

JOB AND FAMILY MATTERS

Sandusky County Department of Job and Family Services

sanduskycountydjfs.org

April 1, 2007

SACWIS? CAPMIS? WHAT?

By: Sherry Ward

The Children Services Unit is preparing for some major changes throughout the next year. The introduction and implementation of the SACWIS and CAPMIS programs will occur in 2007.

SACWIS (Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System) will be used by all eighty-eight Ohio counties and eventually by private child placing agencies. Sandusky County should be receiving SACWIS in October of this year. This system replaces the old system that has been in place since 1986. SACWIS will assure that the latest information regarding a child will be available and accessible at all times. In addition, information about a family or child who has resided in different counties will also be available. SACWIS is a web based program which will allow county caseworkers access to appropriate information in a timely and protected environment. The system will also assist county workers with their daily case management.

CAPMIS (Comprehensive Assessment and Planning Model – Interim Solution) is a set of assessment tools which will assist workers in decision making regarding child safety and risk, family functioning and a family's ability to resolve concerns. It is a structured process to support and document critical decisions involving children and their families. The unit will be implementing a new safety assessment, family assessment, case planning model, a case plan review form, and reunification assessment. The safety assessment is designed to assist caseworkers in determining whether or not a child is currently safe.

This assessment also determines whether a child needs to be removed from the home. The family assessment assists caseworkers with the review of child safety, identifies the family's risks and guides workers in determining which cases should be opened for ongoing protective services. Case planning is the process of developing an action plan for services and activities to effect change in the family and resolve safety threats, enhance protective capacities, reduce risk and strengthen overall family functioning. The case review helps caseworkers re-evaluate safety, risk and strengths and review if the desired outcomes have been achieved. This is also what assists in determining the status of the case. Finally, the reunification assessment helps caseworkers make decisions of whether, when and how to reunite children with their families. It also includes a review of the original safety threats and the family's readiness for reunification.

Most of the Children Services staff were required to take the three day CAPMIS training that began in January and will be ending in April. After the last training, the unit will begin slowly implementing CAPMIS. Although a little overwhelming, we are very excited about the positive changes SACWIS and CAPMIS will make within Children Services.



NEW CHILD SUPPORT PROCESS

By: Becky Bohn

Enforcement Letter Follow-Up Procedure

In September of 2006, a new process was initiated by the Child Support Division for the purpose of increasing child support collections. Under this procedure, Investigators are now referring cases to Deputy Pickett when they send a letter to an obligor and the obligor does not respond to their letter. It begins with the Investigator sending a letter to an obligor, i.e., requesting information or requesting that the obligor comply with their child support order. If a client does not respond to the letter, the case can then be referred for a follow-up contact by Deputy Pickett. He attempts to contact the obligor via telephone. If he is unable to do so, he sends the obligor a letter requesting that he or she contact him. He attempts to resolve the reason for the lack of no response to the Investigator's original letter. The ultimate goal is for the agency to receive payment from the obligor. A log of referrals is maintained which also indicates if Deputy Pickett is able to make contact with the obligor and whether or not the agency receives a payment within 30 days of Deputy Pickett's contact. As of February 28, 2007, 65 referrals have been made to him. He was able to make contact with 30 of those obligors. Payments were received within 30 days of his contact for 24 of the 30 cases. We will continue to monitor the outcome of this process. We will also continue to look at other ways to increase both current collections and arrears collections. Any suggestions are welcome!

CSEA at a glance.....

Genetic testing was done for 15 adults and 9 children in the month of March 2007

\$14,377.73 was collected at the CSEA Front Desk for support orders in the month of March 2007

Collections reached \$1,075,966.47 for the month of March 2007 for Sandusky County

Traci Fisher's last day with Child Support was April 5th

UNION NEWS

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Union Corner
By: Crystal Henson
President Local 3466

Happy Spring to everyone!!

The Union has been very active lately. In March the Union collected enough money to send 12 cases of Girl Scout cookies to the troops in Iraq! Thank you to everyone who contributed to make this happen. The Union has also planned dress down days to help The Humane Society, The Local Food Pantry, The Liberty Center and local schools.

The Union had their first open meeting of the year on March 22nd and there was a great turn out from members and non-members. The Union has two new members. Genie Moyer and Rachel Gundy have joined the Union and the Union is looking to continue increasing membership. Please see President Crystal Henson, or any Union member, if you are interested in joining the Union or have any questions.

The contract is up at the end of 2008, which means that negotiations will be starting next year already! The more employees the Union has, the stronger we will be in negotiations. As the saying goes... "Power in Numbers!"

The Executive Board of the Union was elected last month. The Executive Board consists of President Crystal Henson, Vice-President Stacy Unum, Secretary Perla Monreal, Treasurer Cassandra Walter, Dottie Richie, Sherri Rumschlag, Charvatte Johnson-Peek and Cathy Dearth.

