

Division of Children and Family Services Community Newsletter

December 2018, Issue 5

News and Updates

New Class of Child Protection Specialists Begins Training

As part of the Division of Children and Family Services goal to reach full staffing levels and better protect the children of Cuyahoga County, a new class of 18 Child Protection Specialists began training November 27th. These new workers will go through 12 weeks of intense training and shadowing. Next, the workers will have an 8-10-week transition period when they'll start to receive a small number of cases while being coached and mentored by experienced Transition Supervisors. Additional CPS candidates are being reviewed with hopes of bringing in another training class of workers in early 2019 to fill the remaining vacancies.

Canopy Child Advocacy Center Opening



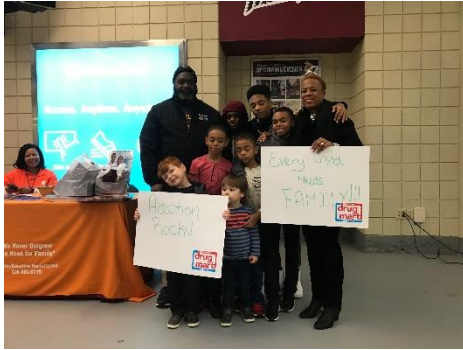
We are excited to announce the opening of the [Canopy Child Advocacy Center](#) (CAC). A Child Advocacy Center is a one-stop location where children and families impacted by child abuse can get a full range of services in a child-friendly and trauma-informed setting. A multi-disciplinary team coordinates work regarding child safety, forensic interviews, law enforcement, medical exams, mental health, prosecution, and victim advocacy. At first, the Canopy CAC will provide services to children under 12 years old who live in the City of Cleveland and for whom there is concern

they have been sexually abused. As the Center builds capacity to serve more children, the referral criteria will be expanded. The CAC is a collaboration between several agencies including:

Case Western Reserve University
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland Division of Police
Cleveland Rape Crisis Center
Court of Common Pleas
Division of Children and Family Services
Domestic Relations Court
Juvenile Court
Prosecutor's Office
Sheriff's Department

Witness Victim Service Center
Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy Center
Family Justice Center
Frontline Service
International Association of Forensic Nurses
The MetroHealth Systems
United Way of Greater Cleveland
University Hospitals

National Adoption Month



November was National Adoption Month and DCFS worked with partners to promote foster care adoption and highlight adoption success stories. So far, this year 110 children have been adopted from Cuyahoga County DCFS. That includes the successful adoptions of some extraordinary teens. You can read more about [King](#) in this feature by [Cleveland.com](#) and [Brooke](#) on the [DCFS Facebook](#) page.

Thank you WVIZ for inviting us to discuss the need for adoption on the Ideas newscast. You can [view the segment](#) on the [Ideastream](#) website. Other events included a free screening of the new film, [Instant Family](#) and a recognition event at a Cleveland Cavaliers basketball game.

There are more than 500 children in the permanent custody of Cuyahoga County. More than 200 of them need a forever family. Children range in age from infants to 17-year-olds and come from a variety of backgrounds. Many have siblings also up for adoption, and several children have special needs. Call 216-881-5775 for more information on adoption or visit [everychildneedsfamily.com](#) to find more information on adoption requirements and processes.

Pronoun Buttons Available for All DCFS Clients, Partners & Staff

As part of the division's effort to improve the well-being of youth who self-identify as LGBTQ, pronoun buttons are now available for anyone working with DCFS. Using a person's



chosen pronoun is a critical way of recognizing and respecting a person's gender identity or expression. The pronoun buttons are part of the AFFIRM.ME program. The AFFIRM.ME program is a set of services developed specifically to improve the lives of LGBTQ2S youth in foster care through Safe and Confidential Identification, the Pride Caregiver Network, and Chosen Affirming Families. [Read more about AFFIRM.ME.](#)

Harvard Community Services Center added as Neighborhood Collab

Effective November 19, 2018 the Harvard Community Services Center has been added to the list of DCFS [Neighborhood Collaboratives](#). DCFS has contracted agreements with ten organizations operating 13 collaboratives county-wide. These neighborhood -based organizations provide resources and support for families to prevent their involvement with DCFS. They also work with families that are already involved with our agency by offering support to stabilize family dynamics and return or maintain children safely at home. Collabs also serve as a community voice, advocate and resource on behalf of children's well- being, often working with DCFS staff to identify best options to help insure child safety and permanency.

