

CUYAHOGA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT
of
CHILDREN and FAMILY
SERVICES

TIMELINE

1992 - 2008

Timeline Abbreviation and Source Information

CC = The Child Chronicle (CCDCFS newsletter, short-lived title)

F2FTL = Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services: Family to Family Timeline, by Zelma Brown

LL = Lessons Learned, by The Annie E. Casey Foundation

NN = News Notes (CCDCFS newsletter)

OBM = Cuyahoga County Commissioners' Office of Budget and Management

PD = The Plain Dealer

SPTL = Strategic Planning Timeline: Alice in Child Welfare Land, by Zelma Brown

Yearly employee and expenditure figures from various OBM reports.

Most sources cited are available for review in the Training and Staff Development Department of the Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services.

1992

Cuyahoga County Commissioners: Mary O. Boyle, Timothy F. Hagan, James Petro

Director: Judith Goodhand

“Staff, at that time, were miserably demoralized. They were angry, depressed and felt criticized for everything. They had very high caseloads, did not have adequate training and had inadequate resources. Not surprisingly, the services for families and children were poor, and the staff had a very bad reputation in the community and with the state. This was a staff that, above anything else, needed a reason to come to work and needed a vision of what could and should be. Maybe even before that, they needed a sense that things could change and that things could get better for kids, for families and for themselves.” (Director Judith Goodhand as quoted in LL)

February Cuyahoga County commissioners decide to reorganize the county departments. This reorganization is to include the creation of the Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services (CCDCFS). The commissioners decide to split the welfare department after widely reported scandals led to fraud and corruption investigations by the county prosecutor’s office. (PD Feb. 26, 1992)

Judith Goodhand, associate director of Lucas County Children’s Services in Toledo, agrees to be director of the newly created agency CCDCFS. (PD Feb. 26, 1992)

June Judith Goodhand begins as director June 1, 1992. (CCDCFS HRD)

Director Goodhand forms Kids in the Lobby (KIL) group on her first day to deal with children being left off at CCDCFS in the Jane Edna Hunter Building lobby by private agencies, foster parents, police, etc. while awaiting placement. Children were often spending the night in the building sleeping wherever. In about 3 months this issue is resolved giving very visual proof that positive change can happen. (LL)

- July** **“As of July 7, 1992, the Cuyahoga County Department of Human Services (formerly the Welfare Department) was restructured and divided into four separate and distinctly autonomous departments, each with its own director and each reporting to the Deputy County Administrator for Health and Human Services. Additionally, the Child Support Enforcement Agency was grouped with the Human Services Departments. The five Departments are known as Child Support Enforcement Agency, Department of Children and Family Services, Department of Employment Services, Department of Entitlement Services, Department of Senior and Adult Services.” (The Key to Human Services Departments, 1993)**
- September** **Monthly meetings start with Director Goodhand, deputy directors, and a committee of members of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 1746 to bring issues for discussion relating to working conditions or staff concerns in an effort to share information and jointly solve issues before becoming bigger problems. (NN May 7, 1993)**
- Director Goodhand adopts Family to Family philosophy for CCDCFS after presentation by Kathleen Feely of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The Family to Family philosophy will stress a move to a more family centered and prevention oriented child welfare system. (LL)**
- October** **CCDCFS is chosen for an Annie E. Casey Foundation Family to Family Grant. (NN Oct. 30, 1992)**
- Strategic planning starts among head administrators at CCDCFS based on Annie E. Casey Foundation’s seven Family to Family goals. (NN July 12, 1996)**
- Ohio urban county child welfare agencies, Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Lucas, Montgomery, and Summit, form coalition to share information and resources, policies and procedures. (NN Oct. 30, 1992)**
- November** **Metzenbaum Center population is capped at 24 children, between age 12 – 14, with 2 beds there for emergency placement out of the 24. (NN November 20, 1992)**

1993

Cuyahoga County Commissioners: Mary O. Boyle, Timothy F. Hagan, James Petro

Director: Judith Goodhand

Full Time Equivalent CCDCFS Employees: 815

Expenditures: \$86,518,109

**Increased emphasis is placed on communication at CCDCFS with News Notes (agency newsletter), weekly management team meetings, departmental meetings, unit meetings and regular supervisory meetings and biweekly meetings with private providers.
(Goodhand memo, Feb. 14, 1994)**

**Reduction in average family service caseload achieved through more effective procedures and monitoring of case closings.
(Goodhand memo, Feb. 14, 1994)**

**Risk assessment matrix is adopted and implemented by all staff.
(Goodhand memo, Feb. 14, 1994)**

**Develop standard "Guidelines for Agency Intervention."
(Goodhand memo, Feb. 14, 1994)**

The Giving Tree, a holiday gift program for children in county care, is started, the brainchild of James McCafferty. (SPTL)

April Metzenbaum Center to be phased out as a residential center becoming instead a visitation center. (NN Mar. 10, 1993)

**June Accounting Department's antiquated payment system is replaced by a modern computerized system. The new computerized system produces a 40% time savings and reduces error rate.
(NN July 16, 1993)**

Metzenbaum Center's last child in residence leaves and the residential program ends being replaced by a visitation program. All visits are now at the Metzenbaum Center or at the Jane Edna Hunter Building. (NN June 25, 1993)

July **Family Homemakers are now available to agency clients to help assist with the care of children and the daily management of home and household routines. (NN July 7, 1993)**

IV-E Unit announces a 41% increase in the IV-E penetration rate for the first six months of 1993 meaning thousands of additional dollars for CCDCFS. (NN July 23, 1993)

Family to Family Initiative Local Planning Group (F2FLPG) forms to work closely with CCDCFS in implementing Family to Family Initiative, including Nancy Graf, retired Cuyahoga County Department of Human Services staff. (NN Aug. 6, 1993)

August **Board of County Commissioners distributes Early Retirement Incentive Plan (ERIP) survey (a.k.a. "buyout") to county employees to study feasibility of such a plan. (NN Aug. 13, 1993)**

September **Goal of returning Cuyahoga County children in out-of-state residential facilities to Cuyahoga County achieved a 71% decrease in out-of-state placements as of September. (NN Sept. 3, 1993)**

October **Tighter security is implemented at the Jane Edna Hunter Building with the use of color coded visitors' passes. (NN Oct. 8, 1993)**

Dress Down Day concept begins at the agency as a fundraiser. The first one is held to raise funds to help pass Issue 2, a levy for operating funds for the new county jail and to replace the antiquated Juvenile Detention Home. Later Dress Down Day funds earmarked for the Giving Tree (holiday gift program for foster children) and other worthy causes. (NN Oct. 15, 1993)

November **Issue 2 fails. Worries about potential impact on Human Services Departments' budgets. (NN Nov. 12, 1993)**

Early Retirement Incentive Plan (ERIP) is rejected after survey results tabulated. Commissioners announce it would have been too costly. (NN Nov. 12 1993)

Statements to staff from Director Goodhand and AFSCME Local 1746 President Paul Taylor concerning the especially intense labor/management negotiations over new contract. (NN Nov. 19, 1993)

Family to Family goal of 50 new foster homes is surpassed as 131 new foster homes are certified for a net gain of 71, with 58% of the new certifications being African-American. (NN Nov. 26, 1993)

1994

Cuyahoga County Commissioners: Mary O. Boyle, Timothy F. Hagan, James Petro

Director: Judith Goodhand

Full Time Equivalent CCDCFS Employees: 880

Expenditures: \$90,900,105

Remarkable increase in the number of computers and computer-literate staff, as the agency builds a state of the art information network. (NN Dec. 23, 1994)

Policy and Procedure Manual for CCDCFS is completed during the fourth quarter of the year. (County Administrator Major Accomplishments 1994)

Case Review unit is instituted to review cases before children are removed or reunited and to conduct mandated semi-annual reviews of all children in custody. (County Administrator Major Accomplishments 1994)

The statewide Risk Assessment Matrix is defined and modified based upon departmental input. (County Administrator Major Accomplishments 1994)

Caseloads are reduced during the year from approximately 35 per worker to approximately 22 per worker. (County Administrator Major Accomplishments 1994)

Kinship care program is developed to provide limited financial and other supports to relatives who can care for children. The program embodies Family to Family philosophy. (County Administrator Major Accomplishments 1994)

January Judith Goodhand announces plans for neighborhood foster care programs as part of Family to Family Initiative in order to foster children in their own neighborhoods near their birth parents, relatives, friends, schools, etc. (NN Jan. 14, 1994)

The CCDCFS mission statement becomes official policy on January 1, 1994. The staff participated (beginning in 1993) in the development of the mission statement for the newly formed CCDCFS. The resultant mission statement clearly puts forth the agency's philosophy and purpose.

Mission: The purpose of the Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services is to assure that children at risk of abuse or neglect are protected and nurtured within a family and with the support of the community.

(Executive Director Summary 1995) (CCDCFS Policy and Procedure Manual)

May

Cuyahoga County Issue 1 passes with unqualified support from CCDCFS staff. The passing of this issue allows for a renewal of the 3.0 mill Health and Human Services Levy. (NN various issues) (PD May 4, 1994)

Board of Cuyahoga County Commissioners approves the of CCDCFS' recommendation to provide grant support to two neighborhood based groups, St. Martin de Porres and Near West Side Foster Care Network for the delivery of neighborhood foster care services. Support is provided by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. (NN May 25, 1994) (PD Sept. 4, 1994)

August

First meeting of the Children and Family Services Advisory Board (CFSA). The board is adopted by unanimous resolution by the Cuyahoga County commissioners and consists of 17 area citizens of diverse backgrounds all dedicated to the welfare of children and families. The CFSA Board is to serve as the "eyes and ears of the commissioners and the Cuyahoga County community." (NN August 12, 1994)

Cuyahoga County Board of County Commissioners resolution for a smoke-free workplace becomes effective August 1. Smoking is prohibited in all county owned or leased buildings. CCDCFS reinforces the resolution with its own smoke-free workplace policy, 10.01.02. (BOCC Resolution) (CCDCFS Policy and Procedure Manual)

December **Secured Assets Fund Earnings (SAFE) financial crisis. Cuyahoga County commissioners announce plans to freeze salaries and hiring and to cut more than \$35 million from the 1995 budget in an effort to offset more than \$115 million in losses from the ill-fated SAFE investment pool. Plans call for an 11% across the board cut and no budget growth for the next three years. CCDCFS plans accordingly and copes as best possible. (NN Jan. 6, 1995) (PD Dec. 8, 1994; Dec. 16, 1994)**

Recognition of the growing role of grandparents raising grandchildren with pioneering support groups including Grandcaring Connection, Grandparents as Parents, and Grandparent Support Group, among others. (PD Dec. 31, 1994)

1995

**Cuyahoga County Commissioners: Mary O. Boyle, Timothy F. Hagan,
Lee C. Weingart**

Director: Judith Goodhand

Full Time Equivalent CCDCFS Employees: 876

Expenditures: \$100,028,377

January Cuyahoga County Department of Senior and Adult Services leaves the Jane Edna Hunter Building for its own headquarters. (CCDSAS staff info.)

