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JOB AND FAMILY MATTERS

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2008

Child Support Chat - By Becky Bohn

Child Support Awareness Month - "Parenting and Child Support go hand-in-hand"

Child Support Awareness Month activities this year were even bigger and better. It began with fund raising activities. Without the support of our co-workers throughout the agency, our fund raising would not have been successful. Thank you again for your support! This year the main event was a "Free Fun Fair". We expanded last year's finger printing activity. Fifteen departments/organizations were on hand to greet the children. Many of them offered fun activities, a treat, or a hand-out. Ronald McDonald and "Bubbles the Clown" (aka our very own Dori Ottney) made an appearance as well. A drawing was also held for two one day passes to the Kalahari Resort (courtesy of Kalahari) The weather was great and a fun time was had by the approximately 78 children who joined us that day. Some of the other CSEA activities that were held throughout the month of August included:

- Children's drawing for two sets (two each) of day passes to the Kalahari Resort
- Children's drawing for two gift certificates to the Fremont Paramount Theatre
- Each child that came in to the agency got to choose a prize from our treasure chest
- A display at the county court house
- The agency web site included information
- Nine of the CSEA staff members purchased shirts with the CSEA logo



CSEA staff showing off their shirts with the Child Support logo!

Thanks you to the committee members for their efforts!

Cash Medical Support Order

A new federal regulation was passed effective July 21, 2008 which now requires all support orders to include a provision for cash medical support. What that means is the non-custodial parent will now be required to pay an additional amount of money each month whenever the child(ren) are not covered under a private health insurance plan. The exception is when the non-custodial parent's annual gross income is below 150% of the federal poverty level for one person at the time that the child support order is either issued or modified. In this situation, the cash medical support amount will be set at \$0.00. In addition, there is a new definition of "Reasonable Cost" that will be used to determine whether or not a custodial parent and/or non-custodial parent will be required to obtain private health insurance coverage. The Office of Child Support continues to work diligently to develop processes, rules, forms, and automation to support this initiative. In the mean time, our agency is doing our best to comply with this new requirement. So, if you happen to notice a CSEA worker such as Susan or Davi walking around in a daze, you can assume that Cash Medical Support Order implementation got the best of them on that particular day!

Benefit Recovery on the Move

Nancy Grove and all of the Benefit Recovery files have made their move to the CSEA wing. The plan for Nancy to relocate surfaced when Becky became the CSEA Administrator. Before the physical move could occur, we had to make sure IEVS Safeguarding requirements would not be compromised by a move. **Welcome, Nancy!**

FIS Facts and Findings By: Jerri Carper

Federal Food Stamp Quality Control Review

From 10-01-07 through 05-31-08, the agency was cited for a \$46 error in shelter costs on 1 case. Currently, our accuracy rate is **99.07 %**. In comparison, the state accuracy rate is 95.33%. ***Congratulations to the Division!!***

Is it Food Stamps....or SNAP..... or Food Assistance Program??

As of 10-01-08, the Food Stamp program has officially been re-named the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (or SNAP) by the federal government. However, ODJFS has decided to change "SNAP" to the Food Assistance Program for Ohio. There will be a media blitz about the new name coming soon.

Summer Staff

As summer draws to a close, our summer staff has returned to college and the migrants are beginning to leave the area. Once again, the division would like to thank Cindy and Debbie for allowing us to hire a summer staff to work with the migrant population.

Hello and Good-Bye

The division bid farewell to Charvatte Figard in late 08-08. Charvatte and her family have relocated to the Cleveland area. We wish her the best of luck....



Lots of fun was had at the **Free Fun Fair** which was held in August to celebrate **Child Support**

CHILDREN SERVICES - By Tami Ward

Did you know that some of the referrals that are investigated by Children Services can constitute a criminal offense with charges being filed? Parents who leave marks and bruises on their children, leave their children unattended in a car, or have inappropriate sexual contact with a minor are just some examples. The investigator from Children Services, as well as law enforcement officials, work together to interview the parties involved in the case.

After all the necessary information is obtained, these cases are staffed on a monthly basis to discuss possible charges that could be filed due to the incident. These meetings are generally held at the Sandusky County Sheriff's Department and include the Children Services investigation unit, the agency attorney, local law enforcement, and the prosecutor's office. The investigators, at times, attend court hearings regarding these charges

and testify in court. The courts will ask the case-worker for any recommendations that the agency has pending the criminal proceedings and will also ask for recommendations regarding sentencing. Since the beginning of the year, there have been approximately 20 cases that have resulted in criminal charges. This is just yet another way Children Services strives to keep the children in this community safe.

"The only way of finding the limits of the possible is by going beyond them into the impossible."

