



# JOB AND FAMILY MATTERS

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER \* NOVEMBER \* DECEMBER 2023



## Sandusky County

A proud partner of the  
American Job Center network

### October through December 2023 Highlights

When we talk about a busy quarter, we mean it. OMJ staff were busy with customers, meetings, and events during a time we normally have ability to get some of the things we've put off completed, but our schedules didn't allow for it this year!

Although we only had 2 hiring events and 4 Workshop Wednesdays, staff helped 775 customers with things like Unemployment tasks, resumes, job searches and more. Childcare eligibility staff processed 109 applications and completed 34 compliance visits to licensed daycare providers. We began a partnership with the Sandusky County Sheriff Office to assist with project IGNITE, which offers services to currently incarcerated individuals to help them become career ready upon release.

We started partnering with Great Lakes Community Action Partnership (GLCAP) for the GoodJobs Challenge and WorkAdvance Model. This new grant provides advanced manufacturers additional recruiting services for new hires, along with upskilling training funds for the company's current workforce.

Through a random e-mail, we found out the state released the QUEST grant without telling us and the college and GLCAP have been asking us all about a grant we didn't know anything about. Because our team is one of the best, we are the FIRST county in the entire state of Ohio to enroll anyone into this grant. It can assist individuals to obtain necessary training to get into 5G and broadband careers if they or their spouse were laid off for even one day during COVID. Did you know the state of Ohio will need approximately 32,000 of these positions filled over the next 5 years??

During this quarter, we were given access to a new Learning Academy/Workforce 180 Training that allows our staff to get FREE training and certifications in case management, youth career navigator, business services, and more to be able to serve our customers to the best of our abilities. This is a huge benefit to us being part of the area known as Greater Ohio Workforce Board (GOWB).

We also continued our partnership with BAS Broadcasting for the Winter Coat giveaway and the community was very grateful for this, as we gave away HUNDREDS of coats this season!!

Staff were exceptionally busy with events and meetings...see the pictures below, and know these are just the ones we have pictures from but we attended a lot more events. If you want to be in a department that has lots of community involvement, we're the place to be!

The digital billboard finally came to fruition and we couldn't be more excited to use this for advertising events and available positions for our community!

Finally, we welcomed Arica Rakay into our unit on 10/30/23 and we couldn't be happier to have her on our team!!

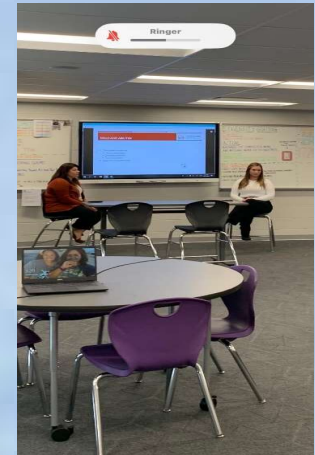
October 1<sup>st</sup> – OMJ took a field trip to the City of Fremont’s Water Reclamation Plant to learn about careers in the water treatment industry.



October 11<sup>th</sup> – OMJ volunteers at THINK Manufacturing, introducing all Sandusky County 9<sup>th</sup> graders to manufacturing opportunities.



October 30<sup>th</sup> – Trisha and Arcadia presented on career services to the Afterschool Program at Ross



Clara and Trisha represented OMJ in all things spooky at the very cold and dreary Trunk or Treat and Terra’s Spooktacular event!!



November 15<sup>th</sup> – Trisha participated in Ross Mock Interviews



November 17<sup>th</sup> – Vanguard Mock Interviews



November – Abby and Renee participated in a career fair at Bellevue High School



Welcome Arica to the OMJ team!



Participated in 1 Small Biz Blitz with other partnering agencies.



Career Exploration with the help of transfr VR has taken off this quarter! Our staff have been getting familiar with the software, jail staff, project IGNITE, Business partners, local schools, and Youth Leadership Sandusky County.



