



CSD Director Jim Hodge Retires after 30 years of service to children and families

After more than 30 years of service to children and families involved in the child protective services system, Children Services Director Jim Hodge will retire on March 30, 2007.

Jim Hodge is long recognized and valued as a mentor to hundreds of caseworkers and supervisors during his tenure in Fairfield County. Jim served as both a caseworker and supervisor at Children Services, before being named agency director in 1998.

Under his leadership, the department achieved national accreditation in 2006 and developed a long-term strategic plan and organizational restructuring in 2005 designed to address the many system challenges that seriously compromise the safety and well being of abused and neglected children in our community.

The Department has celebrated several other successes in recent years, including:

- o REALITY House and enhanced independent living services.
- o Implementation of the Family Team Meeting program
- o Development and implementation of the Family Stability Unit
- o Child Advocacy Center
- o In-house comprehensive Parent Education services
- o Enhanced supervised visitation services
- o Data and file management system enhancements

It is with great sadness that we bid farewell to our dear friend Jim Hodge. A reception to honor Jim is planned at the agency on Friday, March 30, 2007, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Lancaster Glass Rapid Response

On March 21, 2007, Lancaster Glass Corporation leadership officials formally notified FCJFS and the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services of their impending plant closings, impacting more than 150 employees in Lancaster.

This notice set into motion a federal protocol administered under the direction of FCJFS known as *Rapid Response*.

What is Rapid Response?

Rapid Response is an intensive process that provides information and services to employees experiencing job loss. When a plant closing or mass layoff is announced, Rapid Response links community services to employees to assist them in securing new jobs.

The Rapid Response program was created to coordinate transition assistance to impacted employees. The process promotes early intervention and provides a variety of transition services to employees, unions, companies, and communities.

Why is Rapid Response important?

- o Successful re-employment efforts minimize income loss to employees and reduce unemployment benefits paid by company.
- o Provides oversight and management of outplacement activities (re-employment and re-training).
- o Stabilizes employee/employer relationship by fostering environment of cooperation.

March 30
Jim Hodge Retirement
Reception
FCJFS
2-4 pm

April 3
Child Abuse Prevention
Month
Breakfast Information
Event
FCJFS at 7:00 am to
9:00 am

April 4
Rapid Response Planning
Session
Liberty Center 9:30 to
11:30 am

April 19
Circus Night
FCJFS at 5:00 pm

April 19
Candlelight Walk
FCJFS at 6:30 pm

February 2007





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.

- Provides a communication path to develop an effective outplacement (re-employment and re-training) plan, and serves as an information source about jobs, training opportunities, and related concerns.
- Personalizes services to the needs and interests of each individual dislocated worker using an individualized case management model.

Rapid Response Services

- Job Matching (connecting job seekers to employers posting job openings).
- Labor Market information.
- Guaranteed re-training opportunities.
- Unemployment compensation (how much will you receive from unemployment as you pursue re-training, or until you are re-employed?).
- Help preparing a resume.
- Mock interview training and skill development.
- Managing your money after you are laid off.
- Coping with the stress of losing your job and related counseling services available at no cost.
- Creating a re-employment strategy.

Rapid Response Next Steps:

- Meeting (week of 03/26/2007) with Union and Employee representatives to discuss employee needs and to schedule initial on-site presentations.
- Meeting (week of 03/26/2007) with Lancaster Glass Corporation officials to coordinate information sessions.
- Meeting (week of 03/26/2007) with Ohio Department of Job & Family Services Rapid Response Team to plan Workforce Transition Team meeting and to approve a proposed strategic planning process for service delivery.
- Conduct on-site employee needs and interests mini-surveys to analyze Lancaster Glass workforce needs for planning purposes (week of 03/26/07).
- Workforce Transition Team meeting (April 4, 2007), including labor, management, state and local workforce development officials, local elected and economic development officials, training providers, community partners and human service providers, and a variety of other stakeholders and partners.
- The purpose of the Workforce Transition Team meeting (April 4, 2007) is to discuss and approve a comprehensive strategy for delivering Rapid Response services to dislocated workers.
- On-site information sessions during each shift (week of 04/09/2007) to present information related to available services.
- On-going individual case management and re-employment planning with dislocated workers.

