



Adult Protective Services Department Attempts to Avert Crisis

FCJFS officials met with the Board of Directors of Meals-On-Wheels/Older Adult Alternatives (MOW-OAA) on July 26th in an attempt to avert a crisis facing abused, neglected and exploited **senior citizens** in our community. In addition, FCJFS Director Michael Orlando met with the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners on July 24th to brief them on this extremely urgent matter, and to ask for their support and assistance in securing additional funding from the MOW-OAA levy to meet the needs of the increasing number of senior citizens at imminent risk of serious physical harm or financial exploitation.

The Problem:

Dramatic Increase in Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation Referrals:

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	
August	23	22	
September	33	26	
October	23	31	
November	20	27	
December	18	28	
	316	334	315

Thus far in 2007, the APS Department has experienced a 100% increase in the number of referrals involving abused, neglected, and exploited older adults (60 and older) over 2006 referral statistics.

Reduction in Available Funding:

While Ohio Revised Code (ORC) statutorily mandates APS services, the Ohio legislature provides no funding to counties to provide these vital services. The annual cost of providing adult protective services in Fairfield County totaled \$510,000.00 in 2006.

FCJFS has historically utilized federal Title XX social service revenue and a \$54,000.00 contract with MOW-OAA to fund

this priority service area. In 2006, FCJFS directed the entire federal Title XX allocation of \$240,000.00 to APS, and in addition directed Title XX excess funds (\$216,000.00 annually) made available to Fairfield County because of under-utilization statewide to offset the deficit. FCJFS has been notified that excess Title XX funds should not be budgeted in this and future fiscal cycles, due to full utilization of the revenue statewide.

As a result, the APS Department will experience a projected deficit of \$216,000.00 in 2008, and will be unable to assure safety for an increasing number of abused, neglected, and exploited older adults in our community who are at imminent risk for serious physical harm and financial exploitation.

Proposed Options

- o In order to avert a reduction in investigative and case management services to abused, neglected, and exploited older adults, FCJFS has requested that MOW/OAA contribute an additional \$162,000.00 (or \$216,000.00 in total) annually from levy funds beginning in January 2008. While this increase would alleviate the need for a reduction in services to this vulnerable population, it would not provide the resources necessary to address the significant increase in new referrals.

July 26th
3:30 pm
Presentation to MOW/OAA
Topic: APS Funding

July 27th
7:00 pm
Violet Festival Parade
Pickerington, Ohio

August 7th
Foster & Adoptive Families
Kings Island Trip

August 13th and
August 20th
Free Back to School
Haircuts
9:00 am-3:00 pm at Shear
Image

August 25th
Carroll Old-Timers Parade
10:00 am

August 29th
Millersport Corn Festival
Grand Parade
6:00 pm





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.



- o To address the dramatic increase in referrals received by APS related to abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older adults, an additional request amounting to \$41,000.00 annually has been included in a proposal to MOW/OAA. These additional funds would be used to add one additional FTE Investigator/Case Manager to the APS staff.
- o FCJFS could request that the Board of Commissioners approve a .25 mil Older Adult Protection levy in 2008. The levy would generate the approximately \$350,000.00 necessary annually to offset the reduction in federal revenue and to address the dramatic increase in referrals.

FCJFS officials continue to assert that abused, neglected, and exploited senior citizens should receive the highest priority for MOW /OAA levy funding. While all of the services provided by MOW/OAA are important and necessary, assuring safety for seriously at-risk senior citizens must be their top priority.

A copy of the proposal submitted to MOW-OAA and accompanying support documentation was mailed to the Board of Commissioners on July 27, 2007.

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



June 2007



Lancaster Glass Approved by the United States Department of Labor for TAA Benefits.

FCJFS officials and dislocated Lancaster Glass employees were notified this week that the United States Department of Labor has approved their application for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA). TAA funds are made available to dislocated workers when sufficient evidence is presented to document that their jobs were lost to foreign competition.

