



SANDUSKY COUNTY DJFS

JOB AND FAMILY MATTERS

JULY * AUGUST * SEPTEMBER



NEW DESKS



Children Services staff learned to get creative while waiting for their new desks to be delivered!!



DJFS GROUP AT KEELY HOOVER'S WEDDING.

Season of Change in the Legal Division – Dean Ross

“And all at once, summer collapsed into fall.” – Oscar Wilde

...luckily the DJFS Legal Division has not followed suit.

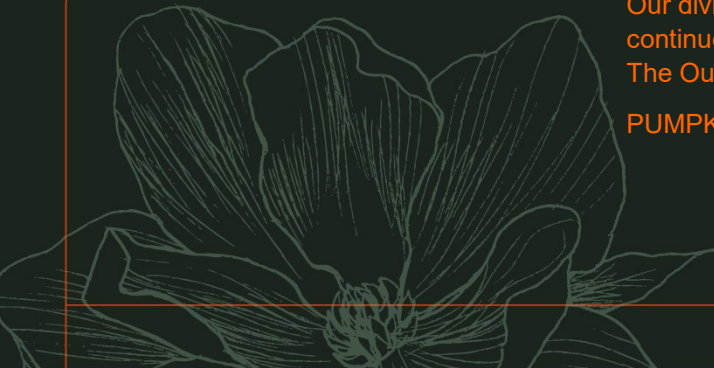
The summer departure of Sharon Ochs, our experienced children services legal aide, has been a significant blow to the legal division. However, we have managed to avoid “collapsing into fall”. In fact, we (meaning mostly Nancy Haley) have done a bang-up job of absorbing a great deal of those job duties and we are holding our own. Some of our processes have even been made more efficient. That’s not to say we aren’t actively looking for a replacement to relieve some of that pressure...but enough about us.

Credit should be given where it is due. Avoiding a collapse has been greatly attributable to the efforts of people outside the legal division. Everyone in children services has stepped up to keep things running smoothly with legal and the Court.

- Caseworkers have been more careful in editing their work before giving it to legal.
- The unit has been on top of avoiding last minute filing and taking the lead to file things in person when they know Nancy and I are unable to make it happen.
- New complaints are being forwarded to us nearly complete and ready to file with the court which helps immensely with time management. Meagan Myers has been a big part of this.
- **And I cannot begin to sing enough praise for Leslie Adams’ Herculean efforts to keep Discovery on track.**

Our division thanks all of you for stepping up and helping. We greatly appreciate all your continued efforts while we continue our search. Robert Frost says, “Nothing gold can stay.” But just as Johnny says to Pony Boy, “*Stay Gold...*” – The Outsiders.

PUMPKIN SPICE RULES!! and Go Bucks! (No quotes there. That’s just me.)



"USERNAME OR PASSWORD
INCORRECT."

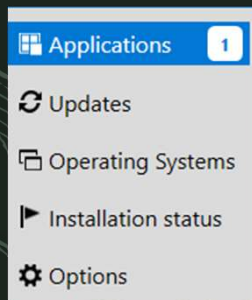


..WELL
AT LEAST
TELL ME
WHICH
ONE IT IS.

MIS Marti's Megabytes

October is Cyber Security Awareness month which is why the State feels it is the perfect month to do our Security Awareness Training. They seem to change it a little each year for the better. We have until the end of October to complete the 4 modules. The links to the modules in the email are not always working, but if you follow the guide on completing the training, that works. Eventually, I will be able to get reports of everyone in our agency who has completed, started or hasn't started the training.

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".

It is Best Practice to change your Jabber password thru the My Self Care Portal <https://myphone3.ngtsohio.com/ucmuser/> whenever you change your MyOhio password. And if you ever click reset at the Jabber sign in screen, you will then need to successfully sign in with your Jabber #@ngtsohio.com.

Our laptops can be a little quirky. If you are having troubles turning it on, hold the power button down and count to 30. Usually after 20 seconds it will start booting up.

Every once in a while, our phones update just like computers. Sometimes you need to restart your phone for DUO to send notifications.

