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Help Is Here:
Montgomery County Heroes
Behind the Scenes

Our Emergency Management Agency and Risk and Safety team led Montgomery County’s effort to collect and distribute vital cleaning and medical supplies, as well as personal protective equipment such as masks and gowns, to essential workers and healthcare institutions. They received supplies from the strategic national stockpile and local donations and then worked with our partners at St. Vincent de Paul to store and inventory the items before distribution. More than a half-million items were processed! Big thanks Brittany Fain, Jeff Jordan, Kevin Sedensky, and Karen Miller. Hats off to Rob Andrews and Douglas Lain of St. Vincent de Paul, and Larry Cleek and Jillian Botteicher of Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County. What an amazing team effort!
Facilities Management, Risk Management Modify Buildings for Return to Work

While many were working from home, Facilities Management, Risk Management, Purchasing, and the County Engineer’s Office were behind the scenes ensuring that when it was time for employees to return to the office, they could do so safely.

First, they prepared Montgomery County buildings. This included installing several different safety improvements, such as floor stickers to remind people about social distancing, plexiglass shields at public-facing areas, hand sanitizer dispensers, and signage around buildings to assist with infection control.

Safety and Purchasing were also instrumental in helping staff return to work following the end of Ohio’s Stay-At-Home order. Our Safety and Purchasing teams created an online form that allowed managers to submit requests for personal protective equipment (PPE), safety and cleaning supplies, as well as facility modifications. This form simplified the process for employees and allowed the teams to track and respond to requests in a timely manner.

Managing Increased Tonnage At Solid Waste District

As residents were under the COVID-19 Stay-At-Home order, many got busy clearing out items from their basements, attics and garages. While this was a great way to pass the time, it caused an overall increase in waste tonnage at the Solid Waste District.

The Solid Waste District is a mission-critical service, so many county employees came to work dressed in Personal Protective Equipment to serve residents. March through April, the solid waste team managed an additional 1,770.93 tons of waste and saw 1,894 additional customers compared to last year — many of whom dropped off only a small number of items.

The hard work of the solid waste team did not go unnoticed. Thank you to our hard-working employees at the Solid Waste District!
Probate Court Gets Grant for Video Courts System

The Supreme Court of Ohio awarded a 2020 Technology Grant for $48,604 to Judge Alice O. McCollum, Montgomery County Probate Court. This one-time grant opportunity was in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This grant allows parties in Probate Court to appear by video, and have it placed into an electronic courts system of official record. Montgomery County Probate Court is open for e-filing on all estate, trust, civil, miscellaneous and adoption case types. In the six weeks after the May 15 installation of the system, 21 adoptions were finalized.

Children Services Celebrates Our Graduates

Seniors in our Independent Living Program at Children Services normally get a graduation party to celebrate the end of their high school careers, but COVID-19 made that impossible this year. Program Coordinator Stacia Burlingame could not let the occasion pass without marking it, so she had personalized graduation signs made for all 15 kids.

In this photo, Samantha Roman poses behind her sign. Congratulations to Samantha and our other graduates: Alexis Gunn, Nehemiah Jones, Sean Evans, Travis McDevitt, Antonae McDonald, Teirracole Hoard, Jeretha Lawler-Page, Lashae Nelson, Haley Pennington, Courtney Roman, Carlee Strait, Shatoya White, Briann Shackelford and Jordan Hilty!
During the start of the quarantine, ADAMHS launched the Miami Valley Warmline in partnership with Goodwill/Easter Seals. The Warmline offers free, confidential, mental and behavioral health peer-support that, combined with early intervention and emotional support, may prevent a mental health crisis. The Warmline is operational Monday – Friday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. by calling 937-528-7777.

The new service was launched with media news interviews, social media and paid commercial advertising. Warmlines are becoming increasingly more common across the United States to relieve emergency hotlines from unnecessary calls and to better serve communities.