Approval of the Lancaster Glass TAA application provides additional hope and opportunity to these workers, and will enable workers to receive 24 months of unemployment benefits, as long as they are participating in a re-training program. Had the TAA application not been approved, unemployment benefits would have been discontinued after 6 months.

The company, union, workers, and area elected officials and legislators worked cooperatively on this initiative, and should be applauded for their efforts.

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 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 June 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.

Customer Count Jun 1 – 30	2007	2006	2005
Community Services	7235	5563	5187
Child Support	714	583	656
Children Services	713	752	641
WorkNet	1493	1674	1165
YTD (Jan 1 – June 30)	66395	61024	51620

**Community Services Stats**

5,600 open cases.

262 scheduled intakes; 218 customers attending with 17% no show.

Help Desk answered 1,652 requests from families: 746 walk-in customers, 906 phone contacts.

2,538 Food Stamp cases, 41% with earned income.

1,881 Medicaid only cases.

642 families receiving Ohio Works First.

Transportation Team provided 7,976 one-way trips through the Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation program and through TANF funding. 2,646 one-way gas vouchers issued through Non Emergency Medicaid Transportation, 3,130 one-way trips through TANF Employment Bonus program, 769 one-way trips were provided by JFS drivers, 1,237 one-way trips provided by contract agencies. Families involved with Child Protective services received 528 one-way trips of transportation.

**Helping Families with School Clothing and School Supplies**

Almost 1,000 children were able to purchase \$200.00 of school clothes for the upcoming school year. For the months of June and July, Community Services staff issued vouchers to 476 families for a total of 907 children. Families must be below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level and have children in grades K-12. Participants must complete an application and submit income verification to be eligible for a school clothing/shoes voucher for \$200.00 per child. Vouchers

were redeemed at Fairfield County businesses such as Value City, Meijers, and K-mart. Approximately \$182,000 was directed to these county businesses as of July 26, 2007. Funding for this program is available through the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families federal block grant. Counties develop a Prevention, Retention, and Contingency (PRC) Plan that follows state and federal guidelines, yet allows some county flexibility. The funds must provide direct service to TANF-eligible families and the services must be included in the county PRC Plan.

Fairfield County Job and Family Services also contracted with Information and Referral to assist families with the high cost of school supplies. The Ready, Set School! Project coordinates school supply donations from social service agencies, civic organizations, local businesses, and faith-based organizations. Utilizing TANF funding, families are referred to Information and Referral who will determine eligibility and distribute a backpack with basic school supplies to Fairfield County children. Information and Referral is currently taking donations for the school supplies and will be distributing them in mid-August.

New TANF Rules Require Expansion of Work Activity Options for Families

With the reauthorization of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, the Department of Health and Human Services has issued regulations that define the activities that are countable toward the work participation rate requirements and how states must monitor and verify the hours that cash assistance families participate in. These regulations increased the percentage of TANF recipients who participate in federally countable work activities for a specified number of hours each week.

It is important that both the state and county maintain focus on the overall goal of helping low-income families improve their employment outcomes and support their families, not just on achieving the required participation rates.

The TANF work participation rate is a measure of the proportion of TANF recipients who are engaged in a specified set of work activities for at least a minimum number of hours. The TANF statute lists 12 work activities that can count toward the work participation rate. Some of these activities—known as “core” activities—can count toward all hours or participation, while others—known as “non-core” activities—can only count for some of the required hours or participation.

Core Activities include subsidized private sector employment, work experience, on-the-job training, job search, job readiness assistance (with limitation on duration), community service programs, vocational educational training (with limitations on duration), and providing child care assistance to an individual in a community service program.

Non-Core Activities include job skills training related to employment, education such as GED, and school attendance at a secondary school for those who have not completed high school.



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Health and Human Services has significantly narrowed the definition of each of these activities. The regulations include limits on the work activities designed to address barriers such as substance abuse treatment, mental health counseling, and physical therapy. The new regulations also impose significant limitations on education and training.