February Continued fallout from SAFE financial crisis. Commissioners cancel plans to hire 100 new social workers. Director Goodhand expresses concerns calling cuts “deeply troubling.” (PD Feb. 1, 1995)

Security increases for staff, particularly those working evenings and weekends after two Hotline staff are robbed in the Jane Edna Hunter Building parking lot at gunpoint. Measures include increased lighting outside of the building and identification requirements. (NN Feb. 3, 1995)

March CCDCFS receives two grants in partnership with Interlink, an information resource referral services coordinator mandated by the Ohio Department of Health to help families with infants and toddlers at risk for developmental disabilities or delays, to assist in early intervention services. Through assessments by Interlink in coordination with CCDCFS the most beneficial services can be determined. (NN Mar. 3, 1995) (www.cleveland.com/family)

April Director Goodhand conducts a panel discussion for community leaders “When Parents Are Addicted and Children are Affected: Response from Recovering Parents, Child Welfare Social Workers and Legislators” in an effort to deal with the fact that 75% to 85% of children who come into custody have parents with some form of addiction. (PD Apr. 8, 1995)

**Independent Living Department announces three new programs:
Youth Re-Entry, a fun and support group for females age
14-21;
Civilian Conservation Corps, a work habits and social skills
program to earn an income and receive educational and
vocational assessments; and
Project Logic, a drop-out prevention program.
(NN Apr. 14, 1995)**

**One Church, One Child initiative is designed to find adoptive
families for African-American children by targeting houses of
worship. The initiative includes a One Church, One Child
Ministers' Advisory Board and also a CCDCFS One Church, One
Child Committee. (NN April 28, 1995)**

**July IV-E Unit has a large revenue increase for January through June
1995 over the same period in 1994 anticipating a revenue gain for all
of 1995 of \$5.8 million. Increased focus and diligence by IV Unit
on establishing Medicaid eligibility has brought this revenue.
(NN July 7, 1995)**

**Cultural Diversity Initiative is announced with the intention of
addressing the agency's concerns about cultural diversity in service
delivery and the work environment. (NN July 21, 1995)**

**August Family Nights at the Metzenbaum Center, a tradition since June
1993, are ended due to budget constraints. (NN July 7, 1995)**

**September Director Goodhand announces in The Plain Dealer that the agency
needs to recruit more African-American foster and adoptive parents.
Much of this effort seen to have grown out of the contentious Baby
Shampail case. (PD Sept. 18, 1995)**

1996

**Cuyahoga County Commissioners: Mary O. Boyle, Timothy F. Hagan,
Lee C. Weingart**

Director: Judith Goodhand

Full Time Equivalent CCDCFS Employees: 913

Expenditures: \$105,426,089

Cuyahoga County Child Death Review Committee is established to examine all child deaths in Cuyahoga County. (PD Feb. 1, 2001)

Domestic violence training is introduced to CCDCFS training curricula. (OBM Annual Report 1996)

Health Care Unit is established at CCDCFS to oversee the delivery of comprehensive health care services to children in CCDCFS custody. (CCDCFS Annual Report 2000)

January With the worst of the SAFE fiscal crisis over, a new county budget will restore staff for criminal justice and social services, including CCDCFS. (PD Dec. 20, 1995)

February Clothes ordering process is streamlined by Clothing Department per social workers' requests. (NN Feb. 9, 1996)

March Long Term Foster Care (LTFC) Task Force is organized to address the growing number of children inappropriately placed in long term foster care. The LTFC Task Force is committed to timely permanency planning for children in custody. (NN Mar. 20, 1998)

April First annual Spring Fling is hosted by Recruitment Unit to spread the news and expectation that recruitment is everybody's business. (F2FTL) (NN Apr. 5, 1996)

June

Stand for Children rally in Washington, D.C. is attend by many CCDCFS staff. The rally brings national attention to the plight of America's children and the issues involving them, such as poverty, disease and abuse and neglect. (NN May 17, 1996)

Added emphasis is placed on adoption of older children with cooperation between the federal Minority Adoption Recruitment Project and CCDCFS. (PD June 8, 1996)

October

Director Goodhand in an article in The Plain Dealer publicly addresses the growing concerns about CCDCFS. She stresses strengths of CCDCFS while exploring the barriers of increased poverty, drug addiction, and soaring numbers of children needing protection. Family to Family philosophy is explained and the agency's move to deployment is discussed. (PD Oct. 7, 1996)

1997

**Cuyahoga County Commissioners: Jane L. Campbell, Timothy F. Hagan,
Timothy McCormack**

Director: Judith Goodhand

Full Time Equivalent CCDCFS Employees: 981

Expenditures: \$122,038,809

January All staff meetings are held on GEO (geographical case assignment) which continues to emphasis family-centered, community based social work. (NN Jan. 10, 1997)

IV-E Unit announces achieving an 80% penetration rate for last quarter of 1996. This increase from an estimated 70% penetration translates into approximately \$3 million in additional federal funds. (NN Jan. 24, 1997)

April New state of the art telephone system arrives at CCDCFS. New features in voice mail. (NN Apr. 4, 1997)

County commissioners fire four CCDCFS employees sending a clear message to the community and the department that the county will not tolerate willful failure to follow essential procedures in protecting children. (PD Apr. 25, 1997)

May GEO gets “green light.” Starting May 1, Intake cases are transferred to Ongoing based on their address. (NN Apr. 18, 1997)

New START (Sobriety Treatment and Recovery Teams) units are fully staffed and will work on the many cases where substance abuse is a key risk factor. The START initiative is a major piece in CCDCFS’ effort to counter the drug problem. (NN May 2, 1997) (PD May 28, 1997)

CCDCFS employees picket outside the Jane Edna Hunter Building during lunch on May 28 in a peaceful demonstration saying that they are misunderstood and treated badly by management. (PD May 29, 1997)

Director Goodhand submits to Cuyahoga County commissioners her report, “When a Child Dies,” answering questions about the quality of life for children in the Cuyahoga County, particularly in regard to child abuse and neglect: the immediate past, the current situation and the suggestions and hopes for the future. (When a Child Dies)

June County commissioners hire outside consultant to review CCDCFS.
(PD June 3, 1997)

**Community dialogue with CCDCFS staff, child welfare experts, county commissioners, DCFS Advisory Board, concerned community leaders, and others to explore issue of positive tox babies.
(NN June 27, 1997) (PD June 28, 1997)**

August Major four part series “Judgment Calls: Protecting Children, Preserving Families” by Jean Dubail appears in The Plain Dealer. The positive series takes a look at the extremely difficult challenges that CCDCFS social workers face every day. (NN Sept. 19, 1997)
(PD various articles August 1997)

October CCDCFS decides not to take part in new state experimental program, ProtectOhio, which would permit counties to spend federal funds on children before they are placed in foster homes. Director Goodhand states that the decision was made not to participate because it limits a county’s ability to seek increases in federal funding during the 5-year life of the project. (PD September 17, 1997)

**Major computer installation and upgrading at CCDCFS.
(NN Oct. 17, 1997)**

HB 408 Ohio Works First (OWF) goes into effect. The new program is Ohio’s answer to TANF, spelling the end of welfare as it has been known. The maximum period of full benefits will be 36 months and recipients will be required to search for work. (NN Sept. 19, 1997)

CCDCFS in conjunction with the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board of Cuyahoga County (ADASBCC) develops a method to ensure that all persons needing drug treatment have access to comprehensive drug assessments and referrals to primary treatment services. To assist in accomplishing this ADASBCC locates an on-site assessment referral unit, Cleveland Cares Plus, in the Jane Edna Hunter Building. (NN Oct. 31, 1997)

1998

**Cuyahoga County Commissioners: Jane L. Campbell, Timothy F. Hagan,
Timothy McCormack**

Director: Judith Goodhand

Full Time Equivalent CCDCFS Employees: 1,047

Expenditures: \$137,361,526

This was a period of low morale and high staff turnover, with social worker turnover at 27%. (CCDCFS Annual Report 1999) (F2FTL)

February **Director Judith Goodhand announces that she will resign July 10, 1998. The operations of CCDCFS have improved under her tenure: caseloads are down; foster placements up; foster children are moved from family to family less often; and discipline of staff has improved, weeding out substandard employees. At the same time, the public perception of the CCDCFS is, if anything, worse. Several widely publicized deaths of local children from abuse and neglect spurred widespread criticism of the agency. A nation-wide search is planned to find her replacement. (NN Feb. 6, 1998) (PD Feb. 4, 1998)**

County commissioners hire consultants to review county's social services network. CCDCFS is to be reviewed by A. T. Hudson and Co. (cost \$4.1 million) and The American Humane Association (cost \$346,000) and The Institute for Human Services Administration (cost \$100,000). A. T. Hudson and The American Humane Association will examine CCDCFS directly while The Institute for Human Services Administration will evaluate the private agencies used by CCDCFS. (PD Feb. 9, 1998)