Other pandemic-focused services and activities included:

- Creating community flyers on topics such as telehealth and fun at-home activities for families.
- Numerous TV, radio and newspaper interviews on pandemic-related topics like suicide prevention, the effects of smoking/vaping during Covid-19, and coping with quarantine.
- Participating in the Governor’s video challenge “Strive for 5,” which encouraged people to reach out to at least five people during the stay-at-home order to check on them.
- Sharing ways to cope during the pandemic instead of turning to substance use and the availability of community addiction treatment resources.
- Adding COVID-19 information to the Get Help Now app and the ADAMHS website.
- Partnering with the Dayton Business Journal on employment opportunities in the region with the high rate of unemployment due to COVID-19, as well as listing employers who participate in the ADAMHS Recovery and Workforce Safety Program.
Field and Meter Services Work Through Pandemic to Ensure Resident Safety

During the pandemic, the Environmental Services field crews continued to be dispatched to read meters and address emergencies such as sewer backups and water main breaks. Residents do not often think about the sewers under the pavement, and they don’t have to, because our staff ensured residents were safe inside their homes while they worked below ground.

One concern during the shelter-in-place order was that some residents may flush paper towels, wipes, or other non-flushable items down the toilet if they did not have access to toilet paper. (As you may recall, there was a mad dash to the toilet paper aisle when the pandemic began.)

Thanks to early communication to residents through news outlets and social media, this turned out to only be a minor concern.

County Establishes Temporary Office of CARES Act

As part of the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Montgomery County has received $92 million, of a planned $200 million allocation, from the U.S. Treasury. This funding is being used to provide financial relief to individuals, businesses and non-profits who have experienced hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The County has created the Office of CARES Act, a temporary department whose sole purpose is the management and distribution of this funding to the community. Visit www.mcohio cares.org to learn more about these financial assistance programs.
County Recorder Welcomes New Technology During Pandemic

The Montgomery County Recorder's Office began accepting non-transferable documents for E-recording on Aug. 3. This includes mortgages, releases and assignments of mortgages.

E-recording provides individuals, lending facilities, title companies and attorneys the opportunity to conveniently record their documents electronically from their homes and/or offices. In addition to postage savings, E-recording allows the submitter to track the status of their documents and instantly correct any submission errors while retaining the original documents in their possession.

"Increasing overall efficiency and customer service when dealing with my office is my primary focus," states Recorder Brandon McClain. "During setbacks caused by the pandemic, it is essential we introduce new technology to maintain a thriving real estate market. E-recording does just that. A strong real estate market is vital for a strong economy."

For more information, contact Denise Gerhard at 937-224-3857.

Environmental Services Lab Creates Sanitizer

As the county's supply of sanitizer dropped during the pandemic, the Montgomery County Environmental Laboratory took the initiative to create and distribute more to our offices. Lab employees identified the need and stepped up to help fill the gap in supply. Thank you to the lab for their hard work and dedication to science and safety!

Teamwork Behind the Scenes during the Pandemic

At the start of the pandemic, Risk Management and Safety were, as quickly as they could, providing guidance on the health situation to leaders and Human Resources. Risk and Safety made dozens of phone calls to experts, and researched and developed pandemic safety requirements for HR.

HR then used that guidance and combined it with the current leave types for employees and met with the Commissioners and other leaders to determine what kind of leave policy could be developed to safeguard employees from COVID-19. The County made very generous additions to employee leave, which had to be tracked.

The Communications team gathered all this information and tried to convey it clearly and concisely to employees. From the reopening instructions and disinfection guidelines, to daily health questionnaires and policy for those testing positive for COVID-19. Thanks to all of those who worked together behind the scenes to keep our teams safe.
Family Assistance Responds to Increased Benefits Demand

Despite reduced staffing levels for social distancing, our Family Assistance Division (FAD) was incredibly active in providing essential services at the height of the pandemic.

The FAD staff quickly switched to taking benefit applications over the phone through our County Shared Service line, and many newly-unemployed customers also used the self-service portal at ssp.benefits.ohio.gov. There were more than 22,000 applications and more than 20,000 customer service calls between March 1 and May 31.

Special COVID-19 funding was made available through the Prevention, Retention and Contingency program. Within two days, FAD received more than 2,200 applications for the funding to cover pandemic-related expenses for families with children in the home.

