



# JOB AND FAMILY MATTERS

APRIL \* MAY \* JUNE

2024

# PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

## MANY FOLKS HAVE DIFFICULTY DEALING WITH THE SUMMER HEAT!

**Summer Crisis Program** is available to assist households in Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca, and Wood counties with cooling needs July 1-Sept. 30. The program assists with electric utility bills, central air conditioning repairs, and air conditioning or fan purchases for eligible households. Criteria includes:

- Households with a member who is age 60 or older
- Households with a member who has a documented medical condition verified by a licensed medical professional who is qualified under Ohio law to write prescriptions.
- Households that have an electric utility disconnect notice, are in disconnect, or need transferred or new electric service

Percentage of Income Payment Plan Plus (PIPP) customers are also eligible for assistance towards their default PIPP payment, first PIPP payment, central air conditioning repairs, or may receive an air conditioning unit or fan.

If you happen to be over in the PA Department, you may see a room full of boxes. Over 100 backpacks will be filled with school supplies, including paper, folders, pens, calculators, padlocks, crayons, and so much more.

**Do you need help with School Supplies?**

The Sandusky County Department of Job and Family Services is now accepting applications for help with School Supplies for the 2024—2025 school year.

Eligible families will receive backpacks filled with the school supplies.

To apply, contact the Sandusky County Department of Job and Family Services at 419-334-3891 or by e-mail at

*Gross Monthly Income Guidelines*

2 person assistance group	\$5,110
3 person assistance group	\$6,455
4 person assistance group	\$7,800
5 person assistance group	\$9,145
6 person assistance group	\$10,490
7 person assistance group	\$11,835
8 person assistance group	\$13,180
9 person assistance group	\$14,525

We welcome Jessica and Alexis to the Land of Public Assistance!

## CHILD SUPPORT

Summer is already halfway over. How did that happen?! Before we know it, August will be upon us and that means Child Support Awareness Month! While we usually have a few special events planned for this month, this year is going to be even better (because we're extra like that).

First, some of the things we normally do. August 7 is Wear Green Day. We ask everyone to participate and show your support for Child Support. It's easy; all you have to do is wear the color green that day. We are also looking at offering the warrant amnesty program and license reinstatement agreements. These are just for obligors (payors) during the month of August. It allows obligors to clear outstanding warrants and relaxes some of the requirements to get their licenses (driver, hunting, fishing, etc.) reinstated.

For our child support workers, we are having an employee appreciation lunch on August 15. It is being catered by either Chunky Dunks or Ole Zims (still working that out at the time of this writing). We also have some really fun adult coloring books so we can have some relaxing team building time. If you want to see some of our beautiful artwork, come over after that. We may be able to show it to you, but maybe not. We have a different sense of humor over here.

Those events (or some version of them) are things we do every August. This year we are adding a new outreach event—Employer Education! CSEA sends out a lot of paperwork and some of it can be difficult to understand. We decided it would be a good idea to invite local employers to learn how to complete that paperwork properly and explain how to withhold payments for child support cases. There will also be an opportunity for those employers to ask us questions. We'll be providing a light breakfast and swag bags as well. Who can say no to all of that?

Charmin Hetrick has been spearheading this event to be held on August 8th. She sent out email invitations to employers, as well as some by regular snail mail. We also sent our flyer to the Chamber of Commerce. OMJ has been very helpful in getting us a list of employer emails and putting us in contact with a local organization for human resources workers. They also taught us how to use Canva, which is great! So far, we have gotten a good amount of RSVPs for this inaugural event.

As if that wasn't big enough, the head of Ohio's DJFS is coming to visit us on the day of the Employer Education event. Director Damschroder will be here at the agency and get to see us in action, but hey, no pressure. It's fine, everything is fine. We'll be awesome, as usual.



**OhioMeansJobs®**

**Sandusky County**

A proud partner of the  
American Job Center network

OMJ experienced lots of staffing moves this quarter! Matt Kreilick became the Business Service Consultant, Renee Livas became the Trainer and we welcomed two new hires with Bethany Buehler and Brandi Kofron and welcomed Jenny Ayres to our department!

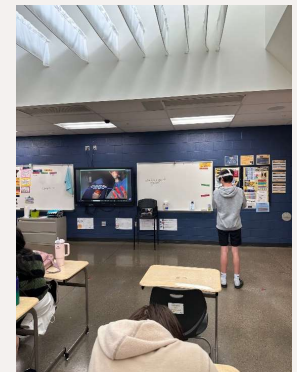
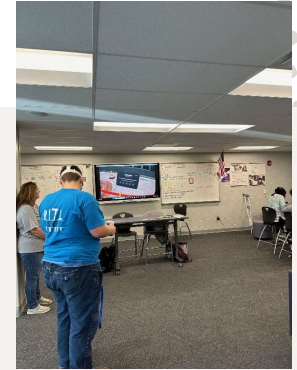
The state rolled out the Childcare Voucher Eligibility program, which allows parents in the 146% - 200% Federal Poverty Level to receive assistance with childcare for one year. The state hopes to continue this program in the future, but it's currently only available for the one year. We served 807 customers in the OMJ Center, processed 171 childcare applications, and completed the remainder of our licensing visits just in the nick of time! Although we had 24 TANF denials, most either withdrew or did not show to their initial assessments. However, some of our withdrawals have happy endings and we recently had a couple of TANF referrals that ended up becoming employed before their first assignment was even due with 4 currently active.

