



**Ohio Children's Trust Fund  
Board Meeting Minutes  
September 15, 2021**

**Board Members Present:**

Representative Andrea White  
Senator Stephanie Kunze  
Holly Kastan  
Kimberly Jordan  
Jeff Van Deusen (Director Matt Damschroeder)  
Doug Wolf  
Megan Wanczyk  
Dr. Angel Rhodes  
Dr. Kynetta McFarlane

**Board Members Absent:**

Senator Tina Maharath  
Bobbi Krabill (Director Dr. Bruce Vanderhoff)  
Grace Kolliesuah (Director Lori Criss)  
Representative Janine Boyd

**Staff Present:**

Lindsay Williams, Executive Director  
Nicole Sillaman, Chief of Fiscal and Program Planning  
Eric Gonzalez, Program Manager  
Renee Whitfield, Program Manager  
Diettra Engram, Program Manager  
Jasmine Hall, Administrative Professional

**Guests:**

Denise Pleska, Senior Staff Attorney for ODJFS  
Nikki Cooper, ODJFS – Legislative Liaison

***Welcome & Roll Call***

Representative Andrea White called the Ohio Children's Trust Fund (OCTF) Board Meeting to order at 10:09 am on September 15, 2021 with a quorum. Chairman White turned to Doug Wolf to introduce himself as the newest Board member; Board members introduced themselves to Doug Wolf. Director Williams shared that Program Manager Maggie Sanders recently gave birth to her son Jagger, and both are at home doing well.

***Chairman Updates***

Chairman White also reminded Board members that there are 2 public member seats that are still vacant for the Board, and to inform Director Williams if there are any individuals that would like to serve on the OCTF Board. As Jennifer Justice is no longer Vice Chair, Chairman White asked Board members if there were any volunteers to serve as Vice Chair. Dr. Angel Rhodes volunteered.

Chairman White asked for any questions or comments on the OCTF Board Vice Chair nomination of Dr. Angel Rhodes. Hearing no questions or comments, Representative White called for a motion

to approve Dr. Rhodes as the new Board Vice Chair. Senator Kunze motioned, and Holly Kastan seconded the motion. The board approved the motion.

## **Old Business**

### **Minutes**

Dr. Rhodes gave pause for review and asked for any questions or revisions to the June 17, 2021 Board meeting minutes. Senator Kunze motioned for the minutes to be approved. Holly Kastan seconded the motion. Hearing no questions, revisions, or objections to the minutes as submitted, Dr. Rhodes stated the minutes were approved.

### **Strategic Planning**

#### **OCTF Vision Statement**

Director Williams shared with the Board the vision statement options provided to Board Members at the June Board meeting. OCTF, along with Strategic Planning partners CSSP and OSU, held a vision statement session at the end of June for Board members to provide any feedback on presented vision statement options, and the proposed vision statement for OCTF that was agreed upon is as follows:

*“Ohio’s children grow and thrive within empowered families and nurturing communities.”*

Director Williams and Nicole Sillaman have met regularly with partners at Prevent Child Abuse America through their Government Affairs Initiatives to work on visuals, infographics and data around return on investment for child abuse and neglect prevention (current visuals highlighting vision, mission, and values provided to Board).

Vice Chair Dr. Rhodes asked for any questions or comments on the OCTF Vision Statement. Hearing no questions or comments, Vice Chair Dr. Rhodes called for a motion to approve the OCTF Vision Statement. Senator Kunze motioned, and Megan Wanczyk seconded the motion. The board approved the motion.

#### **Operational Plan Updates**

Dr. Rhodes turned the meeting over to Director Williams with Operational Plan Updates. Director Williams walked through the following Priority Areas:

- **Priority One. Bring Together System-Wide Partners to Develop a Vision for Prevention in Ohio** - OCTF applied for the federal discretionary grant, Family Support through Primary Prevention Demonstration Sites, in July 2021. OCTF will update the Board on approval status by the November Board meeting.
- **Priority Two. Focus on Enhancing Organizational Capacity, Efficiency, and Effectiveness** - The OCTF is working with ODJFS HR for additional staffing and are awaiting word from JFS fiscal. A third staffing position would be included in the new Federal Grant if received. OCTF has been working with Regional Coordinators on standardization of process, as well as working in disproportionality and other factors into the IOP data dashboard.
- **Priority Three. Set an Intentional Commitment to Race Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion** - Through the OCTF’s federal CBCAP grant, the OCTF has initiated discussions with its federal TA provider, FRIENDS, about bringing in a consultant to train OCTF staff, partners, and stakeholders in DEI and anti-racism frameworks. OCTF is also in the process of

modifying all upcoming funding opportunities including the SFY 2023 Prevention Plan guidance to include cultural competence and non-stigmatization questions.

