

## JFS General Fund History

F.Y.	Amount	% of General Fund
2006	\$2,067,750.00	7.35%
2005	\$2,020,114.00	7.86%
2004	\$2,422,569.00	8.68%
2003	\$2,408,538.00	8.32%
2002	\$2,339,000.00	8.36%
2001	\$2,386,292.00	9.54%

## Protective substitute care costs projected to exceed allocation by approximately \$130,000.00 in 2006.

Despite agency efforts to reduce the number of abused and neglected children in protective substitute care, Children Services has experienced a significant influx of court ordered placements in recent months. Finance department and child protective services program officials recently completed an analysis of present placements, and are currently projecting a \$130,000.00 deficit for county fiscal year 2006. The removal of additional abused or neglected children from protective placement at this time would seriously compromise their safety and protection, and is strongly discouraged.

JFS Director Michael Orlando is scheduled to meet the Board of Commissioners on July 6, 2006 to discuss a multi-dimensional approach to addressing the projected deficit.

## JFS recognizes the contributions of community partners and donors.

On Friday, June 2, 2006, JFS recognized the contributions of our community partners and donors at an open house held in the agency workforce one-stop location, *WorkNet*.

Agency officials were on-hand to greet more than seventy-five (75) of our most valued donors, partners and key stakeholders, presenting each with certificates of appreciation and other expressions of gratitude for their support of agency customers and for their contributions to achieving the JFS mission. JFS Fairfield County Commissioners Judy Shupe and Jon Myers, along with Fairfield County Sheriff Dave Phalen were among the elected officials that participated in the open house. Members of the JFS Pace Setters Class of 2006 planned and coordinated the event.

Together, we are making a difference for children and families in our community!

## Accreditation ready

JFS is nearing completion of a 24-month period of site preparation in anticipation of a June 26-29, 2006 site visit by the National Council on Accreditation. Accreditation project director Rich Bowlen has enlisted the help of each and every member of the JFS team over the past two years to achieve compliance with the hundreds of organizational management, casework, and program standards required for accreditation. Fairfield County JFS is attempting to become one of the first 12 job and family services departments in Ohio to achieve accreditation.

Over the next two-weeks, agency officials will be busy putting final touches on agency facilities and program services, in anticipation of the site-visit.



Community Advisory  
Panel-Kick-Off  
June 27  
8:00 am-9:30 am  
Lancaster Community  
Church

Accreditation Site Visit  
June 26-28

Quarterly Meeting with  
the Board of  
Commissioners  
July 6  
9:00 am

Publication of the new  
LINK  
June 16

MAY 2006





## JFS Vision Statement

JFS, through state and local partnerships, will be Ohio's premier family support and workforce development system, contributing to skilled, safe, healthy Fairfield Countians, successful businesses and a strong community.

## JFS Mission Statement

Through a spirit of community cooperation, the mission of Fairfield County Job and Family Services is to provide services that encourage productivity, develop competencies, ensure accountability, and promote self-reliance, family stability, and child safety.

## JFS Strategic Goal Areas:

1. FCJFS will responsibly obtain, maximize, and allocate financial resources according to agency priorities.
2. FCJFS will value and respect employees as our greatest asset.
3. FCJFS will provide exceptional public service to the community.
4. FCJFS will demonstrate, inspire, and empower leadership.
5. FCJFS will continue to improve and measure performance in all areas, utilizing technology and available resources.
6. FCJFS will initiate, promote, and enhance community and inter-governmental relationships to further our mission.

## What Accreditation Is:

- o A formal acknowledgement from the Council On Accreditation (COA) that agency services are delivered according to nationally recognized standards of best practice.
- o A commitment to continuously improving services that agency provides to clients.
- o A process to help identify organizational strengths & weaknesses related to quality of services.
- o A designation that denotes professional expertise in the field and competent service delivery.
- o A measurement tool providing external validation that agency delivers quality services to clients and community

## JFS Children Services Department Director Jim Hodge announces plans to retire in January 2007.

JFS-Children Services Department Director Jim Hodge has announced his intention to retire in January 2007 following more than thirty years of service in the area of child welfare. Since the mid-1980's, Jim Hodge has been the face of Fairfield County Children Services, and has dedicated his life and career to the protection of abused and neglected children in our community. Jim is a truly unique and honorable individual, and will be greatly missed by his staff and peers throughout the county and state. We plan to celebrate his career and honor his service this fall.

