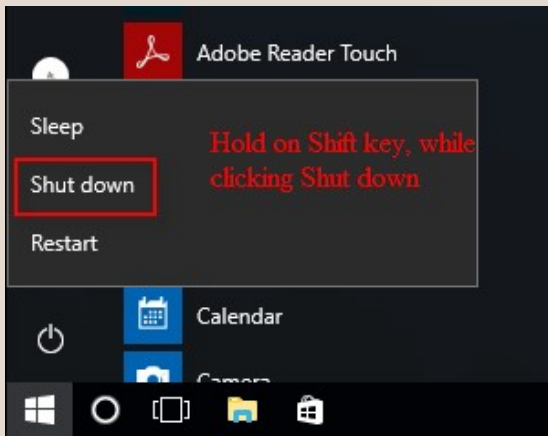




# JOB AND FAMILY MATTERS

JULY \* AUGUST \* SEPTEMBER  
2024



MIS Marti's Megabytes

It is that time of year again for Computer Security Training. The State switched it up this year. They gave us an Email Training on July 1<sup>st</sup>; it was due October 1<sup>st</sup>. In the end of March, they gave us a Civil Rights training due on Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>. And they gave us Computer Security Training on September 1<sup>st</sup> due October 31<sup>st</sup>. This was sent out a month early to give us an extra month to complete it. As a bonus, the second module was a short video only with no quiz.

The State keeps updating our system weekly. It usually does this overnight on the network, so you might need to unplug your dock from power and plug it back in.

Also, sometimes when they update our web applications, we need to clear our cache and cookies. We learned this tidbit this year 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.

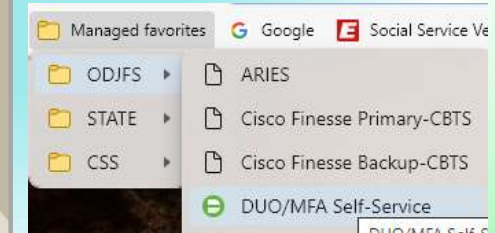
Starting near the end of last year, we started having our first IT audit. She came for an on-site visit in May. We are still waiting for her report to see if there is anything we need to update or change.

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.



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

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

## CHILD SUPPORT

Happy Fall Y'all...the time of pumpkin spice, football, sweater weather and cute boots! Over here in child support this time of year is a little quieter. The madness of emancipation and tax season settles down some. (Although, tax pre-offset letters go out to people with qualifying arrears in late September, so we're dealing with those happy individuals right now.) Child Support Awareness Month events are done, and we can take a bit of a breather for now.

Speaking of CSAM, our employer education event was a huge success! More than 20 employers attended, and we got great feedback. Everyone seemed to find it very helpful and educational. We're looking at doing similar events next year. A huge shout out goes to Charmin Hetrick who planned it.

Also, as part of CSAM, CSEA staff ordered our own T shirts. Tember Smith had a designer friend come up with Horton the Elephant and globe with children's hands designs for our shirts. Polm Farms sponsored a shirt for each of us. (Thanks, Shawna...who also got Chick-Fil-A here, so double thanks!) Those of us who wanted additional shirts or one of each design had the opportunity to order them. We're getting ready to order sweatshirts or long-sleeved T shirts for the cooler weather. They're really cute, so check them out if you see us wearing one!

While Fall is a little calmer season for us as far as big events go, there is one large Statewide event for child support workers. This is the annual OCSA Fall Conference. It's two days full of educational sessions geared toward child support workers. There are several sessions to choose from ranging from mental health to upcoming regulations changes. For those of us who need credits to maintain accreditations we are able to find courses for that. A few of us go to Columbus for conference each year, and some of us have presented or moderated sessions. This year conference is October 21 and 22. Kerri Moyer, Krista Hovis, Cassandra Walter and Charmin Hetrick will be representing Sandusky Co.

One aspect of child support that knows no season is birthin' babies. People have babies year-round and they don't always know for certain who both parents are. We can help with that...for FREE if someone fills out an application for our services. Genetic testing is done here in the building twice each month by swabbing the mouths of the child, mother and potential father. Those samples are sent to LabCorp and we usually get the results in about two weeks. From there we either send the results to the court (if testing was court ordered) or, after the 14-day appeal time, we issue an Administrative Order of Paternity. If there is a positive result, we send it to Central Paternity, who then sends it to Vital Statistics to update the birth record. Once they process the change the parents can get a new copy of the child's birth certificate.

While not a difficult process, it can take some time, especially if we need to test multiple potential fathers or they don't show up for testing. (It happens.) This isn't the only way to establish paternity though. Parties can instead complete the paternity affidavit/acknowledgement at the hospital, health department or at our office. We can also mail the document to them since it no longer needs to be notarized. Witnesses over the age of 18 are now acceptable to send with the document to Central Paternity. What happens if someone fills out the affidavit and then has second thoughts? They can rescind the affidavit within 60 days by completing a form from our office. Genetic testing will then need to be performed to determine who is (or is not) the child's father.

None of this is necessary for married parties as in the State of Ohio the husband is automatically presumed to be the father of a child. However, if there is a question, genetic testing can be done to confirm paternity.

