

JOB AND FAMILY MATTERS

Sandusky County Department of Job and Family Services

sanduskycountydjfs.org

October 2007

August- Child Support Awareness Month

By: Becky Bohn

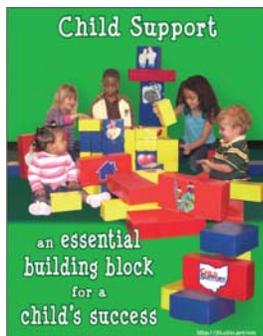
The theme for 2007 was "Child Support- an essential building block for a child's success". The Sandusky County Commissioners issued a proclamation in recognition of Child Support Awareness Month. Two officers from the Fremont Police Department spent one morning here at the agency finger printing and issuing identification cards for children. A trooper representing the Ohio State Highway Patrol was also on hand to pass out coloring books and safety related materials. Fifty-three children were served. According to the Fremont Officers, this was the best turn out for this particular community service that they have had thus far. We greatly appreciated the participation of the respective law enforcement departments. Some of the other activities that were held in August included:

~ A display at the county court house

~ A drawing to win one of two backpacks was held for school-aged children. There were two separate grade categories, Kindergarten through Sixth and Seventh through Twelfth.

~ A drawing was held for the parents to win a movie package. The package consisted of a DVD player, family themed movies, and snacks.

~ Each child that came in to the agency got to choose a prize from our treasure chest.



** All monies for these prizes were raised by the CSEA staff. This could not have been done without the efforts of the CSEA staff and our co-workers who participated in our fund raising activities!!

~ County employee pay stubs for the month of August included a message

~ The agency website included information

~ A Luncheon was held for the CSEA staff

CSEA at a Glance...

FIDM collections through September 2007 reached \$57,735.92, up from \$55,011.10, one year ago at this time.

In the month of September, 622 individuals were registered at the CSEA receptionist desk.

11 children and 19 adults were here in the month of September for genetic testing.

Legal Department Update

It seems things may be getting back to "normal" in our Legal Department. We want first of all welcome our new attorney, Dean Ross. He was up and "flying solo" for court hearings in record time. Also, we want to extend a special thank you to Nancy Haley for the use of Sharon Ochs's legal secretary services. Lastly, thank you to each and everyone who assisted during the transition period. It couldn't have been done without you!

FTI Case Review

The "Black Dot Project" is underway in CSEA. The CSEA staff is in the process of reviewing each of our cases to meet FTI (Federal Tax Information) Safeguarding Requirements. All FTI is being removed from the cases and will be stored in the designated secured location. Once a case has been reviewed, the case is tagged with a black sticker. In the first two weeks of this project, CSEA staff has reviewed over 1,000 cases. Thank you, CSEA staff, and keep those black dots coming!

Farewell, Rosemary

Rosemary Jackson retired effective August 31, 2007. Rosemary had fifteen years of service with the agency.

Family and Individual Services

By: Jerri Carper

Food Stamp Federal Quality Control Review

Currently, the agency has a 2.61% error rate for the time period of 10-01-06 through 06-30-07. In comparison, the statewide error rate for the same time period is 7.98%. We have been cited for 2 errors.

Congratulations to the Division!!

Managed Care Update

Managed Care for our Covered Families and Children Medicaid cases has now been in effect for 1 year. Sept, 2007 was the open enrollment period for these groups. During that month, the families were offered an opportunity to choose a different MCP if they were unhappy with the plan they originally chose.

The open enrollment period for our Aged, Blind and Disabled population will be in early 2008.

Staff Changes

There have been several staff changes which occurred this quarter. Nichole Barcus was promoted to Trainer for the Division. Also, we welcomed Beth Cook, Jamie Wonderly and Sarah Tennill to the Division over the last few months! They have recently completed their training and have assumed caseloads. Good Luck Ladies!!

Migrant Season

Once again, the FIS Division's summer was extremely busy serving all the migrant households who applied for assistance. We would not have been able to keep up with the extra work without the help of our summer staff. Thanks again Cindy and Debbie for allowing us to hire a summer staff!!!

Workforce Development Division

By Janet Quaintance

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, along with Sandusky County Department of Job and Family Services, highlighted its locally driven workforce system during September 2007. The goal was to celebrate the successes of the workforce development system and highlight the role of the One-Stop system in building the economic health of our community. Several events took place in recognition of this event. On Tuesday, September 18th, the following events were held:

- The monthly SCHRMA meeting was held at the DJFS for over 50 employers featuring guest speaker, Steve Browne- "Are You Passionate?"
- An "Employer Services Showcase" was held to market the Job Store services to area employers.
- Eagle 99 did a live remote interviewing employers, job seekers and partner staff on the services of the One-Stop.
- Local hairstylists from Looking Good volunteered their services and gave free haircuts to 30 job seekers.

The Sandusky County Commissioners approved the School Clothing Program as part of the Prevention, Retention and Contingency (PRC) plan. This program became effective October 1, 2007 and ended the same day as staff took 460 applications, which more than depleted our funds. To be eligible for this program families must have children in grades K-12, be at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, live in Sandusky County and attend a face-to-face interview. Applicants were asked to provide proof of income for the past 30 days and submit a list of school clothing they plan to purchase for each school aged child in their household. Customers currently receiving public assistance benefits (OWF, Food Stamps and Medicaid) were only required to submit a PRC application and a list of school clothing they plan to purchase. Eligibility was limited to \$250 per eligible child residing in the household at the time of application. Pre-schoolers, home schooled children and those attending college were not eligible for the program. K-Mart and Wal-Mart accepted vouchers for this program and there will be no exchanges, refunds or credits issued.

