



## FCJFS officials appreciate the commitment to child protective services demonstrated at the 2007 Fairfield County Budget and Leadership Retreat

FCJFS officials wish to express to the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners and to all elected officials and department heads in Fairfield County our sincere appreciation for your support of the critical needs of the Child Protective Services Department at the 2007 Fairfield County Budget and Leadership Retreat. It is very encouraging to know that addressing the needs of our most seriously abused and neglected children was established by a majority of elected officials and department heads as our county's top priority.

On August 30, 2007 the Child Protective Services Hot Zone Committee presented 3 options related to the future funding for child protective services.

**Option 1** - sets forth the county revenue and alternative revenue sources necessary to maintain the status quo, or in other words to maintain current funding levels for 2008:

### *Status Quo On-going community CPS Crisis*

- FY 2007 funding level (+ 3%) in FY 2008
- Continuation of \$362,000 for protective placement costs approved at the 2006 Budget and Leadership Retreat
- Selection by Ohio Supreme Court as one of 10 pilot counties for Alternative Response Project. (Anticipated revenue: \$306,000)

Each of the three (3) conditions set forth above have been met . As a result, the CPS Department will avoid additional cuts in 2008. While Option 1 does not reduce or mitigate the current risks associated with a critically underfunded child protective services system, it prevents additional cuts to investigative services and protective placement for abused children.

**Option 2** - sets forth a plan to modestly mitigate current risks by increasing the percentage of abuse referrals assigned for investigation from 45% to 60%.

### *Modest Mitigation of Risk*

- FY 2007 funding level (+ 3%) in FY 2008
- Continuation of \$362,000 for protective placement costs approved at the 2006 Budget and Leadership Retreat
- Selection by Ohio Supreme Court as one of 10 pilot counties for Alternative Response Project. (Anticipated revenue: \$306,000).
- Additional investigators and caseworkers to increase % of referrals investigated to 60% (see next slide)

The first three conditions included in the graphic above have been met and the \$84,000.00 approved for CPS by county officials at the 2007 Budget and Leadership Retreat will provide for 2 of the 7-child abuse investigator/casework positions necessary to modestly mitigate risk (by increasing the percentage of child abuse referrals assigned for investigation). The specific positions and total costs associated with full implementation of Option 2 are detailed below for your review.

### Foster / Adoption Families Holiday Potluck

Alley Park, Goslin Nature Education Center  
November 1  
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

### Medicaid Managed Care

Open house & Information Session  
FCJFS  
November 15  
10:00 am - 6:00 pm

### Lancaster Christmas Parade-Blue Ribbon Float

Downtown Lancaster  
November 17  
10:00 am

### Annual Employee Performance Assessments

Conducted annually in November and December

### Reality House Open House

December 6  
3:00 pm - 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.

### Staff Required to Mitigate Risk (Increase % of Referrals Investigated to 60%)

At current referral levels, the following new positions would be required to increase the % of referrals investigated to 60%:

- o 1 Screener
- o 4 Intake Investigators
- o 2 Caseworkers

Total Annual Costs: \$294,000 in 2008

While the \$84,000.00 approved for CPS at the 2007 Budget and Leadership Retreat does not substantially mitigate the risk associated with our critically under-funded child protective services system, it is a step in the right direction, and is greatly appreciated.

The goal of the Child Protective Services Hot Zone Committee is to seek additional revenue sources for full implementation of Option 2 in 2008 and 2009, while efforts are underway to garner the support of Fairfield County voters for a Child Protective Services levy in November 2008.

**Option 3** - Passage of a child protective services levy is necessary in order to obtain the revenue necessary to implement Option 3- Adequate Child Protective Services Funding. The specific programs and services that could be provided under Option 3 will be detailed fully in next month's edition of this report.

The Child Protective Services Hot Zone Committee will be transitioning to a CPS Levy Committee beginning December 1, 2007. In the next few weeks, I will be seeking the support of community members, key stakeholders, and elected officials that will join our committee, and champion this cause on behalf of our most vulnerable abused and neglected children. I hope that you will consider being a champion for children in Fairfield County.

Please contact me if you have any questions about any issue related to child protective services, or if you would be willing to join our efforts.

