The weather is heating up and so is Montgomery County PTOC. We recently issued our 70th parenting time order (68% of Ohio’s total). Our program currently serves 184 parents and children. But PTOC is just getting started. In February, Federal PTOC Project Officer Michael Hayes issued a memo to PTOC grantees throughout the nation. This memo says CSEAs can continue offering parenting time services beyond the terms of our grant, and use existing IV-D support dollars for those programs, so long as they are “minimal and incidental” to the establishment of a child support order. In other words, we can continue serving you and many other PTOC families for years to come!

- Tim Andersen, Editor-in-Chief
The federal Parenting Time Opportunities for Children (PTOC) program began in 2012. The program’s goal is to improve the financial and emotional well-being of children receiving child support services. Montgomery County was one of twelve counties in Ohio to develop the state’s first programs. Montgomery County has issued many parenting time agreements and created many innovations to make our program successful. Due to this success, Adam Fohlen, Managing Attorney for Montgomery County’s PTOC, was invited to speak at the National Child Support Enforcement Association’s 2016 Policy Forum. This February forum was held in Washington, DC. At the Forum, Adam’s group discussed the topic: “Child Support: Bridge or Barrier to Successful to Co-Parenting?” Adam talked about Montgomery County’s partnership with United Way to develop the FirstBook initiative and this Newsletter. The panel also considered ways to improve mediation services, access to visitation and fatherhood programs. In the end, it was clear that CSEA parenting time programs can be an important part of successful co-parenting.

**ARTKIVE**

Love the artwork your child creates? Sure! However, your home only has limited space. You want to keep the memories not the clutter. We really like the app ARTKIVE! You can take a photo of your child’s work, add a caption, then save the memory. You can even make a book from your saved items or put them on Facebook. If both parents are part of the “share circle,” everyone can enjoy your child’s creativity! For $4.99 we feel this app is a great clutter preventer & memory preserver.

**MyMob**

MyMob helps shared parenting families stay connected in a safe, fun and friendly way. It encourages positive communication to help build a stronger family. Some of the key features include: a message board that has a positive communication filter that prevents the use of violent or negative language. You can also keep track of each other with a family diary. This way, you can arrange all your day-to-day events and even complex co-parenting arrangements with ease. MyMob also has a “family fridge” where your children can share extraordinary moments!
Nocturnal Amphibian Quest

Friday, April 15, 7:30-8:30 pm
Sugarcreek MetroPark: Trailhead Parking Lot

Spend an evening out in nature searching for spring peepers and spotted salamanders in Sugarcreek’s vernal pool. The pool is within walking distance of the parking lot. Things may get a little muddy, and you will want to bring a flashlight!

FREE, Ages 6-13

Northwest Branch Library Grand Opening

Friday, April 22, 1:30-5:30 pm
Northwest Branch Library

On April 22 from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m., the Dayton Metro Library will hold a grand opening celebration for the new Northwest Branch Library located at the corner of Philadelphia Drive and Hillcrest Avenue. The Northwest Branch Library will open for regular hours on April 23. The Northwest Branch Library will be a state-of-the-art facility, offering both new and traditional library services.

To learn more about the Northwest Branch and all the fun activities for kids at the Dayton Metro Libraries, call (937) 463-BOOK or go to http://www.daytonmetrolibrary.org/events.

Family Farm Chores

Saturday, April 23 / May 21, 8:30 am - 10:00 am
Carriage Hill Historical Farm

Experience a typical work day for a farm hand at Family Farm Chores, April 23 and May 21 at Carriage Hill Historical Farm, 7850 East Schull Road, from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Registration is $5 and is required. Recommended for ages 8 to 12. The Carriage Hill Riding Center (8111 East Schull Road) will be offering Saturday pony rides for youngsters 2 to 8 years of age on Saturdays from June 4 through October 29, from noon until 3 p.m. Reservations are not required.

“Unplugged!”

Sunday, May 15, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Delco Park

Unplug those phones, TV's and computers and get out in the great outdoors. On May 15, the City of Kettering will host “Unplugged,” at Delco Park from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be food trucks, entertainment, interactive arts, sports and fitness activities and a scavenger hunt for prizes. Unplugging was never this much fun! Admission is free. Call 296-3344 for more information or go to http://www.playkettering.org/Activities-Guide/Spring/index.html#?page=14.
**“Touch a Truck”**

*Saturday, June 4, 9-11 a.m.*  
*Kettering Recreation Complex*

On Saturday, June 4 from 9 to 11 a.m., the Kettering Recreation Division will host “Touch a Truck” at the Kettering Recreation Complex, 2900 Glengarry Drive. This is a chance to get up close and personal with the big rigs of the Kettering Fire Department. Stick around for “Battle of the Badge” and watch Kettering firefighters and law enforcement officers battle it out in contests of strength, speed and stamina. For more information, call 937-296-2587, or go to http://www.playkettering.org/Activities-Guide/Spring/index.html?page=14.