Paternity...one of the many services provided by your local, friendly CSEA!

# Children Services

The summer had our division hopping!

APS and Children Services staff joined together at the Fremont farmer's market 4 Saturdays this season providing education to the community regarding elder and child abuse prevention.

In July staff welcomed fair goers into the Sandusky County DJFS tent to talk about child safety, foster care recruitment, and adult protection.

On August 7<sup>th</sup> staff took our independent living youth to a Cleveland Guardians game.



On August 21<sup>st</sup> the division hosted a summer party for our visitation families. The fire department, local police, and EMS staff joined us for the fun. We had face painting, games, crafts, bubbles, food, and snow cones. All of our staff helped to make an AWESOME summer day for these families.



On September 11<sup>th</sup> we were able to celebrate another client that completed the Start program, which was our 3<sup>rd</sup> successful completion since the onset of the program. It has been amazing to see this team work together to help our parents that are struggling with a substance use disorder.

On September 21<sup>st</sup> the Knights of Columbus held a Teddy Bear run and graciously made a stop at our agency to donate the stuffed animals.



The legal team and other children services rockstars coordinated an all-day legal training at the end of September, which included a presentations from our legal team, magistrates, our judge and mock testifying. A ton of work went into the preparation for this training, but it was an amazing training opportunity for our senior and new staff.

On September 29<sup>th</sup> staff volunteered at ProMedica Family Fest Day. Many happy smiles were in our booth as staff helped children to make mini planters.



# SHOUT OUTS

JUST A REMINDER THAT THERE IS A *SHOUT OUT* BOARD LOCATED IN THE MAIN BREAK ROOM ACROSS FROM THE VENDING MACHINES. IF SOMEONE HAS HELPED YOU OUT OR DONE SOMETHING NICE FOR YOU....MAKE THEIR DAY AND GIVE THEM A SHOUT OUT!!



On the final day of the 2024 PCSAO Annual Conference, September 11, 2024, outstanding child protection professionals were honored from around Ohio.

A team of Northwest County agencies collaborating to develop and implement Treatment Foster Care at the county level were awarded the Child and Family Advocate of the Year award from Public Children Services Association of Ohio. The agencies involved in this collaboration are Sandusky County DJFS, Ottawa County DJFS, Wyandot County DJFS, Seneca County DJFS, and the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Seneca, Ottawa, Sandusky and Wyandot Counties.

In November 2022, the first treatment foster home was licensed by the Northwest Treatment Foster Care collaboration. The Northwest collaborative was also recognized in April during Governor DeWine's State of the State address. And at the end of April, the state agency Department of Children and Youth began collecting applications to expand our work as a pilot project across the state. Nine new collaborations will be piloting this work with the Northwest team as the consultants to grow the work. This new pilot expansion adds 30 new counties doing treatment foster care and expands the Northwest team into Wood County, as well.

Positive outcomes for treatment foster care are as follows:

- Improve the skills of the caregivers for high acuity youth
- Youth to stay in a family setting as opposed to a congregate care center
- Keep connections by being closer to family and community
- Increases the likelihood siblings will be placed together
- Treatment foster care is 1/3 to 1/5 the cost of a congregate care setting
- Less travel time for casework staff for visits



L to R: Executive Director of MHR SB Mircea Handru, Ottawa County Director Stephanie Kowal, Sandusky County Director Melanie Allen, Ottawa County Supervisor Janine Sanders, Seneca County Director Kathy Oliver, Wyandot County Supervisor Megan Rowe, Wyandot County Director Jason Fagan, Treatment Foster Care Supervisor Jenni Zaika, Treatment Foster Care Worker Melissa Mlnjarez, and Sandusky County Asst. Director Casey Morrow.

## PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

### **Public Assistance Trivia**

***DID YOU KNOW . . . APPLICATIONS FOR BENEFITS HAVE VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS INCLUDED ON THE LAST PAGE?***

YES, THEY DO. AND, WHEN A VOTER REGISTRATION FORM IS RECEIVED, THE DESIGNATED PERSON IN THE PA DEPARTMENT THEN SEES THAT THE FORMS GET TO THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

***DID YOU KNOW . . . YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IMMEDIATELY AFTER YOU HAVE BEEN RELEASED FROM PRISON IN OHIO, EVEN IF YOU ARE A CONVICTED FELON?*** (WE'VE BEEN ASKED THAT QUESTION AT THE FRONT DESK BEFORE.)

***DID YOU KNOW . . . EVERY OCTOBER, A MASS CHANGE OCCURS, AND SNAP ALLOTMENTS ARE INCREASED?*** BELOW IS AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT THE MAXIMUM SNAP BENEFITS FOR THIS YEAR WERE CHANGED TO:

- One-person household: \$292
- Two-person household: \$536
- Three-person household: \$768
- Four-person household: \$975
- Five-person household: \$1,158

***DID YOU KNOW . . . OHIO HAS EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY BEYOND THE STANDARD FEDERAL SNAP ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS?*** THAT IS, SOME OF THE OTHER STATES HAVE STRICTER FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.