Again, the FCJFS team is extremely grateful for the commitment demonstrated by our elected officials and department heads to support abused children entering our system through no fault of their own.

### Next Edition

- o Child Protective Services Levy (Fall - 2008)
- o Adult Protective Services - Funding Update
- o Faith Partnership Summit
- o Fall All - Staff Meeting
- o Annual Harvest Party for Foster and Adoptive children

### Customer Count

Customer Count Sept 1 – 30	2007	2006	2005
Community Services	6665	6219	5790
Child Support	569	696	592
Child Protective Services	614	658	660
WorkNet	1655	1611	1331
YTD (Jan 1 – Sept 30)	103670	94224	81881

## *Child Protective Services*



# Holiday Donation Drive

The Child Protective Services (CPS) Department of Fairfield County Job & Family Services needs your help to make a difference in a child's life.

Each year, the agency provides holiday gifts for the families that receive services from CPS. In order to accomplish this extraordinary mission, donations are needed.

If you would like to be a part of this very special event, please contact:

**Liberta Shekas**  
**(740) 689-4827**

or

**Ruth Gardner**  
**(740) 689-4797**

They will provide you with information on how to adopt a family or provide a donation for this holiday event.



*This holiday season,  
give a gift that will last a lifetime.*



September 2007

### **Fraud Team Completes Restructuring**

The Fraud and Benefit Recovery team recently completed a restructuring to improve fraud investigation and recovery of benefits due to fraudulent or inaccurate information by public assistance participants. The team consists of Sharleen Karns, Team Supervisor; Nic Cifaldi, Fraud Investigator, and Marti Ankrom, Benefit Recovery Specialist. Nic Cifaldi, recently hired as the Fraud Investigator explains, "Because I have previously worked in Community Services as a caseworker, I have a strong understanding regarding eligibility and public assistance programs. I am excited about the opportunity to protect the taxpayers of this community and recover tax dollars due to fraudulent activities." This team is responsible for investigating allegations of fraud from the community and caseworkers at Fairfield County Job and Family Services. Fraud referrals can relate to Food Stamp, Child Care, Medicaid, Non Emergency Transportation, or Ohio Works First programs. The Fraud and Benefit Recovery Team receive an average of 15 fraud referrals each month.

The objectives of the Fraud and Benefit Recovery Team are:

- To ensure that public assistance benefits are received only by those individuals who are eligible and in the correct amounts.
- To recover tax dollars that were obtained by participants through fraudulent activities, unintentional participant error, or administrative error.
- To deter future occurrences of fraud within all public assistance programs and to help maintain program integrity.

Fraud referrals can be made anonymously by contacting Nic Cifaldi directly at 740-681-4779 or at 1-800-450-8845. The Fairfield County Job and Family Services website, [fcjfs.org](http://fcjfs.org), also has information to make a fraud referral.

### **Three Boxes of Groceries Provided to Ohio Works First Families**


State legislators carved out TANF dollars at the state level for special projects. One of the projects involved distributing additional food to families in need. In conjunction with Mid-Ohio FoodBank, we are able to provide OWF families three boxes of groceries and non-food products. These OWF cases or ongoing cash assistance also include child only cases that are involved with Child Protective Services and who may be placed with grandparents or other relatives.

The selection of non-perishable groceries includes canned fruits and vegetables, cereal, chicken and tuna, juice and soup. There are several meal-in-a-box products such as ravioli, stew, and macaroni and cheese. Families will receive a box of non-food products including household and personal items. Over 800 letters were mailed in late September to eligible families. Families must bring the letter to receive their food boxes.

Community Services distributed groceries to 264 families during the kick-off distribution event at the Fairfield County Maintenance Building, on Saturday, October 13th. Until October 31<sup>st</sup>, groceries will be available at Fairfield County Job and Family Services to eligible families. We have currently distributed groceries to 397 families. A special thank you to the Maintenance Department staff for their assistance and use of the building.

### **Reduced State Funding Will Impact Services to Families**

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services has reduced funding that county job and family services utilize to determine eligibility for public assistance programs and to provide direct services to families for emergency assistance. This funding is used by Fairfield County Job and Family Services to fund caseworker staff in Community Services and Child Protective Services, provide direct services through work allowances or incidentals to families participating in work activities, provide transportation to eligible families and for emergency assistance through the PRC program.