Caren Nemitz of Project IGNITE

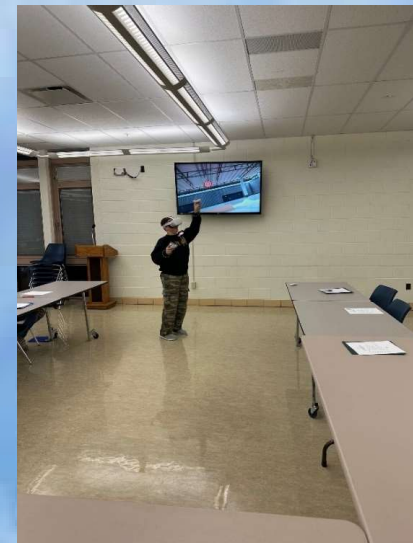


Our very own Abby Roberts



Sandusky County Sheriff Office  
staff and inmate participants

Youth Leadership  
Sandusky County  
participants





### October through December 2023 Updates

At the end of the quarter, there are officially ***6 licensed Treatment Foster Homes***; all 6 homes have full time placements. Unfortunately, one of our homes are experiencing life in a rough way and decided it would be best to voluntarily close their license for now. We have 3 pending home studies that will be treatment homes. One treatment level child was ***adopted*** by the Treatment family on 12/4/23, achieving permanency for this child!

Did you know the treatment program is expanding to include Ottawa County? A new SSW4 – Treatment Program position was posted to focus on continuing to build this program so we can place children with high acuity needs closer to home in Treatment Family Foster Homes. With the addition of a new county will come a new name...be on the lookout for this update and logo change!

The program is generating some buzz around the state of Ohio and we received requests for meetings from leadership at the Department of Children and Youth, Ohio Family Care Association and other counties.

Events this quarter included: Max's Miles in Fremont, YMCA Community Engagement, Parent Cafes, Kinship Support Groups, Community Christmas, Visitation and Foster Family Christmas parties.

## Children Services

We've had a busy few months here in the Children Services Wing.

In November, children services participated in the **CPOE 12 Phase 2 Exit Conference**. The agency did very well in this CPOE cycle and no specific Plan for Practice Advancements were required to be developed due to any deficiencies. The Technical Assistance Specialist from the state characterized Sandusky County DJFS as a high-performing, well-structured, and innovative agency. The children services division implemented a group screen process, which utilizes a group decision making model. This change has allowed the division to ensure efficient use of time, increase consistent decisions amongst staff, and strengthen critical thinking skills. The **Ohio Start Team** held an amazing celebration for the first person to complete the **Ohio START program in Sandusky County**. The success of Ohio START is an all-encompassing approach to treatment that brings together a team of support. The children services team consists of Alicia Mulligan, Rachel Mitchell, and Meagan Myers. The celebration was attended by County Commissioners, service providers, family support and other community partners. The holiday season was full of merry and lots of hard work by our children services staff. Two holiday parties were held for the children in care. Caregivers and their children placed with them celebrated at **Journeys** for a night of bouncing, basketball, skating and Santa fun. While parents and their children enjoyed a **night at SCDJFS** filled with crafts, family photos, cookie decorating, food and a visit with Santa. Throughout the whole month staff served as Santa's helpers ensuring that each child had gifts to open on Christmas morning. All of this could not have occurred without the support of our community that donated party space, food, drinks, gifts, photography services, and so much more.





"USERNAME OR PASSWORD  
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## MIS Marti's Megabytes

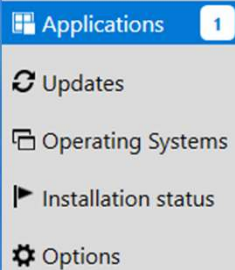
January starts the *User Attestation* yearly agreement. It also starts SETS FTI Awareness Training. I received my FTI training email January 2<sup>nd</sup>. I haven't received anything about the User Attestation, it runs until March 4<sup>th</sup>. So, we have until March 4<sup>th</sup> to complete it. An email should be coming from DONOTREPLY-Enterpriseidentity@ohio.gov

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.

