

2008 was a challenging year for our agency. Faced with shrinking allocations to operate our business, we were forced to significantly reduce our workforce for the first time in at least a generation. At the same time, the wavering economy prompted significantly more families and individuals to seek our assistance. By year's end, 50,000 people were walking into our lobby each month. We reached the highest service levels in a decade, helping many first time consumers with Medicaid and Food Assistance.

These contradicting trends obviously made it difficult to serve more with less. But we have managed to do our best to ensure that every citizen receives the help they need. It may take us longer, but no one who qualifies is being turned away.

Amidst the financial turmoil, HCJFS staff continued to work hard and many great things happened. We organized a high-publicity foster care recruitment campaign that made people feel good about foster parents and this agency; we successfully launched a child welfare information system, drawing praise from around the state; we added a new initiative to allow residents to interact with us from their local library branch, saving them time and money by not requiring a trip downtown; and we quickly mobilized an effort to deliver assistance to more than 30,000 victims of the windstorm.

We also launched new programs to help dropouts return to school, to help foster children succeed in school, to help low-income women deliver healthy babies and to assist child care operators in preparing children for early educational success. We embarked on a new agency-wide strategic plan, set a record on paternity establishment, kept pace with last year's record on adoptions and implemented a whole new way of serving our public assistance individuals and families who visit our downtown office.

All the while, we protected children and the elderly, collected millions of dollars in child support and delivered on our mandate of providing support to the needy. We treated hundreds of thousands of children and families with respect and compassion.

So, despite the turmoil, it was a very successful year. I feel extremely honored and fortunate to work with so many dedicated and loyal co-workers. 2009 may be even more challenging than 2008. However, there is one thing of which I am certain: this community can count on JFS when it needs help. We will do our best to meet your needs, help you and your children feel safe and to ensure help is on the way.

Sincerely,
Moir Weir



The Board of Hamilton County Commissioners oversees the Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services, along with several other county departments.

The Board of Commissioners includes:



Commissioner Todd Portune



Commissioner David Pepper



Commissioner Pat DeWine

The Department of Job and Family Services has served Hamilton County since 1947. It has approximately 1,600 employees and helps hundreds of thousands of Hamilton County residents each year.

The Department is one of the few triple-combined public human services agencies in Ohio – providing public assistance, children's services and child support programs to the community.

Among the Department's many duties: local child protection, adult protection, child care, tuberculosis control, child support enforcement, workforce development, cash assistance, food stamp disbursement and Medicaid disbursement.

The Department of Job and Family Services is accredited by the Council on Accreditation, an international, independent, not-for-profit child and family service accrediting organization.