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**Hamilton County Job and Family Services Director  
Launches Blog to Increase Dialogue with the Public**

**Cincinnati (Feb. 12, 2009)** The director of Hamilton County’s Department of Job and Family Services launched a blog today to help keep the agency and public connected during tough economic times that are bringing more working families through the agency’s doors.

Moira Weir said the blog, located on the agency’s Web site at [www.hcjfs.org](http://www.hcjfs.org), will be another tool to keep the public informed of agency business and a forum for dialogue on agency activities.

“This is a critical time for us, as we are becoming a key support for tens of thousands of Hamilton County residents caught up in the nation’s difficult economy,” she said. “We want to do everything we can to keep the public informed of new developments and to listen when they have questions, suggestions or concerns.”

The agency’s caseloads in many areas, including food assistance and Medicaid, are at the highest levels in years. One in nine Hamilton County residents – 93,000 -- now receives food assistance, and one in every seven – 125,000 -- receives Medicaid. And many of the consumers are new to the agency – a recent survey of food assistance cases revealed 35 percent had never received assistance or had not received assistance within the past five years.

“As new people come into contact with us, especially at what is a difficult time for them, we want to make sure they receive the help they need,” Weir said. “We are extremely busy and will make mistakes, but I want to make sure we keep an open dialogue with this community so everyone feels we are doing our best.”

Weir said she will also use the blog to discuss information about Children’s Services, Child Support and Workforce Development, the agency’s other areas of focus.

**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, elderly protection, child care, child support enforcement, workforce development, cash assistance, food stamp disbursement and Medicaid disbursement. Servicing Hamilton County since 1947, the Department helps hundreds of thousands each year and is accredited by the Council on Accreditation, an international, independent, not-for-profit child and family service accrediting organization.