We received 6 new printers from the State and had to take 9 off. This transition went very smooth thanks to everyone's cooperation.

Soon Taylor and I and Casey are going to meet with a new team at the state who are in charge of IT assessments. This is a new branch at the State's IT department. They are trying to help county's be secure.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

DID YOU KNOW OCTOBER IS PUBLIC ASSISTANCE WORKER APPRECIATION MONTH?!

We can't say thank you enough to our workers for all the work they do. The end of the Public Health Emergency has taken a toll on our community and our unit has seen the repercussions. The workers have worked endless hours approving benefits and being the sounding board for the community who are severely struggling. Our unit would not be as successful without them and they truly deserve more than just a month to show our appreciation.

Our county has met the 90% completion rate for Medicaid Renewals for several months in a row now. This goal has been set for all counties in Ohio. A lot of hard work has gone into ensuring this happens and we are all very proud of our workers for their continued effort in meeting this goal as it is quite the accomplishment.

Next is a reminder that we have items for Domestic Violence Victims in our file room. Please contact Kelly Beeker if you find someone in that position who could use some personal care items. We are always looking for donations too. You can also contact Angela Wheeler in Children Services or Trisha Foos in OMJ as well.

With the resignation of Yolanda Santoya we want to send a huge welcome to Leah Doering. We are confident she will be a great addition to our division!

Finally, within the PRC world, 132 backpacks full of school supplies were handed out this year. In addition, they approved over \$95,000 in services ranging from Rental Assistance to car repairs and furniture for families in need.

CHILD SUPPORT

Normally, we would open the CSEA newsletter with some pithy comment about the new season/weather, but we just aren't feeling it right now. You see, normally in the wonderful world of Child Support we just do our thing, fly under the radar and stay out of the way. Because of that, most people don't know we are riding the struggle bus right now. Between people leaving, various medical problems and personal/family issues (some good, some decidedly not), we kind of feel like we are playing a game of Survivor for which we did NOT audition and definitely didn't choose to vote anyone off the island! As usual, the remaining players are pitching in and doing everything we can to make sure our clients get the support they need and customer service they deserve.

Have we been more understaffed before? Yes, and we managed, but for some reason it seems to be hitting us harder mentally this time. Maybe it's because we saw a light at the end of the tunnel and had an idea of when it would be better. That's not the case this time around. To help boost our spirits and celebrate remaining on the island, CSEA is having a Survivor-themed lunch in November. Approved by our fearless leader (thanks, Melanie!), Jackie Mowry is coming up with games, crafts and other fun stuff during our lunch to show how much we appreciate each other's efforts during a time when we need everyone stepping up.

Speaking of stepping up, we have a few CSEA staff members who are doing just that on a bigger scale. Some of us are on Ohio CSEA Directors' Association committees to help direct things going on around the State and will be participating in sessions during the OCDA Fall Conference at the end of October. Cassandra Walter will be part of a panel during a roundtable discussion on Common Child Support Myths & Customer Service. She and Charmin Hetrick are also presenting on our Seek Work Court and Diversion programs in the Alternatives to Incarceration session, which will be moderated by Krista Hovis. Krista will be moderating other sessions, as well as helping with registration and additional tasks. They are also to supply photos to OCSA to be shown in a slideshow during the opening session: "The Child Support Eras Tour". They are to be personal photos over the years...not of Taylor Swift or Travis Kelce.

As you can see, it's a very busy time in CSEA. With each other's support and hard work, we will get through, just like we always do because we know it will get better. We are looking forward to a reverse Survivor situation where everyone is back on the island!



CHILDREN SERVICES

Tami Ward has been with our agency since 9/19/94. She has spent the entire 29 years in our Children Services Division. Tami started off as an investigator, conducted numerous forensic interviews resulting in prosecutions, and became a long-time Supervisor for the agency. Most recently, she was promoted to Administrator of the division in August of 2019.

Tami feels proud of having supervised and developed the early careers of two people in our community who have gone on to do awesome things. One is now Fremont's Chief of Police, and another is an Assistant County Prosecutor. Tami has built excellent relationships within our community. As a result of this foundation, this has helped make everyone's job in our unit easier due to the ability to collaborate with law enforcement, prosecutors, and schools.