## REMINDER: JFS Community Advisory and Planning Panel (CAPP) to kick-off on June 27

As reported last month, agency officials will host the first meeting of the JFS Community Advisory and Planning Panel (CAPP) on June 27, 2006. Pursuant to requirements of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 329.06 and Board of County Commissioner Resolution, the (CAPP) shall serve as an advisory body to the Board of County Commissioners with regard to family and workforce development services provided in the county.

This **156**-member community advisory body is comprised of 12 representatives from each of the following 13 work group areas:

- o Community Planning and Funding
- o Government Partners
- o Criminal Justice/Courts
- o Medical Provider
- o JFS Consumers
- o Business Partners
- o Foster and Adoptive parents
- o Schools and Education
- o Early Childhood Services
- o Faith partners
- o JFS Employee-CQI Team
- o Legal Services
- o Community partners/Service Providers

## JFS CUSTOMER WALK-IN STATS

Client Count for May	2006	2005	2004
Community Services	5504	5141	4480
Child Support	672	633	684
Children Services	693	560	661
WorkNet	1411	979	989
<b>YTD (Jan 1 – May 30)</b>	<b>50726</b>	<b>42549</b>	<b>36708</b>

This chart reflects agency walk-in customers only. Many departments have more phone intensive case loads, not requiring walk-in visits by customers.



The Community Services caseload for May is 5,455 open cases. This is the highest open caseload in more than five years.

In May there were 268 scheduled intakes; 209 attended intake appointments. Forty-eight customers were a no show to the appointment and 11 customers rescheduled.

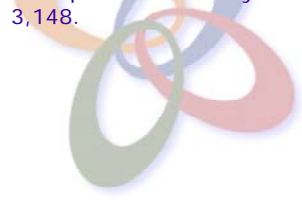
Help Desk staff answered 1,777 requests from families. Of those 504 were walk-in customers and 1,273 were phone contacts.

Food Stamp cases totaled 2,559 open cases in Community Services.

Families receiving only Medicaid benefits such as Healthy Start, Healthy Families, or Transitional Medicaid total 4,597 open cases in May.

In May, 753 families are receiving Ohio Works First (ongoing cash assistance).

The Transportation Team provided 998 one-way trips using JFS drivers, FairCATS and Lancaster Public Transit provided 484 one-way trips, and 1,666 were provided through the issuance of gas vouchers. The total one-way trips provided through Transportation for May is 3,148.



## Community Services Receives Two TANF Grants

The Community Services Department has received two TANF grants which will begin implementation in June and end December 30, 2007. Each of the TANF grants are designed to meet current needs identified by families and increase the number of families who achieve self-sufficiency in Fairfield County.

## Breaking Out Project

Breaking Out is a project targeting former offenders to re-enter communities successfully and achieve self-sufficiency. Research identifies that many offenders have difficulty finding permanent employment after release because they lack job-seeking experience, life skills, support services, and have multiple barriers to self-sufficiency. Improving the re-entry process and increasing self-sufficiency for offenders has significant impact on the community such as; increased public safety and increased well-being of families.

The project coordinator will work with Southeastern Correction Institute, Community Transition Center, Fairfield County Probation department, and other community providers to develop a community plan to improve re-entry for former offenders and increase employment. The project will provide group education classes focused on work readiness and life skills necessary for successful employment. Gina Knight, Success Coach was promoted to this project. Gina previously worked for the Probation Department and brings her knowledge and enthusiasm to the Breaking Out Project.

For additional question about this project, contact Gina Knight at 687-6733.

## Pay It Forward Out Project

The Pay It Forward Project is the next step to truly achieve welfare reform. The project will provide post-employment and retention services for customers transitioning from cash assistance (OWF) to employment. The project utilizes awards of cash bonuses to individuals who successfully complete work readiness training, gain employment, and/or retain employment for established periods of time.

The other important component of the project is to encourage and educate families about the benefits of accumulating assets. Individual Development Accounts can assist and encourage families to save income in specialized accounts. These accounts will receive matching funds from the grant once a family saves a specific amount. The Individual Development Accounts can be used to maintain a vehicle, purchase a vehicle for employment, education or training to gain employment or pursue a specific career path.