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](mailto:#@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 cell phones update just like computers. Sometimes you need to restart your phone for DUO to send notifications.



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

DUO has its own link in the ODJFS folder of our browsers.

This is where we have to go if we get a new phone.

<https://mfa.ohio.gov/>



## Public Assistance

**More unwinding news....**All individuals enrolled in the Medicaid program will undergo an eligibility redetermination prior to June 2024. Individuals who do not complete and return their enrollment packets will be terminated from Medicaid. More than **342,000** Ohioans have lost their Medicaid coverage since the COVID-19 pandemic protections ended.

**SNAP theft** is on the rise everywhere. What can individuals do to protect themselves? SNAP recipients now can lock their EBT cards using the EBT Connect Mobile App and online using the EBT Cardholder Portal at <https://www.connectebt.com/>. It is suggested that SNAP recipients select the “Lock Everywhere” option when not actively making purchases. SNAP recipients can also sign up for email and text alerts. They can choose to receive alerts for new transactions (purchases, returns, deposits, etc) and if there are changes made to their account (address, PIN, password, etc).

Each month, the PA unit has a “**Processing Day**”. On Processing Day, the call center is closed, and it is all hands on deck for processing documents. This day was created to work solely on cases without any disruption and push approvals/denials through quicker. It is a very successful day to say the least. In 2023, the Collabor8 group processed **34,849** documents. With the number of applications increasing, an additional processing day was added in September 2023. Hopefully with the two days of strictly processing documents, our unit will continue to service the community efficiently and effectively.

This unit has done an amazing job trying to keep up with the overwhelming number of documents, calls, and customers coming in. Sometimes it feels like ground hogs day but their continued effort is greatly appreciated.

# CHILD SUPPORT

**Happy New Year!** As we welcome 2024, here at CSEA we are also welcoming a new employee. **Taylor Holland** started as a clerical specialist on **January 2<sup>nd</sup>**. We are so happy to have her join us. She has been busy learning about child support and how the drive thru works, as well as how to navigate inside this building. If you see her wandering about, please return Taylor to the drive thru!

**Another big, new thing in child support is updated SETS.** For those of you who don't know, SETS is the child support case tracking system used Statewide. It has been in existence since 1998 and looks it. New SETS will be web-based and is supposed to have a few new features, but it mostly looks like the system we have currently. It has been in pilot counties for a few weeks and has been opened up to the rest of the State a few times for testing. (Personally, I have fataled it both times it was open for testing. I'm doing my part to make the State aware of issues before it goes live!) Allegedly, new SETS is supposed to be open for business within the next two weeks. We shall see!

Now that the new year has hit, we are also ramping up for **emancipation season and tax offsets**. This is a big time of the year for us as we start preparing impounds and termination orders for graduating seniors, as well as potentially getting tax return money for cases with arrears. It can be a highly emotional time for some of our clients, depending on which of these things are happening in their case. In some instances, both of these situations can be going on in the same case. It can make for some interesting conversations with certain clients.

January also means our annual **Federal Tax Information (FTI) training**. We are required by the Federal Office of Child Support to complete FTI training upon initial hire and then annually thereafter. We also have a refresher each August during Child Support Awareness Month. This is because as child support workers we have access to client's tax information. In order to maintain access to State and Federal systems that may contain this information we have to show we know how to safeguard it and destroy any printed copies in an approved manner. Its not the most exciting training, but it is crucial to our jobs. Normally we have 90 days to complete the training, but that timeframe has been shortened to 60 days this year. Of course, we won't wait the 60 days and many of us have already completed it because we are overachievers!

Again, Happy New Year everyone! Let's make this the best 2024 ever! (Yes, I'm aware this is the only 2024, therefore it has to be the best.)