Using Standards for Effective Practice a work team reviews all forms currently used by social workers, as well as the system for completing and submitting them. This review is partly in response to issues raised with increased urgency by agency social workers. (NN Feb. 20, 1998)

March **Commissioner McCormack calls for state takeover of CCDCFS. PD strongly criticizes the idea. Takeover does not come about. (PD Mar. 3, 1998)**

New cooperation comes about between CCDCFS and the Cleveland Police Department. Both sides, with the help of county commissioners and county and city prosecutors, worked to create this new improved work environment. Practices are also adopted by suburban police departments. (PD Mar. 29, 1998)

- July** **Director Judith Goodhand leaves CCDCFS on July 10. CCDCFS management to report directly to Shadi Roman, County Director of Human Services, until successor is found. (NN June 26, 1998)**
- Draft of the American Humane Association's report stresses improvements made in the last 5 years: social workers are better trained; professional standards are higher; accountability is enhanced; and the ability to track cases has improved. Problems that need to be addressed are high turnover rate, too heavy workloads, and low pay. (NN Aug. 7, 1998) (PD July 5, 1998)**
- Leave Donation Program implemented for county employees allowing the donation of accrued ill and/or vacation time to co-workers in need. (NN July 24, 1998)**
- October** **Search for a new director takes longer than anticipated. Goldie Alvis, on loan from the Cleveland Foundation where she is Senior Program Officer for Social Services, steps in to assist CCDCFS as Senior Transitional Advisor. (NN Oct. 2, 1998) (PD Oct. 23, 1998)**
- November** **IV-E Unit's records are all moved, reorganized, and renumbered by Family Case Number in accordance with new Terminal Digit system. (NN Nov. 13, 1998)**
- December** **William Denihan, Cleveland Safety Director, is announced by commissioners as new CCDCFS director. His start date is to be January 19, 1999. (NN Jan. 8, 1999) (PD Dec. 29, 1998)**

1999

**Cuyahoga County Commissioners: Jane L. Campbell, Jimmy Dimora,
Timothy McCormack**

Director: William Denihan

Full Time Equivalent CCDCFS Employees: 1,040

Expenditures: \$144,737,264

Hotline adds Spanish to automated messages. (CCDCFS Annual Report 1999) (CCDCFS Budget Presentation 2000)

Development and implementation of Family and Children Tracking System (FACTS) as sole source database system to meet Y2K compliance. (CCDCFS Budget Presentation 2000)

Protocol agreement with Cleveland Public Schools to more closely integrate school activities with CCDCFS services. (CCDCFS Budget Presentation 2000)

CCDCFS works with Juvenile Court to reduce the refilings of custody cases by 50% and reduce the length of time needed to receive journal entries from 180 days to 30 days. (CCDCFS Annual Report 1999)

Safety Net Program instituted in conjunction with the Cuyahoga County Work and Training Department for families sanctioned in Ohio Works First (OWF). (CCDCFS Annual Report 1999)

January William M. Denihan takes position as new director on January 19. Surprise noted by appointment of administrator without social work background. With Director Denihan's arrival a series of public forums with director, commissioners, county officials, etc. are implemented. (NN Jan. 8, 1999) (PD Dec. 29, 1998; Jan. 16, 1999; Jan. 24, 1999)

Information Services webpage available at CCDCFS with information on Child and Youth Centered Information System (CYCIS) and Client Registry Information System-Enhanced (CRIS-E). (NN Jan. 22, 1999)

With arrival of Director Denihan, Goldie K. Alvis, CCDCFS Senior Transitional Advisor, leaves post and returns to Cleveland Foundation. (NN Feb. 5, 1999)

Continued building of ties between CCDCFS and Cleveland Police Department. CCDCFS staff regularly attending the Police Community Relations Meetings. (NN May 14, 1999)

February Customer Service Unit (CSU) starts at CCDCFS implemented at the request of the county commissioners. CSU goals set as improvement of customer service, improvement of community/employee relations, and to enhance the public image of the agency. (CCDCFS Annual Report 1999) (NN Dec. 10, 1999)

March Marsha Wickliffe is appointed staff member responsible for all Family to Family and Neighborhood activities of the agency. This includes deployment of staff to neighborhoods and building internal support and eliciting ever-increasing neighborhood-based community support/participation. (NN Mar. 5, 1999)

Council for Economic Opportunity of Cleveland enters into partnership with CCDCFS to provide services to clients who fall within poverty guidelines. Electronic form for accessing services available on staff computers. (NN Mar. 5, 1999)

April Child Support Enforcement Agency and CCDCFS form partnership to help social workers obtain support payments from families of those children in county custody. (NN Apr. 30, 1999)

Structured Decision Making (SDM) risk assessment tool originated by the Children's Research Center (CRC) and the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD) is introduced to CCDCFS. The use of SDM will reduce amount of time spent on assessment from two hours to thirty minutes without compromising child safety. (NN Apr. 30, 1999)

July Wellness Committee is established at CCDCFS to provide a more positive work environment for staff. (NN July 23, 1999)

August Image Tax, modern software record tracking system, is implemented for managing CCDCFS case records. (CCDCFS staff info.)

September Find the Father Committee is established at suggestion of Judge Rubin to work on ways that CCDCFS staff can pay more attention to the fathers of our families by helping to identify and locate them in order to protect the interests of the children. (NN Sept. 3, 1999)

Director Denihan gives his first “State of the Agency” address to CCDCFS staff. Overall improvements seen in foster care and adoptions, communication with county commissioners and other county officials, work environment, public confidence and access, community partnerships, move towards neighborhood deployment, agency management with implementation of a number of American Humane Association’s suggestions, and funding. (NN Sept. 17, 1999)

October First CCDCFS’ Halloween party for agency foster children. Huge success of party will make this a popular annual event. (NN Oct. 15, 1999)

CCDCFS takes active part in County’s Family Festivals in the agency’s continued effort to outreach to the community at large. (NN, Oct. 29, 1999)

2000

**Cuyahoga County Commissioners: Jane L. Campbell, Jimmy Dimora,
Timothy McCormack**

Director: William Denihan

Full Time Equivalent CCDCFS Employees: 1059

Expenditures: \$153,163,489

New Oracle-based custom designed fiscal management system is initiated and implemented over the next few years. Features include revenue receipts; all payment processing and tracking for foster parents, adoptive parents, network, and vendors; contract tracking for residential service and vendor providers; management of IV-E eligibility; travel, education expenses for staff and clients. (CCDCFS staff info.)

January CCDCFS receives Distinguished Partner Award from the Cleveland International Program (CIP). CIP visiting professionals at the agency partner with staff to improve the lives of children and families in Cuyahoga County. (NN Mar. 3, 2000)

February Director Denihan gives his second “State of the Agency” address. Overall improvements in all areas of endeavor are noted. (NN Mar. 3, 2005)

Neighborhood Deployment Plan officially begins. (CC June 23, 2000)

March Structured Decision Making (SDM) which was finalized in 1999 is fully implemented, replacing the Family Risk Assessment Matrix (FRAM). (CCDCFS Annual Report 1999) (NN Feb. 18, 2000; Mar. 3, 2000)

April Director Denihan starts his series of informal Monday morning “Low Down” discussions allowing all staff to meet with him and discuss work-related issues and concerns. (NN April 14, 2000)

- June** **First ground breaking ceremony to honor Neighborhood Deployment Plan held at Mt. Pleasant Center. (CC June 23, 2000)**
- Ground breaking ceremony at Fatima Center. (CC July 7, 2000)**
- July** **The Federation for Community Planning sponsors forum “Welfare Time Limits and the Safety Net: A Community Discussion,” to discuss the coming end of welfare as we know it for Cuyahoga County families. Among those speakers at the forum: former County Commissioner Mary Boyle and Deputy County Administrator Bette Meyer. (CC August 11, 2000)**
- September** **First agency picnic planned by the Wellness Committee. (NN Sept. 8, 2000)**
- Pilot project between the Cleveland Municipal School District and CCDCFS is implemented. Four students from Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences of Case Western Reserve University under the supervision of agency staff work on attendance issues before they become educational neglect issues. (NN Sept. 29, 2000)**
- First project of the Volunteer Coalition of Cuyahoga County takes place with the painting of the recreation room of the St. Malachi Center. The coalition allows CCDCFS staff and other county employees to volunteer for various projects throughout the county. (NN Oct. 13, 2000)**
- News Notes, CCDCFS newsletter, is revitalized under the Customer Service Unit. Short lived title Child Chronicle is dropped, replaced by previous title News Notes. (NN Sept. 15, 2000)**
- October** **Director Denihan delivers his third “State of the Agency” address. Successes noted include staff deployment into the neighborhoods, hiring new staff and reduction in staff turnover. (NN Nov. 9, 2000)**
- Ohio Works First (OWF) benefits end for 2,025 families in Cuyahoga County. CCDCFS is prepared to face the challenges of this new situation, making sure that remaining social safety nets are in place for families and children. (NN Sept. 8, 2000)**
- To help fill the pressing demand for social workers, CCDCFS holds a job fair making information about the agency and our services**

available to social worker candidates. Applications were taken and interviews were held. (NN Oct. 13, 2000)

November Continuing plans for deployment of staff into neighborhood sites with three groups of individuals to relocate to Fatima Center, Southgate, and W. 25th/Clark. (NN Nov. 9, 2000)

December Ohio lawmakers approve a bill to allow a mother to surrender her unharmed newborn baby within 72 hours of birth to police, medical professionals, or an emergency service organization without any criminal charges. The law becomes known as the “Safe Haven for Newborns” law. (PD Dec. 15, 2000)

2001

**Cuyahoga County Commissioners: Jane L. Campbell, Jimmy Dimora,
Timothy McCormack**

**Director: William Denihan; James McCafferty (Interim Director after Director
Denihan's departure)**

Full Time Equivalent CCDCFS Employees: 1,239

Expenditures: \$171,994,964

County commissioners approve Early Retirement Incentive Program, (a.k.a. buyout) for county employees. CCDCFS loses many long term employees and the wisdom, knowledge, and skills that come with years of job experience. (PD Apr. 3, 2001)

Case Rate Pilot (CRP) implemented. CRP is a managed care case management delivery model with goals as follows: limiting child's length of stay in custody, improving child's and family's outcomes, linking placement provider services with neighborhood based collaboratives, increasing number of siblings placed together, making permanency decisions within 12 month period as required by Adoption and Safe Family Act (ASFA), and granting financial incentives to providers to move children quickly to permanency. The pilot is expected to continue into 2006. (CCDCFS staff info.)