Justin Curtis, Eligibility Referral Specialist was promoted to the project coordinator position. Justin is finishing his Masters in Public Administration and brings a strong eligibility background to the project. For additional questions about this project, contact Justin Curtis at 681-7294.



May 2006



## National Foster Family Recognition Month

Children Services recognized the vital contributions of fostering and adoptive families during the foster parent dinner theatre banquet held on May 5, 2006 at Liberty Center. Over 100 individuals attended the event which featured a performance of the original play *"It's All Over But the Shooting."* JFS performers included staff from Children Services, Child Support, Information and Technology and Work Force Development. JFS Director, Michael Orlando, and Children Services Director, Jim Hodge, also contributed fine performances enjoyed by everyone in attendance.

Attending families were awarded certificates of recognition for their service throughout the year and a planter decorated by children's handprints. Honorees also were able to view a collage featuring the pictures of all of the children in the custody of the agency. The collage was a visible demonstration of the numbers of hearts and lives touched by foster and adoptive families each and every day in Fairfield County.

## On-Site Therapeutic Services Increase

Children Services has entered into a Service Agreement with Mid Ohio Psychological Services to have a full time therapist stationed at Job and Family Services serving agency clients. Kimberly "Kimmy" Rugg began working with clients at JFS on May 15, 2006.

## Accreditation Update

Final Pre-site evidence submitted to the Council on Accreditation in preparation for the June 26, 27 and 28 visit. Initial feedback regarding the extensive documentation is the submitted evidence was exceptional. Rich Bowlen, Children Services Director of Operations, will be conducting training for all Children Services and Adult Protective Services staff prior to the site visit to increase knowledge and understanding of the benefits accreditation offers. Congratulations to Rich and all staff participating in the intensive efforts required for accreditation.

## New Staff

Children Services and JFS will welcome new staff beginning on June 5, 2006. Filling vacancies in Family Based Care will be Carri Adkins and Nichole DeLeone while Amena Feasel will fill a vacancy in Intake and Assessment. The grant funded Family Stability unit will welcome Janice Wallenburg, Carly Cole, Sam Rake, Rachel Barth, Julie Sadler and Cassie Dille. These workers will have the opportunity to participate in the recently developed Caseworker in Training/New Hire Orientation Program.

## 2006 YTD Reports Statistics:

2006	Phy Ab	Sex Ab	Neglect	Em Mal	At Risk	Info/Other	Totals
Jan	9	8	21	3	67	222	330
Feb	23	11	24	0	68	189	315
Mar	16	14	27	0	63	222	342
Apr	15	9	20	2	55	190	291
May	27	9	23	2	65	237	363

2006 YTD	Total Children in Agency Custody
Jan	167
Feb	164
Mar	167
Apr	167
May	163

May Collections increased just over 5.5%, looking at the prior year. Most collections are accomplished by a wage withholding.

	May-05	May-06	Diff 05-06	% Diff 05-06
Federal Tax Refunds	\$134,117.35	\$124,600.74	-\$9,516.61	-7.10%
Ohio Tax Refunds	\$22,748.72	\$25,308.76	\$2,560.04	11.25%
Unemployment Compensation	\$19,459.23	\$19,131.79	-\$327.44	-1.68%
Wage Withholding Collections	\$1,361,509.81	\$1,441,573.31	\$80,063.50	5.88%
Interstate Collections	\$38,017.02	\$28,770.49	-\$9,246.53	-24.32%
Money Orders/Workers' Comp	\$194,826.22	\$237,724.43	\$42,898.21	22.02%
Cash Collections/Drive Thru	\$66,216.71	\$61,837.96	-\$4,378.75	-6.61%
<b>Total Collections</b>	<b>\$1,836,895.06</b>	<b>\$1,938,947.48</b>	<b>\$102,052.42</b>	<b>5.56%</b>

We continue to receive excellent feedback about the **Legal Clinic**: Parents are acquiring free legal advice, and child support professionals are providing information to help with case management. For May 2006, the **Legal Clinic** statistics are:

- o 18 clients served
- o An average income of \$1,422 monthly
- o JFS was the highest referral base, with 65% of all referrals
- o 78% of cases were DR Court cases
- o 3 pro bono cases accepted
- o 4 volunteer attorneys participated

The **Navigator project** is closing, with the final report from the independent evaluator due at the end of July. Federal child support officials applauded Fairfield County and believe that the project will be a good example for all states to model. The "demonstration" was a part of statewide and national conferences.