To view the Lancaster Eagle-Gazette article (03/25/07), go to

<http://www.lancastereaglegazette.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2007703250319>



February 2007



Analysis: Impact of Proposed State Budget on FCJFS

Governor Strickland recently introduced his proposed SFY (State Fiscal Year) 08-09 biennium budget. Considering the substantial cuts in revenue experienced by FCJFS over the past several years, the overall analysis of this proposal is generally favorable. Please find attached to this report a summary of the impact of the proposed budget on the service delivery systems under the umbrella of FCJFS.

ODJFS Deputy Director Visits FCJFS and REALITY House

ODJFS Deputy Director Jeanne Carroll visited FCJFS and REALITY House on March 19, 2007 to learn more about the impact and outcomes of TANF demonstration grant projects currently underway in Fairfield County.

FCJFS is receiving competitive state TANF demonstration project funding for five separate projects benefiting children and families in our community including:

CSEA- Navigator Program	\$ 276,050.00
Children Services-Project REALITY	\$ 248,253.00
Community Services-Pay-it-Forward	\$ 307,121.00
Community Services-Breaking Out	\$ 86,641.00
Children Services-Family Stability Unit	\$ 698,629.00

Deputy Director Carroll expressed her continued support for these projects and was extremely complimentary in her post visit comments. She wrote saying:

Director Orlando,

Thanks to you and your staff for taking time from your busy day to share with us the good work you are doing for the people of Fairfield County. I was very impressed with your building which includes the visitation rooms as well as the rooms for the judges - we don't see that at many (if any!) other CDJFS'. But mostly what I took away from my visit was the commitment and passion you and your staff have for the programs you run and the people you serve. That is what makes the difference in improving people's lives.

Jeanne

FCJFS Officials Present Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Session to Area Attorneys

FCJFS leadership officials presented continuing legal education (CLE) training to the Fairfield County Bar Association for the 3rd consecutive year on March 15, 2007.

The training focused on legislative and programmatic updates related to the services provided under the umbrella of FCJFS. Fairfield County Job & Family Services is grateful to the Fairfield County Bar Association for this unique opportunity to communicate to area attorneys on an annual basis, resulting in shared understanding and enhanced customer service.

Children's Hospital - Center for Child and Family Advocacy – March 1, 2007 Site Visit

The Fairfield County Child and Family Advocacy Center task force visited Children's Hospital on March 1 to learn more about the services offered by the Franklin County Center for Child & Family Advocacy. The Honorable Yvette McGee Brown serves as President and CEO of the Franklin County Center, and coordinated a tour and QA session that was extremely valuable to our planning process.

Much more to come.



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Next Month:

Learn about FCJFS effort to operate a "paperless" system using Electronic Data Management Systems.

Client Count Feb 1 – 28	2007	2006	2005
Community Services	5050	5154	4338
Child Support	579	635	590
Children Services	504	611	659
WorkNet	1020	1419	699
YTD (Jan 1 – Feb 28)	20125	20211	15140

Work Activity Coordinator Improves Work Activity Options

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) was reauthorized this year and includes significant changes in the work activities families must participate in to receive Ohio Works First or cash assistance. The federal government has significantly narrowed the definition of each of these activities. The new Work Activity Coordinator, Heather Sharb, has been focusing on the following activities:

- o Creating additional education sites for individuals, such as GED, English as a second language, and reading classes for individuals with low literacy.
- o Expanding the Work Experience Program. The Work Experience program is structured for individuals to learn job skills at a job site while in receipt of cash assistance. Some examples of current sites are Lancaster Prosecutor's Office, Community Action, Dog Shelter, Salvation Army, and Meals on Wheels. Heather is seeking additional sites throughout the community to provide additional training opportunities.
- o Researching best practices in other counties to implement a Subsidized Employment Program. This type of program is structured similar to WEP, but is more appropriate for individuals who prove their skills at a WEP site and have potential to transition to paid employment. Subsidized Employment actually provides the employer with a portion of that employee's wages for up to six months. The goal is to increase ongoing employment for individuals.