- **Priority Four. Meaningfully Support Families in their Homes and Communities** – updates include procurement of additional vendors through approved CBCAP ARPA funding plan, surveying grantees for training needs to identify which programs require training in the model statewide, support of innovative approaches, and expansion of concrete supports through ECSI opportunity as well as through regional model (approved by CBCAP Federal Program Officer).
- **Priority Five. Increase OCTF Visibility and Impact** - The OCTF developed a procurement opportunity to contract with a marketing firm; this opportunity is pending approval and release of opportunity by ODJFS's, Office of Contracts and Acquisitions (currently dealing with staffing constraints). The OCTF continues to work with Prevent Child Abuse America's Government Affairs Initiative to develop an infographic for ROI of prevention services.
- **Priority Six. Promote Meaningful Parent Leadership in Regional Prevention Councils** - The OCTF released a funding opportunity to regional prevention coordinators to apply for capacity expansion to support parent leadership activities. All regions are collaborating on this effort with St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center as the lead, who also joined OCTF and OFC to present on this collaborative effort at the CBCAP FRIENDS Prevention Mindset Institute in August 2021.

#### **Program Committee Updates**

Director Lindsay Williams turned the meeting over to Megan Wanczyk to begin Program Committee updates for the Board. Program Committee reviewed a number of programmatic efforts and discussed ways to balance out future opportunities.

#### **SFY 2023 Revised Regional Prevention Plan Guidance**

Director Williams reviewed the prevention plan guidance as it pertains to the Board, noting that the Board had approved \$5.375 million for the SFY 2023 services at the June 17, 2021 Board meeting, and informed the Board that the guidance is released to the regional councils upon Board review and approval. For SFY 2023, there will be four (4) different parts of funding to be incorporated into the prevention plan guidance:

- I. Prevention Plan Direct Services (State Funding)
- II. Concrete Supports (CBCAP ARPA Funding)
- III. Parent Leadership and Engagement Capacity Building (CBCAP ARPA Funding)
- IV. Innovation Grant Opportunity (CBCAP ARPA Funding)

The proposal is to encapsulate these four parts into one application through the prevention plan and application guidance for SFY 2023. Director Williams gave an overview of each portion along with the SFY 2023 Prevention Plan Budgets, and Allowable and Unallowable Document. OCTF would like to make the distinction between parent stipends and parent incentives and will work with Program Committee to review parent incentive (limits).

Vice Chair Dr. Rhodes asked for any questions or comments on the SFY 2023 Prevention Plan Guidance.

Holly Kastan inquired about evaluation, and if it would be built-in in terms of after the funding is done, or what would be the process for evaluation. Director Williams stated that through the building of the Child Well-Being Data Dashboard, OCTF collects programmatic data specific to the evidence-based program(s) as well as Protective Factors Survey and Brief Child Abuse Potential Inventory across all programs, and that data is placed into a dashboard to be compared with Statewide data to the programmatic data. OCTF works with the Regional Coordinator to show them how to do the comparisons through Tableau to provide feedback to councils and inform their prevention plan monitoring and evaluation plan. For Central Ohio, Triple P has a separate evaluation plan in partnership with OSU to link programmatic data that informs SACWIS.

Holly Kastan stated that the Board would be interested in feedback after the grants on some of the innovative projects, concrete supports, and other new opportunities and effectiveness. Lindsay agreed the information could be provided to the Board.

Hearing no further questions or comments, Vice Chair Dr. Rhodes called for a motion to approve the SFY 2023 Prevention Plan Guidance. Senator Kunze motioned, and Megan Wanczyk seconded the motion. The board approved the motion.