The **Employment Specialist** project, funded by a TANF grant to the Child Support Agency, will begin in June 2006. The grant will fund a customer service initiative that will focus on employment assistance and proactive communication with non-custodial parents in order to encourage compliance with child support procedures and with court orders for support. So that parents can overcome employment challenges and provide for their children's healthful development, Child Support Employment Specialists will give both parents an opportunity to engage in an active, intensive approach for seeking work and increasing job retention.

The CSEA applied for a federal special improvement project grant, which a grant that is fully funded federally. Neither the state of Ohio nor any county in Ohio has ever received this competitive grant. The project proposed is called **Empowering Parents** for Child Support. Four elements of the project include a satellite office in the Pickerington area, website enhancements, organized referrals for healthy marriage initiatives, and early education and outreach. An answer should be received by August.

The agency is planning special events for **Child Support Awareness Month in August**.

The **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Faith-Based and Community Group Summit** was held on June 9, 2006.

- o 89% of all CSEA customers are currently not on public assistance. This statistic draws attention to the fact that those served by the agency are largely working parents who depend on the CSEA for vital services.
- o The CSEA serves citizens across all socio-economic groups. Referrals to workforce development programs are common and important.
- o The Child Support Program touches more children than any other public program, except Education.
- o The Fairfield County caseload at the end of 2005 exceeded 8,415. The current caseload is more than 8,500.
- o Collections for 2005 were \$21.058 Million. Collections for the same time period at the Drive-Thru Payment Center exceeded \$775,617.
- o Strategies to address the federal funding issues will be the main topic of the Executive Leadership Committee meetings held throughout the remainder of 2006.

May 2006





## APS RECEIVES 32 REFERRALS IN MAY

Referrals to Adult Protective Services increased from 17 in April to 32 during the month of May. Of the 32, 23 involved reports of self-neglect, 4 were allegations of neglect by others, 3 were allegations of physical abuse, and 2 involved allegations of exploitation.

20 of the referrals involved female victims; 12 were male. 23 of the referrals involved adults older than age 70.

## SPRING FLING CLOTHING GIVEAWAY!

On Thursday, June 8th, the Kinship Navigator Program is once again partnering with St. Peter's Lutheran Church to sponsor a free clothing give-away from 10:00 to 3:00 in the church parking lot.

According to Kinship Coordinator Jenny Ruff, "there will be about 5 tons of clothes, in addition to appliances, household goods, furniture, and miscellaneous items."

The clothing give-away is open to the public.



## WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY – JUNE 15

In recognition of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, Adult Protective Services is collaborating with Olivedale Senior Center and Lancaster Police Department to present an introduction of the TRIAD Program, a partnership of law enforcement, senior citizens, and community agencies.

TRIAD already exists under the auspices of the Ross County Sheriff's Department in Chillicothe, and works with law enforcement to educate seniors about crimes against elders. In addition, the group hosts various activities to promote the prevention of crime against elders.

Thanks to the generosity of the Abuse Prevention Fund, a luncheon will be served during the June 15<sup>th</sup> presentation, which will begin at 11:00 a.m. and end at 1:00 p.m. at Olivedale.

## CHILD CARE APPLICANTS APPROVED WITHIN 7-10 DAYS

With four Child Care Caseworkers on staff, those customers who are eligible for child care assistance can now receive approval within 7-10 days of submitting an application. Customers receiving child care are grateful for the quick response, and commend the Child Care staff for enabling them to obtain daycare quickly and efficiently.

Per State guidelines, the Child Care staff is mandated to perform home inspections at least twice during any year that a child care provider is certified. From January through June, all 38 home providers contracting with FCJFS have already received two home inspections.

## JFS PARTNERS WITH FAITH BASED FOOD PANTRY TO RAISE FUNDS

On Saturday, June 3, several JFS staff and other volunteers gave out donated hot dogs, chips, and soda to customers of Carnival Foods who donated money or food to the Food Pantry Initiative. Originating from the Faith-Based and Community Group Summit in 2004, the Food Pantry Initiative sponsors at least one food drive a year, donating all proceeds toward the purchase or procurement of food for needy families.

Saturday's event raised \$415 and food donations. Dan Bay, owner of Carnival Foods, will purchase food at a wholesale price with the monetary proceeds and distribute the purchased food to local pantries.