The Community Services department recently issued a Request for Proposals to provide additional services to our customers and meet the new requirements set forth in the Deficit Reduction Act and the TANF Reauthorization. These services include: Basic Computer Training, Basic Literacy Education, Job Readiness Assistance, and Work Adjustment for individuals with physical and mental health barriers.

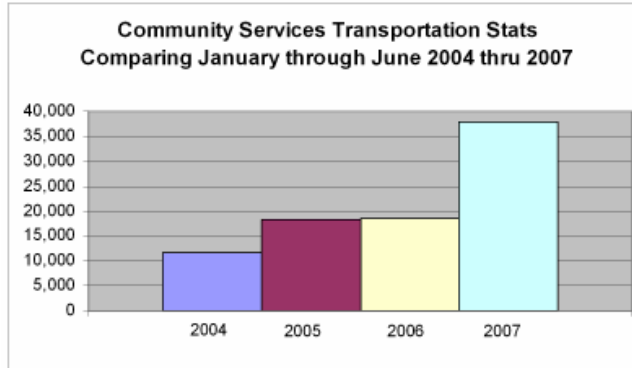
Mandated Timeframes

Programs such as Food Stamps, Medicaid and Ohio Works First (cash assistance) require adherence to specific rules and guidelines by county job and family services. These guidelines include specific timeframes that are mandated either by state or federal regulations.

Program Areas	
Application for Food Stamps, Ohio Works First (cash assistance) and/or Medicaid.	Fairfield County Job and Family Services has <i>5 days</i> to schedule a face-to-face appointment once an application is received.
Decision regarding eligibility for Food Stamps, OWF, or Medicaid.	<i>Within 30 days</i> of the receipt of application, the Eligibility Referral Specialist must approve or deny.
Development of Self-Sufficiency Contract for families receiving OWF cash assistance.	<i>Within 30 days</i> after receipt of application or redetermination, the Success Coach must assess customer and develop a contract identifying work activities for the customer to complete to work toward self-reliance.
Expedited Medicaid	<i>Within 24 hours</i> , staff must determine eligibility if documentation of pregnancy is provided with the application.
Expedited Food Stamps	<i>Within 24 hours</i> , customer must be seen and eligibility determined if there is less than \$150.00 monthly income or if they meet additional expedited criteria.
New Hire Matches—information from the Department of Labor regarding new employment for families receiving Food Stamps, Medicaid, or Ohio Works First	<i>Within 3 days</i> , staff must process the information regarding employment to determine potential affect on benefits.
Return phone calls (Fairfield County Job and Family Services policy)	<i>Within 24 hours</i> , staff must return phone calls to customers. Caseworkers average 30 -40 calls each day.

With the increasing caseloads and number of families requesting help, staying within the mandated timeframes is becoming increasingly difficult.

Transportation Services Increasing by 51%!



Fairfield County Job and Family Services provides transportation to families and individuals that receive Medicaid and who need transportation to Medicaid reimbursable appointments. Transportation is available for TANF-eligible families involved with Children Services and the Visitation Center. Transportation is also used to assist families who are required to participate in work activities in exchange for the cash assistance. The chart depicts the 49% increase in one-way trips between 2006 and 2007. By comparing the first six

months in the years 2004 through 2007, a significant increase in the transportation area is illustrated. Between January and June of 2006 there were 18,411 one way trips and between January of June of 2007, we provided 37,831 one-way trips; a 51% increase.

PRC Plan Update

Fairfield County Job and Family Services will be submitting for approval a revised Prevention, Retention and Contingency Plan (PRC Plan). The Ohio Revised Code requires each County Department of Job and Family Services to renew their PRC plan every two years. The next renewal of the PRC plans is October 1, 2005.