FAD trained additional units, supervisors, and team leads on mission-essential tasks, and Family Assistance was able to maintain an average of 96.42% SNAP (food assistance) timeliness for March, April and May. By July FAD approved nearly 11,000 new SNAP recipients and 17,000 new Medicaid recipients.

Many thanks to our Family Assistance team for serving our citizens when they needed you most!

Property Tax Due Date Extended to Aug. 14

Montgomery County Treasurer Russ Joseph and Auditor Karl Keith submitted a request to the Ohio Tax Commissioner to extend the county’s property tax due date from July 17 to Aug. 14. This extension was approved on May 6.

With the COVID-19 pandemic causing increased levels of unemployment, an extended tax due date provided homeowners and small business owners more time to recover financially. The new deadline allowed taxpayers to resume work or receive their federal stimulus check before paying annual property taxes. The extension also gave county workers more time to prepare preventative measures to keep employees and the public safe.

Ultimately, this extension is expected to result in a higher overall level of collection, which will help equip local communities with the resources they need to maintain important services. Additionally, the Auditor’s office will continue to offer property tax advances to local jurisdictions, offsetting the slight delay in disbursements that will come with the due date extension.
Public Health Monitors COVID-19 Cases

As of August 7, 2020, Montgomery County has seen 4,220 cases of COVID-19, with 609 hospitalizations, and 91 deaths. Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County’s response to this pandemic has been its most significant emergency response since the Dayton & Montgomery County health districts combined 50 years ago.

Public Health has a workforce of about 300 and most are directly involved in the pandemic response. The combined effort involved several key areas of emphasis.

Public Health is coordinating with Montgomery County Emergency Management to provide a unified county-wide response, with emphasis on providing personal protective equipment to area first responders, hospitals and medical facilities. Through the use of the United States Strategic National Stockpile, Public Health has provided to agencies in Montgomery County more than 442,360 gloves, 283,974 masks, 124,605 N-95 masks, 40,859 face shields, 49,544 gowns, 5,240 shoe covers, 1,900 cloth masks and 2,990 homemade masks.

Another major area of activity is case monitoring and contact tracing. This process involves contacting and isolating those who have contracted COVID-19 and monitoring them during their time in isolation. Close contacts of those infected are informed and requested to self-quarantine for 14 days.

To further help stop the spread of COVID-19, Public Health, along with the Ohio Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is providing a large scale educational campaign to inform the public about how they can protect themselves. This outreach involves holding media briefings, conducting media interviews, and briefing local governments, agencies and community partners about the latest developments. The teams also provide a call center that has answered more than 12,602 calls related to COVID-19.

The Ohio Department of Health issued a statewide Stay-At-Home Order, which included widespread closures of all non-essential businesses. To monitor and enforce this order, Public Health’s Office of Environmental Health investigated complaints and provided education surrounding the conditions outlined by the Ohio Department of Health. The team has received and followed-up on more than 3,045 complaints regarding business operations and social distancing orders.

Sheriff’s Office and Partners Feed Kids During Pandemic

Montgomery County Washington Township Substation loaded up the Sheriff’s Office resource trailer to bring lunches to Montgomery County kids! Deputies teamed up with the Centerville Police Department, Washington Township Fire Department, Washington Township Government Center and Centerville School staff, bus drivers, volunteers, etc., to provide lunches to area kids for several months during the pandemic.
ADAMHS Recognized Nationally for Leadership during Crises

ADAMHS has been recognized by the National Association of Counties for helping the citizens of Montgomery County during last year’s tragic events. The Best in Category for Health award was for the agency’s swift assistance to the community, which included a Family Assistance Center following the Memorial Day tornadoes and the Resiliency and Recovery Center after the mass shooting.

The Family Assistance Center functioned as a mental health and disaster recovery center, giving citizens access to emotional support, trauma debriefing and crisis services. The Recovery and Resiliency Center provided a place for those impacted by the mass shooting to vent, grieve, and receive emotional support. The center was staffed with locally-trained mental health professionals and members of the Ohio Crisis Response Team.

ADAMHS is honored to be the recipient of the Everyday Ohio Heroes Award from the Ohio Children’s Trust Fund, awarded during Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month (April).

