

# Pa. Child Welfare Council Meeting Highlights

June 3, 2019

## **New Title IV-E Funding for Child and Parent Representation**

Mimi Laver of the ABA Center for Children and the Law and Frank Cervone of the Support Center for Child Advocacy did a presentation on ramifications of the New title IV-E funding for representation.

- Expands funding to include both child and parents
- The funds are not supplanting Federal dollars but supplementing an increase in “Higher Quality representation.”
- Research for New York State study revealed better outcomes for child safety, permanency and reduction in days in congregate care.
- Currently no State dollars are utilized for this level of representation.
- The State supports this but will need to better understand the fiscal impact on State if they involve in this initiative.
- Currently it is all County dollars to support these services with a 50% match.
- Discussion question? Can County go to retroactive funding submission?
- Frank Cervone addressed the standards outlining what ‘Higher Quality Representation’ can look like as well as quality standards of accountability , oversight and training.
- Sandra Moore from the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) brought to the group’s attention the standards currently in place. Frank presented a time study analysis of attorney representation of selected case type and represented entity.
- For more information on the funding please go to :  
[https://www.americanbar.org/groups/child\\_law/resources/child\\_law\\_practiceonline/january---december-2019/claiming-title-iv-e-funds-to-pay-for-parents-and-childrens-attor/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/child_law/resources/child_law_practiceonline/january---december-2019/claiming-title-iv-e-funds-to-pay-for-parents-and-childrens-attor/)

## **Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) Council Ad Hoc Workgroup Report**

Dave Mattern and Kira Fatherree presented the activities of the newly formed FFPSA Ad Hoc Group.

- The group is developing a vision for standards of prevention programs in Pa with the assistance of statewide private and public stakeholders
- The vision includes eligibility criteria that meets federal and State standards, a resource road map for counties, data systems capable of effectively reporting out.
- On a Federal level the Clearinghouse for Prevention Services is creating a process handbook for program evaluation and approval. Any submitted programs will need to meet standards of research study efficacy before approval. Additionally, the Clearinghouse is reviewing programs that have already met the Evidenced Based threshold.
- Currently 15 to 17 States are looking to implement in October of this year
- For info go to : <https://www.casey.org/tag/family-first-prevention-services-act/>

## **OCYF Updates**

Acting OCYF Director, Amy Grippi, announced an initiative to create a Statewide Child Welfare Data and Reporting System. The genesis for this initiative began with a Request for Information (RFI) proposal to create a unified system for better efficiency and effectiveness

The topic generated questions and areas including:

- What have we learned through the implementation of previous State Platforms?
- How will system terminology from County to County be captured
- What will be the governance structure?
- What are the values around data conversion?
- Counties will be solicited for pilot programming
- OCYF will distribute a FAQ for this soon
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## **PA Child Welfare Council Charter/ Review**

The Council membership reviewed the Charter for the Council that began in November 2016

- The group reviewed the goals, objective's, membership and criteria we are suing for success
- Several members are hoping for a more defined set of expectations for committee product, role of the member as advocates, agent of chance, subject matter expert or advisor.
- The group did vote to continue the meetings on a monthly basis