The PRC plan creates authority for counties to deliver benefits and services to families who have a child in the household and meet the income guidelines for that program area. Each county is allowed some flexibility regarding services to families as long as the services meet one of the TANF purposes which are:

- Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their homes or in their relative homes
- End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage
- Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies
- Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families

The plan must identify how eligibility requirements are addressed, services that will be provided, and describe how the services meet one of the TANF purposes. Examples of PRC "hard" services, or benefits paid directly on behalf of families include: assistance with housing for court-ordered evictions, car repair for employed individuals, utility assistance, school clothes, or transportation assistance. Because this is short-term assistance, the county PRC plan identifies a total dollar amount available per family in the categories of prevention, retention, or contingency.

The PRC plan must also include service descriptions for programs implemented through the Family, Adult and Children First Council that utilize TANF dollars. The Help Me Grow program, Access to Better Care (ABC) program, Visitation Center services, and assistance for families involved in Child Protective Services. The Family, Adult and Children First Council Executive Committee reviews the plan and makes any recommendations. The PRC Plan must be approved by the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners.

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Sheriff Dave Phalen presented Fairfield County JFS with several bicycles obtained by the Sheriff's Department during crime investigations. Since the origin or owner of these bicycles could not be determined, Sheriff Phalen felt they still had a lot of miles left on them and could be put to good use. FCJFS was happy to receive the bicycles knowing there are many adults and kids who could benefit from having their own bike. A few of the bicycles went to adults who were in need of some form of transportation to go back and forth to work. Customers utilizing FCJFS WorkNet were excited to receive a bike and felt it would go a long way to resolving their transportation issues.

Others receiving the benefit of the donated bicycles were Fairfield County foster children. When a child has already suffered a horrific and traumatic event such as physical abuse and maltreatment, FCJFS – Child Protective Services must find a safe place for that child to reside until they can safely return home. For the child who has to leave their home, they leave behind their own bed, their pet, their friends and many of their toys, including their bike. This generous donation allows FCJFS to provide children in foster care with a bicycle so they may be able to enjoy a little time each day just being a kid and hopefully able to take a break from the memories that led them to their current situation. No act of kindness, regardless of how big or small, is ever wasted.

Welcome Senator Tim Schaffer! On Tuesday, July 10th, FCJFS – Child Protective Services Department enjoyed a visit from Senator Schaffer. Time was spent discussing the successes and challenges facing Fairfield County and ways we can offer support to one another in the upcoming months and years. The Senator was amazed to hear all that is being accomplished while sharing concern over the number of children falling victim to abuse and neglect on a daily basis in our community. The Senator reviewed statistics and publications such as the PCSAO Fact Book to obtain a thorough understanding of the growing crisis here in our county. One item he found equally alarming is the number of children who find themselves in need of protective, safe homes.

Following his tour and discussion with Child Protection, Senator Schaffer seemed very interested and spent a great deal of time visiting the WorkNet area. The Senator enjoyed time with Mr. Mike Miller and learned much about the phenomenal efforts made on a daily basis to move FCJFS customers to their first, next or better place of employment. Mr. Schaffer expressed appreciation for all the agency has done to make such a meaningful difference to the members of Lancaster Glass Corporation who now find themselves looking for employment opportunities. The Senator seemed to beam with pride to know there are so many talented, dedicated professionals working hard on behalf of a community he enjoys representing.

Assuring residents of Fairfield County always receive the absolute best service available requires diligent research to locate cutting edge practices and bring them to Fairfield County. On Thursday, July 12th, Michael Orlando led 20 community partners to Athens, Ohio to learn about a project known as "*Alternative Response*". This project is strongly supported and promoted by the Ohio Supreme Court and has received national attention for its successful implementation in other states. The purpose of an "*Alternative Response*" system is to encourage child protection agencies to utilize a holistic family assessment approach in assuring families, who have not experienced severe abuse or neglect but remain at significant risk, are able to receive services. The project will identify only 10 counties to serve as pilots for this program.