ADAMHS was also selected as Agency of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers, Ohio Chapter Region 7. The award was presented for the leadership role ADAMHS played throughout the intense challenges of 2019 and for service and support for the profession of social work.

Delay Denied, 2020 Reappraisal to Continue

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Auditor Karl Keith submitted a request to the Ohio Tax Commissioner to delay the county’s property reappraisal by one year. This request, the first of its kind, would have allowed the Auditor’s office to take 2020 real estate activity, including fluctuations due to COVID-19, into consideration when setting new property values.

However, the Tax Commissioner rejected Auditor Keith’s request for a delay. “I am disappointed with the Tax Commissioner’s decision. While I believe Montgomery County property owners would be better served by a delay, I will respect the decision of the Tax Commissioner,” Auditor Keith said.

Before the health emergency, the real estate market was strong. Accordingly, property values are expected to increase in the 2020 reappraisal.

Despite the difficulties created by the pandemic, Auditor Keith still plans on making citizen participation a priority. The Auditor’s Office will host informal review meetings online and will answer questions through the Property Owner Hotline.

Commissioner Judy Dodge delivers a Proclamation to the Brookville Sewing Angels, a group that assembled and donated more than 500 masks for children in foster care.
Children Services Answers the Call for Area Families

Child protection certainly does not slow down in a pandemic, and our Children Service Division stayed very busy with serving the needs of area families this spring.

- In three months, we had 823 new open cases, and 91 children entered the foster care system for their protection.
- Our Adoption workers helped 17 kids join their forever families!
- 10 children were reunited with birth parents!
- We had over 8,500 visits in those three months, many virtual through Skype, FaceTime or other means. This is remarkable because visitation is so important to helping families reunite.
- In those three months we also received 132 FINS cases, which stands for Families In Need of Services. People can reach out to Children Services if they need resources to avoid an abusive or neglectful situation.
- Calls to our Intake line were actually down more than 30 percent in the beginning of this pandemic. We know this is because children have not been around mandated reporters, such as teachers and medical professionals.
- Our Intake line received 2,101 referrals on concerns of child abuse and neglect.

It is truly more important than ever for each of us to be extra vigilant. If you see something, say something. Call 937-224-KIDS (5437), if you suspect child abuse or neglect.

We deeply appreciate all our Children Services workers and all they do for our community.”

Teamwork Makes N-95 Repair Possible; Coroner’s Office Donates Masks to Agencies

As the Coroner’s Office/Crime Lab responded to the demand for masks, they learned one group of N-95 masks had defective headbands. The Office made a plan to replace the defective straps, involving staplers and new elastic bands for seven boxes of masks.

This required a huge team effort. First, Kristin Nestor furnished a huge bag of elastic that would fit most heads and could be used to replace the headbands. Then Todd and Jen Yoak, Hillary Crosley, Marcia Campbell, Rachel Newton, Joy Anderson, Liz Kiely and Jennifer Goodman came to the rescue. They were each issued masks to repair during their off week from work.

“It was awesome to see the staff volunteer to help on their own time,” said Dr. Kent Harshbarger, County Coroner. “Because the Office received so many requests for masks, this allowed us to keep our inventory numbers up and make sure our staff was always protected as they continued to meet the daily challenges of the virus workload.”

As the pandemic progressed, Dr. Harshbarger received several calls for much-needed masks, which were distributed to many agencies including the Clerk of Courts, Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office, Miami Valley Hospital, and Union Police Department.

Fortunately, the Coroner’s Office had prepared in advance for just such a pandemic. Many thanks to employees who contributed to this endeavor.
Mike Foley, Clerk of Courts, Responds to COVID-19

All three Clerk of Courts divisions were considered essential and could not shut down due to COVID-19. Clerk Mike Foley took the COVID-19 threat very seriously and immediately put precautions in place.

Team members' temperatures were taken prior to each shift, commonly touched surfaces were cleaned every hour, signs were placed to remind people of social distancing, and hand sanitizer was supplied to all staff. Employees wore masks. Plexi-glass was installed wherever two or more team members shared workspace, as well as in spaces where team members interacted with the general public.

