



## Community Social Service Planners and Funding Entities to Meet on September 5th

FCJFS will convene an advisory body (CAPP) of community social service planners and funding entities on September 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am. The Community Funders/Planners CAPP will have a slightly different purpose than the 12 other FCJFS CAPP committees. While public awareness and continuous quality improvement of FCJFS services and programs will be included on the agenda, the main purpose of this CAPP will be to facilitate an on-going dialogue among planners and funders, so that each entity will be more aware of the activities, services, and programs being considered or planned by other funding and planning bodies in the county. The following organizations have been invited to participate in this bi-annual initiative:

- o Community Action
- o Family, Adult, and Children First Council
- o Fairfield Foundation
- o Older Adult Alternatives-Meals-on Wheels
- o ADAMH
- o Abuse Prevention Fund
- o FCJFS
- o Canal Winchester Human Services
- o United Way of Fairfield County
- o MRDD

## Adult Protective Services-Update

In the June 2007-Report to the Board of Commissioners, FCJFS leadership officials reported the dramatic increase in referrals of serious abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older adults being reported to the FCJFS- Adult Protective Services Department in 2007 (see chart below).

In that same report, it was also reported that the APS Department is bracing for a 35% reduction in operating revenue in 2008, as a result of the availability of fewer federal Title XX funds in Fairfield County.

FCJFS leadership has informed both the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners and the Meals-on-Wheels/Older Adult Alternatives Board of Directors about this emerging crisis, and have requested that MOW-OAA increase the APS contract in 2008, in order to avoid substantial cuts to investigative services for abused, neglected, and exploited older adults.

This monthly report will continue to provide updates to the Board of Commissioners and the community about the status of this important matter.

APS Monthly Referral Comparison Chart

Month	2005	2006	2007
January	31	32	50
February	16	24	42
March	34	33	48
April	19	19	46
May	37	35	71
June	32	26	58
July	30	31	49
August	23	22	
September	33	26	
October	23	31	
November	20	27	
December	18	28	
Yearly Totals	316	334	364

## FCJFS assists more than 1000 low income and working poor families with back-to-school supplies, clothing, and/or haircuts.

Utilizing a **one-time** surplus in TANF funding made available to Fairfield County by the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services, FCJFS Community Services Department processed 936

**September 7th**  
2007 Fall Job Fair  
10:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Ohio University-Lancaster  
Campus Gymnasium

**September 19th**  
Fairfield County  
Budget and Leadership  
Retreat  
8:00-4:00 pm  
Lithopolis

**September 24th**  
Child Advocacy Center  
Opening  
Guest Speaker:  
Congressman Dave Hobson  
(10:00 am)  
Open House (10:00 am  
-1:00 pm)  
1147 East Main Street  
in Lancaster

**September 26th**  
S.T.E.P. AHEAD  
Business Seminar  
Moose Lodge  
8:00am-Noon

**October 5th**  
6th Annual Faith Based and  
Community  
Partnership Summit  
8:00 am-11:30 am  
Liberty Center





### 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.



vouchers, totaling \$470,001.00, for back-to-school clothing this summer. More than 2300 TANF eligible children in Fairfield County benefited from the back-to-school clothing program.

In addition, FCJFS (through a service contract with Information & Referral) provided more than 700 TANF eligible children with school supplies and backpacks. Those receiving assistance are mostly low to middle-income working families who struggle to afford back-to-school expenses.

Also this year, Client Advocate/Kinship Coordinator Jenny Ruff and her team of hair local hair stylists had a busy two days of back-to-school haircuts.... a total 253 haircuts were completed - the largest number ever. As in past years, the stylists donated their services for this program.

My sincere thanks to everyone throughout Fairfield County that participated in helping our most vulnerable children start out this school year on the right foot.

### The Season of Parades, Festivals, and Fairs



### A Blue Ribbon Campaign

Whenever you see a **blue ribbon** displayed in Fairfield County, I hope that you will be reminded of the critical and urgent needs of the hundreds of children in our community that are victims of serious physical abuse and neglect each year.

Throughout the summer and fall of 2007, FCJFS team members and our community partners will participate in fairs, festivals, and parades around the county, While the primary goal of these types of outreach activities is to attract families to foster and adopt , we will also take the opportunity to provide information to the community about the critical needs of our child protective services system. If you can help by walking in any of the Fairfield County parades, or are able to donate candy, please call or email me anytime. Look for our big blue ribbon rolling down the highway!

