

Division of Children and Family Services Community Newsletter

April 2019, Issue 9

News and Updates

APRIL is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Throughout April, National Child Abuse Prevention Month, Cuyahoga County's Division of Children and Family Services will engage our community to help prevent abuse, recognize signs of abuse, and learn what to do when abuse is suspected. Activities include a community gathering in Public Square, a training for mandated reporters, an event at the Strongsville Mall, and more.

Watch for Blue Rocks in Your Community

To engage our community in Child Abuse Prevention Month, the County is joining the painted rock craze! Volunteers and community partners are painting and distributing blue rocks around the area for residents to find. The 570 rocks, symbolizing the number of children in permanent County custody, will each display the hashtag #CuyahogaHero, encouraging finders to go online and learn more about preventing child abuse.



Mandated Reporters of Abuse

Everyone in Cuyahoga County has a role to play in stopping and preventing child abuse and neglect. We need eyes and ears in our community to let us know when you think a family may be in crisis. Mandated reporters are a major part of that effort. They include attorneys, physicians, dentists, psychologists, religious leaders, child care employees, school employees, and more.

Anyone in these professions who knows of or suspects child abuse and neglect must report it by calling 216-696-KIDS. You don't have to be entirely sure of the situation or know exactly what's going on – if you think a reasonable person in a similar circumstance would suspect abuse, call. DCFS will handle everything from thereon out, investigating the referral and taking whatever steps needed to keep the child safe and family stable.

Learn more about [mandated reporters](#) and how [to report child abuse](#).

DCFS Child Abuse Prevention Month Events

Be a Hero 4 Kids Foster Recruitment Event

Saturday, April 5, 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm

SouthPark Mall, 500 Southpark Center, Strongsville

Join us for the opening weekend of *Shazam*, a film about a child in foster care who gains super powers. Learn how to become a foster or adoptive parent and enjoy a live performance by costumed superheroes. Children can also enter a superhero costume parade. This event is free and open to the public but does not include admission to the film.

CAVS Kickoff Event

Tuesday, April 9th at 7 pm

Please share the link with those who may be interested. This link provides families with discounted tickets and activities before and after the game. The lowest priced ticket is \$20.00. Sponsored by Ohio Children's Trust Fund Regional Council honor foster parents from each county for their contribution to child abuse protection.

<http://theqarena.com/wearblue>

Wear Blue Day - Public Square Community Gathering

Wednesday, April 10, 12:30 pm

Public Square, Cleveland

All residents are encouraged to wear blue and join DCFS and community partners on Public Square to support child abuse awareness and prevention in the community. The program will include a short presentation and information about becoming a Cuyahoga Hero for children in need. Free and open to the public.

Terminal Tower Goes Blue

Wednesday, April 10

Check the Cleveland skyline after dark to see our most iconic building participate in Wear Blue Day.

Monsters Kickoff Event

Friday, April 12th at 7 pm

Please share the link with those who may be interested. This link provides families with discounted tickets. The lowest priced ticket is \$15.00. Sponsored by Ohio Children's Trust Fund Regional Council honor foster parents from each county for their contribution to child abuse protection.

<http://groups.theqarena.com/uhrainbow>

DCFS In Your Neighborhood

Thursday, April 18, 5:00 pm

St. Martin De Porres, 1264 East 123rd St., Cleveland

DCFS will discuss the role you can play in keeping children safe and families stable in your community. Agency staff will also be available to address specific cases and personal questions.

Free and open to the public.

Mandated Reporter Training

Saturday, April 27, 9:30 am

Jane Edna Hunter Atrium, 3955 Euclid Ave., Cleveland

Mandated reporters of child abuse, including physicians, child care workers, religious leaders, school teachers, and more are required by law to make a report whenever there is reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or neglect. At this training, learn to recognize the signs of abuse, how and when to report, and what happens after a report is made.

Free and open to the public.

How DCFS is Engaging the LGBTQ Community

PRIZM News interviewed DCFS' Kathleen Sullivan, senior manager for caregiver resource management, to discuss the Pride Caregiver Network, part of the Affirm.Me program. The article explains how we are working to both affirm the identities of young LGBTQ people in care, and also connect them to foster parents who are LGBTQ or allies.

"LGBTQ young people are overrepresented in the child-welfare system and are at greater risk than their heterosexual and cisgender peers of poor outcomes like drug addiction, homelessness, human trafficking, aging out of the system without a support network and living in group care instead of a family-like setting," Sullivan says. "We need LGBTQ people and allies who can be affirming but also willing to learn how to work with our older youth."

[Read the full article.](#)

DCFS Facts and Figures

Custody Data as of April 1, 2019

Court Ordered Protective Supervision (COPS) Children	758
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In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Children	2,695
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Custody Type

Emergency Custody/Ex-parte/Officer Acceptance/Agency Authority	734
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Permanent Custody/Surrender	582
Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (PPLA)	64
Temporary Custody 1st Extension	137
Temporary Custody 2nd Extension	41
Temporary Custody/Court Order	1,074
Total	2,632

[More details here.](#) *This report is updated weekly every Monday.

[Read the DCFS Yearly Statistical Report here](#)

Resources

[Online Resource Guide](#)

[Neighborhood Collaboratives](#)

[Mandated Reporting](#)

[Quality Parenting Initiative](#)

[Online Caregiver/Parenting Videos](#)

[Foster Parent Training Schedule](#)

[Adoptable Kids](#)