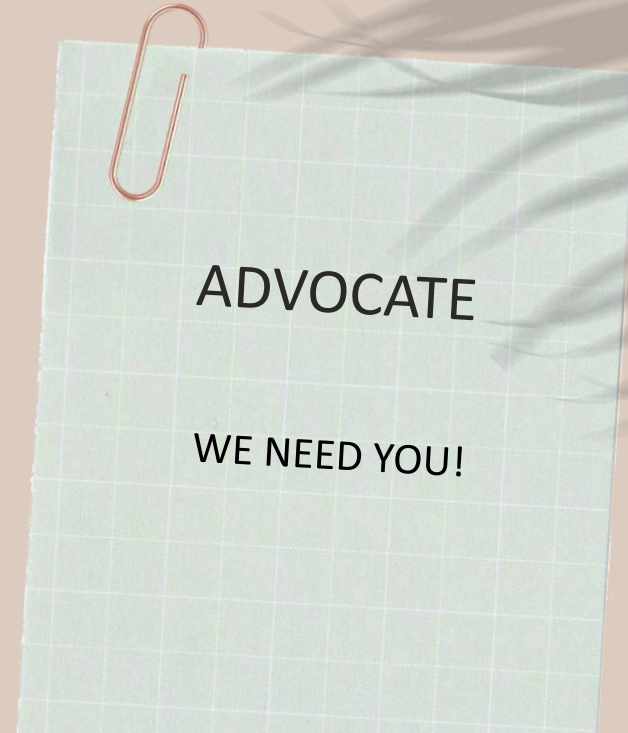
Thank you for sharing this space with me today!

- 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 and CDF for allowing me the privilege to share my experiences with you today.

We are so appreciative of what you do!



DECADES LATER...





**WHAT A DIFFERENCE ADVOCACY
MAKES...**

to be best in
point of view.
Advocacy [ˈæ
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the ac
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ASSIGNMENTS
URGENT



THE AGENDA

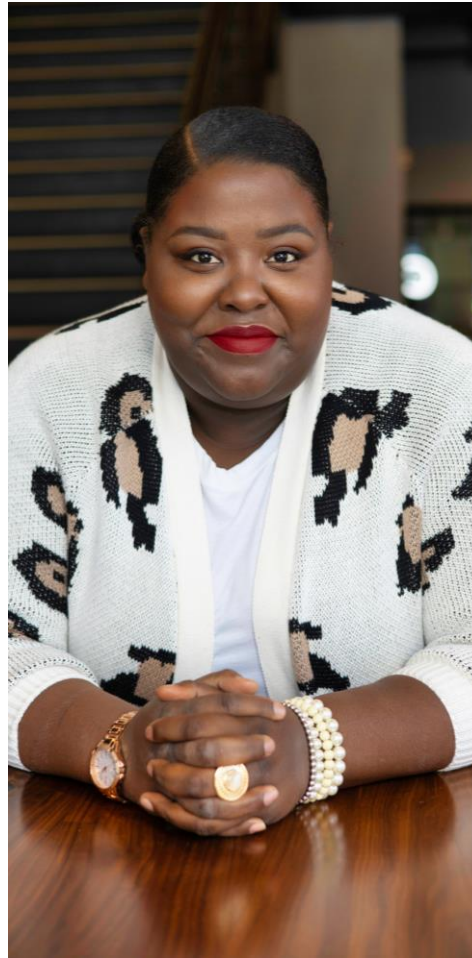
Ombudsman Office

Youth Experience Survey

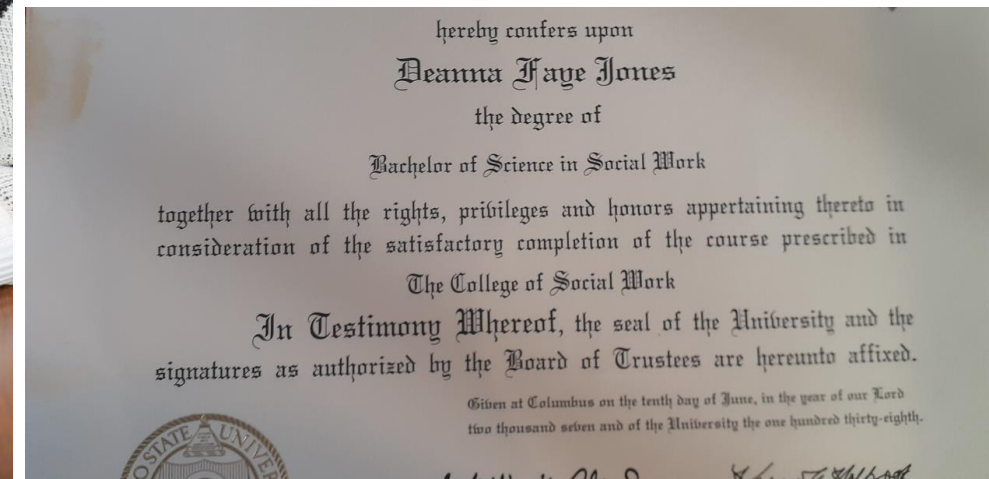
Youth Input Driven Work

Allow me to introduce myself...

Because I had an advocate...



DJS
Deanna J.
Speaks
AUTHOR. SPEAKER. COACH.





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