Tami is devoted to her staff and truly understands the work in the field. Even as Administrator, Tami has taken an active role not only with her direct reports of supervisors, but with the caseworkers as well. Tami continues to be hands-on and is knowledgeable about what the workers have going on even in their own personal lives. This is because she takes time to interact with all staff and gets to know them on a deeper level. Tami continues to be hands-on within our unit. She will assist with screening and even taking intake calls, all while providing her knowledge and skills with helping in difficult decision making.

In 2022, Tami was nominated for the PCSAO's Supervisor of the Year Award. Tami will always be a winner in our eyes, and we appreciate all her support throughout the years. After years of hard work and dedication, Tami Ward will be retiring and her last day in Children Services and at Sandusky County Department of Job and Family Services is Thursday November 16, 2023. Please be sure to send warm wishes her way when you see Tami dancing in the hallways. Her ability to make us all laugh at her crazy antics will certainly be missed. We look forward to any future visits to brighten our day while Tami is onto her next adventure just in time for the holidays. Congratulations on your retirement Tami!

WELCOME



NEW HIRES



CLARA BURWELL
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
8/28/2023



MICHELE HOFFMAN
CHILDREN SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR
9/11/2023

ANNIVERSARIES

<u>JULY</u>	
Jackie Mowry	33 YEARS
Melanie Allen	26 YEARS
Dean Ross	16 YEARS
Bob Anderson	6 YEARS
Arcadia Thurn	5 YEARS
Jacob Berryman	4 YEARS
Aimee Martinez	1 YEAR
<u>AUGUST</u>	
Linda Ackerman	25 YEARS
Sarah Mason	16 YEARS
Bethany Wilburn	14 YEARS
Melissa Cruz	4 YEARS
Brenda Mulcahy	4 YEARS
Summer Repass	4 YEARS
Melanie Craig	4 YEARS
Jena Willey	2 YEARS
Leah Doering	2 YEARS
<u>SEPTEMBER</u>	
Elaine Franks	33 YEARS
Tami Ward	29 YEARS
Renee Livas	25 YEARS
Jessica Murphy	22 YEARS
Charmin Hetrick	12 YEARS
Gina Muratori	7 YEARS
Sakeena McDonald	5 YEARS

SHOUT OUTS



- Kelle is one of the busiest workers in Children Services. Whether she is running back and forth doing drop in's or helping with the group visitation she is always moving! Kelle has specifically been a Rock Star with our families by ensuring they are following the rules or court orders in place and when they aren't she steps in to make sure the kids are safe. She also has great insight on what the families she sees and works with could benefit from and isn't afraid to ask to work with the family on whatever the need might be. Going into homes with families can be intimidating especially if you are telling how to do things in a better way for their kids, Kelle isn't afraid to talk with the families and workers and identify the needs that need to be addressed. Whether she is running around checking on our families and their kids or running around outside with our group visitation families in the rain she has become a great asset to our unit and the families of Sandusky County!
- I would like to recognize the entire OMJ team for working together for a customer that experienced a seizure while in the OMJ Center. Everyone worked quickly to calm the customer's child and entertain them, while someone called 911 and paged Pete while the husband tended to his wife. I am proud of everyone working together and the teamwork under pressure and in emergencies.
- Natasha is a great asset to this agency and to the Children Services division. Natasha like many other workers has been carrying a heavy caseload. Recently she has had back-to-back custody cases, requiring a lot of timely work. Natasha works hard to not only complete paperwork but to put in the time and effort, to connect with the children and families on her case load. While trying to manage her time to complete all her tasks, she has been observed to take time out to help others. She steps up to help supervise visitations for her families and offers to assist on intake. In addition, she does not stop wanting to learn. She reaches out to get support to learn something new and the why behind doing it. She truly does this job to make a difference. She shows ownership and dedication to her job and her families! She is truly appreciated!

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

OhioMeansJobs has been busy with outreach at the end of summer. Many of our staff attended Farmer's Markets in July, August, and September – rain or shine!



