



LCDJFS E-Newsletter

Winter 2007

A newsletter from the Lorain County Department of Job & Family Services

This Issue

10 th Annual Statewide Sheriffs Round Up	1
Mandatory Managed Care Update	3
PRC Expenditures	3
Program Statistics	4

Director Notes

Mary Lou Golski, Director

I would like to share the latest information on our new Director at ODJFS.

Gov.-elect Ted Strickland appointed Helen Jones-Kelley to be the next director of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. Ms. Kelley brings a "wealth of practical experience and an inspiring commitment to public service to her new role. She will be steadfast advocates for all Ohioans, and join us in our effort to turnaround Ohio."

Jones-Kelley is currently the director of the Montgomery County Department of Job and Family Services, which was established this year after the Montgomery County Department of Job and Family Services and Children Services Board merged. Jones-Kelley had served as the executive director of the Montgomery County Children Services Board since 1995. She is also a licensed attorney.

Prior to her work with Children Services, Jones-Kelley served as a referee (magistrate) and assistant legal director for the Montgomery County Juvenile Court, where she started the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program. In 2003, she was appointed co-chair of the statewide Advisory Council on Children, Youth and Families.

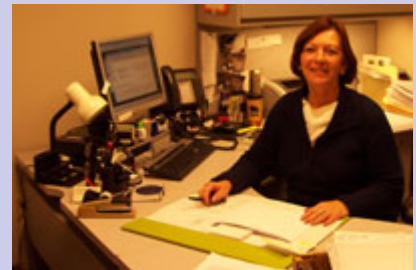
Jones-Kelley received her bachelor's degree in secondary English education from Miami University in Oxford. She earned her law degree from the University of Dayton, School of Law.

"I am grateful for this opportunity to continue to be an advocate for children, families and workers in every county in Ohio." Jones-Kelley said.

Lorain County participates in 10th Annual Statewide Sheriffs Round Up

Dolores Ack
Child Support Administrator

Parents who choose to not support their children are facing the consequences. Lorain County Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) Administrator Dolores Ack, Lorain County Prosecutor Dennis Will, and Lorain County Sheriff Phil Stammitti announce that Lorain County is one of the 43 counties who participated in a Statewide Sheriff's Round Up from December 4 through 11 to arrest those parents who have warrants for their arrest for failure to pay their court ordered child support.



"The custodial parents of children whose parents don't pay have a hard time making ends meet. At this holiday time, it is especially painful for those parents not to be able to provide for their children because they do not receive child support," said Dolores Ack, CSEA Administrator said.

The roundup in Lorain County resulted in a total of **52 individuals** being arrested or who turned themselves

in and paid to avoid arrest. Of these, **29 individuals were arrested, with 12** being jailed. **Another 23 people turned themselves in to the Lorain County Prosecutor's Office and paid their ordered purge amounts to avoid arrest.** Sheriff's deputies had left letters when individuals were not at home urging obligors to turn themselves in. These individuals owe support to **64** Lorain County children. Individuals who made a required payment at the CSEA and provided a receipt to the Prosecutor's Office were not arrested.

The **Lorain County Sheriff's Department** coordinated activities with law enforcement departments in Amherst, Avon Lake, North Ridgeville, Elyria, and Lorain to ensure delinquent parents were apprehended. Cooperation from these law enforcement agencies has been a critical component of this coordinated effort. **Lorain County Domestic Relations Judges Bazinski, Boros, and Lilly** and their staffs held court hearings at which fines and sentences were set.

Lorain County Prosecutor's Office Chief Counsel Freddie Springfield, Assistant Prosecutor Kim Gillette, CSEA Supervisor Sandy Campana, and Sheriff's Deputies Randy Meyers and Sgt. Ray Taylor worked together on over **190** warrants for individuals who have failed to make over **\$1,305,887.20** in court ordered payments to over **242** Lorain County children. In addition, **54** felony non-support warrants were attempted. In preparing the cases, CSEA also suspended **126** driver's licenses and placed **liens on 7 homes**, other measures used to obtain past due support.

Deputies said several individuals came to the door in their pajamas, one claiming in front of his lady friend that all of his child support was paid! He went to jail.

One obligor would not open the door, so the sheriffs went to his wife's place of employment and escorted her to the home to open the door for them to arrest him.

One individual, Sierra Carey, has 5 cases and owes \$46,411.91 to his five children, ages 7-11 years. He paid \$1210.00 and was released.

Christina Burden who owes two children \$5,908.52 was committed to 90 days in jail .

Patrick Buckley owes his child \$12,12,102.12. He was arrested, committed for 30 days and was released after he paid \$1,200.00

Some of the obligors owing the highest amounts are still at large. Information on their whereabouts can be reported to the CSEA at 440-284-4401 or 1-800-808-2991

Robert Carlson, Jr. owes three children \$19,500.78
Gary Reese owes his one child \$15,796.98
Richard Bennington owes two children \$10,279.82
Daniel Jones owes for one child \$9,476.45
Miguel Hernandez owes one child \$8,201.20

Counties participating in this year's Round Up include: Ashland, Butler, Coshocton, Cuyahoga, Defiance, Fairfield, Franklin, Fulton, Geauga, Greene, Guernsey, Hamilton, Harrison, Henry, Huron, Knox, Lake, Lawrence, Licking, Lorain, Lucas, Madison, Mahoning, Marion, Mercer, Miami, Monroe, Montgomery, Muskingum, Ottawa, Pickaway, Richland, Ross, Scioto, Seneca, Stark, Summit, Tuscarawas, Union, Van Wert, Warren, Wayne and Wood. Ohio collected nearly \$2 billion in child support in state fiscal year 2006. There are nearly 1 million child support cases in the state. Ohio has the third largest child support caseload in the nation, ranks third in total collections, and first in collections for non-public assistance cases. The child support program affects more children than any other, except for education.