We met with 21 individuals for Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment and 35 individuals to determine eligibility for QUEST and we are one of only two counties in the state of Ohio enrolling people in this grant. During this quarter, we allocated \$54,918.57 for people to attend training under this grant!

We continue to attend lots of events in the community and take our VR headsets on the road and even allowed some of our very own employee's children to experience digging for fiber optic lines on Bring Your Child to Work Day!

HYPE represented our agency at the ASPIRE graduation, where we celebrated one of our very own participants!

We took the VR headsets to Ross High School after school program and the Clyde Middle School career readiness class. Here's some pictures of the festivities!



4/15/24 – 5G Broadband Career Day at Ken Myers Construction

4/26/24- Vanguard HS Career Fair

4/29/24 – Veteran Resource and Job Fair at the agency in conjunction with state of Ohio

6/15/24 – Farmer's Market



Biggest news of the quarter is this...we ***FINALLY*** hired our worker!!! Melissa Minjarez started 6/26/24 and we couldn't be happier to have her on our team.

We're off and running with the state of ***Ohio Treatment Foster Care Pilot***. We're mentoring 10 other areas consisting of 30 (YES, that's THIRTY) counties working to implement the work we're doing in their own way! We are super excited for the opportunity from the state, as it came with some money coming our way for the mentorship and there are 3 other areas in our region that we hope to partner with for placements.

We received some positive attention in the media, two of the articles featuring our Treatment families are included below. ***Our agency was given kudos*** by *Governor Mike DeWine*, where our program was mentioned in his State of the State Address.

[Northwest Ohio collaborative to become state model for foster care | The Blade \(toledoblade.com\)](#)

[Ohio program prepares foster parents to care for kids with complex needs / Public News Service](#)

We attended the ***11<sup>th</sup> Annual Trauma Informed Summit*** in May and took a set of foster parents with us each day of the two-day conference so they could learn some skills for the children placed in their homes.

At the end of this quarter, we have **8** Treatment homes licensed with **12** children placed in a family setting and **7** pending home studies.

Events included:

- Seneca County's 5K
- Max's Miles in Fremont
- Carey Library Fun Fest

## **Legal Department**

With recent events that transpired in downtown Fremont, I thought this was an ideal moment to review the issue of FAAs. If you frequent social media, you are probably aware of "First Amendment Auditors" (FAAs). If you are not, FAAs involve photographing or video recording in a public space. The intent is to test the constitutional right to access and video record in areas deemed to be public domain. This includes buildings that offer public services such as Sandusky County DJFS. FAAs are often unpleasant with the aim of eliciting a response which they will assert is a violation of their constitutional rights. They will then post these video recordings to social media sites as FAAs did recently with their Fremont Police Department interactions.

Please keep the following points in mind if you have an encounter with an auditor while you are working:

- **While arguably ridiculous, the FAAs' actions are legal provided they are not interfering with your ability to conduct business;**
- **If a First Amendment Auditor comes into the office, you should remain polite and treat them as any other customer. Like bees, if you don't swat at FAAs they will likely go away and leave you alone;**
- **If you are uncomfortable being video recorded, you can leave the area provided you are not denying them services by doing so. This is not a "15 minute of fame" moment that you want.**
- **Do NOT do any of the following if a First Amendment Auditor comes into the office:**
  - Do not deny them services;
  - Do not require them to produce ID or identify themselves unless it is necessary as part of transacting business with the agency;
  - Do not ask them to stop video recording;
  - Do not ask them to leave;
  - Do not provide an opinion on their conduct or call them derogatory names;
  - Do not spray them with mace;
  - Do not drag them by the hair out of the building;
  - Do not become hostile or combative with the auditor;
  - Do not practice your MMA skills on the auditor.
- **You are NOT required to do any of the following:**
  - You do not have to disclose your name, job title, or answer general questions unless it pertains to conducting business, unless, of course, you are desperate for a date and have exhausted all other options;
  - You are not required to disclose any confidential information;
  - You are not required to allow them access to secure areas without legitimate business reasons;
  - You are not required to smile for the camera but I strongly recommend it because it spreads sunshine and rainbow vibes.
- **You should contact security and your supervisor when:**
  - The auditor's actions impede your ability to conduct your business or prevents members of the public from accessing your services;
  - They attempt to access secured areas unless they have legitimate business to conduct as a customer;
  - They become physically abusive or destructive;
  - They streak through the hallways;
  - They are out of film and request PRC funds to acquire more;
  - They are not entitled to demand ANYTHING from other customers except maybe their shoes back if someone has taken them.