The Prevention, Retention, and Contingency (PRC) program is for families with children who are under 200% of the Federal Poverty Level and have an emergency or short-term need. The PRC program assists families with utilities, rent or rent deposits, car repair, transportation costs, work-related uniforms or equipment, and other services needed for families to achieve self-sufficiency or remain self-sufficient.

Fairfield County Job and Family Services is reviewing the budget and will be revising the PRC Plan to accommodate this funding shortfall. In addition, Community Services has placed an immediate moratorium on the issuance of incidentals to families required to participate in a work activity. Fairfield County Job and Family Services is committed to maintaining the highest customer service and focusing direct assistance to those areas that will impact a family's continued self-reliance, while remaining within the budget allocation.

### Stats

The Community Services **caseload for September 2007 is 5,807 open cases**. This includes Healthy Start/Healthy Families, Food Stamps, and Ohio Works First. This is the highest open caseload in more than five years.

**In September, there were 287 scheduled intakes; 228 customers attended intake appointments**, (families who do not currently have an open case requesting assistance). Twenty-one percent were a no show to the appointment.

**Help Desk staff answered 1,455 requests from families**. Of those 705 were walk-in customers and 750 were phone contacts. Help Desk is staffed by one Success Coach and one Eligibility Referral Specialist each day.

**Food Stamp cases totaled 2,662 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 **1,901 open cases in September**. The majority of these families have employment in the household.

The **average caseload for Eligibility Referrals Specialists during September was 415 cases**.

**In September, 638 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 August, the **Transportation Team provided 5,075 one-way trips** through the Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation program and through TANF funding. A total of 2,952 one-way trips utilizing gas vouchers were issued through the Non Emergency Medicaid Transportation and TANF transportation; 469 one-way trips were provided by JFS drivers, and 990 one-way trips were provided through contract agencies such as; Lancaster Public Transit, Functional Training Services, Center for Disabilities, and Salvation Army. Families involved with Child Protective Services were provided 664 one-way trips; 228 gas vouchers, 190 through contract agencies, and 246 one-way trips utilizing JFS drivers.



September 2007

September 2007

## Child Advocacy Center of Fairfield County Preparation

Thanks to the hard work of Lisa DeGeeter, Fairfield County has its very own Child Advocacy Center. The center is designed to focus on child victims of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse. Up to this point, families and children have received interrupted and splintered services as a result of having to make countless trips to the advocacy center at Columbus Children's Hospital. While the center in Franklin County has been very helpful, families experiencing these horrible events deserve much better. Therefore, CPS staff have been busy preparing to begin case services here in Fairfield County. Now that the grand opening has taken place, specialized training has been completed and staff are visiting other advocacy centers to experience first hand the interview and assessment process. Staff return energized and excited to offer this service to the children of Fairfield County.

## Christmas Countdown Begins

Sometimes miracles need a little help. As the holiday season approaches, we busy ourselves with finding just the right sentiment to express how much we care for our loved ones. For the staff at CPS, that perfect gift is simple...a safe and loving home for our kids. At this time there are more than 200 children in the custody of Child Protective Services and for them, Christmas morning has a different feel. We could use your help in making their holiday season special.

**To help a child at Christmas:** CPS has placed "Giving Trees" at McDonald's on East Main St., Memorial Drive, Carroll and Pickerington as well as at the Clerk of Courts Office and the Commissioner's office. Visit any one of these locations and select an ornament from the tree. Each ornament lists the child's first name, age and a wish list made by the child. The giving trees will be going up around Thanksgiving. Purchased gifts can be dropped off at any of the above mentioned locations through December 18th.

Additionally, there are many families looking for a little help at this time of year. In 2006, we assisted 116 families and their children. We could use your help in adopting a family for the 2007 holiday season.