Scanning of record begins. (CCDCFS staff info.)

January W. 25th Family Service Center deployment site up and running. (NN Jan. 5, 2001)

Neighborhood Family Service Center at Southgate deployment site up and running. (NN Jan. 19, 2001)

Ongoing training hours for foster parents increased from 12 to 20 hours per year, per foster parent as result of House Bill 332 – Foster Parent Training Bill. (NN Jan. 5, 2001)

News Notes (CCDCFS newsletter) is now sent to all CCDCFS foster homes. (NN Jan. 19, 2001)

Cuyahoga County Child Death Review Committee releases report on how and why 237 children died in 1999, the most comprehensive look at county child death statistics to date. It is hoped that the knowledge acquired from the report will help prevent future child fatalities. (PD Feb. 1, 2001)

February CCDCFS starts Child Advocate of the Month award. Director Denihan, caught totally unaware, is first award recipient. (NN Mar. 2, 2001)

“Angela’s Video” is released to be shown to Cleveland police officers and county social workers. The tape explains the roles of each and the need to work together. The tape and the joint training sessions indicate a new era of cooperation between the police and CCDCFS. (PD Mar. 8, 2001)

April W. 25th Family Service Center open house with CCDCFS staff, local neighborhood community, Commissioner McCormack, County Administrator Betty Myers, and other dignitaries. (NN Apr. 27, 2001)

“Safe Haven for Newborns” state law takes effect. The law eliminates any criminal liability for birth parents who drop off their unharmed newborns within 72 hours of birth to police, medical professionals, or an emergency service organization. (PD Apr. 6, 2001)

May Groundbreaking ceremony at Quincy Place in Fairfax neighborhood with county commissioners and other distinguished guests. (NN May 11, 2001)

Director Denihan establishes Neighborhood Advisory Council that will inform the county commissioners and CCDCFS administrators on the status and impact of initiatives the agency has undertaken, such as Family-to-Family, Neighborhood Schools Project, etc. (NN June 8, 2001)

Director Denihan steps down in order to make his formal announcement of his intention to run for mayor of Cleveland. James McCafferty is appointed Interim Executive Director while search for permanent director moves forward. (NN June 8, 2001)

START (Sobriety Treatment and Recovery Team) program receives the Calvin Thomas Community Services Award which is awarded by the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board to an agency which has contributed to minimizing the harmful impact of substance abuse and dependency, and which promotes wellness, prevention, and recovery. (NN July 20, 2001)

Antwone Fisher, author of Finding Fish: A Memoir, which recounts his early life as a CCDCFS foster child, visits the agency. The visit delights Fisher and staff alike. Finding Fish is later made into the widely acclaimed film Antwone Fisher starring Denzel Washington. (CCDCFS info.) (NN Feb. 15, 2002) (PD various articles)

- June** **New phone system is installed with multiple advanced features (voicemail, multiple menu selection, speaker phone ability, etc.) allowing for future upgrades. (CCDCFS staff info.)**
- July** **CCDCFS Speakers Bureau is revitalized under the Customer Service Unit. (NN July 20, 2001)**
- August** **CCDCFS staff moves into St. Augustine deployment site in Detroit Shoreway neighborhood. (NN Sept. 14, 2001)**
- “Safe Haven for Newborns” state law is found to be rarely used throughout the state. Efforts to educate the public about the bill are implemented by CCDCFS. (PD Aug. 14, 2001)**
- September** **Parent/Relative Locator Section (PRL) starts as a collaborative effort between the Prosecutor’s Office and CCDCFS to locate missing parents. (NN Jan. 18, 2001)**
- CCDCFS focuses on having Cuyahoga County children placed in local foster homes, reflecting a Family to Family philosophy. (PD Aug. 16, 2001; Aug. 22, 2001; Sept, 26, 2001)**
- October** **Major budget cuts across all county departments. County commissioners realize the importance of CCDCFS and do their best to minimize impact to CCDCFS. (PD Oct. 28, 2001; Dec. 18, 2001; Dec. 19, 2001)**

Automated Foster Parent Registration Line is implemented within the new phone system. The automated line allows quick and easy registration for foster training classes over the phone. (CCDCFS staff info.)

Stabbing death of neighboring Summit County social worker Nancy Fitzgivens while in the line of duty causes shockwaves throughout the social work community. Social worker safety is viewed as a paramount concern. (PD Nov. 8, 2003)

2002

**Cuyahoga County Commissioners: Jimmy Dimora, Peter Lawson Jones
Timothy McCormack**

Director: James McCafferty

Full Time Equivalent CCDCFS Employees: 1,124

Expenditures: \$190,418,331

Latter part of the year the Disproportionality Committee is started to address the overrepresentation of African-Americans in the child welfare system. (CCDCFS staff info.)

January Cuyahoga County Commissioner Jane Campbell vacates her commissioner's seat becoming the 55th mayor of the city of Cleveland (www.city.cleveland.oh.us/mayor)

The Parent Locator Group and Find the Father Committee merge to work together towards a common objective of locating missing parents and relatives and to facilitate goals of the Kinship Adoption Initiative by raising the number of kinship placements and adoptions. (NN Jan. 18, 2001)

February Peter Lawson Jones fills commissioner's seat vacated by Jane Campbell. (PD various articles Jan., Feb. 2002)

March County commissioners appoint James McCafferty full time director of CCDCFS after serving as interim director for the past eight months. James McCafferty brings with him decades of social work experience and expertise. Director McCafferty achieves the 4 directives given earlier to him by the commissioners: 1. review and reduce the number of children in custody, 2. find families for 2000 children in permanent custody, 3. bring Cuyahoga County children back to Cuyahoga County and 4. improve fiscal practices and live within budget. (NN Mar. 15, 2002) (SPTL)

Mt. Pleasant Community Center dedicated on March 14 with county commissioners, Cleveland Mayor Jane Campbell, and other dignitaries in attendance. (NN Mar. 29, 2002)

April

Case Review develops committees to help move forward on certain strategic planning goals. The committees are Strength –Based Meetings (promoting family friendly practices and celebrating strengths), Peer Review (promoting strengths and celebrating differences), Forms (promoting strength-based communication), and Reunification Celebrations (promoting permanency and celebrating families). (NN Apr. 12, 2002)

Cleveland Diocese Sexual Abuse Commission is formed to investigate the local accusations of sexual abuse by the clergy. Among its members are William Denihan, former CCDCFS director. (PD Apr. 18, 2002)

Cuyahoga County budget problems continue. CCDCFS, along with the Sheriff’s Department, are pointed out as most seriously overbudget. Agency’s attempt to contain costs, such as a hiring freeze, are outweighed by the needs of the number of children in custody and state cuts in adoption funding. (PD Apr. 30, 2002)

August

County cash crisis continues to grow. Sales and property tax revenues and state assistance are down with Commissioner McCormack calling this “the most serious financial set of conditions this community has faced since the Great Depression.” Four-day workweeks and layoffs for county employees are mentioned as potential solutions. CCDCFS has largest deficit at \$24 million overbudget. To close the budget gap, the department has reduced the number of children in custody from 6500 to 5800, cut rates paid to private agencies, and reduced staffing through the county Early Retirement Incentive Program (“buyout”). (PD Aug. 14, 2002)

County Early Retirement Incentive Program (“buyout”) comes under scrutiny of The Plain Dealer. The plan is viewed as very controversial citing specific retirees and dollar amounts, including retired CCDCFS staff. (PD Aug. 18, 2002)

CCDCFS Policy 10.02.04 Traveling in Pairs implemented addressing safety concerns of staff. This policy allows for staff to travel in pairs when “there is reasonable concern that the employee may be subject to physical harm or harassment in the performance of their duties in the community.” (CCDCFS Policies and Procedures)

November **County dips into “rainy day” fund to bail county departments out of budgetary crisis. (PD Nov. 6, 2002)**

2003

**Cuyahoga County Commissioners: Jimmy Dimora, Peter Lawson Jones,
Timothy McCormack**

Director: James McCafferty

Full Time Equivalent CCDCFS Employees: 1,008

Expenditures: \$176,183,458

- March** **CCDCFS ends freeze on teenage referrals to Parmadale/Catholic Charities with Parmadale's commitment to safety improvements. CCDCFS had stopped referring teens to Parmadale in December 2002 when charges of sexual abuse by Parmadale staff surfaced. Some of the improvements include more training, two workers on all off campus trips, and monthly meetings with various county and state agencies. (PD Mar. 5, 2003)**
- May** **Human Services Levy (Issue 15) passes after a contentious campaign involving opposition of the levy by Service Employees International Union (SEIU). (PD various articles Apr., May 2003)**
- November** **Attack and rape of neighboring Summit County Children Services social worker Shawn Marshall while on the job emphasizes the dangers of the social worker's job. While CCDCFS workers have not experienced incidents this serious, the agency realizes the need for continued safety measures. (PD Nov. 8, 2003)**

2004

**Cuyahoga County Commissioners: Jimmy Dimora, Peter Lawson Jones,
Timothy McCormack**

Director: James McCafferty

Full Time Equivalent CCDCFS Employees: 989

Expenditures: \$168,816,232

CCDCFS hosts the Annie E. Casey Foundation Annual Board Meeting. (F2FTL) (SPTL)

Contracts are issued to the 11 neighborhood collaboratives to build the capacity of the collaboratives to serve families with more complex issues. Funds are made available for non-traditional services and to hire needed staff. The neighborhood collaboratives are also serving as community infrastructure for Tapestry, a system of care for children with severe emotional disturbances and their families. (F2FTL)

Latter part of the year, Commissioner Peter Lawson Jones spearheads Cuyahoga County's Fatherhood Initiative to stress the importance of the father in the family relationship. Aldonis Grimes is appointed Cuyahoga County's Fatherhood Coordinator under the county's Family & Children First Council. (PD Nov. 22, 2004; Jan. 2, 2005) (www.cuyahogacounty.us/fcfc)

Participation begins in Statewide Area Child Welfare Tracking System (SACWIS) Joint Application Design (JAD), mapping, user acceptance testing session. SACWIS is a comprehensive, statewide information system that supports child welfare case management and decision making and allows for the collection of data to meet federal and state reporting requirements and support management and ad-hoc reporting. Ohio is developing a SACWIS which meets federal requirements along with satisfying the needs of the state and 88 Public Children Services Associations (PCSAs) who will use the system. Implementation for Cuyahoga County is to be spring of 2007. (CCDCFS staff info.)