### ***CAC Primary Prevention Applications***

Director Williams informed the Board that of the 28 possible Child Advocacy Centers that could apply, OCTF received 2 CAC applications by the August 27, 2021, Applications from the following organizations were reviewed:

- A Caring Place Child Advocacy Center (Jefferson County)

Through their application for funding, they propose to offer the Stewards of Children program to up to 300 adults, inclusive of professionals and/or caregivers of children, through June 30, 2023. Stewards of Children is a 2-hour training that teaches adults how to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. The applicant requested \$12,000 each SFY and indicated additional funding could be utilized if other eligible CACs do not apply.

- Children Advocacy Center of Portage County

Through their application for funding, they propose to offer an innovative program which combines the Stewards of Children program with content from multiple Active Bystander Interventions, for a localized program called “We Can Be Heroes” (serve up to 150 participants, inclusive of families, community members and professionals). The applicant requested \$12,500 each SFY and indicated additional funding up to \$40,000 each SFY could be utilized if other eligible CACs do not apply.

Program Committee recommendation is to approve the two CAC applications and re-release the CAC funding opportunity. If no additional CACs apply, then additional funding would be given to two applications as requested.

Vice Chair Dr. Rhodes asked for any questions or comments on the two CAC primary prevention applications. Holly inquired if all CACs we notified of opportunity, to which Director Williams confirmed, but OCTF will reach out to ONCAC to see if there were any barriers that prevented the CACs from applying. Nicole Sillaman stated that OCTF has had several opportunities with the same response and made mention of feedback of capacity and staffing constraints that may hinder some potential applicants from applying.

Hearing no further questions or comments, Vice Chair Dr. Rhodes called for a motion to approve the two CAC primary prevention applications. Kimberly Jordan motioned, and Senator Kunze seconded the motion. The board approved the motion.

To address OCTF procurement/opportunity barriers, Holly Kastan suggested that the OCTF set aside funding to assist grantees in apply for opportunities. Director Williams stated that the OCTF has provided capacity building grant opportunities as well and will work to address these issues. Jeff Van Deusen stated that OFC has seen the same capacity issues and are trying to set more intentional guidance while within parameters. Dr. McFarlane added that as we are still in the middle of a crisis/pandemic, priorities and focus may have shifted to deal with the “here and now” instead of future-oriented work. Also, the potential issue of organizations not having additional staff to dedicate for new grant opportunities.

Megan Wanczyk asked the question if OCTF has received feedback on whether or not it was a matter of potential vendors not knowing how to apply for opportunities, and or if potential vendors did not have enough staffing capacity and or resources to pull from existing work to handle new opportunities. Nicole Sillaman stated that OCTF has heard feedback regarding the latter issue across regions and how uncertainty around the pandemic as played a role as well. Eric also noted that this opportunity would provide new prevention work to the CACs, in which if they are already responding to a current crisis, it would be difficult to attend to prevention at the same time.

Megan inquired as to if the funding for the CAC opportunity (\$12,500) was another possible issue and if possible, applicants may see it as a bit low. Nicole Sillaman stated that the statute reads that each CAC can apply to the Board for funding, in which OCTF must find an allotment that can go to each one for this opportunity. Looking ahead and considering future funding constraints, the allotment must be a sustainable amount considering that ARPA funding will be spent, and CBCAP funding may be changed in the future. Director Williams referred back to the opportunity for applicants to request additional funding should not all 28 CACs apply upon rerelease.

Holly further suggested that OCTF engage with potential grantees and vendors on what would be helpful to them during this time (inclusive of Board members), providing “feedback sessions”, and possibly modifying (i.e., with an early prevention lens) how OCTF presents its opportunities, which was duly noted by Director Williams. Jeff noted lessons learned during the pandemic, and how organizations will have to adjust to a “new normal” and shift accordingly.

### ***CBCAP Application Update***

Director Williams shared that in response to regions’ request for additional funding, the OCTF applied for \$500,000 in additional services for specific parent education programs through the OCTF’s regional model separate of the Prevention Plan Guidance application process. Looking ahead, regions will receive a sizeable amount more than they would typically receive, and OCTF is also anticipating receiving unspent funding back from the SFY 2021 regional allocation. In this case, OCTF is considering how to repurpose the annual CBCAP funding and will work with Program Committee on the best use of the funding (state-level, ,mini-grants, etc.) to propose to the Board in November.