“Mr. Foley and his management team have taken every precaution to keep us all safe and healthy,” Municipal Court’s Jennifer Dearth said. “They have been very supportive and caring every step of the way through this ‘new norm’ in our lives.”

The Legal Division at the Common Pleas Court stayed open for normal business hours despite having a rotating schedule and reduced staff for social distancing purposes.

The Help Center had to suspend activities like going out into the community. “I’m truly looking forward to being back in the community centers, food pantries, churches, and social service agencies as soon as it’s safe to do so. We’re proud to take the courthouse to the community,” said Stephanie Willis.

The Municipal Court also rotated schedules to have fewer people in the workspace. The Court was unable to completely close down because people were still being arrested and they needed to have a hearing. “Due to the changes we put in place, I’m sure our customers feel safer about limiting the spread of COVID-19,” said Municipal Court Team Member Jillian Schroeder.

Our Auto Title Division reduced to two open branches, one north in Huber Heights and one south in Centerville. The Clayton and Moraine locations closed for about two months. The downtown office was in operation, but mostly did administrative tasks due to reduced capacity.

The members of Administration and IT who were able to work remotely did so, only coming in when absolutely necessary. Throughout the entire partial shutdown, management was in constant communication with the Board of County Commissioners and other elected officials and changed policies and procedures to keep up with changing CDC recommendations.
Despite the Stay-At-Home order, the Montgomery County Board of Developmental Disabilities (DDS) remained on the job throughout the pandemic, providing critical services to more than 5,000 county residents with developmental disabilities, and supporting agencies that deliver services.

The remote work infrastructure DDS had in place prior to the Governor’s order allowed its staff to adapt quickly to the need for virtual service delivery once its buildings closed to the public. Because people with Developmental Disabilities depend on outside providers to help them with everything from personal care and nutrition to nursing, day support, transportation and housing, DDS caseworkers worked from kitchen tables and home offices to coordinate services and address needs via telephone and video.

Families of infants and toddlers continued to receive early intervention services remotely, with parent coaching and speech, occupational and physical therapy services delivered via Zoom. The agency’s Mental Health Services and Supports program staff delivered individual and group telehealth therapy sessions and provided resources to help individuals and their families navigate the stress of isolation and enforced separation.

The recreation program team even got in on the act, offering exercise classes, guided relaxation, dance sessions and craft classes remotely. The program also launched a Facebook page to help people maintain connections with each other during the Stay-At-Home period.

Because County Boards of Developmental Disabilities are charged with supporting people with Developmental Disabilities as well as the providers that serve them, DDS created a Pandemic Resource Center to gather and distribute Personal Protective Equipment, food, and medical and cleaning supplies. This Center has played a critical role in protecting the County’s most vulnerable citizens and continues to operate at full capacity.

DDS also developed a quarantine plan, securing space, resources and staffing to ensure that people with developmental disabilities who live in shared home settings would have a temporary place to live if one of their housemates became infected with COVID-19.

DDS expects to continue delivering services remotely for quite some time and will play an important role in monitoring the service delivery of provider agencies for the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.
Bring Your Green Challenge Wins Top Award from National Assn. of Counties

Amidst all the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dayton Regional Green decided to put a freeze on the energy audit requirement for green certification until further notice!

This enabled businesses and organizations to continue to earn their Green Certification during the pandemic (42 new locations obtained their certification since March). All the while, DRG continued to add robust new features to the online platform.

The “Bring Your Green Challenge" was recently recognized with a Best in Category Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties for the year 2020 in the category of County Resiliency: Infrastructure, Energy and Sustainability.

The award honors the best programs from across the nation for their innovative, effective county government programs that strengthen services for residents.

The “Bring Your Green Challenge" is a web-based software platform for organizations, schools, and government agencies to participate in a fun competition to reduce waste, decrease carbon emissions, and realize energy and cost savings. The web-based challenge features a leaderboard to encourage friendly competition and to allow participating organizations and individuals to track their progress.
Animal Resource Center Helps Dogs Find Homes During Pandemic

While many local animal shelters closed operations during the COVID-19 pandemic, Montgomery County’s Animal Resource Center remained open to the public.

