Notable News Fall 2022

An exclusive publication for Mahoning County Foster
Caregivers





OUR MISSION

"Mahoning County Children Services, In partnership with the community, is committed to being the leader in protecting children while helping to preserve families"



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PresidentNicole Tsarnas

Editor's Margaret Baker Sandy Appel







FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWS

From the desk of the President

A note from the FPA President

Hello Foster Parents,

While I'm sad to say goodbye to summer, it's always a blessing to see what autumn brings!

We have had many wonderful speakers at our monthly FPA meetings over the past few months. Recently, Bob and Mary Noble spoke at our June Meeting. The Nobles just recently retired after more than 20 years as Mahoning County Foster Parents! Their wisdom and advice was very helpful for our new foster parents to hear.

Speaking of new foster parents, we have had several new families join MCCS over the past few months! Please help us in continuing to build a bigger and stronger Foster Parent Community. If you know anyone who may be interested in becoming a Mahoning County Foster Parent, please have them call the agency at 330-941-8888 and speak with Margaret Baker.

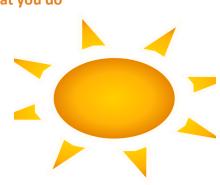
If you have any questions or are just looking for support, please reach out and get connected with other foster parents. Our monthly meetings take place the last Monday of each month at 6pm (Our October 2022 meeting will take place on the 4th Monday). The address is 11836 South Ave. North Lima, OH 44452. Please park in the back of the building and use door #2. Childcare and dinner is provided.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the next meeting! Thank you for all that you do for the children of Mahoning County!

Blessings,

Nicole Tsarnas

FPA President



FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATION

Reminder to please participate in:

"Monday Meetings With Randy"

These meetings are held virtually through Zoom on the second Monday of each month from 6-7pm. They are designed to be an open forum type meeting with Randy Muth, Executive Director of Mahoning County Children Services, and the Foster Parents for Mahoning County Children Services. Randy will highlight two to three topics and try to reserve half the time to hear from and have discussion with the Foster Parents in attendance. If you are interested in being a part of the meetings, please reach out to Nicole Tsarnas, Foster Parent President, and she can send you an email with an invite to the meeting.

Nicole Tsarnas Matt Mager Amanda Rettig Tara Bishop
President Vice President Secretary Fundraising Coordinator

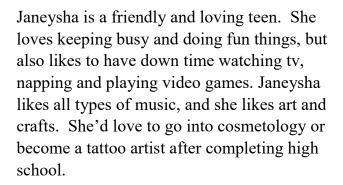
SPOTLIGHT

Waiting Children Seeking Adoptive Forever Families

Janeysha "Nova"

DOB: 10/05/2006

Meet Janeysha!



Her favorite season is summer and going to an amusement park or water park are her idea of a good time! Janeysha likes to cook, but she's never made her favorite food, which is sushi.

Janeysha has an open mind and is accepting of all caregiver types. She would like to be the only child in a home or to only have older siblings. Janeysha is seeking a family that will not give up on her as she has ups and downs in life. She is very eager to find a home that she can call her own, permanently, and one who will give her their time and love. Janeysha likes animals and if she was able to have a cat, she would be even more excited! Although English is her primary language, Janeysha also speaks Spanish.



For more information. Please contact Natalie Finamore at MCCSB

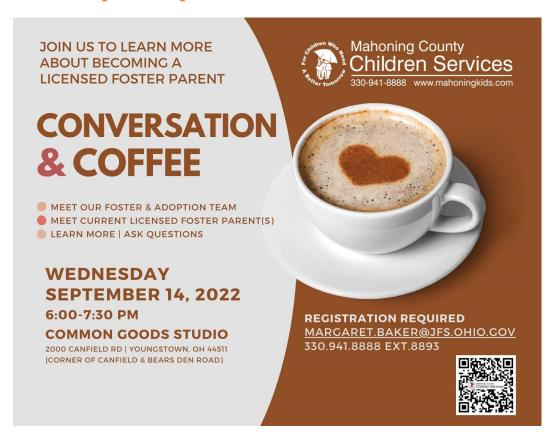
at (330) 941-8888





UPCOMING EVENTS

We will be hosting an informational meeting on September 14th, 2022. If you know anyone interested and wanting more information, please spread the word.



Come visit MCCS staff at the booth located in the Health Building during the Canfield Fair. The fair is from AUG 31 - SEP 5, 2022. Children under the age of 6 are free. Thursday, September 1st, children 12 and under are free.



RULE REVIEW

Rule 5101:2-7-12 | Site and safety requirements for a foster home.