February Accreditation Core Committee is formed to implement CCDCFS' move towards accreditation by the Council on Accreditation (COA). (Committee notes)

Common Pleas Judge Brian Corrigan rules that voluminous investigative files documenting a half century of child sexual abuse in the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland should not be released to the public. Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Bill Mason requested a legal ruling when release of the documents was requested by the media. (PD Feb. 28, 2004)

March **Issue 30, a county health and human services levy, passes. The levy was viewed as essential in view of shrinking state support. (PD various articles Feb., Mar. 2004)**

Adopt Cuyahoga's Kids program begins in an effort to find adoptive parents for 1400 children in county custody. Cuyahoga County, the United Way, and other local institutions join together in this effort with initial target being children who are 10 or older (children for whom finding a permanent family is often difficult). The Adoption Network leads the program which will run for three years. (PD Mar. 11, 2004)

July **Smeadlink software is implemented for managing electronic and paper documents at CCDCFS. It is a database browsing program that allows two databases: archive (closed records) and active (all records that have been processed). Smeadlink allows interfacing with FACTS which helps keeps the system updated with new clients. Smeadlink replaces the earlier Image Tax. (CCDCFS staff info.)**

August **First annual Riverside Symposium held. The symposium, sponsored by CCDCFS and the North Central Ohio Regional Training Center (NCORTC), presents keynote speakers Terri Ali and Sandra Jimenez and a variety of workshops by leading child welfare professionals. (Symposium brochure)**

Plain Dealer publishes "Special Report: Foster Care Crisis" a sobering look at the history of CCDCFS custody practices and foster care. (PD Aug. 8, 2004)

2005

**Cuyahoga County Commissioners: Jimmy Dimora, Peter Lawson Jones,
Timothy F. Hagan**

Director: James McCafferty

Full Time Equivalent CCDCFS Employees: 1,036 (as budgeted by OBM)

Expenditures: \$180,548,082 (as budgeted by OBM)

Tapestry integrates mental health services for the severely emotionally disturbed youth into the overall system of care throughout the county using the Positive Education Program-Connections and Family to Family Collaboratives as the model. (<http://fcfc.cuyahogacounty.us/services.htm>)

January Timothy F. Hagan returns as a Cuyahoga County commissioner having defeated Timothy McCormack in 2004 election. (PD various articles Oct., Nov. 2004)

First annual Support Service Recognition Awards given to CCDCFS support staff for excellence of service, years of service, etc. (CCDCFS staff info.)

May First annual Foster Parent Training Conference with approximately 450 Cuyahoga County on-going and pre-service foster parents in attendance. (NN winter 2005)

June Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative holds a 2-day Celebration of Fatherhood which includes father-and-child pancake breakfast, resource fair, and town hall meeting. (PD June 16, 2005)

July Dorothy Roberts, Northwestern University professor and author of Shattered Bonds: The Color of Child Welfare, visits Cuyahoga County to discuss disproportionality (overrepresentation of African-American children in the child welfare system) with CCDCFS staff, child advocate experts, and community collaborative leaders. (www.pcsao.org/minoritydis.htm)

Newsletter Committee is formed to bring back the agency newsletter, News Notes. (Committee info.)

August

U.S. Census Bureau announces the results of its 2004 American Community Survey ranking Cleveland as the 12th poorest city in the U.S. with a population of 250,000 or more. This is an improvement over Cleveland's ranking as the number one poorest city for the previous survey. (PD Sept. 1, 2005)

Major meeting with CCDCFS management staff and state consultants on the implementation of Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information Systems (SACWIS). SACWIS is a comprehensive, statewide information system that supports child welfare case management and decision making and allows for the collection of data to meet federal and state reporting requirements and support management and ad-hoc reporting. Ohio is developing a SACWIS which meets federal requirements along with satisfying the needs of the state and 88 Public Children Services Associations (PCSAs) who will use the system. Implementation for Cuyahoga County is to be spring of 2007. (Meeting information Aug. 10, 2005)

September

Gathering of child advocates brought together by Cuyahoga County commissioners to discuss disproportionality, continuing the discussion begun in July with the visit of disproportionality expert Dorothy Roberts. The impetus for the gathering was a study by Case Western Reserve University highlighting this situation in Cuyahoga County. (PD Sept. 23, 2005)

October

CCDCFS takes temporary emergency custody of "Baby Jack," a newborn found abandoned in a trash container at the Tower City shopping complex in downtown Cleveland. The abandonment once again points up the need for the public and particularly scared birth parents to be aware of the "Safe Haven for Newborns" law. The state law eliminates any criminal liability for birth parents who drop off unharmed newborns within 72 hours of birth to police, medical professionals, or an emergency service organization. Since the law went into effect in April 2001, 37 babies in Ohio have been given a safe haven. Director McCafferty publicly states that he would like to see the 72 hour time limit increased. (PD Oct. 10, 2005; Dec. 1, 2005)

News Notes, the agency newsletter, returns after a hiatus. This first new issue of the revived newsletter is distributed to staff and various members of the social services, child welfare community. (Committee info.) (NN fall 2005)

November Cleveland Mayor Jane Campbell, former Cuyahoga County commissioner, loses her bid for re-election to challenger Cleveland City Council President Frank Jackson. (www.wky.com/election/2005)

2006

**Cuyahoga County Commissioners: Jimmy Dimora, Peter Lawson Jones,
Timothy F. Hagan**

Director: James McCafferty

Full Time Equivalent CCDCFS Employees: 1,029

Expenditures: \$168,003,340

**January Kinship Permanency Incentive program is implemented. (CCDCFS
2006 Accomplishments)**

**CCDCFS expands efforts to work with gay youth, often homeless.
Foster care is presented as safer and as more accepting than life on
the streets. (PD Jan. 17, 2006)**

**Adopt Cuyahoga Kids initiative completes third and final year as a
project with the Vision Council of the United Way, Cleveland. The
project assisted finding older children adoptive homes. The project
will be assessed and will continue in 2007 with CCDCFS working with
The Adoption Network. (CCDCFS 2006 Accomplishments)**

**Placement Department refines and intensifies review process for all
potential Cuyahoga County foster parents, closely scrutinizing if prior
histories exist with child welfare, criminal convictions, etc.
(CCDCFS 2006 Accomplishments)**

**Development and preparation continues of Statewide Area Child
Tracking System (SACWIS). (OBM 2006 Budget Plan)**

**Cuyahoga County commissioners fund Children Who Witness
Violence to continue its highly praised work. The program is due to
lose its federal funding in 2006. (PD Jan. 13, 2006)**

**February Visitation Unit begins offering services 7 days a week.
(CCDCFS 2006 Accomplishments)**

**Including Fathers Committee sponsors first annual Fatherhood Fair
at Friendly Inn Settlement. The fair provides information to the
community about services related to men's issues. Nearly 50
participating agencies are involved. (NN spring 2006)**

The mother and father of a baby killed at birth are sentenced to prison. The mother for 6 years for having killed the baby and the father for 2 years for having tossed the baby's body into a water filled quarry. The trial vividly reveals the importance of the need for well publicized safe haven for newborn laws to prevent similar tragedies. (PD Feb. 9, 2006)

March Cleveland City Council forms a subcommittee to find ways to keep track of more than 1700 registered sex offenders living in Cleveland. (PD Mar. 30, 2006)

April Census Bureau releases report documenting migration out of Cuyahoga County at approximately 15,700 people a year. The report also documents continued migration out of the state of Ohio as a whole. (PD Apr. 20, 2006)

May CCDCFS and the North Central Ohio Regional Training Center (NCORTC) hold the second annual Foster, Adoption and Caregiver Training Conference. This year's theme is "A Home Away from Home." (NN winter 2006)

Children Need Support Taskforce, a multi-agency effort dedicated to finding parents negligent in child support payments, is formed to aggressively seek out Cuyahoga County absent or "deadbeat" parents who owe a combined \$765 million in child support payments. (PD May 2, 2006)

Governor Robert Taft signs into law a bill that adds the state's clergy to professions required to report suspected sexual abuse. The law goes into effect in August. (PD May 3, 2006)

June Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) unit is created to improve services to families and overall agency performance through a self-initiated, all encompassing program that promotes quality outcomes. Includes accreditation, quality assurance, and self-evaluation. (OBM 2006 Budget Plan)

Independent Living recognizes all graduating seniors at Rising Up and Moving On awards. (CCDCFS 2006 Accomplishments)

Placement Department continues to refine, in conjunction with child protective partners, an e-mail based system to send and receive placement information. (CCDCFS 2006 Accomplishments)

Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office takes the unusual steps of charging 3 adults on the same day with failing to report sexual crimes in two high profile cases raising the issue of nonreporting to a new level. (PD June 7, 2006)

Greater Cleveland receives \$2.75 million from the Justice Department to help fight street gangs. (PD June 7, 2006)

July

Front page Plain Dealer article praises CCDCFS for being at the forefront of children's services reforms. Success of Family to Family program and ties to Annie E. Casey Foundation are noted. Follow up PD editorial and letters continue the positive note. (PD July 25, 2006; Aug. 1, 2006; Aug. 12, 2006)

