Ohio Sunset Review Committee
Agency Questionnaire

Agency Name Council to Advise on the Establishment and Implementation of the Birth D

Point of Contact Ali Simon, Stakeholder Liaison

Agency's primary purpose and its various goals and objectives

The Birth Defects Information System is a data surveillance system for children ages 0-5 with birth defects. The system is used to facilitate referrals to services to improve health outcomes for children with birth defects and to educate health professionals and the public about birth defects.

R.C. 3705.34, which was repealed in 2004, authorized the Director of Health to convene a birth defects advisory council to advise on the implementation of the system. That formal council was no longer needed once the system was implemented. However, statutory references to the council still exist.

Since the language was repealed, ODH has convened an ad hoc advisory group on birth defects when external subject matter expertise is needed. The ad hoc advisory group has not met since September 2013. Members of the ad hoc group include clinicians, parents, researchers, the Department of Developmental Disabilities, the Ohio Hospital Association, and the March of Dimes.

Agency's past and anticipated workload, number of staff required to complete workload, and total number of staff

Staff resources are not utilized to support the council as it was already repealed.

Agency's past and anticipated budgets and its sources of funding

The surveillance program is federally funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The language establishing the council (ORC 3705.34) was repealed in 2004 as the council was no longer needed once the system was implemented.

Number of members of its governing board or other governing entity and their compensation, if any

Since 2004, ODH has convened an ad hoc advisory group on birth defects when external subject matter expertise is needed. Members of the ad hoc group include clinicians, parents, researchers, the Department of Developmental Disabilities, the Ohio Hospital Association, and the March of Dimes.

Additional notes

ODH recommends to sunset the council as its original purpose to advise on the creation of the surveillance system has been completed. ODH continues to work with state and external partners regarding strategies to reduce birth defects such as increasing the use of folic acid and newborn screening for Critical Congenital Heart Disease.