**To help a family in need:** please call Liberta Shekas at (740) 689-4827 or Ruth Gardner (740) 689-4797. They will take the donors information and then link them with a family wish list. All donations should be delivered to JFS-CPS on or before Dec. 19th.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Harvest Party a HUGE Success

On Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, FCJFS staff volunteered countless hours and personal financial contributions to host the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Harvest Party. 200 children were able to experience a JFS office like no other. Foster children, adoptive families and kinship families found themselves wandering through former hallways that now had the appearance of Charlie Brown's Pumpkin Patch, Sleeping Beauty's Castle, Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs Cottage, a Space Odyssey, Happy Feet Icelandic



Penguin Adventure, a Classic Toy Room, Monster's Inc. and Scooby Doo's Mystery Machine. Each year this event serves as a reminder to each of us just how important these little faces are to our lives. For children who are struggling each day to make sense of their chaotic world that has been filled with violence, maltreatment and instability, the Harvest Party provides a few moments of escape. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, foster parents and adoptive parents shared their sincere appreciation for the thoughtfulness and true sense of caring exhibited by so many staff. Seeing bright smiles and eyes filled with amazement provided all who attended a few moments of relief from the daily confusion and turmoil experienced by these little ones.





**Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) Brings Changes in Child Support**

The Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) has brought with it many changes for CSEA's. One of the changes is a restriction on federal incentive dollars that was made up, in part, by a \$17 million line item in the state budget.

Other changes have to do with the way child support payments are distributed to current and former public assistance recipients. Some of the most significant changes are summarized as follows:

- o **Current Law:** Customers who go on public assistance sign over their rights to current AND past-due support to the state
- o **New Law:** States will no longer be able to require customers to sign over rights to past-due support, only current support
- o **Current Law:** The total amount of public assistance received remains "assigned" to the state until paid off with child support payments
- o **New Law:** Only the ordered amount of child support will be assigned to the state during the time the customer is receiving public assistance
- o **Current Law:** IRS Tax Intercepts go to pay off arrears owed to the state before any of the intercept goes to the family
- o **New Law:** IRS Tax Intercepts will pay arrearages owed to the family before paying anything to the state

**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. This program (and grant) will run through 12/31/07. Below are some of the current statistics for the program:

- o **344** customers have obtained employment
- o **125** customers have paid at least 3 straight months of child support payments
- o **372** customers have been referred to various community resources
- o **\$210,200** collected from *Job Opportunity* customers

**Child Support Collections**

	2005	2006	2007	\$ Diff	% Diff
<b>January</b>		1,720,232	1,736,549	16,317	0.95%
<b>February</b>	1,575,277	1,660,532	1,598,250	85,255	-3.75%
<b>March</b>	1,932,875	2,066,808	1,936,927	129,881	-6.28%
<b>April</b>	1,803,903	1,638,915	1,894,662	255,747	15.6%
<b>May</b>	1,836,895	1,938,947	1,979,043	40,096	2.07%
<b>June</b>	1,886,337	1,980,235	1,862,029	118,206	-5.97%
<b>July</b>	1,674,182	1,748,439	1,713,398	35,041	-2.00%
<b>August</b>	1,773,680	1,711,087	1,799,685	88,599	5.18%
<b>September</b>	1,669,438	1,711,172	1,608,788	102,384	-5.98%
<b>October</b>	1,735,554	1,746,150		10,596	0.61%
<b>November</b>	1,754,887	1,689,702		-65,185	3.71%
<b>December</b>	1,801,702	1,773,269		-28,433	1.58%
<b>Total</b>	21,058,316	21,385,488		327,172	1.55%

**ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES PARTICIPATES IN CANDLELIGHT VIGIL**

When Bev Porter, Case Manager from The Lighthouse, invited APS to be a part of the annual Candlelight Vigil for victims of domestic violence, Patty Ciripompa welcomed the opportunity to share facts about domestic abuse in later life. On October 3, Ciripompa spoke on behalf of senior citizens who have been victimized by family and caregivers.

With over 100 people in attendance for the vigil, Adult Protective Services staff were grateful for the opportunity to make people aware that domestic abuse occurs across age boundaries, potentially impacting nearly 600 Fairfield County senior citizens.

**HOLIDAYS FROM THE HEART – A FAMILY FUN EVENT**

Each year, Santa makes a special visit to the families and children involved in the Kinship Navigator Program. And each year he brings a special gift from the "wish lists" provided by each child. On Saturday, December 8th, from 10:00 a.m. until Noon, Santa will meet with all the Kinship children at FCJFS in the Toni Schull Conference Room.

