



Hello Hamilton County

January 28, 2008

E-News for Hamilton County citizens and employees

Quote of the week:

"The best opportunities in life are the ones we create."

-Gary Blair

Hamilton County Celebrates National Mentoring Month

Hamilton County is celebrating National Mentoring Month in cooperation with the Cincinnati Youth Collaborative (CYC).

CYC unites community resources to make a difference in young people's lives through mentoring and college access services. Over 2100 volunteers and 150 local businesses and organizations are working together with CYC to help young people graduate from high school and successfully transition to post secondary education and/or employment.

The County Commissioners will be making a proclamation to recognize the efforts of CYC and to promote the participation of County staff in CYC and all mentoring programs.

When asked about his thoughts on mentoring, Commission President Todd Portune stated that, "All children benefit by having positive role models in their lives. CYC mentors serve that function - but they become much more than that by helping young



A child and his mentor complete an activity together.

people accomplish their dreams." Commissioner David Pepper, a past mentor through CYC stated that "for those who want to give back to the community, there is no bigger impact one can have than serving as a mentor in a child's life. And after all is said and done, the experience has as much impact on the mentor as the mentee."

Mentoring is celebrated every year in an annual month long media campaign that was launched in 2002 by the Harvard Mentoring Project. The goals of National Mentoring Month are:

1. To raise awareness of mentoring in its various forms.
2. To recruit individuals to mentor, especially in programs that have waiting lists of young people.
3. To promote the rapid growth of mentoring by recruiting organizations to engage their constituents in mentoring.

Who mentored you? Can you find them and thank them? Can you turn your lifetime of experience into the experience of a lifetime?

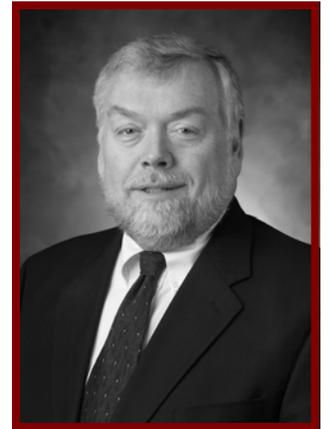
Locally, we have many young people waiting for mentors. Are you ready to share what you know and Mentor a young person?

For more information, contact: Cincinnati Youth Collaborative 513-475-4148

Or visit www.cycyouth.org.



Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board Increases Service Options and Efficiency by Contracting with New Provider



The Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board (MHRSB) is contracting with a new behavioral health-care provider here in Hamilton County, increasing efficiency and enhancing service options.

Centerpoint Health, a comprehensive behavioral healthcare agency in Hamilton County, began operating January 1. The agency was formed from the consolidation of three local mental health agencies: Center for Children and Families, Core Behavioral Health Centers, and NORCEN Behavioral Health Systems.

Previously, the MHRSB provided funding to each of the three agencies. As Patrick Tribbe, President and CEO of

MHRSB explains, "The MHRSB contracts with multiple agencies to purchase the services that our consumers need. We pay for those services and do oversight in terms of quality of services and fiscal responsibility." This consolidation of agencies is reducing the MHRSB's administrative time and costs, as they are funding one agency, rather than three. Plus, MHRSB's funding will go to Talbert House, who will handle the financial arrangements and oversight of Centerpoint.

Talbert House, a nonprofit social service agency, provides the financial, human resources, and quality and clinical services for Centerpoint. Several mental health programs previously run by Talbert House are

now managed by Centerpoint, including 281-CARE, Childreach, Community Outreach Prevention & Education (COPE) and Victim Service Center.

Centerpoint serves children, adults, and families in College Hill, Oakley, Roselawn, Walnut Hills, and Western Hills. The agency anticipates serving 15,000 registered clients in its first year. Tribbe says, "With Centerpoint, our consumers can receive multiple services onsite, in various locations. This helps with our major theme of improving access for our consumers."



Hamilton County Helps Found and Fund the Government Cooperation and Efficiency Project

50 Local Communities in Search of Opportunities to Improve Services and Control Costs

Fourteen jurisdictions within Hamilton County have identified approximately \$500,000 worth of potential savings as a result of their participation in the Government Cooperation and Efficiency Project (GCEP).