Holly inquired if OCTF expects CBCAP funding to increase to which Nicole Sillaman noted that OCTF had seen decreases as recently as two years ago with the CBCAP grant, but since then, it has bumped up over the last two fiscal years, and appears under the new administration, they are trying to get reauthorization for the annual CBCAP funding at an even higher amount; so, there is

the potential for a sizeable increase in funding in which OCTF would like to plan ahead for projects and initiatives to spend down over the project period.

Kimberly Jordan emphasized that building a continuum with the funding should be a priority. Eric noted the Trust Fund is doing Pre-petition work as well.

### ***Human Trafficking Funding Grant***

The OCTF received eight applications by the August 10, 2021 deadline (one applicant withdrew their proposal and the submission from Dayton Children's Hospital was not received due to an error with the procurement system). Director Williams gave a brief overview of each applicant (each with the status of approval pending any negotiations):

- Children's Advocacy Center of Portage County - Northeast
- Cleveland Rape Crisis Center – Great Lakes
- Crime Victim Services - Western
- Dayton Children's Hospital – Southwest/Western
- Gracehaven - Central
- St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center - Northwest
- RAHAB Ministries - Northeast
- The Salvation Army - Southwest

OCTF will release the Human Trafficking RFGA, highlighting regions of the state that were not represented (Eastern, Southeast) and where only one application was received (Central, Great Lakes, Northwest). Director Williams mentioned that Gracehaven, one of the HT applicants, also has a line-item earmark for expansion of their case management program to expand into Cleveland and Toledo. It was previously managed through the Office of Families and Children and will be transitioned to OCTF to streamline the process.

### ***ECSI Updates***

Eric Gonzalez gave the Board background information on ECSI during SFY 2020 and 2021. For SFY 2022 & 2023, OCTF reallocated TANF to support ECSI as a long-term initiative to continue to support families throughout the state. OCTF received 12 applications from the initial opportunity release, 6 applications upon rerelease, and 5 additional through sole source for 23 applicants total (2 applications are still being negotiated). Further information will be provided in the Executive Director's Report. OCTF is conducting one-on-one kickoff meetings to address any questions grantees may have, with the hopes of grantees beginning to provide services by November 1<sup>st</sup>. Holly expressed excitement about this initiative and how it provides a connection to families and system-wide reach.

### ***Regional Prevention Council Updates***

#### ***SFY 2022 Regional Prevention Updates***

Director Williams reminded the Board that the Regional Service Grid(s) and further information can be found in the Board Portal. Director Williams gave a brief, high-level overview of each of the eight regions' program strategies, vendor status and numbers served for SFY 2021 and SFY 2022 as provided on the presentation slides, noting that invoices have yet to be completed for SFY 2021 as there is the 90-day completion window. The Western region will be transitioning over to a new coordinator while Gerri Pegues be the contact for the Region. OCTF plans to re-release the regional services opportunities for Eastern, Southeast, and Southwest regions.

### **CBCAP American Rescue Plan Act Funds**

Nicole Sillaman gave an update of the American Rescue Plan Act that was passed on March 11, 2021, with Ohio receiving approximately \$8.6M in funding. The OCTF was approved for the increased level of appropriations as well. Additionally, with this Act, the 20% match requirement and 70/30 leveraged funds formula required under current law were waived.

Under the expansion of existing services, additional funding has been incorporated in the spending plan to support innovative approaches for regional services as part of the prevention plan guidance. OCTF released Regional Concrete Support Applications and gathered an aggregated list of proposed concrete supports to present to Federal Partner at the Children's Bureau. All requested items with the exception of utilities were approved, and OCTF will amend agreements to reflect additional funding. Statewide innovation grant funding will be incorporated in the SFY 2023 Prevention Plan Guidance and will support 8 or more applicants per year for statewide services for up to \$75,000. OCTF had 3 approved statewide grants for SFY 2022, with the SFY 2023 opportunity to be released in Spring 2022.