Michael Orlando (740) 687-6725 [orlanm@odjfs.state.oh.us](mailto:orlanm@odjfs.state.oh.us)

## Faith Summit

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Faith-based and Community Group Summit is scheduled for Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am to 11:30 am at the Liberty Center. Please join Summit participants as we come together to:

- o Recognize and celebrate the common mission of faith-based organizations, service providers, and community groups that serve adults, children, and families.
- o Review and celebrate the work accomplished by our sub-committees
- o Create valuable networks and share information about services and resources available here in Fairfield County.

Special Presentations include:

- o Volunteer background checks for faith-based and community organizations
- o Ohio's Benefit Bank Initiative
- o Community Marriage Policy presentation.

Mark your calendars now!

## Child Advocacy Center Grand Opening

United States Representative Dave Hobson will be the featured speaker for the opening of the Child Advocacy Center of Fairfield County scheduled for 10:00 am on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Following a brief ceremony at 10:00 am, the Center will remain open for tours and visitors until 1:00 pm. The Center is located in the Kroger's Shopping Center at 1147 East Main Street in Lancaster.

The opening of the Child Advocacy Center in Fairfield County is the realization of a shared vision for children and families to live in a safe and nurturing community, free from sexual and physical abuse, and to ensure justice and healing for Fairfield County children subjected to sexual and severe physical abuse by rendering child-friendly, family-centered, victim sensitive services through a multidisciplinary team.

Abuse Prevention Fund founders and local philanthropists, Dave and June Harcum donated \$30,000.00 to cover facility costs for the first year, while the second year facility expenses are being donated by the Fairfield Medical Center. A Fairfield Foundation grant was awarded for project development expenses.

The Child Advocacy Center of Fairfield County is a private non-profit agency, and will seek community donations, grants, and foundation gifts to offset on-going operational expenses.

Contact Project Developer Lisa Degeeter for additional details, and to learn how you can help with this important initiative. Together, we can make a difference for sexually and seriously physically abused children in Fairfield County.

Lisa Degeeter can be contacted at:

Phone: (740) 689-4815; email: [degeel@odjfs.state.oh.us](mailto:degeel@odjfs.state.oh.us)



July 2007

**Placement Costs: CPS Protective Placement Costs Update**

The March 2007-FCJFS Report to the Board of Commissioners first updated stakeholders and community leaders about the skyrocketing costs being incurred by the county for court ordered protective placement of Fairfield County's abused and neglected children in 2007. At the conclusion of the first quarter of the fiscal year (March 31, 2007), it was estimated that if current trends continued, protective placement costs in 2007 would exceed budget projections by \$200,000.00.

Update August 30, 2007:

Based on current trends, protective placement costs will exceed budget projections by only \$25,000.00 in 2007. Child Protective Services officials are to be commended for on-going efforts to offer alternative response services and community resources to support at-risk families, reducing out of home placement costs when possible. It is important to note that only children at substantial risk for additional incidents of abuse and neglect are court-ordered into protective placement.

A record number of children have been court ordered into protective placement in 2007. As of August 31, 2007 there are 225 abused and neglected children in protective placement in Fairfield County.

**Customer Count**

<b>Customer Count July 1 – 31</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
Community Services	7815	5282	5092
Child Support	694	636	654
Children Services	829	729	679
WorkNet	1674	1465	1179
<b>YTD (Jan 1 – July 31)</b>	<b>78941</b>	<b>70670</b>	<b>60573</b>

July 2007

Community Services caseload for July 2007 is 5,599 open cases. This is the highest open caseload in more than five years.

In July there were 324 scheduled intakes; 261 customers attended intake appointments.

Help Desk staff answered 1,791 requests from families. Of those 822 were walk-in customers and 969 were phone contacts.

Food Stamp cases totaled 2,561 open cases in Community Services with 41% of those families in receipt of earned income.

Families receiving only Medicaid benefits such as Healthy Start, Healthy Families, or Transitional Medicaid total 1,867 open cases in July. The majority of these families have employment in the household.

In July, 641 families are receiving Ohio Works First (ongoing cash assistance). Many of these cash assistance cases are children involved with Children Services who are residing with grandparents or other relatives.

In June, the Transportation Team provided 5,806 one-way trips. A total of 3,584 one-way trips utilizing gas vouchers were issued; 706 one-way trips were provided by JFS drivers, and 1,296 one-way trips provided through contract agencies. Families involved with Child Protective Services were provided 579 one-way trips; 210 gas vouchers, 146 through contract agencies, and 223 one-way trips utilizing JFS drivers.

