



***JOB
AND
FAMILY
MATTERS***

JANUARY - MARCH 2023

CHILDREN SERVICES

Did you know we offer shadow days to local high school seniors, regularly have college interns in our unit, and participate in a CPS Fellowship Project for non-social work majors? We currently have **2 Fellowship Student Workers** who are paid interns and work 16-20 hours per week. We partner with *Wood County JFS* and *Workforce Development* for the funding and general oversight of the program. The goal is to have them complete CORE training during their Senior year in college and perform casework activities. The training includes our internal training curriculum, shadowing in the field, and CW Core with the Regional Training Center. **Haylee** came to us as a junior and will be here until November 2023. **Kyla** began as a senior in her last semester and will graduate the end of April. Together they have been able to provide a lot of support to our workers by assisting with transportation, Walmart runs, supervising visitations, covering the front desk, typing up forensic interviews, and those dreaded case notes from their time in the field. They have been a great addition to our unit! We continue to search for additional fellowship students to keep the rotation and support going.

Be on the lookout for **2 potential Social Work interns** from BGSU this summer as well. Meagan and Summer attended the BGSU Focus on the Field intern fair and have recruited these interns as well a potential intern for the fall semester already! Perspective interns come to the agency for a shadow day loaded with 'A Day in the Life' experience, including Virtual Reality goggles, attending court/home visits in the field, shadowing intake, and they helped with transporting the sibling group who came into care. It was a super busy day, but it did not scare them away! We will have lots of new faces to look for this summer.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Last year was a busy year for our Public Administration staff. There were 4,166 applications filed for Sandusky County residents, an average of 347 applications per month. With the influx of applications, we also decided why not try a new phone system with our call center. Just like expected, nothing works smoothly right away, or even months later. However, we were eventually able to be up and running and taking calls with limited issues.

Here are some fun numbers from our 2022 annual report:

Last year an average of 15,871 people were on Medicaid. The Public Health Emergency played a huge factor in this number due to restrictions being put into place for terminating someone's Medicaid. With the Public Health Emergency ending in April 2023, this number may be significantly decreasing over the remainder of the year. \$17,845,671.00 was issued in SNAP last year due to the extra emergency allotments being available. In February 2023, those emergency allotments ended. Meaning that households received their last payment on March 2, 2023. This will eliminate approximately 6.6 million in SNAP benefits for the year and bring us closer to pre pandemic levels. Our unit is going to be working through the "unwinding" which as much as it sounds like a scary movie, also feels like a scary movie.

Our PRC unit was busy last year in helping fund 444 families throughout the year. This was through helping with car repairs, home repairs, furniture, rental assistance, school supplies, and some special projects made available by Covid-related grants. We hope to continue aiding the community throughout the year.

In our Fraud Unit we were able to collect \$61,072.31 in overpayments. Pete has also been busy with the 57 investigations he conducted last year.

We can't thank our staff enough for enduring the never-ending changes. It's going to be interesting navigating through these next few months. If you see someone from our unit wandering aimlessly through the hallways, we are fine. It may be a tactic to not throw our computers through the window.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

- Our agency may have “***vintage***” fans oscillating in the building right now? That’s right. In the early 80’s, I (Janet Watt) was hired for the summer to help with Food Stamps due to the busy migrant seasons we used to have. The air conditioning at that former location of the JFS stopped working one summer. In order to deal with the heat, all employees were given a fan for their cubicles. We all drew numbers. If you drew a “1,” you received a small fan, a “2” was medium (of course,) and a “3” was a big box fan. I have been guarding my current fan, which is on its last blade. Anyway, that’s the tale of our 40-year old fans.



CHILD SUPPORT

Ah, spring has arrived again. It's the time of new beginnings and warmer weather (although, this is Ohio so who knows when that will start). Here in child support spring is a mixed bag of things. We'll start with the beginnings.