Regarding funding for additional trainings for professionals and service providers, ODJFS and OCTF have developed a competitive opportunity for Mandated Reporter Trainings inclusive of specialized modules for different groups of mandated reporters, as well as a module for the general public. Training series will include race, equity, diversity, and inclusion principles woven throughout with one module focused on biases in reporting, disparities, and disproportionality. Additionally, funding for human trafficking prevention programming has been doubled, with four current grantees including prevention programming in their proposals.

Under new services, OCTF has resumed CAC funding and had two applicants for the latest release. OCTF will work to rerelease this opportunity to reach additional grantees. Also, OCTF has been working with Triple P America as well as Office of Contracts and Acquisitions and Office of Information Services to formulate an agreement for online Triple P services for approval in the coming weeks. Special projects and initiatives include child sexual abuse prevention, infant mortality prevention, and safe sleep, which OCTF hopes to begin work on these initiatives over the next quarter. OCTF has also partnered with the Supreme Court of Ohio and ODJFS to support pilot pre-petition multi-disciplinary legal teams.

### **Finance Committee Update**

#### **SFY 2021 Operating Budget Update**

Nicole Sillaman turned the meeting over to Treasurer Dr. McFarlane to discuss the Finance Committee. Dr. McFarlane informed the Board of the SFY 2021 Operating Budget and gave an overview of OCTF's current financial standing. OCTF has exceeded projections on revenues as of 6/30/2021. OCTF is on track for 70-75% spend down of expenses as of 6/30/2021. As mentioned earlier in the meeting, there is the 90-day window for invoices, so final invoices should be expected at the November Board meeting. OCTF expects \$500,000-\$1,000,000 unexpended grant funds due to COVID impacts across other initiatives.

#### **SFY 2022 Operating Budget**

Treasurer Dr. McFarlane shared with the Board a snapshot of the proposed SFY 2022 Operating Budget, OCTF is on track for projections on revenues as of 8/31/2021. For OCTF expenses as of 8/31/2021, only minimum expenses have been paid to date due to staffing and organizational dues to national associations.

The Projection of Sustainability of Current Levels of Funding with CBCAP Stimulus Funds is currently trending positive, with the ability of OCTF to carry-over unexpended funds to following SFYs, and under the assumption that OCTF receives no additional funding over the next biennium. Unspent funds are also reflected in the chart. The SFY 2021 and 2022 operating budget details can be found in Board member's folders and in the Board Portal.

### ***Family Success Network Update***

Director Williams turned the meeting over to Eric Gonzalez to provide background information and updates pertaining to the FSN pilot currently in the Northeast region. OCTF contracted with The Ohio State University as the evaluator, who is partnering with Case Western Reserve and the University of Pittsburgh. Service providers include a team of non-profits in Columbiana, Mahoning, and Trumbull counties.

The grant includes Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III services. The Family Success Network pillars are information and referrals, financial literacy, concrete supports, parenting, life skills, and family coaching. The program began April 2021 and has served 46 Tier I, 27 Tier II, and 18 Tier III participants, with 2 who opted into the evaluation thus far. The Trust Fund partnered with potential referral services to provide a couple outreach events to increase visibility of FSN: Back-to-School Shoebox Drive and Showering Moms (150 diaper bags).

### ***Other Business***

Director Williams mentioned prior to the conclusion of the Board Meeting, the reconvening of the ORC Review Committee, as well as a reminder to complete the Ohio Ethics Commission Training by the end of the year. Details are provided in the ED report in the Board Portal.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, the Vice Chair adjourned the September 15, 2021 OCTF Board meeting at 12:04 pm. The next Board meeting will be held on November 10, 2021.

### ***Handouts:***

OCTF Board Meeting Agenda – September 15, 2021  
OCTF PowerPoint Presentation – September 15, 2021  
OCTF Board Draft Meeting Minutes – June 17, 2021  
Doug Wolfe - Bio  
SFY 2021 Operating Budget  
SFY 2022 Operation Budget  
SFY 2021 Regional Service Report  
CAC Applications  
Updated Allowable/Unallowable Documents  
Updated Regional Council Member Orientation Documents  
Draft Prevention Plan Guidance  
Draft Strategic Plan  
Regional Coordinator Feedback Survey Results  
Executive Director's Report  
[Board Portal](#)