### **46% More New Families Requesting Assistance in 2007.**

Families who do not have an open case or who are not receiving public assistance benefits are seen by Community Services staff as an intake appointment. In 2007, the average number of new families each month is 224; in 2006 monthly intakes averaged 182; and in 2005 they averaged 153. Families scheduled for intake appointments may have various needs. For example, they recently lost employment and want to update their resume. Families who do not have medical coverage or need financial assistance or food assistance access these services through the Community Services Department. At an intake appointment, the family is seen first by a Success Coach. The Success Coach reviews an intake assessment form which identifies employment and education history, various needs and barriers to self-sufficiency, and family strengths. The Success Coach makes any necessary referrals for the family and reviews if the family wishes to apply for Food Stamps, Medicaid, PRC (emergency financial assistance) or Ohio Works First (monthly cash assistance). The Eligibility Referral Specialist (ERS), determines eligibility for each of the program areas. The ERS reviews household composition, household income and resources, and household expenses. ERS staff average more than 350 ongoing cases each month. Families applying for assistance span all areas of Fairfield County with varying educational and employment histories.

### **Child Protective Services Liaison Team**

In 2006, the Community Services Department created the Child Protective Services Liaison Team to work with CPS cases. The mission of this team is to collaborate with Child Protective Services to empower and stabilize families by providing intensive case management and supportive services. The team consists of a Success Coach, Valerie Carpico and an Eligibility Referral Specialist, Mary Jo Fox. This team attends Family Team meetings with CPS, Early Childhood Cluster meetings and develops Self-Sufficiency contracts in conjunction with Child Protective Services. Many of the cases involve grandparents or relatives who have assumed temporary or permanent custody of the children.

### **Special Team Success Story**

This family consists of a two parent household and a baby. In the beginning, this family had their child removed at the birth of the baby because of issues with substance abuse. During the pregnancy and after, both parents battled the drug addiction. At the hospital the baby was removed by Child Protective Services and placed in the care of the father's parents.

The mother and father of the baby entered a treatment facility. Many times they were close to completion, but relapse happened on numerous occasions that made it unrealistic to regain custody of their child. They were residing in the shelter and felt very hopeless. After many placements in treatment, the family finally agreed to work with Family Court. This family has made a huge turn around.

They are now engaged with the Recovery Center on a daily basis. They have completed Phase I of Family Court. Community Services then assisted this family with rent, car repair, and utility assistance. The family now has their own home and their baby is home, with custody from Child Protective Services being terminated. They both have been clean for approximately 90 days. The father is working and has kept employment for a more than 30 days. The mother is pursuing employment at this time with many great job leads. In the meantime, she has obtained her GED.

Valerie, Success Coach says, "To meet with the family now is totally different than from before. They are staying engaged in their treatment and are being successful in their recovery. In a little over a year, this family is close to achieving full self-sufficiency. The mother states that she feels like she finally has a family. Her, her husband, and baby are all together in their own home for the first time. This family is truly a success!"

### 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Foster Care/Adoption Pool Party

As the dog days of summer drag on endlessly, what can be more refreshing than a nice, cool dip in the pool. Thanks to Valley View Swim Club, taking a break from the heat is possible for our community's foster children. Each year the swim club provides volunteer lifeguards and donates the use of their pool. They see this as such a small sacrifice when considering all these children have had to endure at such an early age. This year more than 60 families and children attended the event. The evening gives current foster and adoptive parents the opportunity to share their experiences and provide support for one another. Still, the kids are the big winners. They are afforded a few hours to forget about the horrific abuse and neglect that led them into the custody of the agency and can splash, slide and enjoy just being a kid. For many of us, these everyday luxuries are often taken for granted. However, one look into the face of any one of the children swimming carefree in the pool serves as an instant reminder of how appreciative they are to have a caring community. This is proof positive that no act of kindness, regardless of how big or small, is ever wasted. Fairfield County has the ability to make a difference, we just have to make it a priority.