Featured Neighborhood Collaborative

Murtis Taylor - Garfield Heights

5522 Turney Road

Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125

(216) 283-4400

Murtis Taylor Human Services System - The Southeast Community Based Services Program
Garfield Heights

The Southeast Community Based Services (CBS) program of lead agency, Murtis Taylor Human Services System (MTHSS) is open 9:00am – 5:30pm Monday through Friday and after hours by appointment. The team at the CBS holds more than 20 years of experience working with families in the community and collaborates with 15 community partners to provide programs and services to families. Families are also linked to MTHSS programs and services such as Youth, Family including fatherhood support and parent education, Senior Services, Behavioral Health and Addiction programs and services as eligible. Also, each quarter MTHSS hosts the following programs to address Child Safety, Infant Mortality and Educational Neglect:

- Car Seat Safety with partner, Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital
- Safe Sleep Education with partner, Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative
- Clothing and Book Bag distribution with partner, Shoes and Clothes for Kids

The CBS program works with families by wrapping supports around them using a Case Management Model for assistance with food referrals, Ohio Benefits enrollment, referrals to Employment Connection, Kinship Caregiver Support and other supports as needed. The priority is assisting families to prevent children from experiencing abuse and neglect. Community Meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of the month to share resources and educate the community and providers on resources available right in the community. For more information, please contact, Angela Wilson, System of Care Coordinator at 216-283-4400, x2051 and/or awilson@murtistaylor.org.

Help Make a Child's Holiday Bright



There's just one week left to help make holiday wishes come true for children in foster care. During the holiday season, the Division of Children and Family Services helps make holiday wishes come true for hundreds of children in foster care or whose family needs a little extra support to stay strong and stable. You can help by donating to any of the following programs by December 11th:

Hope for the Holidays

Hope for the Holidays is our annual gift program for children and teens in foster care. In early December, we invite children and foster parents to our building for a holiday party, where they choose a brand-new toy, game, and book for themselves or a sibling. Children can also take a picture with Santa, enjoy homemade cookies and milk, and create a holiday craft.

This program is made possible by gifts from generous donors like you from churches, businesses, schools, families and individuals. Every gift makes a difference! [Find out how to donate.](#)

Adopt a Family

DCFS helps hundreds of families remain together through various supportive services. If you would like to help a family in need you can adopt a family for the holiday. We will provide you with basic information such the number of children, ages, genders, clothing sizes, and wish lists. Then you can purchase gifts specifically for that family and wrap them. Workers deliver the gifts to the selected family before Christmas. [Sign up to adopt a family.](#)

Donate services or special items

If you have a special gift or service you would like to donate for our children and teens that is not listed above please let us know. You may have clothes, bikes, salon services, special event tickets, or another way you or your business would like to contribute. Please contact Kristin Gardner at 216-881-5301 or kristin.gardner@jfs.ohio.gov

DCFS Facts and Figures

Custody Data as of December 3, 2018

Court Ordered Protective Supervision (COPS) Children	701
In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Children	2,822

Custody Type

Emergency Custody/Ex-parte/Officer Acceptance/Agency Authority	776
Initial Voluntary Agreement for Custody	3
Permanent Custody/Surrender	546
Planned Perm. Living Arrangement (PPLA)	51
Temp. Custody 1st Extension	105
Temp. Custody 2nd Extension	41
Temporary Custody/Court Order	993
Total	2,515

[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](#)