Arthur C. Clarke

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT WORKINGS— By Suzy Cole

As we end another quarter, we reflect on the many happenings of WFD! It seems as though each month we encounter something different—this makes for both fun and chaos at times! July started the “back to school” business for WFD. We were extremely busy with the number of students enrolling and returning to school. They start coming in to make sure they have enough time before school starts to complete the application process. Many of the customers may need to take the PESCO Test if they have never taken it before or if they do not have grades from their previous semester/quarter. We require PESCO to make certain the customer will be a “good fit” for the occupation they have selected. They have to prove themselves, that they are a wise investment choice before we issue any dollars for training. From July to September, we tested a total of **63** people for PESCO testing. They completed **1,648 tests!** PESCO is an all day test, so this did not leave many days where the Test Administrators (John LaFontaine and Kendra Sherman) had time to see their other customers. Therefore, the rest of the workers had to cover those additional customers that needed to be seen. Remember, **Team Work Makes the Dream Work!!!!** In addition to the PESCO Testing, our numbers have increased dramatically for employer testing. As tough economic times have hit hard everywhere for both the consumer and employer, employers are turning more to our services. They want their potential employees to take different tests, such as manual dexterity, finger dexterity, temperaments, etc., to make sure they have hired the best candidate possible. This has become a routine task for the Test Administrators as well. This is what we are all about: *Bringing Employers and Employees Together.*

September is always **Workforce Services Month**. We promote the services we offer to help the Workforce. We had many events to celebrate this year. On September 16, 2008, The Sandusky County Human Resource Management Association (SCHRMA) held their September meeting at the agency. They had a guest speaker, Steve Browne, who spoke to the group about a “Creating a Culture that Rocks”.

On September 19, 2008, Scott Brown spoke about how to “Create a Culture of Service in Your Business”. He provided the information and education to profoundly impact the way services are provided to internal and external customers.

The Reentry Collaboration Board held their monthly meeting on September 23, 2008 that showcased services featuring employers and service providers who assist ex-felons in their job search.

The big day was September 26, 2008. The theme was “**Let’s Go Fishing... Catch Yourself a Job, Catch Yourself a Career.** Eighteen job seekers were given free haircuts at Looking Good. Three of the eighteen also received makeovers as they participated in a fashion show in which Goodwill promoted their “Dress Successfully for Less” program. On that same day, the Career Fair was held with Terra, Vanguard, and EHOVE displaying their services. Eagle 99 was here and did a Live Remote of the events. Door prizes were donated from several areas businesses. Pepperidge Farm Gold Fish and blue punch were served. It was a great success! Thank you to all who helped make the event possible.



Many events were held in September for Workforce Services Month.

AGENCY FYL....
If you will be absent from work for any amount of time due to a medical condition you may qualify for FMLA —

See your HR Officer !

Public Assistance Reporting Information System



Beginning in September, the state of Ohio began participating in a national computer matching program named **PARIS**, which stands for **P**ublic **A**ssistance **R**eporting **I**nformation **S**ystem. This system matches Ohio’s eligibility files with those of the Veterans’ Administration, the Department of Defense and Office of Personnel Management and public assistance roles from 43 other states, the District of Columbus and Puerto Rico. The purpose of these matches is to improve payment accuracy.

So far, there have been two matches run. The first, with the Veterans’ Administration, yielded 36 matches with one potential overpayment and a possible Intentional Program Violation. The customer appears to have failed to report his veteran’s benefits while receiving food stamps, disability assistance and Medicaid. The second match with the Department of Defense resulted in four matches, which are currently being investigated.

When a match is made, CRISE automatically sends a letter to the customer advising them information has been received which did not match the information in our system. The customer has 10 days to contact the agency to clear up the discrepancy. The county agency then will follow up with the required action, based upon the verified information. This is just another tool to help us provide accurate benefits to the customers who qualify for our programs.

By: Christie Harper

THIRD QUARTER ANNIVERSARIES

JULY

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Becky Bohn | 28 years |
| Michael Fuller | 20 years |
| Jackie Mowry | 18 years |
| Rita Hoffman | 15 years |
| Melanie Dinan | 10 years |
| Angie Alonso | 9 years |
| Sheri Rumschlag | 7 years |
| Kylie Garner | 7 years |
| Allison Zam | 6 years |
| Jami Hammer | 5 years |
| Dean Ross | 1 year |
| Jamie Wonderly | 1 year |

AUGUST

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Linda Ackerman | 10 years |
| Stacy Unum | 6 years |
| Perla Monreal | 3 years |
| Dawn Wilbur | 3 years |
| Sarah Tennill | 1 year |

