



# LCDJFS E-Newsletter

Spring 2011

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

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## Director Notes

**Mary Lou Golski, Director**

Greetings:

The Governor's released budget proposal points of interest to the CDJFS:

- The emphasis was on coordination of all Medicaid through a single entity. More community based care for the elderly. No services or people were cut and the CDJFS continues to process eligibility.
- All CDJFS General Revenue allocation lines were cut 10%, except for Child Support which was cut 15% in state funding. TANF was cut 27% and Child Care was cut by a reduction of 7% in provider rates.

The House Finance Committee unveiled its substitute budget bill on Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. There were major changes in the Governor's

proposals for public school funding, treatment of charter schools and parts of Medicaid having to do with providers and managed care. There were no major changes to Job and Family funding or policy.

Although the House Committee will take public testimony starting April 29, a final bill is expected to go to the House floor on May 5, at which time the budget goes to the Senate.

The biennium budget by law must be passed by June 30 at which time we will know for certain the fate of the CDJFS funding and policy.

## March Madness

**By Ann Eckstein  
CSEA Administrator**

During the month of March, 2011, CSEA conducted a "March Madness" amnesty program. Throughout the month, an obligor who had his or her driver's license suspended for non-payment of support was able to have it re-instated by paying one month's support plus a dollar. We consider our program a success as we collected \$85,585.22 for the families we serve.



By Alisa Thacker  
Administrative Assistant

We have recently revised and upgraded our agency website! LCDJFS is committed to keeping up with the ever-changing, fast-paced electronic age, encouraging and enabling our clients to conduct as much business as possible online. These updated features should reduce clients' trips to the agency in-turn reducing the traffic in our lobby, saving postage and decreasing printing of our forms, reducing overall costs. Features include completion and/or submission of online forms, more information about our programs, EBT and EPPICard site links and several other local and state websites, brochures, Food Assistance Pre-screening tool link, PRC Gas Card guidelines and agency Latest News and Updates.

The Main categories now listed on our Home page are:

- Child Care
- Child Support
- Financial Support Services (Cash, Food & Medical)
- Forms
- Latest News & Updates
- Newsletter
- Online Applications
- Our Location
- Social Services
- Contact Us



The newest features include:

- Child Care Change reporting\*
- Child Support Change reporting\*
- Financial Support Services – Report changes to your Cash/Food/Medical case\*
- Forms access
- Latest News & Updates
- Online Applications & Online Change Reporting
- Contact Us

\*All of the 'Report changes to your case' selections include a drop down box for clients to request their change also be forwarded to other departments, for example, Child Care, Cash/Food/Medical, JOBS/ESC and/or Child Support. All of these forms are submitted online to Mike Schmittgen in the mail room, and then forwarded to the designated personnel to process the reported change:

- Child Care – Joe Molnar
- Cash/Food/Medical – Joyce Robinson
- JOBS/ESC – Becky Moore
- Child Support – Sandy Campana

#### Forms:

Client's can access, complete, print and mail, fax or drop at front desk:

- IM-118 Residency Verification
- IM-130 Employment Verification
- IM-194 Authorized Representative Form
- JFS 03804 OWF/FA Sanction Compliance Agreement
- JFS 07204 Request to Reapply for Cash & Food Assistance\*\*
- JFS 07221 Interim Report\*\*
- JFS 07341 Release of Information\*\*
- Voter Registration
- All Applications for Cash, Food, Medical and Child Care\*\*
- Several Child Care Client & Provider Forms

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Forms that client's can complete online and submit directly to us:

- APS-1E Elder Abuse Report Form
- IU-16W Fraud Reporting Form (*coming soon*)

Rights & Responsibilities client's can view and/or print:

- IM-104 LCDJFS
- JFS 07236 Medicaid\*\*
- JFS 07501 ODJFS\*\*

\*\* - also available in Spanish

We eventually hope to have all forms able to be submitted online. Clients can also select 'Apply online' and will be driven to the ODJFS Benefits online application.

Latest News & Updates:

Here we have listed information regarding Telephone Interviews, Lobby Information, Agency Closure Dates, information and link to Online Benefits Application, Prescription Assistance, current Fuel Fund program information, Phishing scams and information for Unemployed Individuals. We will keep this page updated with current information as needed.

Online Applications & Change Reporting:

This section offers some general information on the E-Gateway Online Application, includes a brief summary on how to obtain the 'change request key', and can link clients directly to the <http://ODJFSBenefits.ohio.gov> site.

Contact Us:

Here, clients can email us directly by clicking on a specific department for general eligibility questions. Again, the emails are all sent directly to Mike Schmittgen and routed to:

Message subject will be listed as:	Forward groupwise to:
Adult Protective Services	Kathy Griffin
Cash, Food or Medical Assistance	Joyce Robinson
Child Care	Joe Molnar
Child Support	Sandy Campana
Fraud	Dave Schramm
Information & Referral	Lisa Solarz
JOBS/ESC Information	Becky Moore
Medicaid Transportation	Lucy Wanderi
Nursing Home / Long Term Care Medicaid	Sally Davis
Speakers Bureau	Marge Kiely

We can respond directly to the client with any e-mails received in this section. ***Please remember to send all e-mail reply correspondence 'Certified' groupwise to ensure client's privacy and protection.***

Soon we will be on Facebook and Twitter. We are also looking at adding online tutorials regarding some of our procedures and eligibility requirements. Please advise your clients to visit our site regularly to keep up with ongoing updates and information.

