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Foster Care Forum to Offer Information about Private and Public Networks

Cincinnati (Feb. 2, 2010) Hamilton County foster care providers transitioning to other public or private networks can learn more about their options at public forums to be held on Feb. 4 and 5 at the county's Department of Job and Family Services.

The forum will be held at room 6SE401 at the JFS building, 222 E. Central Parkway in downtown Cincinnati. The sessions are scheduled for 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Feb. 4, and 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Feb. 5.

The agency is asking more than 200 agency foster homes to transition to other private or public networks by April 1. The move will provide the homes with greater support and resources, while allowing the agency to deploy its limited resources in areas with more urgent need, such as investigating abuse cases or providing services to strengthen families.

Providers have been invited to the forum to answer questions and provide information about their services. More than 30 have been invited. Foster parents can show up at any time during the event and visit tables at their leisure.

The county has about 850 children in foster care each day. Most of those children are already being cared for in private network homes. About 200 more foster children will transition by April 1 – although the move will be seamless for them. They will remain in their home as foster parents move from working directly with the county to working with a network provider.

Network providers often have lower caseloads and can provide more individualized attention to children. They pay higher rates and can provide families with more resources. Many network homes also provide advanced therapeutic care that is not available in traditional homes operated by the agency.

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.