SEPTEMBER

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| John LaFontaine | 27 years |
| Elaine Dickman | 18 years |
| Diana Quintero | 16 years |
| Tami Ward | 14 years |
| Jennifer Schumacher | 13 years |
| Verina Farris | 13 years |
| Renee Livas | 10 years |
| Paula Raney | 9 years |
| Bill Schenk | 8 years |
| Sherry Ward | 7 years |
| Jessica Murphy | 7 years |
| Dori Ottney | 6 years |
| Genie Moyer | 2 years |

New Finance System—By Carol Slemmer

The County's Auditor's office has implemented a new computerized finance system called "New World." Our bookkeepers and fiscal people have been live on the system for the past two months. New World is completely different and of course affects many of our old procedures. Numerous changes and the implementation of new practices is now a daily event. Currently all agency and customer related invoices are being processed through this new on-line system. Children Services just went live on September 23, and Lori Green will appreciate your patience while she undertakes this transition. Due to State and Audit regulations, we are no longer mailing out the actual checks, the Courthouse staff must do this portion. Of course this system doesn't "talk" to our PET or QUIC, so we must maintain both active systems. There are still some issues with Child Care Providers direct deposit process, consequently, paper checks are being issued until these problems can be resolved. Personnel payroll is scheduled to be added to the system and go live on January 1, 2009. We keep telling ourselves that a year from now, we will wonder how we ever managed the old way!

MIS Marti's Megabytes



In July we received two more Northwoods servers which should provide extra storage space for our images. The install went extremely smooth. The State plans to implement a program called Safe Boot. This program is designed to protect State owned equipment from being stolen and allowing confidential information to be seen. They are focusing on laptops at this time, but eventually want to install it on our workstations as well. A State summer employee getting their laptop stolen with sensitive information instigated this initiative. Safe Boot will require an additional password not connected to your Novell password. If you ever lock yourself out, there will be a special number to call and someone will call you with your password. The State will be using the phone number in eGuide to call you. They request that people put a number on their eGuide information where they can be reached. For people who use laptops, this means a cell phone number. The State has also implemented a new way to install printers which uses our server software that is already available to us, instead of installing from the network and using windows defaults. iPrint allows us to redirect print jobs if a printer goes down. I am working with the State to work out a few issues we have seen with the installation, so when it is completely implemented in our county, we should have no major printing problems. I have already installed it on a few workstations with no major problems so far.



UNION NEWS
BY: SHERI RUMSCHLAG
PRESIDENT

Our Union is currently in the middle of negotiations. We are working very hard to negotiate for our new contract. The negotiation team consists of: Karen Bower, Rikki Brown, Cathy Dearth, Jami Hammer, Renee Livas and myself. Please thank them for their hard work!!

On October 23rd, the Union is doing a dress down day and all donations will go to the food pantry.

If you are not in the Union and would like to join, please see a Union member or myself for a form. Also, if you have any questions regarding the Union, I would love to sit down with you and answer them.



Thanks for taking the time to read the Union portion the agency newsletter!!



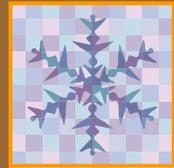
INCLEMENT WEATHER GUIDELINES

If the Employer declares that an emergency exists requiring that the Department be officially closed for business, employees who are scheduled to work, but are not required shall be paid their regular rate of pay for the time they were scheduled to work.

*If an employee has reported off work or has obtained permission to leave work early due to poor weather and the Department subsequently closes, the employee shall NOT be required to use accumulated leave after the Department is closed.

** Employees not scheduled to work, i.e., approved sick leave, vacation leave or leave of absence without pay approved prior to the declared emergency are NOT entitled to calamity pay for the hours the Department is closed.

If you suspect that the agency may be closed due to poor weather please refer to Radio Station 99.1, TV Channel 11 or TV Channel 13. The agency will be labeled as Sandusky County Offices. Do not assume that because Sandusky County is under a Level 3 that the agency will be closed.





We're on the Web!
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PERFECT
ATTENDANCE FOR THE
THIRD QUARTER

The following 18 employees used **no** sick leave during the Third Quarter of 2008:

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Becky Bohn | Beth Cook |
| Verina Farris | Michael Fuller |
| Gloria Graham | Nancy Grove |
| Rachel Gundy | Mary Lou Hodges |
| Debbie Lonsway | Ana Ortiz |
| Paula Raney | Karen Riegel |
| Angie Roth | Judi Simon |
| Jim Steinmetz | Laura Warren |
| Jodi Weltin | Jamie Wonderly |



BY THE NUMBERS.....

52,202
The number of FIS Receipts in **OnBase** since July 2005.

23,369
The number of Employer releases in **OnBase** since September 2005.

5,554
The number of Investigations scanned into **OnBase**.