This is an exciting opportunity for our Child Protective Services Department since nearly 60% of all received reports are not assigned for investigation due to insufficient financial and human resources. While the "*Alternative Response*" project does not provide the initial 10 pilot counties with substantial funding to implement the program, it does offer tremendous training, support and increased collaboration to promote effective and efficient service delivery that looks to maximize existing dollars over a longer period of time. Fairfield County was recognized by project facilitators for having such strong community support and representation at the July 12th meeting. There were a total 5 regional information sessions hosted by the Supreme Court throughout Ohio. As a result of Mr. Orlando's leadership efforts, Fairfield County demonstrated the strongest community collaboration and interest among any of the informational sessions.

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August is Child Support Awareness Month

August is Child Support Awareness Month in Ohio, as well as being identified as National Child Support Month by the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement. Both the state and the county child support enforcement agencies participate in activities during this month to promote awareness and education about the child support program. Each year, Ohio selects a theme for the month's promotion and all counties are encouraged to direct their activities around the theme. This year's theme is **"Child Support: an essential building block for a child's success."**

CSEA is planning several different activities during the month. Those activities include:

- o Displaying the posters that are provided by the OCS in different areas around the community.
- o Distribute brochures/fact sheets in public places
- o Offer brochures/fact sheets online
- o Issue a County Proclamation
- o Issue a news release
- o Participate in collecting money for school supplies
- o Participate in the Fairfield Medical Center's Healthfest held at the high school.
- o Director Corey Clark has planned a radio interview for Aug. 1, 2007 on WFCO.
- o Attorney Lisa M. Pertee will be conducting a CLE for local attorneys on child support issues.

A calendar of events will be posted online at www.fcjfs.org.

The Fairfield County CSEA will also be conducting staff appreciation activities to recognize the hard work and dedication of staff. CSEA Management Staff will be conducting drawings during the month for prizes donated by CSEA Supervisors.

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:

- o **296** customers have obtained employment
- o **120** customers have paid at least 3 straight months of child support payments
- o **330** customers have been referred to various community resources
- o **\$166,800** 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		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%

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FREE BACK TO SCHOOL HAIRCUTS

Jenny Ruff, Community Outreach Coordinator, reminds everyone to spread the word about the availability of free back-to-school haircuts available in August. On August 13th and 20th, several volunteer beauticians will provide basic haircuts to children at the Shear Image Salon on S. Broad Street from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. No appointment is necessary, and every school-age child is eligible.

CHILD CARE APPLICATIONS CONTINUE TO INCREASE

During the month of June, Child Care providers were paid \$420,128 on behalf of eligible child care recipients. As eligibility guidelines continue to expand, more families are applying for and becoming eligible for subsidized child care.

GRANDPARENTS AND CHILDREN ENJOY A SUMMER OUTING

Thanks to the generosity of Jenny and John Ruff, 37 Kinship families (grandparents raising grandchildren) enjoyed a day at Top O' the Caves Campground in Hocking Hills on July 12. The children played putt-putt golf, enjoyed the playground, swam, and made crafts during the outing. Lunch was provided by Top O' the Caves. Jenny reports that child's comments made the event worthwhile – he told her, "this is the best vacation I ever had."

Disabled Customers Caught in Revolving Door

For Chris Sulick and Janet Stout, the two Eligibility Referral Specialists who work with customers applying for Medicaid for the Disabled, helping unemployed younger adults has reinforced their conviction that the ODJFS program, "Medication Dependency" benefit, should be reinstated. With an average of 65 applicants per month in the Disability Determination Unit (DDU), Janet and Chris agree that nearly 75% of their caseload is comprised of mentally ill younger adults who have consistently struggled with maintaining a job.

The majority of applicants for Disability Medicaid need medication for illnesses that have prevented them from working or, in many cases, created problems for them that resulted in multiple firings or frequent job changes. Those customers who have been diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder or other mental illnesses find it impossible to function consistently without medication. Unfortunately, the medication they need in order to maintain employment is cost prohibitive; without health insurance, they cannot afford physician visits or the price of prescriptions. Without their medication, they cannot function and, therefore, cannot work.

