

Monthly Status Report

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For Period Ending: Sept. 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 state will deploy a software update for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Temporary Assistance for Needy Program on Oct. 26 that will result in the unavailability of the Ohio Benefits Worker Portal, Self-Service Portal, Presumptive Eligibility and Deemed Newborn Portal, and Business Intelligence Portal. This may result in calls to your office. The sites will be down from 5 p.m. on Oct. 26 to 6 a.m. on Oct. 31.
- Our most recent agency audit resulted in no findings from the state. This is the first time since 2007 the auditors have reported no findings for our agency.
- The offer of driver's license amnesty for Child Support Awareness Month, August, resulted in more than \$50,000 being collected from delinquent parents who paid little or nothing in the month before. It is very important to reestablish that income stream to ensure children's needs are met.
- The federal government has reduced funding to Ohio nonprofit groups that help the poor sign up for subsidized health insurance under the Affordable Care Act. This will result in the elimination of what are known as "navigators," who help those who need to sign up for the health care exchanges. Freestore Foodbank had the local navigators. Certified Application Counselors, which are funded differently, will still be around to provide assistance to those who need help accessing the exchange. Our office only sees these people if they are determined to be eligible for Medicaid; otherwise, they would receive health insurance offered through the exchange.
- We recently hosted experts in the Eckerd Safety Rapid Feedback program to help prepare for our 2018 launch in the program. Hamilton County, along with Franklin County, has agreed to assist Ohio in examining the potential benefits of using data to prompt a high priority or closer review of safety decision making on certain cases. This approach is promising, but still in its infancy in child welfare. Both Hamilton and Franklin Counties are pilot sites for ODJFS. This is another tool for our staff to use as we continue to improve our child safety decision making and ensure we make safety decisions based on a consistent, fair and justifiable process of information collection and analysis. Hillsborough County, Florida, initiated this Safety Rapid Feedback model a few years ago and has seen an extremely positive impact on child welfare practices and the reduction of serious injury cases and fatalities. In addition, the 2015 National Report on Child Fatalities and Serious Injuries recommended the Safety Rapid Feedback model as a very promising practice.
- I am fortunate to have been chosen as a national finalist for an award recognizing government leaders. I am one of ten finalists for a 2017 Route Fifty Navigator Award in the category of Agency and Department Leadership. Route Fifty is a private entity that aims to connect government leaders with relevant news, insight and resources. The finalists were chosen from more than 300 applicants.
- On Oct. 16, I will participate in a panel discussion of the opiate crisis on foster care needs through the Ohio Mental Health & Addiction Advocacy Coalition. The discussion is at 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Interact for Health.

- Clifton market is now a Produce Perks location. Produce Perks provides a dollar-for-dollar match – up to \$10 — to customers who use their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program food cards to buy healthy fruits and vegetables. Clifton Market, located at 319 Ludlow Ave., is a community-owned grocery store that stocks regionally-grown fruits and vegetables. It is the newest Hamilton County location to participate in the Produce Perks program, joining Northside Farmers Market, Lettuce Eat Well Farmers Market, College Hill Farmers Market, Loveland Farmers Market, Wyoming Farmers Market, Findlay Market, Findlay Market Farmstand at Price Hill, Findlay Market Farmstand at Walnut Hills, Findlay Market Farmstand at Evanston, Madisonville, Garden Market, Montgomery Farmers Market, Health Harvest Mobile Market and Gabriel's Place.
- The state is now taking applications for Medicaid over the phone. The hotline number is 1-844-640-OHIO (6446).