Children will enjoy shopping in the "Secret Santa Room," making crafts, and decorating cookies with Mrs. Claus.

**FAIRFIELD COUNTY CHOSEN TO PARTICIPATE ON DDU STATE WORKGROUP**

Christine Sulick, Disability Determination Specialist for the Adult Unit of JFS, is one of 22 people selected from all 88 Ohio counties to participate in the ODJFS Disability Determination Unit's 2007 Workgroup. Initiated in response to the alarming increase in applications for Medicaid for the Disabled, the workgroup was formed to identify processes for streamlining the application and approval procedures.

The only "non-manager" selected for the State Workgroup, Chris looks forward to providing input and guidance for DDU processes that will benefit customers. Currently, due to the inordinate number of applications, the State's Disability Determination Unit has a backlog of over 1000 cases. Many customers who have applied for Medicaid for the Disabled must wait months to hear if their application has been approved. Despite the two DDU staff dedicated to this population at the local level, and the timeliness of their submittal to ODJFS, the response time remains long.

The two objectives of the DDU Workgroup are: 1) Improve compliance with the 90-day timeframe for disability determinations; and 2) Improve efficiencies with statewide electronic document systems. As the Team Lead for the Adult Unit, Chris has identified five areas the DDU process requiring modification at the local level. She, along with the other members of the State Workgroup, will address each of these areas in order to expedite the process for customers who are disabled.

**EFFECT OF STIVERS BILL ON SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE**

HB 342, drafted by Senator Stivers and Representative Peterson, requires that all family child care home businesses receiving payment from any source (public or private) be licensed by the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services. Such licensure would be mandated if a home provider cares for three to six (unrelated) children under the age of 15. The provider's own children under the age of six are included in this count.

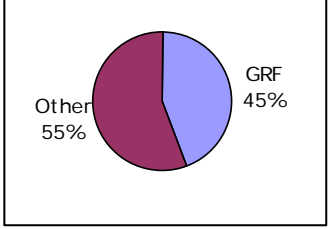
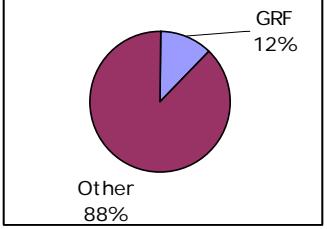
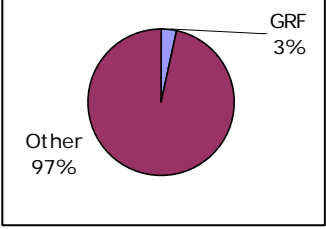
Currently, the county JFS certifies individual family providers who care for up to six children at any one time. Support for the Stivers bill is based upon the recommendation from a group of stakeholders, contending "the state of Ohio needs to establish a new approach to licensing early learning settings – one that ensures that all young children in out-of-home settings are in learning environments that promote their development and readiness for school."

In addition to requiring ODJFS licensure for family home providers who care for 3-6 children, the bill will require that family home providers who care for one or two children under the age of 15 (unrelated to the provider), and who receive public or private pay, will be required to be certified by their local Department of Job & Family Services.

Providers who receive no payment for the care of children related to them by blood or marriage, or adoption, and those providing care for less than 10 hours a week will not be required to be licensed or certified. In addition, babysitters and nannies providing care in the child's own home will not need to be licensed or certified.

The family child care providers currently certified by Fairfield County JFS will become licensed by ODJFS upon the expiration of their current certification. The individuals who are not certified at this time will be targeted through awareness campaigns and will be required to become licensed or certified.