## Meet Your New Legal Secretary

My name is Amanda Muncy, I am a 34 year old mother of 2 beautiful children, 1 girl and 1 transgender son. I have been married for 13 years and together for 18 years. My husband and I are high school sweethearts, in fact, in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, he told me he knew who I was going to marry. When I asked him who, he stated, "me"!

I grew up in a military family, so we moved around a lot. I spent a majority of my life in Oklahoma and Mississippi between my mother and father's homes. I moved to Ohio when I was 11 and have lived here ever since, and now currently in Helena.

I have 3 dogs, 4 cats, and 1 turtle. We also have chickens that we recently incubated and hatched ourselves. 1 of my dogs is a rescue and 2 of my cats are rescues.

I have an extensive background in management with approximately 12 years of experience. My most recent position held was with the U.S. Postal Service for 6 months, which I quickly discovered wasn't for me, as I prefer to enjoy the elements from indoors. I was extremely lucky in finding this position and beyond thankful everyday that the luck was in my cards this time.

I am extremely thankful to be a part of the Children's Services Team. I look forward to continuing to get to know everyone and contributing to the team.

# NEW FACES



KRISTY SUMMERS  
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE  
12/04/2023



AMANDA MUNCY  
LEGAL  
12/11/2023



GRACE OTT  
CHILDREN SERVICES  
12/11/2023



CAMI CAUDILL  
CHILDREN SERVICES  
12/18/2023

# ANNIVERSARIES

EMPLOYEE	DATE OF HIRE	YEARS OF SERVICE
<b>OCTOBER</b>		
AMBER WALLACE	10/03/2022	1 YEAR
KELLE GREENE	10/11/2022	1 YEAR
CHASTITY MINOR	10/26/2015	8 YEARS
ANGELA WHEELER	10/14/2014	9 YEARS
LISA MULLHOLAND	10/16/2000	23 YEARS
<b>NOVEMBER</b>		
HAYLEE BOCK	11/1/2022	1 YEAR
MATT KREILICK	11/15/2021	2 YEARS
ROBBIN DARLING	11/09/2021	2 YEARS
TRISHA FOOS	11/13/2018	5 YEARS
SUE EWING	11/14/2018	5 YEARS
KORRIN DURBIN	11/17/2014	9 YEARS
ANGELA WHEELER	11/18/2013	10 YEARS
LORI HAMPSHIRE	11/02/1998	25 YEARS
NANCY GROVE	11/01/1993	30 YEARS
<b>DECEMBER</b>		
JENNI ZAIKA	12/06/2021	2 YEARS
TEMBER SMITH	12/13/2021	2 YEARS
JESSICA DRENNING	12/20/2021	2 YEARS
JACKIE EDMONDS	12/08/2014	9 YEARS
DAVI ANDERSON	12/27/2005	18 YEARS



### JENA WILLEY



After nearly 2 years (literally within weeks of running out of our mandated timelines), Jena was able to close 2 cases with SUCCESSFUL reunifications! These parents were difficult at times (most of the time 😊) and given numerous chances to get it right...in the end with all the hard work, blood, sweat and tears they were able to pull off the win. Jena played an integral part in each family's success. Not every parent can be perfect all the time and Jena recognized that. She helped these parents ensure they were providing safe environments for the children, even if they were minimal. Congratulations on all your efforts and bringing families back together ♥

### KATIE GREEN



I've really been struggling with my extra fiscal responsibilities. I had to send out a ton of contracts for placements and haven't had a minute to work on them this week. A HUGE HUGE Thank you to Katie Green who put them all together for me and sent them out. This was true teamwork.

### KELLE GREENE



I want to give a HUGE THANK YOU to Kelle Greene. This gurl helps wherever needed and especially helps me so much with shuffling the children in and out from the conference room to the parking lot. I appreciate her so much 😊