Family and Individual Services

By: Jerri Carper

Food Stamp Statewide Quality Control Review

From 10-01-06 to 12-31-06, ODJFS has reviewed a total 14 Food Stamp cases for our county. They have looked at 8 active cases (\$1227) and discovered 1 agency error for \$44. Thus, our current error rate is 3.59% for these cases. Hopefully, this will be the only error for this review year which ends 09-30-07. In addition, ODJFS has reviewed 6 negative cases and all were found to be correct.

Congratulations to the FIS division—Keep up the good work!

It's Spring time in FIS ...

Spring officially arrived for the FIS division on 03-01-07 at 11:10 am!! I know this is not the “traditional” first day of spring but this is when the first migrant family of the year applied for assistance at the agency.

Once again, we will be hiring four bilingual students (thanks Cindy and Debbie!) to help process migrant cases this summer. Beth Graham and Danielle Michelson will return for another fun-filled summer. Currently, we are interviewing for the other two positions...

Medicaid Managed Care

Medicaid Managed care was rolled out to our aged, blind, and disabled customers in 03-07. On 02-22-07, a meeting was held where the Managed Care Plans (MCP's) explained the benefits of their “individual” plans to area agencies who work with this population. In addition, several MCP's have had company representatives available at the agency to answer any questions our customers may have. This continues to be an educational experience for all involved—customers, case-managers and other interested parties.



MIS Marti's Megabytes

The State has been busy again with Daylight Savings Time beginning earlier this year than normal. They installed a Windows Update on our computers overnight in March. They also had to make a few changes to GroupWise for those employees that use the appointment book.

Since the State has been pushing out these updates, it has slowed EZForm submission. It looks like the screen is frozen; however, within 5 minutes, the form should go into OnBase. I have spoken with Northwoods numerous times and they have spoken with the State. There has been no resolution to this. If the State is using the network to push out updates, EZForms will be slow until the State is finished.

Fulton County came to visit our agency and gather information about how our Children Services Unit uses document imaging. Northwoods is also coming to visit and show one of their new employees how a great county like ours operates with document imaging.

There was a Northwoods User Group meeting in February where agencies discussed RightFax and some said RightFax can shutdown when users do not delete faxes they have sent. One county said they had a user who kept every single fax they sent in the last year. Once this user deleted all unnecessary faxes, RightFax did not shutdown any more.

NEW WORKFORCE PROGRAMS

By: Janet Quaintance

There are two new programs in the Workforce Development arena. Career Advancement Accounts are short-term trainings that allow workers impacted by the auto industry to quickly gain skills needed to successfully enter, navigate, and advance 21st century jobs. Customers are eligible to receive up to \$3000 for training and education expenses within a two year period.

Work Keys assessments will be administered to dislocated workers, veterans and unemployment compensation claimants to assess their skills in applied math, reading for information and locating information. A National Career Readiness Certificate will be awarded in bronze, silver and gold levels according to the results of the assessments. These National Career Readiness Certificates are recognized by employers in many of the In-demand occupations. Customers can include these certificates with their resumes. Data will be collected on the results of these assessments and a ready pool of employees will be available upon an employer's request.

Our first Incumbent Worker Training application was recently approved by the Sandusky-Seneca Workforce Policy Board's training committee. The Incumbent Worker Training program is available to employers in our county to assist them with training costs to upgrade the skills of their current employees to help prevent layoffs or plant closures.

Job Store partners just completed a mass recruitment for Whirlpool, taking in approximately 600 applications in a three-day period. Whirlpool returned to our facility on April 17 and 18 and interviewed for 50 full-time production positions.

Due to the mild winter season, PRC applications for utility assistance were low. Therefore, funds are available for utility assistance to eligible families until June 30, 2007 or until funds are depleted, whichever occurs first.

FUN COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

By: Taylor Steinmetz

The FUN Committee held several activities during the first quarter of 2007.



In February, the FUN Committee placed goodies in each employee's mailbox in honor of Valentine's Day.



They also held a dress down day on March 22 and provided masks, beads and other items to celebrate Mardi Gras.

In March, the Committee began meeting to make arrangements for the 2007 Employee Recognition Lunch.

The date has been set for.....
May 3, 2007!!



Keep looking for more new and exciting FUN Committee events in the near future... and we are always looking for new members!

BY THE NUMBERS.....

371

The number of PRC applications taken
last quarter.

2,667

The number of active Covered Families and Children Medicaid Cases for February 2007.

17

The number of walk-in customers, in one day: 1-17-07, who applied for assistance. This date has been the busiest case-management day for FIS in 2007.

0-5 years - 9 children
6-12 years - 10 children
13-17 years - 10 children
18 and over - 3 children

The numbers of children by age that were in agency custody in February 2007.