The dedicated Animal Care and Control Officers continued helping local police with cases involving dogs, removing dogs that posed a threat to the community, and investigating cases of animal abuse, neglect, or cruelty. Despite limited hours and social distancing restrictions, the ARC team did an amazing job and helped 128 dogs find new homes during the pandemic!

BCC IT Continues Essential Services Despite Increased Demand

As the pandemic caused Montgomery County offices to close to in-person services, the need for technology services increased. The Information Technology Department continued to work on desktop support, network, data systems, and managed applications throughout the pandemic. Because of the need for telework, the Project Management Office found solutions through Microsoft Teams, lobby management systems, and remote work solutions so the county could continue serving the public.

Increasing Public Wi-Fi Access

As The Job Center closed to in-person visits, the Information Technology Department stepped up to install an additional wireless access point that expanded internet service to The Job Center parking lot. This allowed people access to the state unemployment insurance website on their mobile devices. Even though The Job Center had closed, people could still access services because of IT’s efforts. Thank you, IT team.
NACo Award for Stillwater Center

We are thrilled to announce that Montgomery County Stillwater Center, which serves citizens with profound intellectual disabilities and significant medical needs, has been recognized with a National Association of Counties Achievement Award for an innovative “Pureed Food Improvement Program.”

Some residents at Stillwater Center have difficulty chewing or swallowing and require a pureed diet. The culinary staff developed a program to mold pureed foods into shapes that mimic their natural state, so that pureed meals became nearly indistinguishable from their non-pureed counterparts. In 2018, the staff purchased new equipment to serve food while still hot, which resulted in improved eating habits and healthier body weight for many residents.

A great many thanks to Dietary Supervisor Valerie Harness and her team for going the extra mile to make mealtime extra special for our Stillwater residents.

Workforce Development Creates Virtual Orientation for Laid-off Workers

When a local company announces a layoff, Montgomery County’s Business Services and Job and Family Services departments join the State of Ohio for an onsite orientation for those laid-off workers. This orientation prepares the individuals for applying for services like Medicaid and food assistance, as well as programs to get additional training and to get help finding their next job.

The pandemic required a new approach to helping these workers, since most large gatherings have been cancelled. The Business Services team worked with Job and Family Services to condense their orientation into a series of videos on YouTube. Now, when a company announces a layoff, they can share these videos with their employees to give them access to all the information without the need for a large assembly of people.

The orientation videos are available here: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgjYv3ia42t8_9fZaDi7UB1CSi9rYbzQ
Human Services Addresses Community Needs

Through the pandemic, Human Services Planning and Development has worked closely with the Food Equity Coalition, Homeless Solutions Policy Board, Area Agency on Aging, and Montgomery County Frail Elderly Services Advisory Committee to address community needs.

Montgomery County partnered with the Dayton Foundation and United Way, along with other funders, to review proposals submitted to the COVID-19 Relief Fund at the Dayton Foundation. The review committee has funded over $1.5 million in requests, with over $500,000 in Human Services Levy funding provided to support critical services and meet emergent needs. Specifically, Montgomery County supported:

• St. Vincent DePaul – to decrease the occupancy at the shelters by putting medically high-risk residents in hotels, also providing support for increased staffing and disinfecting at the shelters
• Artemis Center – for domestic violence outreach
• Preschool Promise – for childcare tuition assistance for essential workers with children at Pandemic-approved daycare centers
• Senior Resource Connection – to increase the number of home-delivered meals to senior residents
• Foodbank – to increase its capacity in mobile food distribution
• National Church Residences – to support seniors’ mental health due to social isolation and provide PPE
• Good Neighbor House – to increase the capacity of its food pantry
• Homefull – to increase its capacity in making fresh food available to vulnerable residents

Additionally, HSPD worked closely with Purchasing and Central Services to acquire and distribute PPE, hand sanitizer, thermometers, isopropyl alcohol, disinfectant wipes, hygiene products and other supplies for social service agencies serving the homeless and seniors.