If you are unsure what to do when faced with a first amendment auditor, contact your supervisor immediately and do not engage negatively with the individual. Screaming and running in circles is also discouraged unless you think it will make them go away.

KIDDING ASIDE! USE COMMON SENSE AND YOU WON'T END UP ON YOUTUBE!

## CHILDREN SERVICES

We had a busy spring and summer so far and we have accomplished so much!

We added some new amazing staff that have brought so much to our agency: Tori Brubaker, Noah Brown, Nikki Clabaugh, and Kayla Glotzbecker. We are so excited to have them on our team 😊

Despite being down staff we continue to meet our best practice standards for both timely initiation and face to face contacts with our families. Our staff have been working so hard to ensure that each family gets the time and attention they need to safely maintain their children in their care or quickly reunify their children back home. Each and every staff member in the division has helped make that happen. The teamwork has been amazing to watch: taking extra cases, completing another workers home visits, helping with child moves, supervising visits, transporting, etc..

In June we had three children emancipate from our custody. The workers did such an amazing job supporting their transitions. They attended graduations, moved furniture, assembled furniture, and bought countless items for our youth (including an e-bike).



Our Adult Protective Services staff have been busy in the past few months. They led the ITEAM to hosting their first Annual Senior Resource Event. It was a very successful event held in Gibsonburg at White Star Park. Two days later they hosted a table at the Farmers Market on the hottest day of Summer.

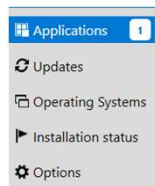




## MIS Marti's Megabytes

The State sent us 73 Microsoft 5 laptops to replace our Microsoft 3 Laptops. Do they look the same? Yes. Are they the same size and will our new covers fit them? Yes!! All have been replaced except one who is on vacation. There was 1 bad one out of the 73 and that has been replaced as well. There are many updates happening when we first get them, but they seem to work great. We have to update our Outlook signatures as well. Thank you to all for making time for me to replace them.

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.

Also, sometimes when they update our web applications, we need to clear our cache and cookies. We learned this tidbit this week when they updated SharePoint. I have a How to do this in SharePoint. [How to Clear Cache and Cookies.docx](#)

And with some of these updates we have to hold down the Shift Key until the screen says shutting down services while rebooting.

Starting near the end of last year, we started having our first IT audit. She came for an on-site visit in May. We are now waiting for her report to see if there is anything we need to update or change.

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.

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

A screenshot of a browser's 'Managed favorites' list. The list includes folders for 'ODJFS', 'STATE', and 'CSS'. Under the 'ODJFS' folder, there are links for 'ARIES', 'Cisco Finesse Primary-CBTS', and 'Cisco Finesse Backup-CBTS'. At the bottom of the list, there is a link for 'DUO/MFA Self-Service' with a green circular icon to its left.

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

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





APRIL	
PAULA OLDS	35 YEARS
GABBY HENRY	27 YEARS
KERRI MOYER	27 YEARS
RACHEL HESSICK	12 YEARS
BRITTINY REED	7 YEARS
MEGAN SWEENEY	7 YEARS
MAY	
LAURA WARREN	35 YEARS
KRISTI MCEWAN	9 YEARS
BRIDGET COLEMAN	7 YEARS
LESLIE ADAMS	6 YEARS
APRIL MIDDLETON	2 YEARS
ASHLEY SEHLMAYER-KINSEY	2 YEARS
KIM BAILEY	1YEAR
TERI ROBINSON	1 YEAR
JUNE	
ANA ORTIZ	32 YEARS
CASSANDRA WALTER	20 YEARS
JILL WAGNER	19 YEARS
AMANDA BRANSTRATOR	11 YEARS
JENJNY AYRES	6 YEARS
AMBER SIDOTI	5 YEARS
ABBY ROBERTS	5 YEARS
MEGAN RAPIER	3 YEARS
CELINA ARTER	3 YEARS



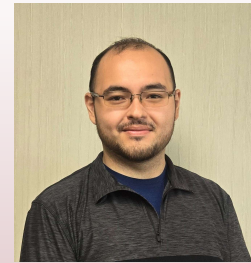
# NEW HIRES



TORI BRUBAKER  
SSW3 – CHILDREN SERVICES  
06/03/2024



MCKENNA WAGGONER  
EW 2 -PUBLIC ASSISTANCE  
04/09/2024



NOAH BROWN  
SSW2 – CHILDREN SERVICES  
06/03/2024



KAYLA GLOTZBECKER  
SSW2 – CHILDREN SERVICES  
05/28/2024



BETHANY BUEHLER  
EW 2 –WORKFORCE DEV.  
04/29/2024



MELISSA MINJAREZ  
SSW4/FTCW – CHILDREN SERVICES  
06/26/2024

2024 TAKE YOUR KID TO WORK DAY