- A) A foster home and all structures on the grounds of the home shall be maintained in a clean, safe, and sanitary condition and in a reasonable state of repair. A home shall be a house, mobile home, housing unit or apartment occupied by an individual or a family.
- (1) A home is to be free of peeling or chipping paint.
- (2) If a potential lead hazard is identified, the recommending agency is to make a referral to the appropriate agency.
- (B) Swimming pools.
- (1) Are to have a barrier on all sides.
- (2) Are to have their method of access through the barrier equipped with a safety device, such as a bolt lock.
- (3) Are to be equipped with a life saving device, such as a ring buoy.
- (4) If the swimming pool cannot be emptied after each use, the pool is to have a working pump and filtering system.
- (C) Hot tubs and spas are to have safety covers that are locked when not in use.
- (D) Outdoor recreation equipment on the grounds of a foster home shall be maintained in a safe state of repair.
- E) Outdoor areas on the grounds of or immediately adjacent to a foster home which are potentially hazardous to a foster child placed in the home shall be reasonably safeguarded, considering the age and functioning level of the foster child. Such areas include, but are not limited to:
- (1) Water areas, including lakes, ponds, rivers, quarries and swimming pools.
- (2) Open pits and wells.
- (3) Cliffs and caves.
- (4) High-speed or heavily traveled roads.
- (F) A foster home shall be adequately heated, lighted and ventilated.



RULE REVIEW CONTINUED..

- (G) The following are to be stored in a safe manner that prevents the child's access, as appropriate for his or her age and development:
- (1) Bleach.
- (2) Cleaning materials.
- (3) Poisonous or corrosive household chemicals.
- (4) Flammable and combustible materials.
- (5) Potentially dangerous tools or utensils.
- (6) Electrical equipment in or on the grounds of a foster home.
- (7) Machinery in or on the grounds of a foster home.
- (8) Alcoholic beverages.
- (H) A foster home shall comply with the following requirements regarding weapons:
- (1) The following weapons kept on the grounds of or in a foster home shall be stored in an inoperative condition in a locked area inaccessible to children:
- (a) Firearms.
- (b) Air rifles.
- (c) Hunting slingshots.
- (d) Any other projectile weapon.
- (2) All ammunition, arrows or projectiles for such weapons shall be stored in a separate locked space.
- (3) Any foster caregiver who is also a law enforcement official and can document that their jurisdiction requires them to have ready and immediate access to their weapon shall be exempt from the requirements of this paragraph.
- (I) A foster home shall have a working telephone or be able to demonstrate to the recommending agency reasonable access to a working telephone for emergency situations.





Please mark your calendars for the following, although your worker tries to remember it all, they sometimes fall short of your house-keeping....... These items are checked yearly

- Fire extinguisher service (serviced yearly)
- Car insurance (one to two times yearly, depends on your policy)
- Pet and animal rabies shots (due one-three years, pending your pets age)
- First Aid/CPR (due every two years around recertification)



NEWS

YMCA and ODJFS to Provide Free Memberships to Foster and Kinship Families

COLUMBUS, OHIO – The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) announced today that it has partnered with the Ohio Alliance of YMCAs Foundation (Ohio YMCA) to provide free memberships for certified foster homes and approved kinship caregivers who meet certain eligibility criteria. Bridges participants and their children are also eligible.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for our resource families and the youth in our Bridges program," ODJFS Director Matt Damschroder said. "Not only will these families be able to enjoy the benefits of exercise, but they will also be able to spend time together, enjoying the fun recreational activities our Ohio YMCAs have to offer."

Half the cost of the memberships is paid for by ODJFS. The remaining cost, for at least one year, will be covered by an Ohio YMCA grant.

"The addition of this grant means that qualified families will have one year of free entry into Ohio YMCA facilities," said Damschroder. "For many, this will be the first time these youth have ever had access to these types of facilities."

To be eligible, certified foster homes must provide the YMCA a copy of the family's current JFS 01213, "Notice of Approval for Foster Home," showing the family is currently certified as a foster home. They must also provide a letter from the family's recommending foster care agency on that agency's letterhead. It must indicate the family is in good standing with the agency/state of Ohio and either the family has had at least one foster care placement within the past 18 months, or the family is a newly certified foster home within the last six months.

To be eligible as an approved kinship home, families must provide a letter from the agency that approved the family on the agency's letterhead indicating the family is in good standing with the agency and that they have a current kinship child placed in the home.