## CORE PLUS WAIVER PROGRAM ENDS JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup>

One of the two Medicaid programs that have traditionally paid for services that help disabled individuals remain at home will be eliminated as of June 30. "Core Plus" was the Medicaid program that provided eligible individuals nursing services, skilled therapy services, and daily living assistance within their homes for 8 hours or more a day, or more than 14 hours each week.

Separate from other Medicaid "Waiver" programs, Core Plus was designed to provide home health care services exclusively for individuals whose medical needs dictated at least 4 hours a day of nursing services, therapy, or living assistance (toileting, etc.).

Twenty-two JFS customers will be effected by the elimination of CORE Plus. These customers will be placed on a "Transitional" Waiver program which is funded through MR/DD, and will continue to receive similar services within their homes.



May 2006



## Mission:

The mission of the Family Support and Visitation Center is to support children and families who have been affected by divorce, separation, abuse, neglect or domestic violence. Through education and provision of a safe, comfortable environment, our focus is to promote family engagement and healthy, meaningful adult/child relationships.

## April 2006 Statistics

Monitored Exchanges: 65  
Supervised Visits: 199  
Referrals received: 16  
Number of adults served: 248  
Number of noncustodial parents: 114  
Number of children: 134

## Program Update

A Parent Education Services Open House was held on June 1<sup>st</sup>, Stand for Children Day. Fifty-eight people signed in. There were cookies and punch. A tour was provided and program services information was shared. The Parent Education team has been attending training and developing the program and procedures. They will be ready to begin service provision by the end of the month. Children Services staff will be trained on the referral process during the month of June. Visitation Exchange information was also shared and tours of visit rooms were available.

The Visitation Monitors are very busy, with no openings at his time. Customer satisfaction surveys were distributed to Children Services families and referring caseworkers. The results will be compiled by July 10<sup>th</sup>.

The 15<sup>th</sup> session of the Cooperative Parenting and Divorce Program was completed on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. All but one participant earned a Certificate of Completion. That one individual is scheduled for a make-up session next week, and will be awarded his Certificate at that time.

## Personnel

Shawna Ochs began on April 19<sup>th</sup> as the newest Visitation Monitor. The Center is fully staffed.

## The Newest Additions to the JFS Staff



**Carrie Adkins** begins her Social Work career with JFS as a Social Service Worker 2 within the Family Based Care Unit of Children Services. Carrie completed her Bachelor of Arts degree from The Ohio State University and double majored in Sociology and Criminology. While in college she worked for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources as a Law Enforcement Intern and went on to graduate from the Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy in April 2006.



**Rachel Barth** comes to JFS as an Social Service Worker 2 within the Family Stability Unit of our Children Services Department. Rachel recently received her Bachelor of Arts in Speech and Hearing Science from The Ohio State University. While attending school, Rachel worked as an Applied Behavioral Analysis Therapist and a Classroom Aide.



**Carly Cole**, joins JFS as a Social Service Worker 2, within our Family Stability Unit of Children Services. Carly holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology from Whittenberg University. Most recently, Carly was a Youth Worker for Lighthouse Youth Services where she gained valuable experience in crisis intervention, conflict management and group facilitation.



**Nichole DeLeon** comes to JFS as an Social Service Worker 2 within the Family Based Care unit of Children Services. Nichole received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Sociology from The Ohio State University and has experience in the banking, medical records, courts, and education fields. Nichole's well rounded background is a great fit for serving the families of JFS.



**Laurie Feslar** comes to JFS as a Clerical Specialist 4 within our Child Support Enforcement Department. Laurie recently worked for Fairfield National Bank as a Call Center Representative and held prior positions in the field of accounting. With this in mind, Laurie brings a strong financial and customer service background to this position.



**Sam Rake** comes to JFS as one of our Family Stability Workers within our Children Services Department. Sam holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Philosophy from the Pontifical College Josephinum and a Master of Arts degree in Pastoral Ministry from Duquesne University. Sam is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Community Counseling. Sam has experience in the counseling, community service and mental health fields.



**Janice Wallenburg** joins JFS as a Social Service Worker 2 with the Family Stability Unit of Children Services. Janice received her Bachelor of Science in Education from Ohio University and recently worked for Lancaster City Schools as a substitute teacher and also the West After School Center as a tutor. Janet also has several years of experience working with the Head Start programs in Rhode Island, New Jersey, and Ohio.

May 2006