CCDCFS Sibling Policy (6.01.04) is implemented stressing CCDCFS' commitment to keeping siblings together if at all possible. Appropriate training provided for staff. (CCDCFS 2006 Accomplishments)

Five year legal dispute involving Ohio's child-support system ends when a federal appeals court throws out class-action suit filed by custodial parents in 2001. The suit accused two former state human services directors and two contractors of failing to address chronic problems with Ohio's \$250 million Support Enforcement Tracking System (SETS). (PD July 18, 2006)

August

CCDCFS and the North Central Ohio Regional Training Center (NCORTC) hold the Third Annual Riverside Symposium "Nurturing Children: Empowering Families" with keynote speaker Dr. Gregory Keck and awards of excellence for training presented to Yvonne Billingsley, Esq. and Sister Madeleine Rybicki. (NCORTC Annual Report 2006)

Cuyahoga County expands its fatherhood program with a newly designed program, Strong Start for Cuyahoga's Families, which builds on the county's Fatherhood Initiative. Parents will be able to attend classes showing them how to give children more stable homes and importance of both a mother and a father in the family unit. (PD Aug. 19, 2006)

Cuyahoga County commissioners start study in earnest for design of new county administration building to be constructed on the corner of East Ninth Street and Euclid Avenue. (PD Aug. 24, 2006)

Increase in juvenile crime in Cleveland's older suburbs raises criticism of Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court (PD Aug. 8, 2006)

Cleveland is cited as the poorest big city (pop. over 250,000) in the United States for the second time in three years by the U.S. Census Bureau, with almost half the city's children living in poverty. It is also noted that Cleveland has lost a quarter of federal funds for community development over the past decade, close to \$10 million. An additional U.S. Census survey shows that Cleveland continues to lose population, as does Cuyahoga County as a whole. (PD Aug. 15, 2006; Aug. 30, 2006; Aug. 31, 2006)

September CCDCFS expresses concern over state funds reserved for foster kinship care going unspent. (PD Sept. 25, 2006)

Four new collaborative agencies are established in inner-ring suburbs: Cleveland Heights, Garfield Heights, Lakewood, and Parma. (CCDCFS 2006 Accomplishments)

Increase in the number of Cuyahoga County residents using food stamps and local food pantries. The increase is noted in the suburbs as well as the city of Cleveland. (PD Sept. 1, 2006).

October CCDCFS chosen by Annie E. Casey Foundation as an anchor site. (CCDCFS 2006 Accomplishments)

STEP (Stability Through Employment Progression) pilot program uses welfare money to offer incentives for meeting education and employment goals. CCDCFS along with STEP and community partners strive to keep families together or reunite them as they stabilize and are ready to resume parenting. (PD Oct. 24, 2006)

Track-IT software is installed to automate all Information Services requests. (OBM 2006 Budget Plan)

Cleveland is proclaimed seventh most dangerous, violent city in the U.S. in the annual ranking compiled by Morgan Quitno Press. (PD Oct. 30, 2006)

November **Health and Human Services levy passes assuring needed funds to continue social services in Cuyahoga County, including funding for CCDCFS. (PD Nov. 11, 2006)**

Ohio's minimum wage constitutional amendment approved by voters. This will go into effect in 2007 with an immediate minimum wage increase, with annual cost-of-living increases to follow. The new rate is non-tipped employees \$6.85; tipped employees \$3.43. (PD Dec. 12, 2006)

December **CCDCFS receives delivery of over 900 workstations from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and begins installation. (Deputy Director info.)**

In one of the largest child support crackdowns ever, law enforcement authorities throughout Ohio arrest nearly 500 parents who failed to pay court-ordered child support. (PD Dec. 12, 2006)

2007

**Cuyahoga County Commissioners: Jimmy Dimora, Timothy F. Hagan,
Peter Lawson Jones**

Director: James McCafferty

Full Time Equivalent CCDCFS Employees: 1062

Expenditures: \$177,533,217

January CCDCFS chosen as a Family to Family Anchor Site for the Annie E. Casey Foundation. An Anchor Plan for CCDCFS begins. The key objectives of the Anchor Plan are 1) provide analysis of current placement patterns and increase community placements from 11% to 25% by the end of 2007; 2) track resource families to improve support, development, and recruitment efforts; 3) commit to holding a Team Decision Meeting (TDM) for all moves made by children that are lateral and less restrictive; 4) strengthen community partnerships by delivering objective deliverables that track monthly and ensure increased representative participation at TDMs; increase use of data in decision-making by routinely reviewing the Family to Family nine outcome areas and other data in reports generated by the Self-Evaluation Unit for course corrections in practice areas; and share data tracking with the System of Care Initiative. (NN Mar. 2007)

**Additional CCDCFS deployment site opens in Old Brooklyn.
(CCDCFS staff info.)**

**Rollout of Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS)
workstations, first step in transition to state network.
(CCDCFS staff info.)**

**CCDCFS holds third annual Support Service Staff Recognition
Ceremony honoring exemplary staff members. This year's guest
speaker is Emily Lipovan, Clerk of Cleveland City Council.
(NN Mar. 2007)**

**Arrest of gang members on drug trafficking and other charges is the
first stage of a federally funded \$2.5 million initiative to rid Cleveland
neighborhoods of gangs. (PD Mar. 5, 2007)**

**Cleveland, as well as northeast Ohio suburbs, experience increases in
homicides in 2006, including towns usually spared such violence.**

(PD Jan. 1, 2007)

The state of Ohio leads the country in home foreclosures. Foreclosure crisis hits Cleveland and Cuyahoga County hard. (PD Jan. 14, 2007)

February

Second annual Fatherhood Fair sponsored by the Fathers Initiative of CCDCFS is held. The fair highlights the initiative's goal of increasing the number of fathers engaged with their children, in addition to new goals of collaborating with the Disproportionality Committee to jointly address engaging fathers in order to reduce the number of children who enter agency custody, expanding awareness of the Including Fathers website on the CCDCFS intranet, and focusing on the needs of teen and young adult fathers. (NN Mar. 2007)

Cuyahoga County commissioners agree to spend nearly \$1.8 million in 2007 to expand coordinated effort called Adopt Cuyahoga's Kids. In addition to finding families for children, Adopt Cuyahoga's Kids will help guide prospective parents through the adoption process. (PD Feb. 23, 2007)

Adoption Network Cleveland's Heart Gallery, featuring photos of Cuyahoga County children awaiting adoption, reopens at Tower City. The gallery which opened in May 2006 was temporarily closed in the fall of 2006 when space was no longer available. (PD Feb. 17, 2007)

Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) distributes an Early Retirement Incentive Program (ERIP), a.k.a buyout, survey to eligible county employees to study the feasibility of such a buyout for 2008. Questions are asked about the options of a one, three or five year buyout. CCDCFS studies the impact of any such buyout, particularly in regard to the number of staff who could not be replaced. (NN June 2007)

Report is released from the U. S. Department of Agriculture indicating that working households in Cuyahoga County relying on food stamps increases from 14% in 1998 to 25% in 2006. (PD Feb. 24, 2007)

St. Luke's Foundation asks other grant makers and local businesses to join in combating lead poisoning among children in order to meet the federal mandate to eliminate lead poisoning by 2010. The confirmed number of Cleveland children with excessive lead levels in their bodies has dropped from 40% in 1996 to 11% in 2006. Cleveland still ranks among the top five cities nationally for such poisoning and continued effort is needed. (PD Feb. 3, 2007)

March

Seat belts are made mandatory for all children ages 4 to 15 riding in the rear seat of a vehicle. (P.D. Feb. 15, 2007)

National Social Work Month is celebrated by CCDCFS with various events including “Blast from the Past,” music and beverages in the atrium at the Jane Edna Hunter Building; a bake sale; a movie day; and a free dress down day. (NN Mar. 2007)

Parent Relative Locator (PRL) unit announces its form letter to be posted on the CCDCFS intranet. The letter has been developed for social workers to use when informing potential relatives that CCDCFS has identified one of their kin in custody. The letter asks if they are interested in pursuing a relationship with the child and provides contact information. (NN Mar. 2007)

Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court announces reform in the wake of a domestic violence shooting police say was committed by a male teen who was suppose to be under house arrest. The Court plans to hire a full-time magistrate to handle arraignments, instead of rotating the job. Public and media hope for continued reforms. The tragic shooting also raises awareness of teen domestic violence. (PD Mar. 15, 2007)

A \$1 million grant is awarded to Oriana House and the city of Cleveland by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction for the Cleveland Transitional Center program to help Cuyahoga County residents returning from prison find housing and jobs. (PD Mar. 29, 2007)

Greater Cleveland United Way surpasses its goal collecting over \$43.8 million. (PD Mar. 2, 2007)

Health officials note that tuberculosis cases declined in Cuyahoga County. (PD Mar. 23, 2007)

Cuyahoga County has sixth-largest drop in population among American counties, losing about 16,000 people between July 2005 and July 2006 according to a newly released U.S. Census Bureau report. (PD Mar. 22, 2007)

Ohio Governor Ted Strickland tells Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to increase reimbursement rates to child-care providers by May 1. Governor Strickland says larger rates will increase quality. (PD Mar. 31, 2007)

April

**CCDCFS enters into an agreement with the Council on Accreditation (COA), nationally known accrediting organization, to improve and promote quality services that support best practice principles. This partnership agreement provides opportunities for CCDCFS to achieve organizational excellence and become a recognized COA accredited member in the human services field. CCDCFS is planning to submit an electronic self-study of gathered evidence (agency policies and procedures) to COA by February 2008. COA is scheduled to conduct a site visit on CCDCFS premises in May 2008. A formal notification of the accreditation outcome is expected by October 2008.
(CCDCFS staff info.)**

Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) decides it cannot offer a buyout, because many county departments and agencies said they could not take the manpower hit. BOCC wanted to allow only one new hire for each three buyout retirees. With the buyout a dead issue, County Administrator Dennis Madden proposes limiting new hires as of June 1 to “mission critical” employees. (NN June 2007)

