



OACCA

Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies, Inc.

Outcomes Data Project NEWSLETTER

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Contact Us

OACCA

50 W. Broad St., Suite 1900

Columbus, OH 43215

(614) 461-0014

(614) 228-7004 (fax)

www.oacca.org

[email us](#) ▪ [find us](#)

ODP Staff

[Jim Burckett](#)

ODP Project Manager

[Robin Lindquist-Grantz](#)

ODP Project Data Analyst

[Harry Blackmon](#)

ODP Chair

[Penny Wyman](#)

OACCA Executive Director

[Bryan Brown](#)

*OACCA Asst. Executive
Director*

ODP presentations to PCSAs

Several County Children Services Agencies have learned about the **OACCA Outcomes Data Project** through individual presentations. The empirical data reports to be generated by the project excite them. While the private participating agencies own their data, all expect that each will publish their reports in some fashion. The empirical data published will help placing agencies together with the providers make more informed decisions about the most appropriate utilization of resources in providing services to the children.

Public Agency Advisory Committee

The positive response of the public child placing agencies to the **OACCA Outcomes Data Project** prompted the project Steering Committee to think about formalizing this kind of feedback. As a result a Public Agency Advisory Committee will be formed in 2008 to review the project as it unfolds and provide a public sector perspective.

ODP Business Plan

The Steering Committee approved the project Business Plan for 2008 at the last meeting. The plan calls for ambitious work in the next year. Initiatives to be addressed in 2008 include:

- In addition to forming a Public Agency Advisory Committee, continue presentations to and work with Children Services Agencies in Ohio to help them be better informed about the project,
- Expand the number of provider agencies in the pilot phase of the project,
- Develop outcomes for non placement services such as Intensive Home Based Service, Day Treatment, Etc,
- Develop an internal Quality Improvement function for the project,
- Address the use of the **OACCA Outcomes Data Project** by agencies operating in Ohio that have multi state child serving systems,
- And explore ways in which to collaborate with FFTA in their outcomes project for foster care nationwide.

ODP has records of nearly 800 children already!

Records of nearly 800 children served in 2007 reside in the **OACCA Outcomes Data Project** system. It appears that between one-fourth and one-third of these children have been discharged from care at this point.

1st Annual Report & Monthly Agency Reports Coming Soon

The first Annual Report for the project is expected to be published in early spring. The report will cover data gathered in 2007 by the agencies participating in the project. The Annual Report will address the aggregate findings for the year. In this first report we expect to see a good deal of information profiling the children in care. Because the project began with children admitted after January 1, 2007, the number of children surveyed at discharge and follow up will be significantly smaller than those surveyed at intake, as noted above. The resulting report will show very preliminary data on the outcomes of the children because of the small numbers.

Monthly reports for the participating agencies using 2007 data should be available to each participating agency by the middle of February 2008. Again the issues with fewer children in the discharge and follow up categories will create very preliminary statements about the outcomes achieved.

Update on Participating Agencies

Three additional agencies joined the *OACCA Outcomes Data Project* in December 2007. This brings the total number of project agencies to 15. The agencies new to the project include: House of New Hope, Rosemont, and Via Quest. They join Adriel, Focus on Youth, Lighthouse, LHS Family and Youth Services, Marsh Foundation, National Youth Advocate Program (NYAP), Oesterlen, Parmadale, SAFY, The Twelve, The Village Network, and United Methodist Children's Home (UMCH).

Accrediting Support for the ODP

CARF joined the Council on Accreditation in giving its support to the *OACCA Outcome Data Project*. Support for the project will also be sought from JACHO in 2008.

The DECA: new tool for ODP for infants, toddlers & young children

In January 2008 the DECA and DECA IT will officially become part of the tools and instruments used in the project. These two tools assess children under the age of 5. Both instruments have undergone testing for reliability and validity. They are widely used in the Early Childhood community. The DECA and DECA IT together with the Ohio Scales now provide for the assessment of presenting and discharge issues of all the children in the *OACCA Outcomes Data Project* system.

The DECA and DECA IT offer more than just assessment of young children. The agencies using these instruments will be part of a training on January 11, 2008 to learn how to utilize the DECA and DECA IT **in developing service intervention plans for the children.**

To remove yourself from the Outcomes Data Project email list, send a request to jburchett@oacca.org