Contact Heather Sharb, Work Activity Coordinator at 687-6808 or email sharbh@odjfs.state.oh.us.

Circus Night Returns on April 19th!

On April 19th from 5:00-6:30 p.m., Fairfield County Job and Family Services will host Circus Night. This fun-filled event is held in April during Family Festival month to celebrate and appreciate families in Fairfield County. Through staff and community donations, hot dogs, drinks and cookies are provided to more than 300 people. The P.T. Reptile Show will provide a hands-on, educational show for families, C.J. and His Bag of Tricks (a local student), will awe children with his magic, and children's games and crafts are planned for the event. A free car seat check will be available to ensure families have their car seats installed correctly.

Family activities such as "Build A Buddy" focuses on families creating a fun craft together. Using various arts and crafts, over 250 children will decorate their very own "Buddy" to take home.

C.J.'s Amazing Bag of Tricks entertains children during Circus Night. C.J. is a local student from Baltimore who donated his time for this event.

**February 2007 stats:**

5,525 open cases (highest open caseload in more than five years);

203 scheduled intakes; 180 attended, 23 no shows, 12 reschedules;

Help Desk answered 1,423 requests, 449 walk-in customers, 974 phone contacts;

2,478 open Food Stamp cases;

1,810 open Medicaid cases;

637 Ohio Works First (ongoing cash assistance);

Transportation Team provided 3,113 one-way trips; 1,305 gas vouchers issued; 740 one-way trips by JFS drivers, and 1,068 one-way trips provided by: Lancaster Public Transit, Functional Training Services, Center for Disabilities, and Salvation Army;



February 2007



Farewell to Jim Hodge, Children Services Director

Jim Hodge will end his 20 year career with Fairfield County Children Services on Friday, March 30, 2007. While serving as Director of Children Services, Jim had four distinct goals for his tenure: to reduce or eliminate the number of children in custody in expensive residential care, alter the focus of casework practice from teens to younger and more vulnerable children, expand kinship placements for children requiring out of home care, and develop staff to engage families to create positive outcomes. Almost immediately, the number of children in residential care dropped to one youth and the numbers of children in kinship placements dramatically increased to nearly one-third of all placements. Additionally, the majority of children in custody are now aged birth to 10 years. Finally, within the child welfare system, family engagement is seen as so imperative to successful work with customers, that all new child welfare workers in the state are being trained in family engagement techniques and Fairfield County Child Protective Services has made family engagement training a priority for all staff during 2007. Thanks for leading the way, Jim, and congratulations on a career dedicated to service to children and families!

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Please join Fairfield County Child Protective Services Department for the 6th Annual Candlelight Walk to be held on Thursday, April 19, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the main entrance of JFS. Participants will hold lit candles symbolizing the numbers of reports of child abuse and neglect received each month in this county as they walk from JFS to the gazebo downtown. Once at the gazebo, the group will light small tealight candles representing the number of children in the custody of the agency. The purpose of the event is to increase awareness of the prevalence of child maltreatment and the need for community involvement to prevent abuse and neglect and to find solutions when it occurs. Please join Children Services and others and *Light the Way of Hope* for victims of child abuse and neglect.

Children in Custody

	JAN 2006	JAN 2007	FEB 2006	FEB 2007
Children in Agency Custody	167	196	164	193
Children in Paid Placement	104	98	99	91
Paid Placement Percentage	62%	50%	60%	47%

Report Statistics

FEB	Physical Ab	Sexual Ab	Neglect	Em Mal	At-Risk	Info/Other	Totals
'06	23	11	24	0	68	387	513
'07	5	9	3	0	55	165	237

Consistent Customer Service

Child Support Case Manager, Diana Griffin received a note of appreciation recently from a Custodial Parent in response to a child support termination. Such an event does not usually generate a note of thanks. However, in this case it caused for reflection on the past experiences that a parent had with the Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA). This reflection resulted in a full page note expressing deep appreciation for the work and assistance that the agency provided to her for over a decade. Through the good times and the not so good times, she was always able to contact the Fairfield County CSEA for answers to her questions.