Cleveland City Planning Commission approves designs for the \$140 million Cuyahoga County Juvenile Justice Center at East 93rd Street and Quincy Avenue in the Fairfax neighborhood. The center is scheduled to open in 2009. (PD Apr. 24, 2007)

Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court announces changes in monitoring of youthful offenders. If a youth violates home detention and roams outside of court ordered boundaries, an immediate alarm will sound to Juvenile Court officials through electronic monitoring. The change is one of many that the court has announced due to reforms demanded in the wake of a domestic violence shooting police say was committed by a male teen who was suppose to be under house arrest. (PD Apr 17, 2007)

Increase of youthful violence and use of guns in Cleveland neighborhoods causes public outcry against “thug” culture. (PD various dates)

Plans are announced to increase security in Cleveland play areas: recreation centers, pools, parks, etc. with surveillance cameras. (PD Apr. 15, 2007)

May

National Foster Parent Awareness Month is celebrated at CCDCFS and throughout county at various collaboratives and agencies. Among the many events is the annual cruise on the Goodtime III for foster parents. (NN June 2007)

The third annual North Central Ohio Regional Training Center (NCORTC) and Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services Foster Parent Training Conference, “Mending Family Fences,” coincides with National Foster Parent Awareness Month. The three day conference highlights not only the missions of CCDCFS and the NCORTC, but also the educational and social value of a conference format for foster parents. The 633 attendees represent a 10% increase over the 2006 conference. (NN June 2007)

G.R.E.A.T (Gang Resistance Education and Training) Families Program training is presented in collaboration with the United States Marshall Service. CCDCFS and the NCORTC are the only child welfare agency training programs in the country offering the program to foster families and children in their placement. (NN Oct. 2007)

MetroHealth Medical Center suffering deep financial woes from charity medical care for the poor. (PD May 18, 2007)

New HIV cases in Cleveland up for the fourth straight year apparently driven by high-risk behaviors among adolescents and adults in their 20s. (PD May 25, 2007)

Statewide conference is held in Columbus to address alarming dropout rate of black male students. The problem is particularly prevalent in Cleveland area schools. Governor Strickland declares war on the situation saying that the state has a moral and economic imperative to fix the problem. (PD May 15, 2007; May 31, 2007)

Brookings Institute report concludes that Cleveland and several other Ohio cities (Canton, Cincinnati, Youngstown, etc.) are among the nation’s least prosperous cities. However, many unique features in Cleveland and other Midwest cities have the potential to lead to revitalization: hospitals and medical facilities, higher education, cultural institutions. (PD May 20, 2007)

June

Director James McCafferty announces in News Notes the commissioners' approval of the establishment of the Career Executive Service (CES), a succession planning and management training initiative sponsored by the Office of Health and Human Services to train the next generation of human service leaders in Cuyahoga County. It is a unique collaboration between human services agencies, Case Western Reserve University's Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences and Cleveland State University's Levin College of Urban Affairs. (NN June 2007)

CCDCFS Recruitment Department launches massive media campaign targeting individuals interested in fostering or adopting teens and sibling groups at its annual Spring Fling held at the Jane Edna Hunter Building. What Every Child Needs: Family, its first ever recruitment video, is debuted at the event. (NN Oct. 2007)

The cafeteria in the Jane Edna Hunter Building is upgraded for use as a high tech training space with a state of the art sound system with built in ceiling speakers (allowing for the use of multiple microphones), a recessed ceiling mounted LCD projector and wall secured DVD and tape player along with a ceiling mounted retractable projection screen. (CCDCFS staff info.)

Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) Kickoff is held at CCDCFS. Cuyahoga County is slated to join SACWIS in late 2007/early 2008. The system will allow workers to view current and historical information gathered on clients throughout the state. The current estimated cost of the system is \$93 million and is rooted in the Federal Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993. (CCDCFS staff info.)

Cleveland Planning Commission votes to allow the razing of the Marcel Breuer designed Ameritrust Tower at East Ninth Street and Euclid Avenue, paving the way for the construction of the proposed \$240 million county government administrative complex which will incorporate into its design the historic Cleveland Trust rotunda. (PD June 29, 2007)

Cleveland population falls to less than half its 1950 level at 444,000 according to data released by the U.S. Census Bureau, making it America's 40th largest city. (PD June 28, 2007)

July

The fourth annual Riverside Symposium: “Today, Tomorrow and Always: Supportive Communities, Stronger Families” is held. The symposium features Dr. Ruth McRoy as keynote speaker. A new attendance record is set for the conference. (NN Oct. 2007)

More than 1,200 doctors and clinics throughout Cuyahoga County are asked to track children whose lead levels are within the legal limit but are still considered dangerous by some clinicians. (PD July 16, 2007)

Serious crimes rise in Cleveland schools over the past year despite increased security and tough stance by school officials. (PD July 17, 2007)

Planned Parenthoods of Greater Cleveland; Mahoning Valley; North Central Ohio; Stark County; and Summit, Portage and Medina Counties consolidate in an effort to strengthen influence in the region. The merger is the largest Planned Parenthood consolidation in the country. (PD July 17, 2007)

More than 1,100 fugitives surrender at the House of Lord Church in Akron in the second Northeast Ohio “Fugitive Safe Surrender” program. The program, which is being tried nationwide, allows for fugitives to surrender at a neutral site such as a church with the promise that they will not be harmed. Fugitives are not offered amnesty, but are promised fair treatment. (PD July 17, 2007)

The Saint Luke’s Foundation announces \$1.4 million in grants including grants to Cuyahoga County Family-to-Family Administrators Council and Cuyahoga County’s health access initiative. (PD July 18, 2007)

Ohio Supreme Court rules that domestic violence law that protects unmarried victims does not violate the strict definition of marriage in the state Constitution. (PD July 26, 2007)

August

SACWIS data conversion testing begins. This phase will last about five months and testers will be comparing data between CCDCFS' existing FACTS system and SACWIS. This is a crucial phase of the transition and is key to its success. (CCDCFS staff info.)

Cleveland's rank among poorest large U.S. cities improves as U.S. Census Bureau releases its poverty report. Cleveland, with 27% of the population living in poverty, is listed as number four as compared to number one previously. Cleveland's median household income, however, at \$26,535 is ranked lowest among the nation's large cities. (PD Aug. 29, 2007)

Cuyahoga County commissioners approve a \$3 million package to help keep some houses out of foreclosure, repair others that have been abandoned, and demolish houses too in disrepair to be saved. Half of the \$3 million will be lent to homeowners facing the threat of foreclosure. (PD Aug. 3, 2007)

In an attempt to improve Public Square's image and to prevent crime, Cleveland City Council approves a curfew for Public Square. No loitering is allowed between 10:00 p.m. – 5:00 a.m. (PD Aug. 9, 2007)

Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson announces plan to shift as many as 45 police officers from the airport to the streets in response to public outcry on violence in Cleveland's neighborhoods. (PD Aug. 15, 2007)

Cleveland Public Schools require that students wear uniforms following a strict dress code. (PD Aug. 19, 2007)

September

Conversion to ODJFS Groupwise is completed, final step in the transition to state network. (CCDCFS staff info.)

Implementation of new SUN servers for applications and development/testing. (CCDCFS staff info.)

Cuyahoga County Employees Charity Choice Campaign implements an on-line campaign. Employees now have the ease and convenience of contributing on-line from their computers. (NN Oct. 2007)

Federal court in Akron rules that state cannot block sex offenders from living near schools if crimes were committed before legislators enacted the ban in 2003. (PD Sept. 5, 2007)

U.S. Census Bureau report is released indicating that Northeast Ohio working families got poorer between 2000 and 2006 as more than 45,000 higher-wage manufacturing jobs disappeared for the region. (PD Sept. 12, 2007)

FBI's annual crime report is released indicating an 11% increase in violent crime in Cleveland in 2006. This increase outpaces the nation as a whole which experienced a 1% increase. (PD Sept. 25, 2007)

Cleveland records its 100th homicide for 2007 well outpacing the number of homicides in previous years. (PD Sept. 27, 2007)

Ohio Supreme Court rules that juvenile defendants must consult with their parents or guardians and a lawyer before deciding to waive right to legal representation. (PD Sept. 30, 2007)

The number of tragic child deaths in Northeast Ohio reflects a growing national problem of child abuse caused by a mother's boyfriend who serves as a caregiver in the mother's absence. Young mothers leave their children in the care of men, often not the fathers, who cannot provide proper care resulting in injury or death to children. Director McCafferty reports that CCDCFS has seen an increase in such cases. (PD Sept. 30, 2007)

October

Beech Brook and Two Ways Home host a breakfast to recognize CCDCFS supervisors and chiefs who made referrals to the Two Ways Home program. (NN Dec. 2007)

Cuyahoga County commissioners announce plans to sell 453 acre Cuyahoga County Youth Development Center in Hudson and disperse youngsters to local social work organizations. (PD Oct. 30, 2007)

The Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals talk with county's MetroHealth System about joining with MetroHealth to share burden of supplying health care to the county's poor and uninsured. (PD Oct. 25, 2007)

Eugene Sanders, Cleveland Public Schools CEO, calls in safety experts to examine security in schools after a rash of violence among students. A "beefed-up" security plan is proposed which includes, among other things, the deployment of more school district social workers. (PD Oct. 25, 2007; Oct. 13, 2007)

November CCDCFS celebrates National Adoption Awareness Month with a variety of activities including a get-away at Great Wolf Lodge in Sandusky, Ohio for Cuyahoga County adoptive families and an international adoption celebration in the Jane Edna Hunter Building atrium. (NN Dec. 2007)

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) announces that the CCDCFS SACWIS rollout is postponed until at least January 2008. CCDCFS Project Management Team (PMT) continues to meet and plan for a successful rollout of SACWIS at CCDCFS. (NN Dec. 2007)

December “A Love Blind to Color” in The Plain Dealer looks at the growing trend of transracial adoption, nation-wide and within Cuyahoga County. (PD Dec. 11, 2007)