**Funding Sources Calendar Year-to-Date January 1, 2007 through September 30, 2007**

	Child Protective Services	Child Support	Public Assistance
GRF	1,278,750.75	259,591.50	305,330.25
Other	1,590,387.91	1,928,873.26	8,547,366.35
			

**Programs & Operations Highlights Calendar Year-to-Date Comparison**

	1/1/2007 - 9/30/2007	1/1/2006 - 9/30/2006	Increase / Decrease
Direct Expenditures			
Adult Protective Services	39,142.29	24,539.18	14,603.11 +
Child Care	2,818,345.54	2,221,653.20	596,692.34 +
Non Emergency Transportation	341,685.92	223,617.00	118,068.92 +
Board and Care (Agency and Network)	936,140.31	957,364.37	21,224.06 -
Workforce Investment Act	465,236.64	598,575.51	133,338.87 -
IV-D Contract Expenditures	101,760.87	96,050.93	5,709.94 +
Prevention, Retention and Contingency	759,248.55	239,717.22	519,531.33 +

**Managing Risks- Introduction to the JFS Risk Management Committee**

Established in early 2006, the Risk Management Committee of Fairfield County Job and Family Services addresses all types of risk to the agency, as well as to the agency's customers. Members of the Risk Management Committee represent every department of JFS, and have been selected on the basis of their skills and commitment to customer service. For the past year, committee members have worked hard to identify risks, address concerns, and recommend solutions. All employees of JFS are encouraged to refer concerns or issues to the committee for their consideration. The Committee members are dedicated to their role in this Committee and consider all topics/risks no matter how great or small. It is with this dedication, that this group will have continued success in helping our employees to better serve our customers.



September 2007





September 2007



**Area 20 WIB**

Meeting November 1. Training session 1 to 4:15pm, followed by WIB meeting 4:30 to 6:30.

**Anchor Hocking...**

On October 19, WFD held 2 sessions for 31 laid off employees. Topics included Unemployment, WorkNet Information, Counseling, and Work Keys Testing. All participants were encouraged to use WorkNet and their services.

**Diamond Power...**

On October 4, WFD held an event similar to the Anchor Hocking meetings.

**From Nida Reid Williamson...**

A dislocated worker from Lancaster Glass secured employment with Westerman Companies in Bremen working in welding at a wage rate higher than what he was making before.

**From Tonya Tisdale...**

A dislocated worker, steadily employed for 20 years, who resides in Hocking County, heard about the great things happening in WorkNet, applied and earned his GED and is now enrolled in a JVC welding program.

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

OSS Inc., Atrium Personnel Services, RGIS, Variety Dollar Plus, Volt Services, Fed Ex, Ambassador Home Health Services, are all companies that used WorkNet to hold interviews this month. WorkNet in partnership with various employers have been holding open interviews at WorkNet to help businesses with their hiring process.

**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	1695
<b>September</b>	566	906	1020	1334	1611	1655
<b>October</b>	683	895	689	1277	1471	
<b>November</b>	442	757	767	1172	1110	
<b>December</b>	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.

**August 2007 Statistics****Visitation/Exchange Services**

Monitored Exchanges: 47  
Supervised Visits: 129  
Referrals received: 12  
Number of adults served: 183  
Number of noncustodial parents: 80  
Number of children: 116

**Parent Education Services**

Parent Education Sessions (Hours): 33.5  
Parent Education Related Events (Hours): 112.25  
Parent Educators in Family Court (Hours): 6.25  
Referrals Received: 8  
Number of Adults Served: 81  
Number of noncustodial parents: 20  
Number of children: 71

In September the Center received 16 referrals for **Visitation and Exchange Services**. Currently there is no waiting list for Visitation/Exchange Services.

On October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, interviewers from the Human Services Research Institute of Portland, Oregon, conducted a site visit to review Fairfield County's Family Team Meeting and Supervised Visitation Intervention Strategies of the ProtectOHIO IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project. Fairfield is one of 14 counties in Ohio operating the five-year project, which allows flexible use of Title IV-E funds to prevent the unnecessary removal of children from their homes and to increase permanency rates for children who are in out-of-home care. To gather a broad spectrum of information, the team conducted interviews with staff and families, and will return in December to observe several supervised visits. The interviewers were very positive with regard to their observations of Fairfield County operations.

The **Parent Education Services** Team received 4 new referrals in September. There are 19 families who are either participating in ongoing services or who are involved in the referral process.

Members of the Parent Education Team are participating on an Early Childhood Task Force charged with discovering available parenting resources, eligibility guidelines for each resource, and how to access the services. During this discovery, gaps in service will be noted, and a plan developed to bridge those gaps.