**Gardening Basics for Kids**

*Mondays from June 8 to Aug. 10, 10 - 11 a.m.*  
*Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark*

Check out the Children’s Discovery Garden at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave., where kids and parents can get to know a variety of furry, smooth, smelly and interesting plants, play games and go on scavenger hunts together. The Children’s Discovery Garden will offer Gardening Basics for Kids every Monday from June 8 through Aug. 10, 10 to 11 a.m. Ages 6 to 10. Fee is $5 and registration is required. For more information, call 937-277-6545 or go to http://www.metroparks.org/Parks/WegerzynGarden/ChildrensDiscoveryGarden.aspx.

**5th annual MONTGOMERY COUNTY CELEBRATE FATHERHOOD EVENT**

- Entertainment  
- Games for kids  
- Essay/Art Contest  

**MY DAD ROCKS**

Reliable Open Caring Kind Supportive

Fri. June 17th – 6-8:30pm @ The Vineyard Church  
1222 N. Main St., Dayton, OH 45405

Sat. June 18th – 11am-4pm @ Island Metro Park  
101 E. Helena St., Dayton, OH 45405

- Speakers  
- Balloon release  
- Community Resources
Dear Adam,

We are wanting to take vacation for Spring Break this year but this will be Aiden's first time away from his mom for longer than a few days. How can we help Aiden be less anxious about being away from his mommy?

- Worried Dad

Dear Worried Dad,

Talk with Aiden about the trip well in advance so he is emotionally prepared for the vacation. Be positive and talk about how much fun exploring a new place will be. Let Aiden know he can call or video chat with his mom to share his excitement about your travels. Facetime, Viber, and Skype are fun, cost-effective

If you or your co-parent would like to ask Adam a question, please email him at:

MCPTOC@jfs.ohio.gov

Adam is the Managing Attorney & Coordinator for MCCSEA PTOC.

OhioMeansJobs Montgomery County & Wright-Patterson AFB present the 2016 SPRING JOB FAIR:

Wednesday, April 20, Noon-4 p.m., at UD Arena, 1801 S. Edwin C. Moses Blvd., Dayton, Ohio 45417

Companies are hiring for FT and PT positions.

Professional Business Attire Required.

Visit OhioMeansJobs.com/Montgomery for more information and to REGISTER for this event.
Are you tired of the cold weather? Are you ready to play outside? Spring finally arrived on March 20. Go outside and have a scavenger hunt to see if you can find any signs that spring is finally here.

See if you can find the following signs of spring:

- Tulips
- Birds
- Bird nests
- Puddles
- Someone riding a bike
- Ants
- Bumblebees
- Someone flying a kite
- Kids playing outside

Draw pictures of the signs of Spring you found in the space below:
**Spring Rice Cereal Treats**

Have your mom or dad help you make rice cereal treats and shape them into some of the spring things you found outside.

**Ingredients:**
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 1 package (10 oz., about 40) marshmallows
- 6 cups rice cereal

**Directions:**
1. In large saucepan melt butter over low heat. Add marshmallows and stir until completely melted. Remove from heat.
2. Add rice cereal. Stir until well coated.
4. Use cookie cutters to cut out the things you found in your scavenger hunt.
5. Decorate your shapes with icing.

**Make a Kite**

When you were looking for the signs of spring, did you see anyone flying a kite? Follow the instructions below to make your own kite:

**Materials:**
- Newspaper
- String or Ribbon
- Glue
- Straight Sticks (however long you want your kite)

**Instructions:**
1. Look for sticks in your yard.
2. Use your string to tie the sticks into a cross. You'll want the horizontal stick to be slightly shorter than the vertical stick.
3. String your string around the ends of the sticks. You may have to cut small notches in the sticks to help the string stay in place.
4. Unfold your newspaper and cut a pattern to match the shape of your kite frame. Make it an inch or two larger than your frame, all the way around, so you can fold the edges over.
5. Spread the newspaper over your stick frame, fold the edges over your string and glue in place.
6. Tie a long string to the kite where the sticks cross.
7. Grab the string, run a little and fly your kite!
More Time for Dads?

American families have changed significantly in 40 years. The percentage of children living with both parents fell from 85.2% in 1970 to 69.2% in 2015, while the amount of time married fathers spend caring for their children has more than doubled. Research shows that children who spend time with their fathers are healthier, more academically successful, and less likely to be delinquent. As research shows how important it is for fathers to be present in their children’s lives, states are reconsidering their laws.

Five states – Colorado, Florida, Maryland, Massachusetts and Missouri – are considering proposals that would require judges to presume it’s best for children to split time as evenly as possible between their parents. Utah enacted a similar law last year. Here in Ohio, SB 262 was recently introduced that would, among other reforms, require a 10% child support reduction for parents who have a standard parenting time order. If parenting time exceeds 40%, a court would be required to grant a deviation or make findings why a deviation was not appropriate. Ohio law does not currently require a deviation when parenting time is ordered. Programs like PTOC are making it easier for all parents to enjoy substantial time with their children through free, collaborative agreements.

Credit to Jen Fitfield, Stateline, http://pew.org/1U255pL