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State and County Job & Family Services Work Together on Special Audit
Both agencies embrace new spirit of cooperation to seek positive solutions

Cincinnati (July 20, 2007) Hamilton County and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services officials are working together in hopes of coming to an amicable conclusion to the special audit of the Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services issued by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services last September.

Hamilton County hired the independent accounting firm of Crowe Chizek and Company, LLC, in response to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' draft audit report, which examined the department's spending from July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2004.

Hamilton County has submitted its responses to the draft audit report that reach significantly different conclusions than those reached in the draft audit report.

Moira Weir, director of the Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services, said the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services has been supportive as the independent accounting firm performed its independent review of this matter.

"Director Jones-Kelley and her staff have been willing to work with us in a cooperative manner and we appreciate her willingness to strive for an agreeable conclusion," Weir said. "It is great to have support in Columbus. Going forward, we anticipate that the Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services will be audited on a yearly basis, so if there are any questions between the state and county on how money is spent they will be addressed quickly to avoid any delays."

"There's a new spirit of cooperation between the state and counties, and we're searching for ways to be helpful, not punitive," said Helen Jones-Kelley, director of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. "We must work together to ensure Ohio's families get the support they need."

About Hamilton County's Department of Job and Family Services

The Department of Job and Family Services administers federal, state and local programs for those in need. The Department helps with local child protection, adult protection, child care, tuberculosis control, child support enforcement, workforce development, cash assistance, food stamp disbursement and Medicaid disbursement. Servicing Hamilton County since 1947, the Department helps hundreds of thousands of residents each year. 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.