Enforcement via Administrative Lien

Child Support Senior Case Manager, Beth Kehrer experienced a collection success on a 2 ½ year old case. The parties have one child approaching the age of majority. The current child support will soon cease as a result. A number of enforcement actions have taken place on this case in the form of court litigation, including two contempt actions, multiple driver license suspensions and continuous monitoring. As of last week Beth confirmed payment of the past due support in the amount of \$7,249.52. The success was achieved via a lien that was placed on personal property in the Obligor's name.

Legal Clinic Statistics

The most recent Pro Bono Legal Clinic was held on February 27, 2007. Six attorneys provided twenty-one persons with legal advice. Three cases were referred to other attorneys for representation. Two cases were accepted by the attorney reviewing the case at a reduced fee. One case was accepted on a pro bono basis. Fairfield County Job & Family Services accounted for 57 percent of the referrals, and 71 percent of the cases were domestic relations issues including custody and child support.

Changes to the cost of Genetic Testing

Orchid Cellmark, Fairfield County's vendor for genetic testing services, has recently made changes to the cost of private genetic testing done through the CSEA. The cost for Court Ordered private genetic testing is now \$375 for the first three persons. Each additional person costs \$125, which includes additional children and potential fathers. A cashiers check or money order must be provided to the CSEA at the time of the swab and made payable to Orchid Cellmark. The cost for CSEA initiated testing remains the same.

Child Support Collections

	2005	2006	2007	\$ Diff	% Diff
January		1,720,232	1,736,549	16,317	0.95%
February	1,575,277	1,660,532	1,598,250	85,255	-3.80%
March	1,932,875	2,066,808		133,933	6.93%
April	1,803,903	1,638,915		164,988	9.15%
May	1,836,895	1,938,947		102,052	5.56%
June	1,886,337	1,980,235		93,898	4.98%
July	1,674,182	1,748,439		74,257	4.44%
August	1,773,680	1,711,087		-62,593	3.53%
September	1,669,438	1,711,172		41,734	2.50%
October	1,735,554	1,746,150		10,596	0.61%
November	1,754,887	1,689,702		-65,185	3.71%
December	1,801,702	1,773,269		-28,433	1.58%
Total	21,058,316	21,385,488		327,172	1.55%

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MEDICAID RULES CHANGE FOR NURSING HOME PLACEMENT

Beginning in October, 2006, the guidelines for Nursing Home Medicaid eligibility were modified. Previously, the "look back" period for the transfer of resources was three years; this meant that a person could "transfer" the deed to their home or other resources to another family member in order to exempt these resources from consideration in determining eligibility for Medicaid. In October, the "look back" period was lengthened to five years.

Consideration of resources involving "Life Estate" property transfers was also modified. Previously, a home that was part of a life estate was exempt from being counted as a resource for a person applying for Nursing Home Medicaid. As of October, any property transfer involving a life estate is now considered an "improper transfer," resulting in a period of ineligibility for the applicant. When the Medicaid applicant has a life estate interest in a house, the value of the property is counted. The "Life Estate" value is based upon the age of the person as well as the actual value of the property.

Previously, when a Medicaid recipient with no spouse entered a nursing home, the house they owned had to be sold within a six-month period of nursing home admission. This rule has been modified to allow the Medicaid recipient 12 months to sell their house.

APS REFERRALS CONTINUE TO INCREASE – 42 IN FEBRUARY!

The first two months of 2007 marked a record number of referrals to Adult Protective Services. As previously reported, 50 referrals were made to APS during the month of January. Referrals during the month of February, routinely low in the past, also escalated, with a total of 42. Of the cases investigated and opened during the month, 75% involved self-neglect; 8% were allegations of Abuse; and 17% involved allegations of Neglect by Others. No exploitation cases were reported in February.

In order to provide more effective ongoing case management services, APS has developed a protocol in which cases are opened only for those customers who are deemed to be victims of abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or exploitation. Following initial referral, all cases are assessed and/or investigated for the presence of abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or exploitation. If none of these conditions is validated, customers are logged as "PINS," or "Persons in need of services."

All customers who are determined to be "persons in need of services" are provided with immediate one-time assistance (as in a case of utility shut-off, for example), referred to other agencies (Meals on Wheels-Older Adult Alternatives, for example), or provided with ongoing services, such as transportation. In February, 18 PINS were logged.