We just welcomed Shawwna Polm to the child support family. She is taking over as the intake worker, which is still a relatively new position for us. Shawwna will be handling paternity establishment and new child support orders until the first payment is received, or until we have to begin enforcement activity. She will also be worked into the rotation to cover breaks and lunch in the drive thru. Please be kind and help Shawwna out if you see her looking lost wandering around the building. We've all been there!

While Shawwna's time with our agency is just starting, some people's involvement with us is coming to an end. Hundreds of kids are graduating high school which means the associated child support orders are stopping. (Well, the current orders are ending. If there are arrears on the case, we will continue to collect those.) Most people call this season spring, but we call it emancipation.

There are multiple reasons why a support order can terminate but emancipation is by far the most common. A few months before a child turns 18, we send a letter to each of the parents/caretaker requesting proof the child is still enrolled as a full-time high school student and expected graduation date. If proof from the school is submitted, we send recommendations for the support to continue until graduation. If nothing is submitted or we get proof the child is no longer enrolled in school the recommendation will be for support to stop as of the 18th birthday. (Support will not continue past the 19th birthday regardless of school status.)

Some cases have no arrears or may even be overpaid. In those cases, we will put an impound on the case to keep it from becoming overpaid or keep the overpayment from getting bigger. This means we will continue to get payments, but they won't pay out to the custodial parent. After the emancipation date we will then look at the balances on the case and determine where the money needs to be distributed. That could be the custodial parent, the absent parent or some to the State. We get a lot of calls about the impounds and sometimes people aren't happy about it—on both sides. Custodial parents want the money now and absent parents want the payments to stop now.

Both feelings are understandable. Once we explain an absent parent could request the overpayment be paid back by the custodial parent and we are trying to prevent that, they tend to calm down. The same goes for absent parents when we explain they will get back money if it is owed to them, as long as that money is on hold, and we have it to give. We want balances to be 0 at the end, with neither party owing the other.

Emancipation is a process that takes multiple steps and involves a few different people. By now we've got it down and it works like a mostly well-oiled machine. Of course, there can be hiccups and clients do sometimes disagree with our recommendations. In those cases, the parties can appeal and request a hearing but that doesn't happen too often. Honestly, most people are just happy to be done with dealing with us. We try not to take it personally.

SHOUT OUT TO THE AGENCY AND THE COMMUNITY FOR THE FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION



*** ITEMS STILL NEEDED INCLUDE PEANUT BUTTER, JELLY, APPLESAUCE AND JUICE ***

SAFETY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Agency Safety Committee recently met to discuss several items. If you have any concerns, suggestions, etc. for safety in your area or around the building please reach out to one of the representatives below.

Representatives:

ANTHONY MESSINA
TAYLOR STEINMETZ
JENNI ZAIKA
RENEE LIVAS
SARAH MASON
KAREN RIEGEL
TAMI WARD
TEMBER SMITH

SAFETY TIP DID YOU KNOW:

County vehicles are inspected and certified once a year by the Ohio State Patrol. During the rest of the time random checks are performed as well as routine maintenance. If you find a vehicle is needing attention please report to Taylor.

What to do if you are in an accident in a county vehicle:

Just like in a personal vehicle you contact the police and file a report whether you or at fault or the other driver is. Contact your Supervisor and/or Taylor to report the situation. Incident Reports must be filed within 24 hours of the accident. In the glove compartment of our agency vehicles there are emergency phone numbers, tow services, etc. Some situations may require a drug test to be done immediately following the incident.

*If you are in a fender bender and the other person is at fault NO MATTER HOW LITTLE damage or even no damage you must file a police report.

BUILDING SAFETY CONTINUED.....

BUILDING ALARMS

There are several building alarms that you may hear. One is the fire alarm...fuego is heard first on this one and then fire, fire, leave immediately. Please do as this alarm says and leave immediately! When alarms go off employees often look at me/Deputy Hamilton and ask what is going on...we don't know! We are flying blind until we can see an alarm panel or any signs of an issue. Better safe than sorry and get out of the building.