Highlights from our distribution include:

• 957 bottles of hand sanitizer
• 4,200 disposable masks
• 703 cloth masks
• 900 bottles of hand soap

*It’s business as usual at Stillwater Center, even during a pandemic but these ladies still bring a smile with them to work.*
Child Support Works Through COVID Obstacles

While Child Support’s workspace was largely closed to the public during the initial wave of the pandemic, it was anything but quiet for them. Consider what they did from March through May:

- Our Child Support Enforcement Agency answered almost 17,000 calls from Child Support customers.
- CSEA conducted 4,471 online chats in those three months.
- CSEA workers answered over 4,000 emails.
- The fiscal and payment summary teams focused on ensuring that money kept flowing to families whenever possible during this stressful time, accepting and processing dropbox payments.
- Our administrative hearings team quickly transitioned to phone hearings to continue to establish support orders for families.
- Staff were very flexible in transitioning roles to help in areas with workload.
- Members of our Legal Team, some of whom have never taken calls in our call center, began assisting customers in our call center.
- The Litigation Attorneys assisted our Family Assistance Division by reviewing hundreds of Prevention Retention and Contingency (COVID financial relief) applications.
- Members of our Legal Team ensured that child support obligors stayed current on their support.

Many thanks to our outstanding Child Support team for all their hard work!

Thanks for the chow!

Dayton’s Young Black Professionals Association donated more than 75 meals to Montgomery County Family Assistance employees at The Job Center. The Family Assistance department saw a sharp rise in applications due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the employees have been working hard to take care of citizens, while also maintaining social distance. This kind gesture helped recognize the hard work County employees do to support families.
Congratulations to Rachel Ward, Manager of Community Programming for Human Services Planning & Development, and Samantha Elder, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Communications for ADAMHS, for winning two of the Dayton Business Journal’s coveted Forty Under 40 Awards!

Rachel manages a 13-county regional council for the prevention of child abuse and neglect, and also works to provide early intervention services for young children with developmental delays or disabilities. She serves on several notable boards: the Montgomery County Food Equity Coalition backbone support team, Learn to Earn Dayton’s Early Learning Advisory Board and the Birth-to-Three Stakeholder Group.

Samantha currently serves as Board President of the Dayton Children’s Hospital Women’s Board and is a member of the Gala of Hope Advisory Board.

Congratulations to these two amazing women! We are proud to have you as part of our Montgomery County family.

Montgomery County selected for Healthiest Employers Award

Montgomery County has been named as one of the Healthiest Employers in the region by Dayton Business Journal. A total of 25 organizations and companies were judged and selected for having outstanding health and wellbeing programs for their employees.

“This really means a lot, especially in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact that it has had on our workplace and our employees,” Commissioner President Judy Dodge said. “We are so grateful to our employees, who have been at the forefront providing vital community services this entire time. They have given so much to their community and fellow citizens and continue to do so every day.”

Healthiest Employers promote wellness in business, education, and not-for-profit employer groups. It aims to highlight the importance of providing a healthy work environment and reward the organizations that do so.

“We really try to make this a workplace where people are rewarded for taking care of their mental, emotional, and physical wellbeing, and where people are given the opportunity to make healthy decisions each day,” Director of Human Resources Joyce Carter said.
Veterans Service Commission Provides Unemployment Benefits To Veterans

The Montgomery County Veterans Service Commission used CARES Act funding to aid those veterans who lost their source of income due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Those eligible received up to $1,000 in aid. The program is still collecting applications.

Additionally, the VSC collaborated with Kroger to assist veterans with their immediate food insecurity needs, taking the pressure off the Foodbank and other local food pantries. The Kroger Food Voucher program assisted veterans with procuring food. Bus passes were also provided to assist veterans with getting to their closest Kroger. All Kroger’s in Montgomery County are participating in the Food Voucher program for veterans.

Many veterans lacked public transportation as a result of COVID-19. The VSC’s contract with Uber went unfilled because Uber drivers were practicing social distancing. Normally, when contract services are unavailable, the VSC would use its 16-year old vehicle to shuttle veterans to and from medical appointments, nursing home visits, etc. Because the vehicle was so unreliable, CARES Act funds were able to be used to purchase a new vehicle to help vets access important services and programs during the pandemic.