***DID YOU KNOW . . . PRC STANDS FOR PREVENTION, RETENTION, AND CONTINGENCY?*** PRC APPLICATIONS CONTINUE TO BE RECEIVED ON A STEADY BASIS, AND PREGNANT WOMEN WITHOUT CHILDREN MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR PRC FUNDING.

WE ARE PLEASED TO  
WELCOME CHRISTINA COLLINS  
TO THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE DEPARTMENT!



# NEW HIRES

WELCOME!

NIKKI SCHERGER  
SSW3  
07/01/24

JESSICA PEIFFER  
EW2  
07/09/24

ALEXIS MILLER  
EW2  
07/09/24

EMILY FRY  
EW2 - WFD  
08/19/24

MADISON TOMASSI  
SSW2  
08/26/24

AVEREE YODER  
FELLOWSHIP WORKER  
09/09/24

NICOLE CASE  
SSW2  
09/09/24

KIRAN DAHNKE  
SSW2  
09/23/24





**OhioMeansJobs.**

**Sandusky County**

A proud partner of the  
American Job Center network

## July – September 2024

OMJ welcomed Emily Fry to the department on 8/19/24 and she has settled in nicely and already doing licensing visits on her own and went through the childcare monitoring process in her short time with us!

Feels like we continue every newsletter with the saying, “the state rolled out” something...and here we are again! The state rolled out processing Early Childcare Education applications for 3 and 4 year olds to the county agency this quarter. The original deadline was all applications submitted by ECE providers to our agency no later than 9/13/24 with all applications processed by 9/30/24. 50 applications were processed frantically and THEN the state issued guidance applications could be accepted through November and the agency has until 12/30/24 to process them but seemed to forget to send this notification to the county! We are continuing to receive these applications and will be processing Batch 2 in the coming weeks. Along with all the new ECE applications, eligibility was processed for an additional 113 childcare applications. OMJ saw 855 customers this quarter for a multitude of services from TANF/SNAP assessments, RESEA initial and follow-up assessments, job assistance, resumes, and as always, assistance with their Unemployment claims. As one of the only counties using QUEST funding for education, we’ve now obligated \$157,000 to local educational providers for participants to be trained in 5G/broadband careers!!

Keeping with the theme...this quarter, the state rolled out the REACH (Reemployment Assistance and Career Help) workshop. This is an additional step under RESEA and is a study through THE Ohio State University to determine what services are best in helping those currently receiving Unemployment benefits in getting back to work as soon as possible. Out of the 33 RESEA selections this quarter, 8 have been randomly assigned to also attend the REACH workshop. We’ve found that our RESEA selections have increased with the implementation of this workshop.

We sound like a broken record...this quarter saw a lot of training for our SNAP Education and Training folks for the newly rolled out SNAP E&T rules and regulations! These are full-day trainings for multiple staff members that are required for our team.

We were able to assist Missler Industries in obtaining a state approved Apprenticeship program for Tool & Die. We are so excited to be able to help a small, family-owned business with this!! They have quadrupled their workforce since 2019!! Here are some pictures of their before to finished products and they supply local manufacturers in the county!





July – September 2024

Growth for the program continues with onboarding Wood County and the search for another worker, along with some air time in the news!

Watch a recent story here:

[Ohio wants more foster kids to stay with families. A pilot program could help](#) |  
[Ideastream Public Media](#)

The additional state funds the program received for mentoring the other counties, we issued initial placement incentives to our treatment foster families which totaled \$36,500 in the first round of issuance. These funds were to help our families purchase items needed for the kids in their care or even something for themselves as a date night!

Melanie, Casey and Jenni attended the FFTA Conference in Denver this July along with sponsoring a treatment foster family. It was a great experience for all!



FFTA Group heading to Delores House for the community project



Heather Sweet (Binti) and JZ mid project

And of course, what fun is an award ceremony without a fun selfie opportunity with one of your favorite people!? We LOVE visiting with Heather from Binti as not only is their product amazing, but so is every employee we've worked with!



Project completed

Amid all of this, we've been through our first round of monitoring of a new program with the state. We learned a lot, but the safety of children was never a concern. The state even said they know these audits feel like a penalty but there is so much more that is going well, and we should be very proud of how well it's going!

At the end of this quarter, we have 10 Treatment homes licensed with 16 children placed in a family setting and 6 pending home studies.



SPACE  
HEATER  
SAFETY  
TIPS

WITH THE COLD WEATHER GETTING CLOSER JUST REMEMBER THAT YOU MUST BE APPROVED TO HAVE A SPACE HEATER IN YOUR OFFICE.

- THE HEATER MUST BE PLACED ON A CERAMIC TILE
- THE HEATER MUST TURN OFF IF TIPPED OVER
- THE HEATER MUST BE LOCATED 3 FEET AWAY FROM ANY SURFACE. (ABSOLUTELY CANNOT BE LOCATED UNDER YOUR DESK.)
- THE HEATER MUST BE TURNED OFF IF YOU LEAVE YOUR OFFICE AREA
- THE HEATER MUST BE PLUGGED DIRECTLY IN TO THE WALL OUTLET. NO EXTENSION CORDS/POWER STRIPS

