

Monthly Status Report

Prepared By: Moira Weir

For Period Ending: Nov. 30, 2017

Description: The following is a high-level overview of the major initiatives the department has underway, along with other newsworthy items. These are in addition to the day-to-day business of maintaining the operational effectiveness of HCJFS. The goal of the report is to provide the reader with an understanding of work that is underway and any significant issues that require discussion or decisions on the part of executive management.

- The American Legion named the OhioMeansJobs Center the top center in Ohio for assisting veterans. The center served about 800 veterans last year. In January 2016, a “secret shopper” from Veteran’s Workforce Services found the center provided some of the “best professionalism in the state.” OMJ staff take part in quarterly meetings of the Cincinnati Military Employer Consortium and hold many workshops, hiring events and career fairs for veterans. Staff are also involved in the Tristate Veterans Community Alliance, VA Quarterly Networking Group, Veterans Upward Bound and Hamilton County Veterans Treatment Court. We are very proud of the work we do on behalf of local veterans.
- Hamilton County Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) was recognized by the state of Ohio with three awards for outstanding performance. For the federal fiscal year 2017, Hamilton County CSEA was deemed:
 - Most Improved Paternity Establishment in the Metro Caseload Division
 - Most Improved Collections on Current Support in the Metro Caseload Division
 - Total Disbursement per Total FTE in the Metro Caseload Division

The Metro Division includes Cuyahoga, Montgomery, Franklin, Summit, Lucas and Hamilton Counties. Current support means support paid the month it is due. The total disbursement recognition means that, compared to other metro counties, Hamilton County CSEA collects and disburses more child support per full-time equivalent staff.

- Ten children were adopted into seven families this month as part of the agency’s celebration of National Adoption Month. The 11th annual mass adoption ceremony was officiated by Judge Ralph Winkler and received a great deal of media coverage. This year’s ceremony included children ranging in age from 1 to 16. The children, all victims of abuse and neglect, joined new families in an emotional ceremony and celebrated afterwards with their caseworkers, court-appointed advocates, extended families and other people special to their lives.
- The Karen Carns Foundation donated more than 50 coats to foster and kinship youth in our agency. The Mason-based foundation began in 1991, when Tom Carns got an unexpected bonus from work. He and Karen decided to use the money to teach their children about the true meaning of Christmas. So they bought new coats for the Saint Vincent DePaul Society to distribute. This year, the foundation bought more than 1,100 coats. We are extremely grateful for their generosity.
- Sibcy Cline and Phillippi-Whitney Communications are again teaming up to collect items for Hamilton County foster and kinship children. This year’s drive is entitled Sweet Sweats for Love and has a goal of collecting more than 1,000 sweatshirts and sweatpants to be distributed to the foster kids throughout Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky, Southeastern Indiana and Dayton. This drive follows very successful drives where the groups collected suitcases, hats and gloves and shoes for our agency’s foster children.

- This year's holiday season will include more than 1,000 toys from Toys for Tots. The agency will distribute the toys to foster families the week before Christmas, along with other donated items, such as shoes, winter clothing, other clothing, gifts for older teens, gift cards and more. We are very fortunate to have many local residents who support our foster and kinship children.