### What A Day

One may ask, "So what is a day like at our county Child Protective Services Department?" If any one day can sum it up, it was August 23<sup>rd</sup>. On this day, the CPS Department received concerns of 3 children residing in a home of 3 convicted felons. Upon responding immediately to the call, we were denied access. Lancaster Police were called to assist. Still, we were denied access. Juvenile Court was contacted and custody was granted to the agency as all the adults in the home had a known history to the court and our agency. CPS workers and Law Enforcement returned to the home. Still, we were denied access. CPS officials and Law Enforcement continued to visit the home throughout the night resulting in the mother's attempt to flee with the children. After a brief car chase, Lancaster Police were finally able to arrest the mother, however, she had hidden the children in another household. At 3:00AM, CPS staff were able to safely take the children to a relative.

At 8:00AM the next morning, while finishing up the previous evening activities. CPS received a call from the Fairfield County Sheriff's Department. A horrible domestic violence incident was unfolding while they were on the scene. If it wasn't bad enough to have the two perpetrators covered in blood and presenting injuries, two children, ages 3 and 2 were caught in the midst. Even the two children were covered in blood as they witnessed the beating of their mother. CPS staff dropped the days responsibilities and headed to the scene. While two staff responded to the call, remaining staff took the responsibility of securing a room and items to clean the children when they arrived at the agency. By 10:30AM, the children were safe at the agency. CPS staff then began planning to address new reports received already that morning.

For the CPS worker, this is a day in the life. The agency receives over 3700 calls year or just over 15 a day. Each case is unique. Each case relies on someone being there to answer the call when innocent children are left in harms way. It is a challenge for anyone, CPS professionals or otherwise to witness such atrocities. Please take the opportunity to share with these brave men and women how much you appreciate their commitment and dedication. To these staff who feel honored to serve the community of Fairfield County, it is more than a job, it's their mission.

### Hitting A Home Run Together

On Friday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, Fairfield County Child Protective Services squared off against Fairfield County Juvenile Court at Miller Park. Both teams demonstrated a strong competitive spirit as the score went back and forth through the first few innings. Unfortunately for CPS, Juvenile Court began to pull away in the middle innings. Despite a heroic attempt at a comeback late in the game, the Child Protective Services team was unable to pull out the win. Both teams promised the large number of fans in attendance to make this an annual event.

July 2007

**Driver's License Reinstatement Initiative**

August is Child Support Awareness Month in Ohio. As part of the awareness month, Fairfield County is joining many of the other counties in Ohio in participating in a driver's license reinstatement program. The purpose of this program is to encourage non-custodial parents to meet their child support obligations.

Parents who are delinquent in their child support obligations are subject to driver's license suspension. Currently, there are over 200 people in Fairfield County whose licenses have been suspended for this reason. Through this reinstatement program, non-custodial parents will be offered the opportunity to have their license reinstated by making a full month's payment, making a payment toward their arrearages, and providing current employer information for wage withholding. In the event that regular payments do not continue, their license would again be suspended.

Counties who have offered this program in the past report successful outcomes in collections and ongoing compliance with support orders. We will be closely monitoring the collections generated from this program to determine its effectiveness.

**CSEA Restructuring**

The CSEA recently began a restructuring effort in order to better meet the needs of our customers. The process began in June with all-staff surveys and focus groups being conducted. The results were compiled and used to formulate the Restructuring Plan.

This plan establishes the priorities of the CSEA and reaffirms customer service as our number one priority. New specialty positions are being created that will allow for "experts" in the areas of financial case management and Administrative Adjustment Reviews. These positions will take the place of other positions so there will be no net change in the staffing totals for the CSEA.

We anticipate that the Restructuring Plan will be fully implemented by the end of September.

**Job Opportunity Program Update**

The Job Opportunity program is a collective effort to assist child support customers with obtaining and maintaining employment, and thus, increasing their ability to meet their child support obligation. This program is 100% funded through a state grant for TANF Demonstration projects. Below are some of the current statistics for the program:

- 305 customers have obtained employment
- 120 customers have paid at least 3 straight months of child support payments
- 350 customers have been referred to various community resources
- \$169,400 collected from Job Opportunity customers

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	-3.75%
March	1,932,875	2,066,808	1,936,927	129,881	-6.28%
April	1,803,903	1,638,915	1,894,662	255,747	15.6%
May	1,836,895	1,938,947	1,979,043	40,096	2.07%
June	1,886,337	1,980,235	1,862,029	118,206	-5.97%
July	1,674,182	1,748,439	1,713,398	35,041	-2.00%
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%

July 2007



### CASELOADS INCREASE FOR ADULT MEDICAID & WAIVER PROGRAMS

The Adult Unit, which determines eligibility for Medicaid, food stamps, and Medicaid Waiver programs, reported an increase of 106 cases during the month of July. **61** adults applied for Medicaid for the Disabled; **93** customers were re-approved for Waiver programs such as Passport, the Medicaid assistance program that provides in-home services for adults age 60 and over.