Second one is the burglary or robo on this alarm...this one is if the building alarm is on and someone trips the motion sensors. The building alarm is typically turned off by 5:30 each morning and sets around 10 p.m. If the alarm panel is lit up red then the alarm is on!

The panic alarm buttons at the front desk locations are silent alarms and go to Deputy Hamilton's phone first before going to Habitec and being sent out to the Sheriffs office.

ACTIVE SHOOTER...

WHILE THERE IS NO SET PROCEDURE FOR ACTIVE SHOOTERS, PLEASE TRY TO EXIT THE BUILDING AS SAFELY AS POSSIBLE AND MEET AT THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE PARKING LOT. IF POSSIBLE, AN ANNOUNCEMENT OVER THE PA SYSTEM CAN BE MADE – YOU CAN SAY ACTIVE THREAT – AND THEN STATE THE DIVISION. (PAGE WILL GO LIKE THIS: ACTIVE THREAT – CHILD SUPPORT/ ACTIVE THREAT – CHILD SUPPORT). ALSO FRONT DESK WORKERS CAN ACTIVATE THEIR PANIC BUTTONS – THIS SENDS A SILENT ALARM OUT TO LAW ENFORCEMENT. WE ARE CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF ORGANIZING ANOTHER ALICE TRAINING WITH THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT. WHEN IT COMES TO GUN SHOTS, IT IS NOT EASY TO HEAR THE EXACT LOCATION SO BE OBSERVANT TO YOUR SURROUNDINGS AND EXIT IF POSSIBLE. WHEN WE HELD THE LAST ALICE TRAINING I WAS SURPRISED THAT A GUN SHOT AT THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE WAITING ROOM DOOR SOUNDED LIKE SOMEONE DROPPED A REAM OF PAPER ON THE FLOOR WHILE I WAS LOCATED IN MY OFFICE. I REALLY THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MUCH LOUDER!!

ALICE: What Does it Mean?

Alert – Alert is your first notification of danger. Maintain good situational awareness to overcome normalcy bias and ensure the best response to a critical incident or violent intruder.

Lockdown – Barricade the room.

Inform – Communicate the violent intruder's location and direction in real-time. To do this, pass on real-time information using any means necessary. Examples are video surveillance, 911 calls and PA announcements.

Counter – Not to be confused with fighting, this step involves creating noise, movement, distance and distraction. Its intent is to reduce the shooter's ability to shoot accurately.

Evacuate – Safe and strategic evacuation techniques get people out of harm's way. Understand how your current environment impacts your ability to evacuate and discover the safest ways to do so.

IN GENERAL PLEASE BE OBSERVANT OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS...IF YOU SEE SOMEONE YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE, LET DEPUTY HAMILTON KNOW OR YOUR SUPERVISOR KNOW IMMEDIATELY. WHEN LEAVING WORK AND WALKING TO YOUR VEHICLE, PLEASE STAY OFF YOUR PHONES AND KEEP YOUR EYES UP. NOT JUST FOR A SHOOTER SITUATION, BUT FOR ALL THE CARS THAT ARE FLYING OUT OF HERE AT THE END OF THE DAY. J DON'T LET STRANGERS IN ANY OF THE AGENCY DOORS. REPAIR WORKERS, ORKIN, COPIER REPAIR PEOPLE SHOULD ALL WEAR THE AGENCY ID BADGES WHEN THEY COME IN BEHIND THE LOCKED DOORS.

LEGAL DIVISION

During the first quarter of 2023, the legal division spent some time taking stock of its first full year in existence. Here are some highlights from 2022;

- In 2022, approximately \$51,184.00 was collected in child support from obligors participating in Seek Work Court (Juvenile Court only started in August 2022);
- Our CS Legal Case Aide, Sharon Ochs, compiled and distributed 176 discovery and supplemental discovery responses to parties in children services cases and prepared countless children services court pleadings;
- Our CSEA Legal Secretary, Rachel Hessick, processed approximately 274 legal referrals and completed 129 seek work and modification JE's (mod and seek work were only since April 2022).
- Our Legal Administrator, Dean Ross, appeared before the Sandusky County Grand Jury and presented 11 indictments for felony nonsupport of dependents which were all issued;
- The Children Services Attorney, Nancy Haley, and the Legal Admin attended a total of 319 children services court hearings and 434 child support hearings (That amounts to almost four hearings every day the courts were open for business).