Bridges is a program designed to help former foster youth transition to adulthood. To be eligible, Bridges participants must provide a copy of the participant's Bridges Voluntary Participation Agreement showing the participant is enrolled in Bridges and a letter from the Bridges grantee on the grantee's letterhead indicating the participant is currently enrolled in Bridges.

"Ohio's 162 YMCAs are excited to partner with Governor DeWine to offer memberships to Ohio's foster families, approved kinship caregivers, and Bridges program participants," said Ohio Alliance of YMCAs Executive Director Beth Tsvetkoff, Esq. "YMCAs are dedicated to supporting the spirits, minds, and bodies of Ohio families. From youth wellness programs, youth sports, before and after school care, summer day and resident camp, and much more, Ohio Ys offer a variety of opportunities for kids to learn and grow."

As part of the grant, the Ohio Alliance of YMCAs Foundation will pay/reimburse YMCAs 50% of the cost of an annual family membership for certified foster homes and kinship caregivers who meet these criteria up to \$500,000 and 50% of the cost of an annual individual or family membership for Bridges participants in Ohio who meet the criteria up to \$78,000.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services manages vital programs that strengthen Ohio families. These include job training and employment services, unemployment insurance, cash and food assistance, childcare, child and adult protective services, adoption, and child support services.



SHOUT OUTS



SHOUT OUT to new foster parents Bill and Angela Sosnoksy for taking their first placement!

SHOUT OUT to new foster parents Andy Gemmell and Jennifer Williams for taking their first placement!!

SHOUT OUT to the Huddlestons for bailing us out YET AGAIN by taking an emergency placement when they are not even on the Emergency List

SHOUT OUT to the Restifos on getting licensed on 6/21/22 and their first placement

SHOUT OUT to the Kirbys for getting relicensed on 7/22/22. Welcome back!

SOUT OUT to Edward and Dawn Wojciechowski for taking their first placement!





New Foster Parents

William and Angela Sosnosky – June 21, 2022

Adam and Sheila Restifo – June 21, 2022

Brandon and Georgia Kirby – July 22, 2022

Brian and Jenny Moore – August 2, 2022

ANNIVERSARIES

AUGUST

Tim & Kristina Daining
Jake & Sarah Kinser
Karen VanPelt

September

Matt & Bernie Mager

October

Jeanette Humbert
Hector & Megan Bonilla
Andrew & Stephanie
Huddleston
Sue Mateo
Josh & Stephanie Foster
Lois K. Williams

November

Joan Benson
Pamela Bowers
Josh & Tara Bishop
John & Kahley Speziale
Mason & Carly Morris





EMERGENCY LIST REMINDERS

*****Emergency List****

We are in desperate need of Emergency Homes for children ages 0 to 18! Please consider being on the Emergency List! For more information contact Margaret Baker at (330) 941-8888, ext. 2893 or Margaret.Baker@jfs.ohio.gov.

Important things to remember when you are on the Emergency List or are considering becoming an Emergency Placement:

- This is a short term placement during an emergency crisis.
- Must answer the phone or return call to the agency representatives
- Must notify agency immediately if you are not able to continue to be on the Emergency Placement List
- Must take children sight unseen. A gentle reminder when you are on emergency, take whatever steps you feel necessary to be sure you hear your phone all times day and night. While we realize everyone is busy, it is important to know we are trying to get a child to the safest placement as quickly as possible, not answering the phone or by saying "no", you are impeding the placement of a child.
- Placements are often made in the dark. Be sure your house is well lit and marked to make it easier for workers to find.
- Emergency Placement reimbursement is \$60/day for up to 30 days.



Please consider becoming an emergency placement

CPR / FIRST AID TRAINING

CPR/FIRST AID Requirement

Remember to register for adult/infant/child CPR and First Aid once every recertification period before your CPR/First Aid Class

This is a COA requirement for your foster care license.

All CPR/First Aid training must be an in person training. No CPR/First Aid cards will be accepted certification express from an online training.

CPR/FIRST AID DATES AT MAHONING COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES

September 17, 2022 9am-1pm

November 13, 2022 1pm-5pm

December 3, 2022 9am—1pm

Trainer: Deanna Prezioso

Mahoning County Children Services CPR and First Aid policy requires <u>IN PERSON</u> training and skills testing for CPR and First Aid. We offer classes at the agency. These classes are through American Heart Association and cover Infant, Child and Adult CPR and AED as well as First Aid. Foster Caregivers are able to take their CPR and First Aid training anywhere they choose as long as it meets the following requirements. It must be in person with skill testing and cover Infant, Child and Adult CPR and AED as well as First Aid. It just will not be reimbursable.