KINSHIP KLOSET OPENS

Jenny Ruff, Coordinator of the Kinship Navigator Program, is excited to announce her new "storefront" location for clothing, food, toiletries, household goods, diapers, and other items needed by JFS customers. Previously, Jenny stored the items donated in a rented storage unit and a small office (onsite) at JFS. Last year, customers were assisted **900 times** with these items.

Director Michael Orlando decided to combine Jenny's donations with other departmental items stored in various rental units, placing all of them in the new "Kinship Kloset." His decision resulted in a cost savings for the agency, and provided a "one-stop" shop for customers who need emergency supplies.

The Kinship Kloset, located across the east parking lot of JFS, will be available to all JFS staff to assist their customers. Larger items, such as donated stoves, refrigerators, washers and dryers, will be stored in the former Recycling Center building.

February 2007

Success Story

Jon Young had been out of work since July 2006. He was an equipment operator for his family-owned business and was laid off due to declining business conditions. Missy Bennett, one of WorkNet's Career Advisors began working with Jon and initiated discussing Jon's strengths and weaknesses. After exploring job searching options both decided it was time for a career change and we are pleased to say Jon has accepted employment with the Lancaster City Schools.

WorkNet Partners with Employers to hold Interviews

WorkNet in partnership with Global Contact Services has been holding open interviews at WorkNet to help the new company start their initial hiring process. Over 200 job seekers have already used these free services as interviews continue. This is one of the basic services WorkNet provides to the business community in an effort to stimulate job growth in Fairfield County.

WorkNet has Record Year

The number of customers visiting WorkNet in 2006 skyrocketed over previous years. WorkNet visitors totaled 17,841 for an increase of 30% over 2005, and a 61% increase over 2004. In addition, 185 customers participated in various employment-focused workshops and 283 attended orientations for those wishing to pursue occupational training programs. The one-stop, as a whole, had 25,284 customers pass through the doors, or just over 100 per day!

Training Dollars for Nifco America Corp.

Job & Family Services partnered with Nifco America Corp. in 2006 to provide an on-the-job training program for five individuals. This program allowed the five participants to be trained in the trade of injection mold operations. Nifco provided all of the training and JFS offset the costs by paying half of the participant wages for the six month program. At the conclusion of the training, participants began permanent employment with Nifco or a similar injection mold business at an average hourly wage of \$11.00.

Job Fair and Teen Opportunity Expo a Success!

The Workforce Development Department at Fairfield County JFS held a Job Fair on March 9th that attracted 56 employers and 376 job seekers. Also, the first ever Teen Opportunity Expo was held March 10th with 37 employers and over 195 teens and their families who learned about various education, military and employment opportunities available throughout Ohio.

WorkNet Customer Count

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
January	-	749	958	924	1580	1879
February	-	651	846	699	1419	1020
March	-	807	1004	1184	1895	
April	592	943	985	917	1305	
May	547	748	989	979	1411	
June	371	1100	1126	1165	1675	
July	447	1129	877	1180	1466	
August	492	992	1015	1752	1813	
September	566	906	1020	1334	1611	
October	683	895	689	1277	1471	
November	442	757	767	1172	1110	
December	452	712	811	1106	1085	

February 2007

Family Support and Visitation Center

Our 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.

January 2007 Statistics

Visitation/Exchange Services

Monitored Exchanges: 26
Supervised Visits: 149
Referrals received: 20
Number of adults served: 167
Number of noncustodial parents: 74
Number of children: 111

Parent Education Services

Parent Education Sessions (Hours): 37.5
Parent Education Related Events (Hours): 58.75
Parent Educators in Family Court (Hours): 14.75
Referrals Received: 2
Number of Adults Served: 46
Number of noncustodial parents: 13
Number of children: 42

Program Update

In February the Center received 8 referrals for **Visitation and Exchange Services**. Currently, there is 1 family on the waiting list. In 2007 we will be focusing on assessing incidences of cases involving domestic violence as reported by families being referred for Visitation/Exchange Services. We will be tracking the number of victims who report domestic violence as well as the number of self-reporting victims as visitors.