Spring of 2023 is already here and the legal team has already been faced with some new challenges but we are looking forward to another successful year in serving the children of Sandusky County.

NEW HIRES



**KYLA
BROWN**
CHILDREN
SERVICES



**GRACE
INMAN**
WFD




**KATIE
GREEN**
CHILDREN
SERVICES



**MEGHAN
HOLLAND**
CHILDREN
SERVICES



**SHAWNNA
POLM**
CHILD
SUPPORT



**1ST QUARTER 2023
ANNIVERSARIES**

JANUARY

Marti Cummings – 24 years
Taylor Steinmetz – 22 years
Meagan Myers – 9 years
Macy Prentice – 6 years
Erika Haeusser – 2 years
Bobbie Armbruster – 2 years
Arica Rakay – 1 year

FEBRUARY

Sharon Ochs – 24 years
Nancy Haley – 22 years
Anthony Messina – 5 years
Sally Zeller – 5 years
Kristen LaFene – 3 years
Casey Morrow – 3 years
Brittney Jahna – 2 years
Alicia Mulligan – 1 year

MARCH

Jackie Hamann -24 years
Janet Watt – 24 years
Kelly Beeker – 19 years
Karen Riegel – 18 years
Krista Hovis – 15 years
Morgan Lockhart – 3 years
Lydia Ray – 1 year

SHOUT OUTS

Meagan Myers - I would like to give a shout out to Meagan Myers for all of her help the week before Christmas. I was extremely sick and Meagan was able to flow with the punches by attending an ETC hearing on Thursday unexpectedly. She figured it all out (even my feverish ramblings on the phone when she called). Meagan was able to cover Thursday night and during the day of on-call on the holiday Friday because I was so sick no one would have wanted me making decisions anyway. I am so thankful for her help!!

Jena Willey - I would like to give a shout out to Jena Willey. Jena was going to be on vacation the week of New Year and lucked out with her flex day being the following Monday. Jena made sure to send an update on all of her cases of things needing done and coordinated with other workers for anything that could not wait until her return. Jena had items due while she was gone and ensured they were completed before she left. Ongoing monthly logs are due by the 10th and Jena completed her logs by 12/30 and with the help of our fellowship student entering some into SACWIS they were all completed prior to the due date. The steps taken to prepare for vacation were much appreciated and made the week flow smoothly.

Entire Children Services Divisions - I wanted to give a huge shout out to our investigations unit!! The state sent the report for Best Practice "Assessment/Investigations Completed On-Time" from October 2022-January 2023 and we were at 100%!!!! I just ran the report from January to now and we still have -0- investigations not closed timely.

You should be so proud of yourselves ♥♥♥

****Also a HUGE SHOUT OUT to everyone in our whole unit who has jumped in to help out with the sibling group of 5 taken into custody. When times get tough we all come together and make it happen. It truly does take a village and your hard work is recognized and appreciated 😊*

Yolanda Santoya and Chastity Minor - I'd like to do a shout out for Yolanda Santoya and Chastity Minor for going above and beyond today to find a homeless family temporary housing. Both provided the family with multiple resources and when the hotels wouldn't answer the phones, Chastity took it upon herself to drive there and get them a room.

The entire Workforce Development Division - A parolee came into the Job Store and wanted to give Amber a couple of bags to hold for him until he came back from his meeting with his Parole Officer. Amber refused as she should have and notified Jacob. Jacob found the guy waiting in the Probation lobby w/o his bags. Jacob was able to locate the bags hidden behind the vending machine and alerted me. Parolee was then seen seated in the lobby just as Parole Officer See was greeting him. See was notified of what had taken place & we walked the guy over to the bags and he admitted that he had stashed them there so nobody would steal his property. Upon P/O See searching the items, two Meth pipes were located inside one of the bags. They bad guy had been tested for drugs that morning and he failed miserably. P/O See violated his parole for the failed drug test and he will be charged him with possession of drug paraphernalia. Great job being alert and "See something Say something"!