Some of our foster caregivers are employed in the medical field and receive CPR training as part of employment. If this is the case, we can count the training received through employment as long as it meets the requirements listed above. We must have documentation in the form of the card or certificate issued that states all required topics were covered, including first aid training. Many individuals in the medical field receive BLS level training. This training meets the requirements for CPR, but it does not include First Aid unless it is specifically stated on the card or certificate. Due to Mahoning County's policy specifically stating in person training with skill testing is required for all of the topics discussed, failure to meet this requirement will result in a rule violation. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to your resource CW or Mercia Stevens. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.







IMPORTANT ONGOING TRAINING INFORMATION

Training is very important to ongoing foster parents. Because of this, the agency strives to bring you as many relevant and informative trainings as possible. Our training schedule is set by the regional offices and the expectation is we will have at least 8 participants at every training. Previous trainings have had to be cancelled due to lack of participants. Please try to attend if possible.

Please park in the garage underneath the building. The entrance for the parking lot/garage is on W. Commerce St. which is behind MCCS. Enter the lot after waiting patiently for the parking arm to raise. Drive through the lot and park in the parking garage. Enter the building through the doors on your left (non-employee doors). Take the elevator to the third floor for training. Do not park on Federal St. or try to enter from the front doors on Federal St. as these doors remain locked afterhours. The parking garage will close 15 minutes after the start of training. Reminder sometimes it can be chilly in the training room, so you may want to bring a sweater or sweatshirt. Please dress comfortably.

TRAINING REMINDER

Please make sure when you attend a training to sign in and name the agency/county where you are from, otherwise, you may not get credit

REMINDER PLEASE <u>DO NOT</u> BRING CHILDREN TO TRAININGS

You can earn up to 3 credit hours for reading a book; however; you must contact your licensing worker for a book review outline that is required for training credit. You can also earn 3 training hours by watching Despicable Me, Juno, Like Dandelion Dust or Meet the Robinsons and completing the movie guide. You can contact your licensing worker about getting the movie guide. Movies can be rented from your local video store, Redbox, Netflix or your local library.

SIPS ask your licensing worker for SIPS.

These are supplements to help with completion of a minimal amount of training hours.

Each SIPS can only be completed once.

Online addresses: www.fosterparentcollege.com, www.fosterparent.com and www.fosterclub.com.

Webinars are also a great way to get your hours. Akron Children's Hospital offers many informative webinars regarding children's health issues. Please note you can earn up to 7.5 hours in a 2-year time frame by reading a book, watching a movie, doing SIPS, or going online.

TRAINING NEWS

CAPS LMS UPDATES



August 8, 2022

Dear Foster Families of Mahoning County:

Mahoning County Children Services would like to inform your family of the upcoming change in the Child Welfare Training System. E-Track is being replaced by a new system, The Child and Adult Protective Services Learning Management System, or (CAPS LMS) for short. The estimated launch date for CAPS LSM is November 30, 2022. No trainings (in-person, virtual, or live synchronous) will be available from November 18th – November 29, 2022. **To receive credit for any training, including a training through Foster Parent College, the certificate for the training must be turned into your resource worker by November 10, 2022.** After the launch of CAPS LSM, certificates and trainings located in E-Track will no longer be accessible.

Please be planful in completing your ongoing training hours. This is especially true if your family will be recertifying now through the beginning of 2023. The dates listed above are only approximations and could change as this project moves forward. As Mahoning County receives updated information about the launch of CAPS LSM, your family will receive this updated information.

It has always been the Agency's goal to ensure families have ample training opportunities available to them. The training schedule for Summer/Fall 2022 is finalized, and the classes are listed in E-Track for registration. Due to the launch of CAPS LSM and an overall decline in attendance during in-person trainings, less in-person trainings might be scheduled at Mahoning County Children Services. If you are having a difficult time finding a training to meet your needs, please let your resource worker know. Your resource worker is here to help your family reach the required thirty hours of training. Please remember 15 hours is to be completed in the classroom, no more than 7.5 hours can be from training outside the classroom, and no more than 15 hours can be from online training where a trainer is present in real time.

If you have any questions regarding this new system, please contact Margaret Baker, foster parent liaison, at 330-941-8811, ext. 2893.

Sincerely,

Mercia Stevens Supervisor Foster Care Unit Theresa Pancoe, USW-S

Theresa Pancoe
Program Administrator
Resource Department

Our Mission:

Mahoning County Children Services, in partnership with the community, is committed to being the leader in protecting children while helping to preserve families.