OMJ also launched TWO commercials through Spectrum where we were able to highlight three manufacturers that utilize our Incumbent Worker Training program! IWT is to incentive employers to upskill their workforce to receive national recognized credentials and become more marketable.



July & August consisted of 5 hiring events and 7 small business drop ins.



At the end of August, OMJ started another year of offering our services to Terra students on campus and already hosted a resume & cover letter workshop.

August 28, 2023...WELCOME to Clara Burwell!!

Ohio MEANS Jobs Sandusky County
A proud partner of the American Job Center network

MEET OUR TEAM

CLARA BURWELL

Eligibility Worker II
Work Activities
3 weeks

Email Clara at:
Clara.Burwell@jfs.ohio.gov

GET TO KNOW ME!

Fav Lunch Spot: Any pizza or Chinese buffet	Hobbies: Watching horror movies	Fun Fact: I have an 11 year old brother
Can't Live Without: Cheese	Fav Movie/TV Show: The Breakfast Club/ Spongebob	Top Travel Destination: Galapagos Islands, Ecuador

Ohio MEANS Jobs Sandusky County
A proud partner of the American Job Center network

September was Workforce Development Month! We were able to highlight our ~ fabulous ~ employees and our many programs on social medias. Give us a follow if you haven't already!



Our final WFD Month Event was an Open House Event highlighting our new Transfr VR headsets that will help youth and adults in career exploration and training!! Come check them out.

OMJ, in partnership with SCEDC, and other community partners and employers came together to form a Workforce Attraction Taskforce and created a new microsite "Discover Sandusky County". View it here: [Home - Sandusky County Workforce Attraction \(discoversanduskycounty.com\)](https://discoversanduskycounty.com)

F A I R F U N! Our staff was incredibly grateful to promote our services to the community – and let's face it we were excited to eat the fair food, too!



(ft. Jenny lol!)

Continuing with partnerships – we were able to donate swag bags to Unique Fabrications Employee Appreciation Picnic!



Did you know.... Great Lakes Community Action Partnership is hosting a FREE Welding Certificate program at Terra State. This is free through the new WorkAdvance program. Contact us if you'd like to learn more!

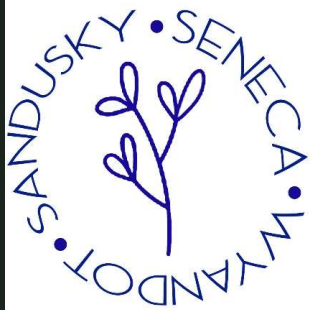
WELDING CERTIFICATION

Starting this fall at Terra State Community College

WorkAdvance

No cost for applicants through Work-Advance. Includes access to work supports, career coaching, and other assistance through GLCAP.

The advertisement features a collage of images: a woman smiling, a welder in a blue protective suit, and a close-up of a welder's face. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent dark blue background.



TRI-COUNTY
treatment
FOSTER CARE

July through September 2023 Updates

The marketing team, Guerrilla Group did major social media pushes on our #fosterhope campaign...give us a like and a follow on:

[Facebook](#)



[Instagram](#)



[LinkedIn](#)



At the end of the quarter, there are officially 7 licensed Treatment Foster Homes; 6 homes have full time placements. We have 2 home studies pending that will be treatment homes, one will focus on working with teen boys! Did you know that Jenni meets with these families a minimum of every other week and completes Treatment plans for each treatment child residing in the home?

In July, the agency sent multiple staff to the FFTA (Family Focused Treatment Association) Conference in Columbus, where they learned new information about retention and hope to implement this with the increasing amount of Treatment Foster homes!

These warmer months had so many events keeping staff busy that we forgot to take pictures!! Events included: Sandusky, Seneca, and Wyandot County Fairs, Upper Sandusky Open Houses at the Elementary and Middle Schools, ProMedica Family Fest, and Max's Miles in Tiffin.

With the assistance of CCRC (Child Care Resource Center), the agency completed it's first Foster Parent Café this quarter. It was exceptionally well attended with 19 adults and 14 children. A HUGE shout out to all the additional staff helping with this event as we totally didn't expect it to go over so well!