Several CSEA employees worked very hard on the project. Especially to be commended are Sandy Campana who supervised the project, Jayne Paysor who assisted in the case preparation and Ruth Burks who also prepared cases and was stationed at the Justice Center collecting money.

For more information contact
Dolores Ack, CSEA Administrator at 440- 284-4593

Job & Family Statistics For Lorain County

Families receiving on-going cash assistance			
Mar. 2006	Jun. 2006	Sep. 2006	Dec. 2006
2,304	2,274	2,104	N/A

Disabled individuals receiving on-going cash assistance			
Mar. 2006	Jun. 2006	Sep. 2006	Dec. 2006
292	324	318	N/A

Individuals receiving health insurance through Healthy Start/Healthy Families Medicaid			
Mar. 2006	Jun. 2006	Sep. 2006	Dec. 2006
40,759	41,116	41,514	41,569

Aged, Blind or Disabled individuals receiving health insurance through Medicaid			
Mar. 2006	Jun. 2006	Sep. 2006	Dec. 2006
7,996	8,063	8,091	8,107

Individuals receiving food stamps.			
Mar. 2006	Jun. 2006	Sep. 2006	Dec. 2006
28,927	27,231	26,856	27,041

Disabled individuals receiving Nursing Home or Home and Community-Based Service Waivers assistance.			
Mar. 2006	Jun. 2006	Sep. 2006	Dec. 2006
2,056	2,054	2,057	2,072

PRC EXPEDITURES

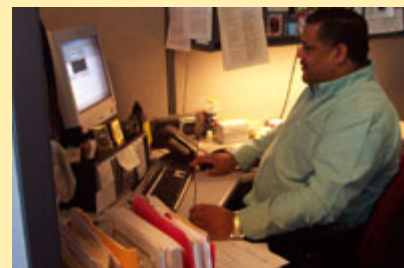
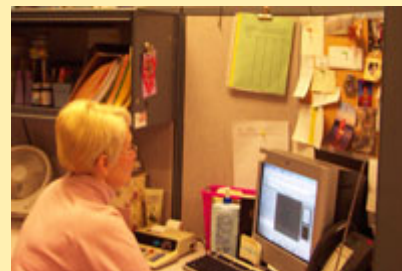
(JULY 1, 2005 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2006)

Natalio Rodriguez
Administrator

Lorain County Department of Job & Family Services saw a huge increase in dollars spent on the PRC program for the budget year 7/05 – 6/06. Never has LCDJFS spent \$679,475.32 on their PRC Classic program. Here are some of the cost for the specific budget items:

- \$284,476.97 Security Deposits/First Month Rents and Back Rent
- \$187,691.69 Car Repairs
- \$147,797.42 Utilities
- \$ 29,007.84 Appliances
- \$ 16,006.50 Education Classes especially STNA classes
- \$ 4,914.06 Car Insurance, Car License Reinstatement Fees
- \$ 4,609.03 Work Clothes
- \$ 3,171.81 Disaster Services especially for Fires
- \$ 1,800.00 Home Repair

This funding will be available for several more months (thru the Fall of 2006), but will eventually be curtailed due to budget changes. The result will be fewer PRC benefits authorized.



Mandatory Managed Care Update

-Elderly and Disabled

Marian Slovak
Program Administrator



Medicaid consumers who are elderly or have disabilities (Aged, Blind, or Disabled (ABD) Medicaid) are now being enrolled in Managed Care Plans. According to requirements of Amended Substitute House Bill 66, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services began expansion on December 1, 2006 of Medicaid managed care for a select portion of Aged, Blind and/or Disabled consumers in the Northeast Managed Care Region. Lorain County is part of the Northeast region. The first ABD members will begin receiving services through Medicaid Managed Care on January 1, 2007.

WHO IS AFFECTED?

Medicaid consumers under the following categories of Medicaid; MA-A, MA-B, or MA -D must select a managed care plan, or be automatically assigned.

However, children under age 21 years, those who are in a nursing home or receive Waiver Medicaid services, those who are dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare, or those who receive Medicaid under the Spenddown provision are exempt from managed care enrollment.

MANAGED CARE PLANS:

There are three available plans from which to choose. Alphabetically, they are:

- Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield Partnership Plan, Inc.
1-800-605-3040
- Buckeye Community Health Plan
1-866-246-4356
- WellCare of Ohio, Inc.
1-800-951-7719



TO ENROLL OR CHANGE PLANS:

Consumers may call the Medicaid Hotline at 1-800-324-8680 or the Selection Services Center at 1-800-605-3040 to receive additional information and assistance in making a choice. Each individual will need to select a plan. Enrollment is at the individual level, so each person can select the plan that best meets their needs.

Once assigned, individuals may opt to change plans within the first 90 days of enrollment. After initial enrollment, plans can be changed once per year during Open Selection month. Open Selection Month will be in January for Lorain County.

Selection of a plan, or any changes regarding managed care are handled at the state level by state-contracted staff. Consumers would contact the Medicaid Hotline or Selection Services Center to make these changes. Staff at the local office must refer consumers to the Medicaid Hotline or Selection Service Center for assistance.

Contact LCJFS

42485 North Ridge Road
Elyria, OH 44035—1057
Phone: 440-323-5726
Fax: 440-323-3422
TTY/TDD: 440-284-4125
Child Support Office: 440-284-4401



Hours of Operation:
7:00—4:30 Mon, Wed, Thur, Fri
7:30—6:30 Tues