MAHONING COUNTY

All trainings will be held at the Mahoning County Children Services' building at 222 W. Federal St., 3rd Floor, Youngstown, OH 44503. You can register through E-track at https://e-track.teds.com/EveryOne/TEDSEveryOne.jsp or by calling your licensing worker.

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Staff/Foster Parents)
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nted by Paula Walters
F6-S Recognizing and Responding to Ch who have been Sexually Abused
nted by Dave Zidar
8 Placement Stability Through Flexibility
nted by: Anthony President
,

TRUMBULL COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES

2282 Reeves Road, N.E., Warren, OH 44481

mg your r	neensing worker.
Thursday, September 15 6pm-9pm	948-20 Managing Infertility Grief and Loss as a Foster and Adoptive Parent Presented by: Susan Darden Kautz
Saturday, November 12 9am-12pm	923-7 Peek-a-Boos and The Terrible Twos: Managing Behavior of Maltreated Infants Presented By: Brian Lowery
Saturday, November 12 1pm-4pm	941-1 Opening the Door to Independent Living - Overview Presented by: Brian Lowery
Monday, December 5 5:30pm-8:30pm	950-3 Overview of Legal Issues for Foster Caregivers Presented by: Christina Rosbrough-Zody

SUMMIT COUNTY

Education Center, 264 S. Arlington St., Akron, OH 44306

ing your licensing worker.		
Saturday, September 10 9am-12pm	925-63 Tug of War: The Ins and Outs of Power Struggles Presented by: Jim Still- Pepper	
Saturday, September 10 1pm-4pm	925-106 Helping Kids Develop a Conscience Presented by: Jim Still- Pepper	
Thursday, October 13 9am-4pm	923-13 Promoting Nutrition throughout Child-hood: Eating for the Health of It! Presented by: Ronna Johnson	
Fall Blitz Thursday, October 13 6pm-9pm	995-19 Anxiety Disorders among Children and Adolescents: Recognition and Interventions Presented by: Stacy Simera	
Fall Blitz Friday, October 14 9am-4pm	923-24 Incredible Infants! Presented by: Ronna Johnson	
Fall Blitz Friday, October 14 6pm-9pm	990-4 Tackling Bed-wetting and other Toileting Issues Presented by: Ronna Johnson	
Fall Blitz Saturday, October 15 9am-4pm	924-45 The Building Blocks of Trust Presented by: Jim Still-Pepper	
Fall Blitz Saturday, October 15 9am-12pm	995-40 Self Injury: Assessment and Interventions Presented by: David Zidar	

SUMMIT COUNTY

Education Center, 264 S. Arlington St., Akron, OH 44306

Fall Blitz	925-40 Interventions with Lying and Stealing
Saturday, October 15	Presented by: David Zidar
1pm-4pm	
Monday, October 17	318-60 Sensory Integration and Emotional Regu-
9am-4pm	lation for Children of Trauma
And	JOINT STAFF/FP
Tuesday, October 18	Presented by: Ruby & Lynn Johnston
(MUST ATTEND BOTH)	
Saturday, October 22	989-21 Total Time Management for
9am-12pm	Caregivers
	Presented by: Anthony President
Saturday, October 22	925-57 Home Invasion: Overcoming Media
1pm-4pm	Madness
	Presented by: Anthony President
Thursday, November 3	924-14 When Life Isn't Fair: Childhood
6pm-9pm	Loss, Separation, and Grief
	Presented by: Gene Smiley
Saturday, November 5	990-42-NOS AHA Heartsaver Pediatric First Aid
9am-1pm	and CPR Without Skills Testing
	Presented by: Ronna Johnson

SUMMIT COUNTY

Education Center, 264 S. Arlington St., Akron, OH 44306

01-5	censing worker.
Saturday, November 5	924-33 Rebuilding Trust and Affectional
9am-4pm	Bonds: A Look at Insecure and
	Reactive Attachment Disorders
	Presented by: Gene Smiley
Saturday, December 3	925-19 Behavior Management
9am-4pm	Presented by: David Zidar
Monday, December 5	991-42-NOS Trust-Based Relational Interven-
9am-4pm	tion
	Module 1: Introduction
	(JOINT Staff/FP Training)
	Presented by: Kristen King
Saturday, December 10	984-3 Gangs, Cliques and Crews:
9am-12pm	Understanding Gangs and Youth
	Presented by: Anthony President
Friday, December 16	952-18 Preventing Foster Care and Adoption
9am-4pm	Disruptions
	JOINT STAFF/FP Training
	Presented by: Jim Still-Pepper