IT and Data Processing Build Solutions to Distribute CARES Act Funds

Since the Office of CARES Act was established to distribute $200 million in federal funds to the community, IT has worked with the Montgomery County Auditor’s Data Processing Department to build an online application portal for these assistance programs. Thank you to our IT and Data Processing teams for all your hard work!

Applications for all the CARES Act programs will be available at www.mcohiocares.org.
County Engineer Wins Roadway Paving Award

The Montgomery County Engineer’s Office received the Quality Award for Asphalt Paving for 2019 for excellent workmanship and riding quality for our citizens. Congratulations to County Engineer Paul Gruner (right) and Construction Administrator Dan Medeiros, pictured holding the award plaque. The award was given by Flexible Pavements of Ohio for the resurfacing of Farmersville-Germantown Pike.

New Veterans Service Commission Executive Director, Kimberly Frisco

Hearty welcome to Veterans Service Commission’s new Executive Director, Kim Frisco leads the charge to advocate for veterans and their families, helping them navigate the Department of Veterans Affairs benefits system, and providing direct and indirect financial assistance during unexpected illness, injury, or loss of employment. Kim comes to us from the VA Medical Center and she is also a 20-year Air Force Veteran. She and her husband Dennis Shake have three rescue dogs. Kim, welcome to the Montgomery County family!

MASKots for Public Health!

After a full day of educating Montgomery County on how to recycle right, Curby the Cardinal can’t wait to get home to his family. Fortunately, he and his coworkers wear masks so they can keep each other and their loved ones safe.

We understand wearing a mask at work can sometimes be uncomfortable, and we look forward to the days when we can see our coworkers’ smiles again too. But until then, please make sure you are wearing a mask when you leave your desk and are keeping your social distance. We are all in this together.
Stillwater Center Focuses on Safety and Quality of Life

Stillwater Center staff members have done a phenomenal job to ensure the safety and well-being of the citizens and families they serve.

"Those we serve at Stillwater Center are at increased risk of life-threatening complications from COVID-19, so we take our responsibilities as caregivers and essential workers very seriously," said Dr. Michelle Pierce-Mobley, Director of Stillwater Center. "Our team has really stepped up and done their utmost to keep our residents safe, and they’ve continued to provide a wholesome and enriching environment during exceptional times."

Staff members had to change job duties and work different shifts due to the state’s Stay-At-Home order. This was a real challenge for some employees, especially those who needed to find childcare. Staff members who took on alternative work duties and schedules include: Carrie Moody, Mae Nash, Tiffany Singleton, Mary Rettig, Kim Brown, Anita Burrage, Robin Moore, Jean Stanley, Tawnya Gildow, Madeline Miller, Marina Alexander, Cheneses Williams, Ashley Martin, Angy Walker, Joseph Diala, Lasena Badger, Eddie Jones, and Robin Miller.

Other staff members had to quit their second jobs to reduce the possibility of increased infection for our residents. These sacrifices helped us keep the facility and our residents safe. We are eternally grateful.

Special thanks to Brandon Thornton, who spent his days creating and gathering materials for activities in the residents’ cottages to ensure we were providing appropriate social and enrichment activities. Brandon prepared 60 new and unique activities a month, including arts and crafts, music, games, science and sensory activities.

We’d also like to recognize Mary Rettig, who is a seamstress in addition to being one of our habilitation providers. At the beginning of the pandemic, we were unable to procure the PPE supplies we needed, but Mary was able to make or repair over 200 cloth masks and around 40 isolation gowns to bolster our supply. She also helped repair the residents’ coats and clothing.

Jean Stanley has helped care for two bird aviaries at the Still In Motion Engagement Center, using her break time to clean the aviaries and feed the birds several times a week.

Other employees ripped out weeds to plant a sensory garden that residents can enjoy when they return to the engagement center.

Finally, thank you to our facilities team member Justin Rife, who gathered the materials and worked on the design of our hug wall (pictured right) with assistance from Mark Warner, Charley Loyd, Mike Eversole and Bill Myers. The hug wall became a part of our family outdoor visitation station, allowing family members to touch and connect during visits in a way that did not endanger our residents.