As a result of the Governor's approval of additional slots for the Passport program, it is anticipated that this Waiver service will continue to grow. Good news for older adults in Fairfield County who wish to remain in their own homes instead of nursing homes, the increase in Passport funding will enable many more senior citizens to receive these services. The caseload size for the Nursing Home unit (2 Eligibility Referral Specialists), the Passport/Waiver program (1 ERS), and the Disability Determination Unit (2 ERS) has risen to **1,433** as of July 31.

### 1,328 CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE AS OF JULY 31<sup>ST</sup>

As of July 31<sup>st</sup>, **637** families had been deemed eligible for subsidized child care, with a total of **1,328** children receiving child care services through JFS. June's total payment to Child Care providers from the Child Care (pass-through) funds totaled **\$420,128**, an increase of **\$183,099**. July expenditures will become available later in August, but are anticipated to total even more than June's.

The Child Care Unit also added two additional child care providers during the month of July, bringing the total number of Type B (family, in-home) providers to 44. In addition to family providers, Fairfield County Child Care contracts with 84 licensed child care centers in and adjacent to Fairfield County.

### KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM SPONSORS "CLOSET" & HAIRCUTS

The "Kinship Closet," located in a small storefront on Columbus Street adjacent to the JFS parking lot, assisted **163** customers during the month of July. Coordinated by Jenny Ruff, the closet is filled with donations of clothing, hygiene supplies, diapers, car seats, and emergency food items. JFS customers who need immediate assistance with basic necessities are directed to the closet by JFS staff, and assisted by a WEP (Work Experience Program) worker during the three days the closet is open.

Jenny Ruff, Community Outreach Coordinator, also sponsored the free "back-to-school" haircuts, available to youngsters on August 13<sup>th</sup> and August 20<sup>th</sup>. With 8 volunteer beauticians on the 13<sup>th</sup> at the Shear Image Salon on Broad Street, and 10 volunteer stylists on the 20<sup>th</sup> at Shear Image and Ultimate II Salon, **253** children received free basic haircuts.

### REFERRALS TO APS CONTINUE TO EXCEED AVERAGE

**49** referrals were made to Adult Protective Services during the month of July, once again exceeding the previous year's monthly average of 30. 42% of the cases opened for investigation and ongoing case management involved allegations of self-neglect; 17% involved allegations of abuse; **33% involved exploitation**; and 8% were allegations of neglect by others. 71% of the July referrals involved females; 29% were males.

### WELCOME, JANET STOUT!

Adult Protective Services welcomes Janet Stout as our newest APS Caseworker, effective August 20th! Janet will fill the position vacated by Marilyn Justice, who resigned from the agency on August 17th.

Janet's former position with JFS was an Eligibility Referral Specialist for adults applying for Medicaid for the Disabled. In addition to her work with JFS, Janet continues to serve as the volunteer coordinator for Faith in Action-Fairfield County.



**Success Stories**

**From Ginny Grilli...** Since using WorkNet, GlasFloss, a manufacturer of fiber filters has hired 50 people from WorkNet! Our website myworknet.com averages over 85 employment opportunities on a weekly basis.

**From Missy Fields...** 3 Successes involving Teen Works...one participant gained part employment with Meijer and started fulltime @ DeVry...another enrolled at OUL and works for McDonalds...and one had her poetic piece chosen as one of two winners in "Poetry in the Park" competition as part of the Lancaster festival.

**Lancaster Glass**

TAA sessions were held at OSU Extension to assist Lancaster glass workers in their quest for extended benefits. 80 employees were given specific instruction in various areas. Representatives from local, state and Federal offices worked together in coordinating this event.

**Job Fairs**

Rickenbacker Thursday August 23, 10am – 3pm

OUL Friday September 7, 10am – 1pm

Pickaway VFW Tuesday, September 18, 10am -1pm

Fairfield National Bank – Setting date for Pickerington Area.