# Nursing Home/Waiver Unit

By **Sally Davis**  
**Nursing Home Supervisor**

The Nursing Home/Waiver Unit in Lorain County consists of six case-workers who process applications from the general public requesting financial assistance to pay nursing home bills or home health care through the waiver programs. Also housed in this unit is the Spend Down Aide who processes bills for clients who do not have full Medicaid coverage until they have met their monthly



spend down obligation. Clients exceeding the limit for full Medicaid coverage pay a monthly charge or present bills to show they have incurred a medical expense to obtain a Medicaid card for the remainder of the month. The current need standard or cut off limit for a single disabled or aged person in the community is \$589.00. Monthly incomes over that figure after allowing a \$20.00 unearned income deduction is the amount the client must pay or incur in medical charges.

Lorain County has 18 nursing homes providing intermediate and skilled care to the Medicaid population with the daily Medicaid rates ranging from the lowest of \$170.79 to the highest of \$192.78. In addition, there are 18 ICF DD [Intermediate Care Facilities for the Developmentally Disabled] homes with the lowest daily Medicaid cost of \$230.76 up to \$318.89. Many of the ICF DD homes are small homes housing a maximum of 8 individuals.

Waiver programs fall under the Medicaid umbrella. They waive some of the limitations of coverage existing with traditional Medicaid which is similar to other private medical insurance coverage. They also waive some of the deeming rules for income and resources from parents to children or spouse to spouse that are found for traditional Medicaid. Waiver programs are designed to meet the needs of clients who would qualify to enter an institutionalized setting but with supportive services provided in the home wish to remain in the community setting.

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## Nursing Home/Waiver Unit (Continued from page 4)

Waiver and nursing home budgets do not apply deeming principles, for example, only the child's income and assets are counted in a budget, the parents' assets and income are exempt. Resource assessments are computed for couple cases reserving a minimum of \$21,912.00 up to \$109,560.00 for the community or well spouse from their asset holdings. Most clients fall somewhere in between those figures. An income budget is done to determine the institutionalized or waiver applicant's liability or payment for the services. Only the actual waiver person or institutionalized individual's income is considered available for payment. Many times the institutionalized client is able to give most of their income to the community spouse to avoid impoverishment of the community spouse.

Due to the high costs of residing in a nursing home or obtaining home health care, many people find themselves in need of assistance for the first time in their lives. Our programs are to provide that financial assistance through Medicaid for nursing home or home health care costs. To apply for these programs, an applicant can call and request applications [440-323-5726], apply through our web site <http://www.lcdjfs.com/index.shtml> or <http://egateway/>. We accept applications mailed, e mailed or faxed to the agency. An appointment is scheduled within a week to 10 days with a caseworker. The applicant does not have to attend the meeting. An authorized representative or Power of Attorney knowledgeable regarding the client's financial situation may represent. At the appointment verifications should be presented showing the applicant's and spouse's resources, income, medical insurance costs and housing costs. The caseworker will provide assistance when needed to obtain these verifications. Time is also allotted to explain procedures and answer questions.

Lorain County currently has 1072 waiver cases and 1293 nursing home cases. The current average monthly Medicaid cost per person for the Intermediate /skilled nursing homes in Lorain County is \$5569.00. The current average monthly Medicaid cost per person for the ICF DD homes in Lorain County is \$8068.00. Passport with the Department of Aging who provides Home health care to the aging population have monthly costs state-wide for waiver services/ home health care at around \$1,128.00.

# Job & Family Services Statistics for Lorain County

By Sandra Moraco, Program Administrator

Families receiving on-going cash assistance			
March 2010	June 2010	September 2010	December 2010
2,438	2,452	2,350	2,312

Individuals receiving health insurance through Healthy Start/Healthy Families Medicaid			
March 2010	June 2010	September 2010	December 2010
45,092	45,465	46,128	46,207

Individuals receiving food stamps			
March 2010	June 2010	September 2010	December 2010
38,307	38,711	40,038	42,248

Disabled individuals receiving on-going cash assistance			
March 2010	June 2010	September 2010	December 2010
256	232	220	217

Aged, Blind or Disabled individuals receiving health insurance through Medicaid			
March 2010	June 2010	September 2010	December 2010
9,138	9,133	9,213	9,231

Disabled individuals receiving Nursing Home or Home and Community-Based Service Waivers assistance			
March 2010	June 2010	September 2010	December 2010
1,939	1,917	1,963	1,941

## Contact LCDJFS

42485 North Ridge Road  
 Elyria, Ohio 44035-1057  
 Phone: 440-323-5726  
 Fax: 440-323-3422  
 TTY/TDD: 440-284-4125  
 Child Support Office: 440-284-4401  
 Hours of Operation:  
 7:30-4:15 Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri  
 7:30-6:30 Tue