Part of the Disability Determination Unit's role is to compile enough medical and psychological information to make a determination of whether or not the customer is employable. Janet reports that each case contains an average of 150 pages of reports. All of the health-related reports are faxed to the state Disability Determination Unit, where four Nurse Reviewers and physician consultants determine whether or not the customer is eligible for Medicaid while applying for Social Security Disability.

Once Janet and Chris receive all necessary and supporting reports from physicians, psychiatrists, psychologists, labs, etc., the case is forwarded to the state DDU, where it can take up to eight months for approval or denial. In the meantime, the customers continue to be without medication. One of Janet's customers, a young woman in her 40's with Bipolar Disorder, told Janet that she "would rather work," stressing the fact that "if I had my medication, I could work – isn't this ironic?"


Suffering in Silence

"What's wrong with Fairfield County?" was the question posed by one member of the MOW-OAAFC Board following our report that referrals alleging abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older adults had doubled since 2006. Although no single reason can be pinpointed for the rise in elder abuse reports, the answer to his question is "nothing that isn't wrong everywhere in the nation."

One factor for increased reporting may be the growth in the aging population. Many first time referrals to Adult Protective Services involve adults who have recently turned 60 - the initial age of protection mandated by the state. Another reason for increased reports may be the growing awareness among community residents and social service providers that APS exists - and consistently works to assure the safety and protection of older adults.

However complex and multiple the reasons for the increase in referrals, elder abuse issues are gaining more attention throughout the nation. Despite efforts by the United States Senate, AARP, and the media, protection of elderly from abuse, neglect, and exploitation has not reached the level of importance that would create funding to guarantee it.

Many counties in Ohio, where Adult Protective Services are operated through the local Job & Family Services, settle with one part-time caseworker dedicated to elder abuse. With no funding allocated to provide APS services, the counties rely on Title XX funds. The 2008 budget, with a revised formula that will reduce Title XX funding, will likely eliminate most APS services in many of these counties, although the mandate to provide these services will remain intact.



If one were to ask community residents, health care providers, social service agencies, and many businesses why they refer elderly, as well as disabled adults to Fairfield County's APS, the answer may be "because they will do something to make that person's life better." Resoundingly, the annual surveys sent to partner agencies and individuals throughout the county come back with a 98% "greatly satisfied" rating. The most frequent, and often only complaint is that APS is no longer "on call" (responding after hours to crises involving elders). On-call services were eliminated in 2003, along with homemaking, shopping, and a fourth APS caseworker, as a result of budget cuts.

Those of us who work with APS customers often wish we could gather them all together and take every one of them, en masse, to a legislative hearing - or to a meeting of the elected officials who determine annual budgets and important initiatives. Sadly, our APS customers are not the lonely widow whose children live far away, or the elderly widower who needs help cleaning his gutters. The majority of elders who suffer abuse, neglect, self-neglect, and exploitation could not - or would not - attend the hearings or meetings. They have suffered in silence for too long, and do not like any spotlight shone on their lives.

Although the greatest increase in referrals has been in the area of financial exploitation, the majority of referrals to APS involve self-neglect. When one hears the term "self-neglect," it is easy to imagine the lonely elderly widow who doesn't bathe as frequently as she should, or the gentleman down the street who has stopped mowing his grass. Although these prototypes are sometimes referred to APS, the true self-neglect cases look very different.

A typical APS customer suffering from self-neglect is Ida* (name changed). Ida has lived alone in a home she shared with her brother until he died several years ago. In her late 70's, with failing health, Ida stopped bathing when her plumbing went bad two years ago. Having never married, Ida has only a nephew and niece who take no interest. With a fear of people, Ida doesn't leave the house, but calls out for pizza and subs that make up all of her meals. It was a pizza delivery man who called APS to report that Ida smells terrible and has feces caked all over her body, including her hair, face, and feet.