**WorkNet partners with employers to hold interviews and take applications**

Volt Services, Remedy Staffing, Ambassador Home Health Services, are all companies that used WorkNet to hold interviews this month. Also, WorkNet has once again partnered with Anchor Hocking by taking applications for various positions and will continue to do so over the next few weeks. WorkNet in partnership with various employers have been holding open interviews at WorkNet to help businesses with their hiring process. During the month of June over 475 Anchor Hocking job seekers have used this service as interviews continue. This is one of the basic services WorkNet provides.

**WorkNet Customer Count**

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>January</b>	-	749	958	924	1580	1879
<b>February</b>	-	651	846	699	1419	1020
<b>March</b>	-	807	1004	1184	1895	1606
<b>April</b>	592	943	985	917	1305	1425
<b>May</b>	547	748	989	979	1411	1614
<b>June</b>	371	1100	1126	1165	1675	1493
<b>July</b>	447	1129	877	1180	1466	1674
<b>August</b>	492	992	1015	1752	1813	
<b>September</b>	566	906	1020	1334	1611	
<b>October</b>	683	895	689	1277	1471	
<b>November</b>	442	757	767	1172	1110	
<b>December</b>	452	712	811	1106	1085	

July 2007

**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.

**June 2007 Statistics****Visitation/Exchange Services**

Monitored Exchanges:	48
Supervised Visits:	155
Referrals received:	17
Number of adults served:	244
Number of noncustodial parents:	97
Number of children:	142

**Parent Education Services**

Parent Education Sessions (Hours):	37.75
Parent Education Related Events (Hours):	118.75
Parent Educators in Family Court (Hours):	5.5
Referrals Received:	4
Number of Adults Served:	90
Number of noncustodial parents:	27
Number of children:	70

In July the Center received 18 referrals for **Visitation and Exchange Services** in which currently, there are 10 families on the waiting list. There were 135 supervised visits (for a total of 192 hours of supervised visitation) and 42 monitored exchanges.

The **Parent Education Services** Team received 3 new referrals in July. There were 32 families who were either participating in ongoing services or involved in the referral process.

The second series of the **Parent Project** was completed on July 31<sup>st</sup>. The graduates enjoyed a cookout/potluck dinner. Each received a large, colorful puzzle piece with a note from the facilitator, as well as Certificate of Completion in recognition of their achievement. The puzzle piece will remind them they are a part of the solution. The next series will begin Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, and will be held in the ADAMH Board Conference Room at 108 West Main Street.

With respect to promoting family engagement and providing exception public service, the Family Support and Visitation Center created a goal to initiate **Mediation Services**. We are working with Judge Mowry and other Domestic Relations Court Mediation Committee representatives to develop a local mediation rule. We met with Franklin County Mediation Services court officials, and have had discussions with representatives of the Ohio Supreme Court Office of Dispute Resolution regarding possible grant funding.

July 2007

## The Newest Additions to the JFS Staff



**Rachel Murray** comes to JFS as a Caseworker in Training with Community Services. Rachel holds an undergraduate degree from Ohio University in Psychology with a minor in Philosophy. For the past six years, Rachel has been a manager at Shaw's Inn and Restaurant where she was responsible for managing multiple areas of the restaurant and bar and associated personnel.



**Megan LeMay** joins JFS as a Caseworker in Training with the Community Services Team. Megan recently graduated from Ohio University with a Bachelor of Arts in Human and Consumer Sciences. While attending school and upon completion, Megan has had the opportunity to gain valuable experience in the areas of sales and customer service.



**Erin McLaughlin** becomes part of the JFS team as a Staff Attorney for the Child Support Enforcement Department. Erin received her Bachelor of Criminal Justice from Ohio University and her Juris Doctor from Capital University Law School. Erin has a diverse background with experiences in the areas of the law, social service, law enforcement, and self defense. Erin is familiar with the agency due to her former position at Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action, where she partnered with our Workforce staff to provide community services.



**Brenda Blake** joins JFS as a Unit Support Worker 2 with the Community Services Team. Brenda worked as a Customer Service Manager, Freight Broker, and Transportation Security Administration Coordinator at Team Air Express for the past 18 years and has another 9 years of customer service management experience from a prior employer. Brenda recently was assigned to Community Services as a temporary employee and assisted agency staff with numerous tasks and responsibilities. We are pleased to have Brenda join the team on a full-time basis.



**Patrick Welsh** comes to JFS as a Staff Attorney with the Child Support Enforcement Department. Patrick obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Toledo and his Juris Doctor from Capital University Law School. Patrick has had the opportunity to work in the areas of mediation, customer service, and the law.

July 2007