

## Monthly Status Report

**Prepared By:** Moira Weir

**For Period Ending:** Oct. 31, 2017

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**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.

- Effective 10/29/2017, the responsibility for all criminal background check reviews (FBI, BCII, SACWIS, and National Sex Offender) transitions from county JFS to ODJFS. Child Care federal block grant regulations require criminal checks be reviewed and approved by ODJFS. As a result of these changes in rule 5101:2-13-09, the county no longer has the authority to run daily local background checks via the instant notification process. The Instant Notification Memorandum of Understanding was a collaboration between the Clerk of Courts and Hamilton County JFS whereby daily data cross referencing checks of Hamilton County criminal and traffic offenses/convictions were compared to identifying information for licensed type B family child care providers, their adult household residents and any employees. The daily reports were used to identify new offenses/convictions that might prohibit a family child care provider, household member or employee from meeting the requirements of family child care licensing rules. **Instant notification checks are still in effect for daily checks on foster homes.**
- JFS and Cradle Cincinnati have developed a partnership that consists of additional training on safe sleep for JFS workers, education on safe sleep and other topics for youth in JFS custody and the purchase of pack-and-plays for JFS workers to distribute to families in need of a safe place for their children to sleep. The agency will take delivery of its first 50 pack-and-plays the first week of November.
- We are again accepting applications for our truck-driver training program that was recognized by the National Association of Counties as one of this year's 100 Brilliant Ideas at Work. Applicants must be recipients of our food assistance program. They will be offered free tuition and costs to attend Napier Truck Driver Training in the city of Hamilton. Napier also offers lifetime job placement, tutoring to pass the CDL written exams and free refresher courses for up to six months after graduation. Napier Truck Driver Training, Inc. has more than 30 companies that visit the school to recruit students for local, regional and over-the-road positions. Those who have previously completed the training and received their Class A licenses have gone on to jobs paying \$45,000 annually.
- Local residents seeking employment can receive free help using website tools and resources, creating a resume and preparing for an interview by attending free workshops over the next few weeks at the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County. OhioMeansJobs Cincinnati-Hamilton County is continuing its Work Readiness Workshop Series this fall and will offer three different workshops at the library's Mount Healthy branch, 7608 Hamilton Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio, 45231. The workshops, on Oct. 31, Nov. 7 and Nov. 14, are designed to help job candidates prepare for their job search and develop skills that will help them succeed when they do find employment. This is the second set of workshops. The original workshops were held in the fall of 2016. They will continue in the spring of 2018 at different library branches.
- The Dayton Daily News produced a series of articles in late October questioning the practice of family reunification and pointed out that over the past seven years, 19 children across the state had died following reunification with their biological families. While there was no "new" news

regarding Hamilton County children, the newspaper did aggregate all of the Ohio deaths, which included some from Hamilton County. The newspaper also talked to several people and politicians who said the child welfare system and the practice of reunifying families needed more in-depth study.

- Seven families will adopt 10 children at our mass adoption ceremony to celebrate National Adoption Awareness Month. The ceremony is at 9 a.m. Nov. 17, in Judge Winkler's Probate Court. This will be the agency's 11th annual mass adoption ceremony, always timed to occur in November during in National Adoption Awareness Month. The children, all victims of abuse and neglect, will join new families in an emotional ceremony and celebrate afterwards with their caseworkers, court-appointed advocates, extended families and other people special to their lives.
- The 2017 Southwest Ohio Thanksgiving will take place in Cincinnati from noon to 2:30 pm. On Nov. 11 at the People's Church in Clifton. This event is for foster care youth ages 14 and older, foster care alumni age 18 and older and allies/adult supporters to gather together and enjoy a Thanksgiving meal and fellowship.