Providing children, adults, and families an effective support system to assist in obtaining self-sufficiency and a safe, stable, healthy living environment

Save the Date!

Family Fun Day!
Saturday, April 4, 2020

Wear Blue for Child Abuse and Neglect Awareness Day
Wednesday, April 8th, 2020
Send your photos to be posted on the agency facebook page to Kim.McClendon@jfs.ohio.gov!

OhioMeansJobs Career Connections
Friday, May 8, 2020

Senior Forum
Thursday, June 18, 2020
HealthChek, also known as Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment Services, is a program put in place for children from birth to age 21 who are enrolled in Medicaid services. Through this program, children are provided with several opportunities to treat health concerns early. Expecting mothers are also eligible for HealthChek.

From birth to two years of age, HealthChek will cover ten check ups. After the child turns two, the program will cover one annual check up. There are several types of check ups covered by HealthChek and they include the following: medical history, unclothed exam with parent approval, assessment of the child’s physical and mental abilities, vision screening, dental screening, hearing assessment, immunization assessment, lead screening, and additional screenings as needed. After the initial screening services have taken place, the child can obtain medically necessary services or equipment such as laboratory or xray services, physical therapy, and more.

In Portage County, there are three causes for concern that the county focuses on: lead screening, infant mortality and transportation. Therefore, HealthChek allows Portage County Job & Family Services to refer the patient to local partners for assistance within those areas. If the child is in need of a certain doctor, they are referred to their managed care provider and the managed care provider can assist the parent further. Additionally, if during the check up, the doctor finds reason for concern and needs to continue treatment, HealthChek covers the treatment services as well.

For questions or concerns please contact Portage County Job & Family Services at Portage_CSU@jfs.ohio.gov or (330)297-3750.

Incentive for Publicly Funded Child Care Providers

In an effort to encourage newly licensed programs to provide publicly funded child care, ODJFS is creating a one-time incentive payment. Newly licensed ODJFS child care centers and family child care providers are eligible for this incentive if the new program also signs a provider agreement for publicly funded child care.

The new license and provider agreement must become effective between the date of this letter and June 30, 2020. The incentive payments will be $5,000 for child care centers and $2,500 for family child care providers. Payment will be automatically issued by ODJFS via electronic funds transfer approximately 60 days after meeting the requirements.
**Parent Cafe**

Are you a parent that feels overwhelmed? Sometimes parenting can be stressful. Occasionally things don’t go exactly as planned. The Parent Café is here to help! The Parent Café is a support group supported by a grant from Portage County Job & Family Services and hosted by Family and Community Services. The class is free and is designed to provide a peaceful atmosphere for parents to connect and share with one another. Parents are invited to converse with one another, all while learning from each other.

Jennifer Permenter, Family and Community Clinical Counseling Supervisor, states "The model is different than other parenting groups. It is not mandated. It’s just something that we encourage people to come to and want to come back and feel like they belong!"

Through the Parent Café, parents have the opportunity to learn that they are not alone in their fears and feelings. During the two hour session, parents are offered mechanisms to strengthen their family. Permenter added "This parenting group is meant to be led by parents and driven by the parents." Together as a community, the group can share while bonding together to become a support system. The parents learn things such as improving communication, creating positive social relationships, and increasing knowledge in child development.

To make it easier on parents, child care is provided. The group will also provide snacks and refreshments! The Parent Café is designed to empower each parent throughout their journey in parenthood. The class is free and open to the public. The first group will take place on Saturday, March 7th, 2020 from 10:00AM-12:00PM at 143 Gougler Avenue, Ravenna, OH 44266. For questions or more information please contact Jennifer Permenter at Jparmenter@fcsohio.org.

---

**Education and Workforce Needs in Portage County**

On December 18th, workforce and educational partners met at Maplewood Career Center to brainstorm innovative ways to solve talent needs while preparing students for the workforce. Lissa Barry, President and CEO of Delta Systems, serves on the Governor’s Workforce Development board and was instrumental in arranging this meeting. Also present were several area superintendents, local business employers (Delta, Metis and Mantaline), along with workforce (JFS/OMJ, NOC COG, PDB and Ohio’s workforce Admin).

The focus was to initiate a solution to orient dialogue around three topics relating to education/workforce needs in Portage County: assets, needs and barriers (OMJ and the innovative workforce solutions was among an asset). From there an action list was developed of what to do with the information while identifying key people missing from the table. A follow up list of items needed to bridge the workforce gap was also created. The group plans to have follow meetings in the near future.
The Portage County Job & Family Services (PCJFS) Independent Living Program (ILP) is essential for young adults growing up in the system who are transitioning to adulthood. These classes teach cooking, budgeting, goal setting and much more. The program hosts two classes each month in which the teenagers can attend. At least one class must be a learning class and the other can be a team building class for fun.

One teen in particular seemed to learn a lot of skills from the current ILP classes. Des is an 18 year old who is aging out of the system. She has bright plans for her future that involve going to college and working with animals. Although she has goals, she needed some guidance to achieve them. Des spoke about how practical the classes were to her and how she learned how to get along with different individuals, to set goals and how to work as a team to achieve the goal. Even in the fun classes she was able to learn how to deal with different types of individuals.

Des pointed out a few different classes in which she felt she learned the most. The teens were invited to the Portage County Job & Family Services OhioMeansJobs Job Fair. At the job fair, Des received numerous job applications in which she stated would help toward her goal of independence. During kayaking she learned you must have balance but also have patience when going down the river. She stated “ILP is a very helpful group. It is definitely helpful when you are going through a transition like I was when I transitioned into foster care. Being able to see people and feel like you’re normal helps.” Des hopes to one day own her own business either boarding animals, dog training, or grooming. Her goal right now is to obtain a job to assist her in obtaining her own business.

The ILP introduces teens to new situations in which aid them further into adulthood while also providing them with incentives. The following is a list of financial support that PCJFS can assist with: employment services, uniforms and professional clothing, social and recreational activities, camps, senior expenses, driver’s education classes, and also match funds with the teenager to purchase a car! There are also other funds to assist emancipated youth with rent, furniture, utilities, and medications. For more information regarding the Independent Living Program please contact the Independent Living Coordinator at (330)297-3820.
THE COMMUNITY CONNECTION IS A PUBLICATION OF PORTAGE COUNTY JOB & FAMILY SERVICES. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS PLEASE CONTACT PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER KIM MCCLENDON AT (330)357-7190 OR KIM.MCCLENDON@JFS.OHIO.GOV

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK US OUT ON SOCIAL MEDIA!
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK! WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PCJFS
FOLLOW US ON TWITTER! @PCJFS