Ohio
MEANS
Jobs

Sandusky
County

A proud partner of the
American Job Center network



January through March 2023

Did you know the OMJ Center moved things around to be more customer service friendly for job seekers? We moved job announcements and applications for those coming in looking for quick job opportunities! QR codes are available in the atrium for those interested in submitting a quick online job application and a small desk has been placed up front for those needing to sit down with paper applications. Come on over and check it out! The unit held 12 Employer of the Day events this quarter, with 3 being at Terra State Community College.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND CHILD CARE

We have been partnering closely with Terra State Community College and Fremont Ross Schools! The following were events in the 1st quarter of 2023:

- ◆ 2/8 – Equity for each student event included meeting with 15 Ross students at risk of dropping out
- ◆ 2/23 – Terra State Strategic Planning event
- ◆ February and March – 6 total workshops with Terra’s digital media class that included resume/cover letter creation, interviewing skills, and how to prepare for a career fair in preparation for Terra’s upcoming Career Fair
- ◆ 3/20 – Fremont Ross career exploration presentations with approximately 140 students
- ◆ 3/28 – Terra State Community Spring Career Fair
- ◆ 3/30 – Fremont Ross Mock Interview event

The department was busy providing career services to individuals in receipt of Unemployment Benefits, enrolling eligible people in training opportunities to become more self-sufficient and helping people to be able to take their child to safe daycare while they work or attend training

- ◆ 30 RESEA (Re-Employment Services and Eligibility Assessment) appointments were completed
- ◆ 32 total participants have been selected to participate in the RESEA program with only 13 not cooperating to date
- ◆ 12 individuals were enrolled in On-the-Job Training as a new employee with a total of 3 employers in Sandusky County
- ◆ 6 people enrolled in Class A CDL Training through Trainco, Inc at the Terra and Perrysburg locations
- ◆ 1 person enrolled in LPN training
- ◆ 62 childcare applications were processed
- ◆ 17 inspections to licensed daycare providers to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations to keep children safe in providers homes
- ◆ 8 Step-Up to Quality inspections completed which allows providers to get paid a higher stipend if they provide better educational opportunities within their daycare setting

HYPE began accepting applications and determining eligibility for the Summer Employment Youth Program (SYEP) that officially kicks off on May 1 for eligible youth ages 14-18. Income guideline for the program is 200% poverty level. Youth will earn \$13.00 and can work May 1-September 30.

Employers are eager to partner with us throughout the county to help these 14–18-year-olds gain work experience! ***Please send interested families to the OMJ Center for an application.***

As always, employment services were hopping and is nearly always highlighted as a best practice in our Fiscal Area, known as GOWBI (Greater Ohio Workforce Board, Inc). We processed 3 Incumbent Worker Training contracts that will upskill 24 employees for Sandusky County employers. Involved employers will be reimbursed training costs for a total of: \$22,385.63. There were also multiple events:

- ◆ 2/1 – Workforce Readiness presentation with Whirlpool’s corporate team
- ◆ 2/6 – Mentor Monday with Sandusky County Young Professionals Group and community partners
- ◆ 2/23 – Sandusky County Economic Development Corporation Annual Meeting of Investors
- ◆ 3/6 – State of the Region Conference hosted in Perrysburg



TRI-COUNTY
treatment
FOSTER CARE

The hunt for a SSW3 – Family Recruiter continues! Jenni and Casey interviewed 6 people for this open position, although they tried to schedule with 11. Seems that “ghosting” is a real and inconvenient thing for employers these days!