It took the effort of two APS caseworkers, more than one insistent call to a doctor who conducts house calls, the code enforcement officer, paramedics, police, and a volunteer attorney to get Ida to the hospital, where she was admitted. Her socks, covered in urine and feces, had to be peeled from her feet by hospital personnel. Her clothes had to be trashed, and the skin on her feet, legs, and body had to be treated and dressed from wounds and ulcers caused by the years of neglect and filth.

Neglect by others is also on the rise, and includes situations that are extreme. An adult grandson, entrusted by his disabled mother and elderly grandmother to care for them in their new house in an exclusive neighborhood, failed to pay their bills. Instead, he spent their social security and retirement funds on drugs, often leaving them alone with boxes of take-out chicken left rotting on the kitchen table while he drove to New Jersey for drug shipments.

Exploitation of elderly, although often unreported, is also on the rise. Caregivers, adult children, grandchildren, and strangers who "groom" their victims often convince the older adult to "let them help" by designating them as power-of-attorney. Some of these cases are prosecuted; some cannot be taken that far due to the fear of cooperation by the victim. As Assistant Prosecutor Gregg Marx pointed out, the number of elder exploitation cases in Fairfield County may well warrant a full time prosecutor dedicated to these particular crimes.

The two most vulnerable populations in Fairfield County are children and the elderly. The protection of both are entrusted to those of us who are in a position to do so. Without a prioritization of the services that can provide these protections and interventions, the abuses - and the suffering - will continue.



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Success Story from Jess Boyer

I recently had 3 WIA training customers graduate and become employed. One lady was a dislocated worker in the fashion industry and went through a 3 year program at OU-Z and received an Associates degree in nursing and is now a RN working at Children's Hospital. Another lady was a dislocated airplane pilot and went through a 3 year program at Central Ohio Technical College and received an Associates degree in Radiology and was just offered a job at Licking Memorial Hospital as a staff Radiologist. Another lady was dislocated from Longanberger and received her certification from Hocking College as an Optimologist and recently was offered a job at a pediatric optomology doctor's office in Columbus.

Lancaster Glass Rapid Response Job Fair @ OUL

JFS held a Job Fair for Lancaster Glass Employees on Friday, July 13 to assist employees in searching for employment. Over 15 employers interviewed over 45 job seekers. All parties involved, company, union, and JFS have been working hand in hand to guarantee a positive experience for the laid off workers in their next step of obtaining employment. Many of the employees have signed up for services through WorkNet.

WorkNet partners with employers to hold interviews and take applications

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. The following companies were on site during June;

ManCan Staffing, GlasFloss, Superior Fibers, Cyril Scott, Volt Services, Anchor Hocking applications.

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	1606
April	592	943	985	917	1305	1425
May	547	748	989	979	1411	1614
June	371	1100	1126	1165	1675	1493
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	

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.

May 2007 Statistics**Visitation/Exchange Services**

Monitored Exchanges:	56
Supervised Visits:	194
Referrals received:	20
Number of adults served:	237
Number of noncustodial parents:	95
Number of children:	137

Parent Education Services

Parent Education Sessions (Hours):	25
Parent Education Related Events (Hours):	138.75
Parent Educators in Family Court (Hours):	13.75
Referrals Received:	7
Number of Adults Served:	91
Number of noncustodial parents:	28
Number of children:	71

In June the Center received 17 referrals for **Visitation and Exchange Services** in which currently, there are 11 families on the waiting list. There were 155 supervised visits and 48 monitored exchanges.

The **Parent Education Services** Team received 4 new referrals. There are 21 families currently participating in ongoing services.

The second series of the **Parent Project** is in its 11th week. Next week will be the final week of this series. The next series begins Thursday, September 6th, and will be held at 108 West Main Street, in the ADAMH Board Office conference room. Parent Educator Linda Millington will be trained to facilitate the Parent Project at during week long workshop held June 23rd through June 27th, in Bowling Green, Ohio.

June 2007