The **Parent Education Services** Team of the Family Support and Visitation Center has received 43 referrals since the program began. There are 5 families currently participating in ongoing services. There are 10 on the waiting list. The vacant Parent Educator position has been filled. Linda Millington will begin on April 4th. The other Parent Educator will return from maternity leave on April 9th. Having a full staff again will be wonderful!

The first session of the **Parent Project** is in its 8th week. There are 11 participants who thoroughly engage in the process on a consistent basis. The material is simple and straightforward. As one Mom put it, "*I can DO this!*" The next session begins Tuesday, May 8th and will run through July 24th. The classes will be held in the Toni Shull conference room at JFS, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Letters will be sent to all referral sources the first week of April, which will include a referral form and registration instructions. Class capacity is 25; the cost is \$5.00 per person. I believe participation in this class will change lives!



February 2007



February 2007









The Newest Additions to the JFS Staff

	<p>Sarah Brogdon joins JFS as a Success Coach with Community Services. Sarah recently worked with Coca-Cola Enterprises as an Accounts Payable/Pre-Settlement Clerk and has over seven years of experience in the banking, accounting, and customer services fields.</p>
	<p>Mandy Brown comes to JFS as a Clerical Specialist 4 with the Child Support team. Amanda recently graduated from Wilmington College and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Social and Political Studies as well as English with a Pre-Law concentration. She was recently an Executive Assistant and Receptionist with Village Communities.</p>
	<p>Sarah Caton joins JFS as an Intake Worker with Children Services after working for the Multi-County Juvenile Detention Center as a Juvenile Detention Officer. Sarah holds a Bachelor of Specialized Studies in Criminal Investigations from Ohio University.</p>
	<p>Jennifer Collins joins the Community Services Department as a Unit Support Worker 2 after working as the Administrative Assistant for a national realty company for five years. Jennifer has over 20 years of experience in the customer service and clerical fields.</p>
	<p>Jeremy Conkle comes to JFS as a Success Coach with Community Services. Jeremy received his Bachelor of Science from Elon University in North Carolina. Prior to joining JFS, Jeremy worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs and was a Sergeant in the United States Army.</p>
	<p>Tina Ellis is the newest Unit Support Worker 2 addition to the Social Services Department. Tina received her Associate in Applied Science from Marshall University Community College and has over 18 years of experience in the customer service and office management fields.</p>
	<p>Amy Hawks comes to JFS as a Social Worker with Children Services. Amy graduated from Ohio University with a Bachelor of Science in Human and Consumer Sciences and recently worked with the Salvation Army as a Social Services Caseworker.</p>



February 2007

The Newest Additions to the JFS Staff

	<p>Lisa Long joins the Child Support Team as a Staff Attorney. Lisa received her Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from the University of West Florida and her Juris Doctorate from Capital University School of Law. Lisa recently worked for the Fayette County Prosecutor as an Assistant Prosecutor.</p>
	<p>Lori Lovas rejoins the JFS Human Resources and Public Relations team as a Public Information Specialist. Lori was previously the HR/PR Assistant Director for JFS and then went on to the Multi-County Juvenile Detention Center where she was the Fiscal and Human Resources Manager for the past 3 years. Welcome back Lori!</p>
	<p>Ashly Osborne comes to JFS as an Intake Worker with Children Services. Ashly recently graduated from Ohio University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Art Education. While attending school, Ashly worked with the Lancaster Festival and held positions in the food service and retail industry.</p>
	<p>Michele Swartz joins JFS as a Clerical Specialist 4 with the Child Support Department. Michele has over 15 years of experience in the field of customer service and property management.</p>
	<p>April Wagner comes to JFS as a Social Worker with Children Services. April recently graduated from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Science in Human Ecology and recently worked as a Teacher at the Nikou Learning Center.</p>
	<p>Jamie Whittington joins JFS as a Success Coach with Community Services. Jamie holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and Sociology from The University of Mississippi. Jamie has over five years of experience working with at-risk children and families and has recently relocated to Ohio from Tennessee.</p>





Ohio Job and Family Services Directors' Association

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Legislative/Budget Update 2007-1 March 16, 2007