We’ve noticed a decline in inquiries and have ramped up our marketing efforts with the help of the Foster Care Recruitment and Retention grant received through the state of Ohio. You should be seeing our television commercials on Spectrum and hearing them on the following radio stations: Eagle 99, 92.1 - The Wolf, 100.9 - Coast Country, AM 1600 and 93.3 WTFF FM! Sorry for those pesky pop-ups if you’re getting them and match our targeted group, as we are also doing a very heavy digital marketing campaign with both Spectrum and BAS!

We currently have 5 Treatment Foster Homes licensed – 2 in Sandusky and Wyandot counties and 1 in Seneca. We made our first official placement in a Wyandot county home and completed the first treatment team meeting and plan!!

Our second round of Pressley Ridge pre-service happened in March 2023 with Fall classes (see the flyer) being advertised throughout the region.

With the nice weather, we have some upcoming recruitment events that we are getting on the upcoming calendar!

- ◆ April 22nd, Seneca county 5K at Hedges Boyer Park (Seneca)
- ◆ May 11th, foster parent open house and recognition event at the Neeley Center (Sandusky)
- ◆ May 20th, Max’s Miles at Conner Park (Seneca)
- ◆ June 2nd, Family Fair at the Carey library (Wyandot)
- ◆ June 29th, Family Fest at the East Green (Seneca)

**PRE-SERVICE
REGISTRATION**

IS NOW OPEN!

FALL 2023
HELD IN PERSON AT SANDUSKY COUNTY DJFS

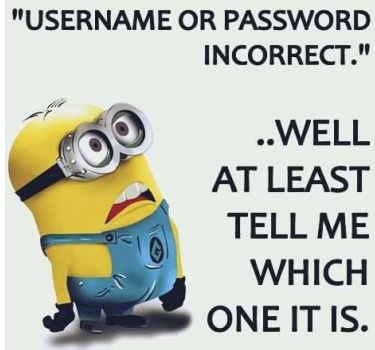
ENROLL NOW

- Open for resource families who are being licensed for family OR treatment foster care
- Each participant will complete 30 hours of training using the evidence based Pressley Ridge curriculum
- Evening and weekend classes available!

2023

Contact Us
419-334-8708
jenni.zaika2@jfs.ohio.gov

MIS Marti's Megabytes



Windows11 is coming. I started using it last week with no issues so far. Things look a little different, but overall, I have had no problems. Due to Windows11 coming, the state wants to replace all Surface Pros with Surface 3 Laptops. They have not told me when yet; they just want me to be prepared.

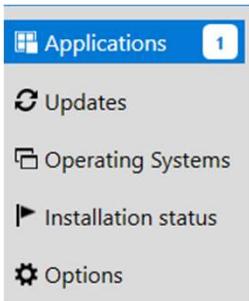
The state was also very nice to us and gave us 20 monitors. We have been able to put 14 to good use!

Fax2Mail has been remarkably awesome!!! There have been 0 issues with this change. So much easier than RightFax.

The State wanted us to make changes to any network printers we had on the network due to some security weaknesses. We had ComDoc make the changes and they warned us that Scan to Mail may stop working...it did not. We were all prepared and it still works which is awesome.

PCSA is using a new DVR. The company let us try one out for a few weeks and it works great and amazing. We view it through the internet now. When the company checked, the internet actually used less memory than the program we were using to view.

Did you know that I am able to reset your SETS password. Or you can always call the State at 1-800-686-1580, Option 1.



The state keeps updating our system weekly. It usually does this overnight on the network, so if you work remotely on a regular basis, you may have to check your Software Center on a regular basis for any updates you might have missed. While connected to the State network, open the Software Center icon on your desktop or under Start.

You will want to check Applications, Updates, and Operating Systems.

[Requesting a DUO re-enrollment link \(Self-service for existing DUO customers\)](#)

ohiodas.sharepoint.com

The steps to for existing DUO customers to request a re-enrollment link (for example, new device with same phone number).

Ctrl+Click the link above or find it in SPO when you search "DUO".