  
**September 2007**  


**The Newest Additions to the JFS Staff**



**Tyna Fox** returns to JFS as a Caseworker in Training with Community Services. Tyna left JFS in 2004 to move to Columbus in order to complete her undergraduate degree in Political Science at The Ohio State University. Tyna and her family are in the process of moving back to Fairfield County.



**Chris George** comes to JFS as a Transportation Specialist with Community Services. Chris was employed with Lancaster Public Transit as a Dispatcher/Supervisor for the last four years. While serving in this capacity, Chris worked with our agency on a regular basis.



**Liz Grove** joins JFS as an Intake Worker with Child Protective Services. Liz holds an Associate Degree in Human Services and Corrections and Juvenile Corrections as well as an Undergraduate Degree from Ohio University in Criminal Justice. Liz has recently worked for New Horizons, Fairfield Information Services and The Multi-County Juvenile Detention Center.



**Carissa Blackburn** comes to JFS as an Eligibility Worker with the Adult Unit of Social Services. Carissa holds an Associate of Arts Degree and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminology both from The Ohio State University. Carissa had previously worked as a Juvenile Detention Officer at The Multi-County Juvenile Detention Center.



**Kristen Hamler** joins JFS as an Eligibility Worker with the Adult Unit of Social Services. Kristen recently completed her Master of Science degree in Human and Consumer Sciences from Ohio University. Kristen completed several internships in the social service field while attending school.



**Amy Swartz** becomes part of the JFS team as a Caseworker in Training with the Community Services Department. Amy recently received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Ohio University. While attending school Amy was the Sales Manager at Blockbuster Video.



**Melanie Culbertson** joins JFS as a Caseworker in Training with the Community Services Department. Melanie received her undergraduate degree from Ohio University in the area of Communication. Recently, Melanie was working as an STNA at SunBridge Homestead Nursing Home.










**Paula Bartram** comes to JFS as a Caseworker in Training with the Community Services Department. Paula recently graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Ohio University. Prior to coming to JFS, Paula worked for the Pickaway County Community Action.

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	<p><b>Stephanie Sullivan</b> joins JFS as a Caseworker in Training with the Community Services Department. Stephanie holds an Associate Degree in Human Services/Juvenile Sciences from Hocking College. Stephanie recently worked as a Community Control Officer with Athens County Juvenile Court.</p>
	<p><b>Lee Ann Jennings</b> joins JFS as a Caseworker in Training with Child Protective Services. Lee Ann holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Family Studies and a Masters of Education Degree in Community and Mental Health Counseling both from Ohio University. Lee Ann is also a Chemical Dependency Counselor Assistant.</p>
	<p><b>Mandy Huffman</b> joins JFS as a Clerical Specialist 3 with Child Support Enforcement. Mandy holds an Associate Degree in Business Management from Hocking College. For the past six years, Amanda has worked for Century National Bank as a Customer Service Representative Supervisor.</p>
	<p><b>Stacey Weaver</b> comes to JFS as a Case Management Assistant with Child Support Enforcement. Stacey holds an Associate Degree in Applied Business from Muskingum Area Technical College and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Child and Family Dynamics from Ohio University.</p>
	<p><b>Stephanie Jackson</b> joins JFS as a Family Based Care Worker with Child Protective Services. Stephanie recently completed her Bachelor of Specialized Studies degree from Ohio University with concentrations in Social Work, Psychology, Sociology, and Political Science.</p>
	<p><b>Chris Starner</b> joins JFS as an Intake Worker with Child Protective Services. Chris holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Sciences from the University of Rio Grande. Chris has worked in the fields of special education and juvenile and adult corrections and worked at the Multi-County Juvenile Detention Center.</p>
	<p><b>Kara Carson</b> joins JFS as a Caseworker in Training with Child Protective Services. Kara holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Ohio University and has completed one year of the Wright State University Doctoral Psychology Program. While attending school, Kara held positions in the retail/customer service areas.</p>
	<p><b>Sara Kennedy</b> joins JFS as a Caseworker in Training with Child Protective Services. Sara has received an Associate of Science Degree from North Central State College, a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Cincinnati, and a Master of Science Degree from the University of London. Sara is also a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor III.</p>