



OHIO YAB Mission

We exist to be the knowledgeable statewide voice that influences policies and practices that impact youth who have or will experience out of home care.

Three Days on the Hill 2026



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Administration for Children and Families



Participants spoke with Ryan Hanlon, Associate Commissioner of the Children's Bureau, about [Broken Adoptions](#), [Life Skills](#) and [Safeguarding Youth From Abuse](#), including when it comes to national implementation of the Home for Every Child Act.

HUD National Headquarters



Participants spoke with HUD Leadership, including Assistant Secretary Ben Hobbs, to share ideas to [support FYI voucher access](#) and including the voices of those with lived experience as [trainers](#) about this provision.

HUD plans to elevate Alexys' suggestion to the First Lady



Legislator Visits



Legislative visits focused on recommendations related to [ETV](#) and [Chafee](#).

Following up on the Fostering Stable House Opportunities Act



The visit with Congressman Mike Turner's office focused on [BROE \(Baseline Rent Optimum Escrow\)](#).

Next Steps Here in Ohio

- **As Ohio implements A Home for Every Child, and seeks to recruit 7K foster families,** how can we help, including when it comes to adequate safety vetting, training, retaining and how to support foster families in the midst of caseworker turnovers and shortages? ***An influx of this magnitude requires adequate infrastructure.***
- What are Ohio's plans to act on ACF guidance to stop paying adoptive families after failed adoptions?
- Does Ohio currently assign children and teens with a unique identification number, that can help track if they are adopted and end up back in foster care?

Future Discussions:

- **Pros and cons of assigning children and adoptive families the same caseworker:**

Model	Advantages	Potential Drawbacks
Same Caseworker (<i>Single Worker</i>)	• Seamless Communication: Eliminates the risk of critical information falling through the cracks between separate departments. • Deeper Context: The worker intimately understands both the child's trauma/behavioral needs and the family's direct capabilities. • Efficiency: Speeds up the administrative matching process.	• Objectivity Concerns: The worker may develop a subconscious bias or conflict of interest during the matching phase. • Role Confusion: It can be difficult for one worker to advocate equally for the child's best interests while simultaneously managing the adoptive parents' expectations.
Different Caseworkers (<i>Co-Managed</i>)	• Checks and Balances: Ensures two distinct professionals evaluate the match, providing a built-in safety net against individual bias. • Dedicated Advocacy: The child has a dedicated advocate focused strictly on their permanency, while the family has a guide focused on their licensing.	• Communication Silos: Information sharing can slow down, sometimes lengthening the timeline to finalization. • Conflicting Perspectives: Disagreements between the child's worker and the family's worker can delay the placement process.

How did this go?

Heartfelt thanks to DCY for being committed to **do what's right for youth.**

How can OHIO YAB members work more closely with DCY when it comes to webinars such as the one this Thursday?



JIM TRESSEL
LT. GOVERNOR OF OHIO



Join Lieutenant Governor Jim Tressel to Support Ohio's Foster Youth

Connecting Ohio's Foster Youth to Housing Opportunities

Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting | Thursday, September 24, 2026 | 1:00–1:45 p.m. ET

For: Public Housing Authorities, child welfare agencies, housing providers & community partners.

Welcome & Introductions

Kara Wente Director, Ohio Department of Children & Youth

Setting the Stage: Foster Youth Housing in Ohio

Lieutenant Governor **Jim Tressel** 67th Lieutenant Governor of Ohio

Understanding the Opportunity: The Melania Trump Foster Youth to Independence Initiative (FYI) & Family Unification Program (FUP)

Assistant Secretary Ben Hobbs Assistant Secretary for Office of Public and Indian Housing, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Celia Carpenter Senior Housing Program Specialist, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Michelle Daniels Housing Program Specialist, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

From Opportunity to Action: How Local Leaders Can Get Involved

Kara Wente Director, Ohio Department of Children & Youth

Jill Schuler Senior Director of Operations, Ohio Housing Finance Agency

Matt Sutter Senior Director of Housing Programs, Ohio Housing Finance Agency

Next Steps & Closing

Kara Wente Director, Ohio Department of Children & Youth