Highlights of the Governor's Proposed SFY 08-09 Budget

Context

- Governor committed to no new taxes or fees
- New GRF dollars total only \$400 million for the biennium
- Governor has cut over \$700 million from state agencies

TANF

- State plans to spend additional \$700 million in TANF in SFY08-09
 - \$55 million each year for Child care provider increase
 - \$20 million each year in ELI
 - \$40million each year for increasing child care program eligibility to 200% of poverty
 - \$21 million for Help Me Grow
 - \$10.4 m for child protective services
 - \$12 m for adoption subsidy
 - \$6.5 m for school readiness enrichment
 - \$5 m second year for OWF grants
- OJFSDA Is still seeking clarification on the remaining \$350 m unaccounted for in the above specific items

Child Support

- Additional \$17.2 m GRF to replace match lost in federal DRA

Medicaid

- Expands eligibility
 - Children 300% FPL
 - Pregnant women 200% FPL
 - Parents 100% FPL
 - Provide buy in for children above 300% FPL (cover all uninsured children)
 - Provide Buy-in for working persons with disabilities
- Restore dental, psychological and chiropractic for adults
- Provide 3% rate increase for providers
- Provide 3.5% increase for inpatient hospital services
- PASSPORT
 - Eliminates current waiting lists
 - Provides for 5,600 new waiver slots
- Long term care budget to be developed including full continuum of services

Child Care/Early Learning

- Harmonizes eligibility for child care, early learning and public pre-K at 200% FPL
- Increases child care market rate to 65th percentile of 2006 study (about 11.5%)
- Changes ELI
 - Increase eligibility to 200% FPL
 - Eligibility determined under TANF Goal 3 (no parental employment requirements)
 - Reduces redeterminations from every six months to once per year
- Increases dollars for Step Up to Quality, training, TEACH scholarships, quality incentives
- Provides for work group to devise fiscal and administrative structure to provide sustainable funding for quality care for all children

Children Services

- \$10.4 m for child protective services
- \$12 m for adoption subsidy (increase subsidy from \$250 to \$300 per month)
- Increase ABC intervention dollars with \$9m federal TSIG grant and \$1.9m GRF

How did CDJFS Fare in the Strickland Budget?

	OJFSDA Ask	Governor
Medicaid	Delay new department Expand eligibility Cover all children	No new dept. until at least 09 Expands eligibility Covers all children
Workforce	Do not move to DOD	Does not move DOD
Early Learning	Develop comprehensive program	Moves toward Comprehensive program
Children Services	Increase child protective funding	Increases CPS funding
Child Support	Replace DRA match loss	Replaces DRA loss
APS	Requested \$20m line item	No funding
Food Stamps	Increase IM admin re error rate	IM admin reduced \$20m
TANF	Requested \$60 m increase	No increase

A review of the Administration's budget proposal shows priorities for health care, early learning, education, and protection for children and home based health care for the elderly. The lack of GRF funds meant that APS, IM control, Medicaid match for ADAMH boards and other GRF items lost out to education and senior health care. TANF is being targeted to child protection and early learning. The figures reflect that CDJFS did not spend all of the TANF money allocated (96%) and lapsed \$28 million in IM control in SFY 06. OJFSDA asked administration officials if any thought was given to the extra demand on IM dollars from the Medicaid expansions or the Title XX dollars from expansion of home based PASSPORT services. The looks on faces said no. Counties will need to make a case for the administrative cost of these expansions to increase funding in the rest of the budget process.

The House already restored a petroleum wholesalers' exemption in the CAT tax which will cost \$ 149 million GRF which the administrative was counting on elsewhere. This illustrates that the biggest fight in the budget process will be over tax loopholes. Other top issues will be education funding, charter schools, funding Medicaid expansions and TANF.

Next Week

The full House Finance Committee will meet Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday March 20, 21, and 22 hearing presentations from OBM, Education, and several other departments. There is no word on Finance Subcommittee schedules yet.

Also next week SB 30 (Kearney) Adoption Loans and SB 20 (Clancy) Adoption Tax Credit will be heard in Senate Committees and HB 97 (Fessler) Child Care Providers will have a sponsor hearing in House Health Committee.

Stay tuned.