A tough economic situation in Cuyahoga County has the county cutting costs for 2008, the fourth time in seven years. Sandy Turk, director of the county’s Office of Budget and Management, announces a hiring and wage freeze beginning January 1, 2008. CCDCFS Director James McCafferty says social workers can expect to see their caseloads increase. (PD Dec. 12, 2007)

In Greater Cleveland, five infants were surrendered unharmed to local hospitals, police stations and emergency-service centers in 2007 under the state’s Safe Havens for Newborns law. The latest infant, surrendered at Parma Community General, brings the statewide number to 54. (PD Dec. 31, 2007)

2008

**Cuyahoga County Commissioners: Jimmy Dimora, Timothy F. Hagan,
Peter Lawson Jones**

Director: James McCafferty; Brenda W. Frazier, Interim Director

Full Time Equivalent CCDCFS Employees: 1,083 (projected)

Expenditures: \$173,690,154 (projected)

January CCDCFS holds fourth annual Support Services Staff Recognition Ceremony honoring exemplary staff members with Brenda W. Frazier, Deputy Director of Administrative Services, as organizer and mistress of ceremonies. This year's guest speaker is the Honorable Larry A. Jones, Presiding and Administrative Judge, Cleveland Municipal Court. (NN Feb. 2007)

Cuyahoga County Support Enforcement Agency sets a record in 2007 collecting \$241.5 million for custodial parents, an increase of \$2.3 million over 2006. (PD Jan. 17, 2008)

Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson announces an "assault on crime" as crime in Cleveland is perceived as out of control in many neighborhoods. A brutal attack on a jogging lawyer on the Cleveland / Shaker Heights border raises new concerns in Cleveland and inner ring suburbs. (PD Jan. various dates, 2008)

February CCDCFS submits an electronic self-study to the Council on Accreditation (COA) as part of the accreditation process. (NN Dec. 2007)

MetroHealth uncompensated charity care surges surpassing budget expectations. (PD Feb. 8, 2008)

Food stamp use soars in Cuyahoga County suburbs with 40% more residents receiving food stamps in 2007 than in 2002. (PD Feb. 15, 2008)

Ohio Supreme Court rules that the 2003 law barring sex offenders from living near schools is not retroactive. Offenders already living near schools before the 2003 law are allowed to stay. (PD Feb. 21, 2008)

Manufacturing jobs in the Cleveland metro area plunge since 2000. Greater Cleveland loses 48,800 jobs. (PD Feb. 21, 2008)

March

The North Central Ohio Regional Training Center and Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services Professional Development Department host the first annual Supervisor and Manager Leadership Conference, “Coaching Your Team for Optimal Performance,” over 2 days at the Embassy Suites in Beachwood. (NN Feb. 2008)

Issue 15, the Cuyahoga County Health and Human Services Levy, passes supplying critically needed funding for social services within the county. (NN Feb. 2008; PD various dates 2008)

U.S. Census Bureau reports that Cuyahoga County lost 13,000 in population in 2007, one of the largest county losses in the U.S. (PD Mar. 20, 2008)

Contracts are granted for construction of a new juvenile justice complex on East 93rd Street and Quincy Avenue in Cleveland. (PD Mar. 21, 2008)

Increase in use of hunger centers in Cuyahoga County suburbs. (PD Mar. 23, 2008)

April

Three visiting Turkish interns shadow CCDCFS Adoption Department workers as part of a project with Cleveland Council of World Affairs (CCWA). CCDCFS’s University Partnership Program members and Case Western Reserve University were also involved helping the interns learn not only about CCDCFS, but about the complexities of Cleveland’s social, economic, and cultural environment within the context of the American child welfare system in general. (NN June 2008)

Director James McCafferty publicly announces discontent with the number of problems with the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) and does not want Cuyahoga County to switch over until problems are resolved. Ohio governor Ted Strickland vows to take action and solve issues with SACWIS. (PD April various dates, 2008)

Adoption Network Cleveland and its founder Betsie Norris celebrate 20 years of innovations and vigorous advocacy on all issues surrounding adoption. (PD Apr. 20, 2008)

SB 163 “The Foster Care Bill” passes without language that would subject foster children to expanded community notification requirements. The bill will improve foster caregiver background checks, clarify when a court must order a person to be fingerprinted, modify the retained applicant fingerprint database, remove the requirement that the Ohio Department of Mental Health conduct a study of children placed using the child placement level of care tool, and make other changes in the law regarding approval of out-of-home care workers, adoptive parents, foster caregivers, and child day-cares. This law will go into effect in 90 days (on June 29th). (www.naswoh.org)

May

The fourth annual North Central Ohio Regional Training Center (NCORTC) and Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services Foster Parent Training Conference, “Caregivers: Lifting Spirits, Touching Lives,” coincides with National Foster Parent Awareness Month. The three day conference highlights not only the missions of CCDCFS and the NCORTC, but also the educational and social value of a conference format for foster parents. (NN June 2008)

Training for all CCDCFS staff members on the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) begins. Sessions are offered on-site at the Jane Edna Hunter Building as well as East Side and West Side Cleveland Corporate locations. (CCDSFS staff info.)

Talk of reform of Cuyahoga County government structure gets local and state-wide support. (PD May various dates, 2008)

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services abolishes 180 positions and 254 vacancies are not to be filled due to state budget constraints. (PD May 3, 2008)

In an attempt to stem crime, Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson cuts the number of Cleveland police zones from 6 to 5 and puts more officers and more patrol cars on the streets. (PD April, May various dates, 2008)

Enrollment is up in Ohio and nationwide for the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, which helps meet nutritional needs of low income women and children. (PD May 8, 2008)

June CCDCFS Independent Living Department sponsors a Scavenger Hunt along with the CCDCFS Youth Council. (NN June 2008)

Freedom from legal liability for CCDCFS employees is reinforced by two Ohio Supreme Court rulings that state that individuals who investigate reports of abuse have the ability to exercise their best judgment and discretion to do what they think is best without fear of reprisal or lawsuit. (PD June 5, 2008)

FBI report is released that shows a decline in violent and property crime in Cleveland and in the nation in 2007. Cleveland violent crime decreased by 8.4% and property crime decreased by 5.1%. (PD June 10, 2008)

The quality of life for children in Ohio has fallen to its lowest point ever according to a national report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. (PD June 12 2008; June 14, 2008)

July CCDCFS becomes accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA) attesting that the agency meets the highest national standards of professional performance. (COA info.)

Director James McCafferty leaves CCDCFS to become Cuyahoga County Administrator; Deputy Director Brenda W. Frazier appointed Interim Director. (PD July 1, 2008; CCDCFS staff info.)

The fifth annual Riverside Symposium, “Life’s Construction – Building Families Piece by Piece” is held. The symposium features the Honorable Michael J. Ryan, Cleveland Municipal Court Judge and former CCDCFS foster child, as keynote speaker. (NN Sept. 2008)

Cuyahoga County braces for deep budget cuts in 2009, as county commissioners announce that nearly 40 social service agencies will face cuts. (PD July 6, 2008)

U.S. Census Bureau announces that more people have left Cleveland in 2007 than any other major American city. (PD July 10, 2008)

Cleveland Department of Public Health reports that youth make up the majority of STD cases in Cuyahoga County. (PD July 13, 2008)

August

The first annual Teen Job Shadowing Conference is held by the Teen Employment Sub-Committee (TESC) providing teens with an opportunity to seek internships and attend employment workshops. (NN Sept. 2008)

MetroHealth System will no longer provide free or reduced cost medical care to poor living outside of Cuyahoga County due to budget constraints. (PD Aug. 11, 2008)

Ohio jobless rate hits 15-year high at 7.2%. (PD Aug. 16, 2008)

U.S. Census Bureau announces that Cleveland's poverty rate at 29.5% makes it the second poorest city in America after Detroit. Four of Ohio's biggest and poorest cities, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Toledo and Youngstown, rank among the 20 lowest income cities in America. (PD Aug. 27, 2008)

September

A state appeals court voids a Maple Heights law aimed at holding parents accountable for their children's criminal actions. The appeals court ruling is seen as blocking other Cuyahoga County communities from attempting to make similar laws. (PD Sept. 13, 2008)

Ohio unemployment rate continues to rise as it hits 7.4%. (PD Sept. 20, 2008)

Cuyahoga County's conservative investment approach has helped protect its \$656 million portfolio from stock market volatility. (PD Sept. 24, 2008)

October

Ninth annual Halloween gala at CCDCFS, organized by the Wellness Committee with the help of the entire agency, is once again a big success and enjoyed by "children of all ages." (NN Nov. 2008)

Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act, H. R. 6893 is signed into law marking the most significant reform of America's child welfare system in more than a decade, including improved connection and support of relative caregivers, improved outcomes for foster children and improved tribal foster care and adoption access. (www.house.gov/mcdermott/pr081008.shtm)

"Regional Dashboard of Economic Indicators," released by Cleveland State University's Center for Economic Development, cites a long 10 to 15 year climb to improve the economy of greater Cleveland. The study also reports, however, on quality of life strengths of the area,

including “legacy of place,” racial inclusion and income equality, and technology commercialization. (PD Oct. 3, 2008)

November Closing of Cuyahoga County run Youth Development Center in Hudson marks key change in juvenile justice system as juveniles convicted of lower level crimes are now to be sent to private agencies in Cuyahoga County for up to 90 days treatment. (PD Nov. 14, 2008)

Food pantries in Greater Cleveland are struggling to keep shelves stocked as demand increases with economic downturn. (PD Nov. 11, 2008)

December Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) successfully goes “live” at CCDCFS after months of staff preparation and training. (CCDCFS staff info.)

CCDCFS Hotline records conversion project is completed ahead of schedule converting Hotline records to SACWIS format. (CCDCFS staff info.)

Cuyahoga County commissioners announce that crumbling economy will force cuts in nearly every county agency in 2009. An Early Retirement Program, a.k.a. buyout, is offered in hopes of lowering the number of county employees and avoiding layoffs. (PD Dec. 11, 2008)

Continued discussions on “reform” of Cuyahoga County government stall. Consensus cannot be reached. (PD various dates)