A really big "**THANK YOU**" goes out to all staff that helped in this endeavor, no matter what role they played.

SACWIS On Hold for Children Services

By Judi Simon

In many of the recent newsletter articles, Children Services has mentioned the roll out scheduled on October 22, 2007 of our new state computer system called SACWIS (State Automated Child Welfare Information System). Unfortunately, over the past month, serious problems have been occurring in the counties that already have the new system so all future roll outs, including ours, have been put on hold. The state has brought in computer experts from around the country to try and help figure out the problem and implement a solution. However, at this point, no one seems to know for sure what is causing all the issues. The biggest problems seem to be loss of entered data, corrupted data, not being able to log into the system, and being kicked out of the system once you get in. As you might imagine, the agencies that are trying to use SACWIS are very frustrated and have had to revert back to paper systems in order to get their work done. They will then have to enter all of this information into SACWIS after it is up and running. Although Children Services is very disappointed we won't be rolling out on October 22, 2007, we are relieved that these problems occurred before we were using the program. The staff is still attending training this month and doing a lot of behind the scenes work in order to prepare for our roll out...whenever that may be. In the mean time, it is business as usual with hopes that SACWIS will be functioning in Sandusky County soon.



FUN COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

By: Taylor Steinmetz

Our big event this quarter was the 2007 United Way Campaign. The agency collected a total of \$2,809.32. Way to go Sandusky County DJFS!!!! We held many activities during the week – pizza lunch, bake sale, garage sale, cupcake surprise sale, hot dog lunch, 50/50, silent auction, and of course the infamous penny wars!



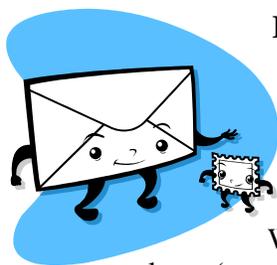
Halloween will be the next event (October 31, 2007) so get ready for a spooktacular time!

FUN Committee had a shortage of volunteers lately so please if you have any ideas for events or would like to help, stop by and see us at the next meeting. If you cannot make meetings just e-mail and let us know your ideas.



At this time we are looking for volunteers for the December seasonal events. We need to get a volunteer for each day to sponsor an event. This will determine how many events we will have during that time. Please e-mail Taylor or Renee if you would like to sponsor an event.

Thanks for helping put the FUN back in everyone's day!



FYI – Postage Rate Changes

By Carol Slemmer

We are continuing to learn (as are the postal workers) about the new mailing procedures. Postage is no longer priced only by the weight. Each envelope, package or box is now priced by considering the size, the thickness and the weight.

The US Postal Service provides priority mail envelopes (the correct size to be considered an envelope) that post for \$4.60, regardless of the weight. We had some large yellow catalog envelopes that due to size, are now considered a box rate. We have added 2 correct size smaller yellow envelopes for mailings of multiple pages, to prevent regular white envelopes being classified as a package.

The clerks are using these priority mail envelopes to mail out applications packets, etc. I have samples of the US Postal Service envelopes, packages, boxes and the postage rates that apply.

These envelopes & boxes are free from the US Postal Service and can be ordered on-line. It does take some getting used to. I recently thought I was ordering 20 mailing boxes, but received 20 cartons of 25 boxes. The post office was very gracious in letting me return them. If you are puzzled about which type of envelope, package or box to use, please see me.

***“In the middle of difficulty
lies opportunity.”***

Albert Einstein

UNION NEWS

UNION NEWS

Union Corner

By: Crystal Henson

President Local 3466

The Union has been very active as usual. The Union had an open meeting on October 18th and we are looking at many prospective members. On October 11th the Union collected baked goods for The Fremont Area Optimist Club's Bake Sale. The money raised at the bake sale went to support the Kids in Cars Program to inform as many people as possible about the dangers associated with leaving children unattended in or around vehicles. Thank you to everyone who contributed! The Union has scheduled another blood drive for January 24th. Keep an eye out for information on when you can start signing up to donate. The Union has also planned dress down days to help other community organizations in the near future.

The next Union Meeting is scheduled for November 15th. The Union Christmas Party is scheduled for December 6th. Please see President Crystal Henson, or any Union member, if you are interested in joining the Union or have any questions regarding the Union.

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. We are very close to having 50% membership!! If you would like to have input on the negotiations and your future contract, please join the Union.



MIS Marti's Megabytes

I attended the annual TPOC session in July. Many topics were covered. I found out the reason for the Novell Client upgrade months ago was to make room for GroupWise 7.0. Rollout date for this program has not been decided. Paperwork for network access for new and existing employees has changed. There are a lot more papers to complete although getting the access still seems to move at the same speed.

Disaster recovery was discussed. The state also allows us to recover some of our accidental deleted files. Now, if you accidentally delete a file, you can navigate to that folder, right click the folder, select Salvage Files, select the file you want salvaged, Click Salvage or Salvage All!

Our Service Level Agreement was completed and approved by the state for the 2008-2009 years.

BY THE NUMBERS.....

460

The number of PRC - School Clothing Applications for 2007

7

The number of children taken into custody by Children Services in the last quarter (July - September)

3394

The decrease in the number of documents in OnBase with SS# 000-00-0000 since last quarter.

\$24,562

The amount issued in Food Stamps for 118 migrant households in August 2007

31

The number of driver's license suspended in one month by Sandusky County CSEA due to the non payment of child support