The Government Cooperation and Efficiency Project (GCEP)

The GCEP is an initiative designed to help local communities improve service delivery and control costs through cross-jurisdictional cooperation, sharing of services, and possible service delivery consolidation. City of Cincinnati Councilman Chris Bortz and Hamilton County Commissioner Pat DeWine were the early conveners of the project. Hamilton County Commissioners collaborated with Cincinnati City Council and the Cincinnati Business Committee to provide funding for this project. Truly a collaborative effort, the GCEP has a steering committee chaired by former state Senator Richard Finan and George Schaefer, Chairman of the Fifth Third Bancorp, with staff support from Management Partners Inc. The Planning Partnership of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission is helping coordinate, too. All 50 local governments in Hamilton County, including cities, villages and townships — plus the County itself, were included in this effort.

GCEP's Progress

The fourteen jurisdictions who have identified the

potential \$500,000 in savings anticipate these savings as a result of sharing services and/or making bulk purchases for items and services such as fuel purchases, salt purchases, street sign/markings, and fire hydrant maintenance. Since these savings were anticipated, another 24 jurisdictions within Hamilton County have been engaged in the GCRP initiative and are pursuing savings for their taxpayers. So even more savings are likely!

During the first phase of this project, groups met several times to generate ideas and discuss implementation of service sharing opportunities. Twelve specific projects, which could result in cost savings and/or improved service, were identified for detailed implementation planning. That phase concluded in December. Phase 2 offers a good opportunity for continuing this work and for developing even more economies in the delivery of local government services.

Ron Miller, Executive Director of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission says, "The success of this project is a result of local government participants who convened in numerous small group dialogues and voluntarily explored possibilities for cooperating in the delivery of services, a key ingredient to the success of our local communities and our region."

For more information about the GCEP, please visit this website: <http://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/hcrpc/partner/gcep/>.



Hamilton County Community Development Receives National and Local Awards



**Susan Walsh,
Community
Development
Director**

Congratulations to the Hamilton County Community Development Department for earning national and local awards!

Community Development received a national award from The National Association for County Community and Economic Development. They presented Community Development with an Award of Excellence in recognition of innovative, effective, and exemplary activity in the area of homeless coordination/assistance. The award recognizes the "Solutions/Initiative for the Cincinnati/Hamilton County Continuum of Care for the Homeless." The Solutions/Initiative Process was developed to address the needs of mentally ill and chronic substance abusers who are homeless and to improve coordination for their access to services.

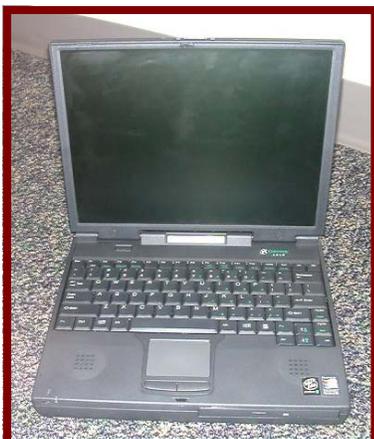
Susan Walsh, Community Development Director, commends the Partnership Center for doing the work involved with this initiative. Walsh says, "We in Community Development were happy that the grant came through our office, yet the Partnership Center deserves the credit for doing most of the work."

Locally, the Hamilton County Community Development Department received the Sue Livensparger Award from the Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency. This award is presented to an organization who exemplifies Sue Livensparger's commitment toward advocating housing for low income families. Community Development was recognized because they have provided funding, since the mid-1990s, for transitional housing

for

people who are leaving homeless shelters, but are not yet able to afford their own housing.

Susan Walsh, the Community Development Director, says, "I was very touched to receive this award. I knew Sue Livensparger, and she was an inspiration to me. She was a Legal Aid attorney who dedicated her career to helping people with low income get housing. Receiving this award is an honor."



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Presentations Available On Becoming a Foster or Adoptive Parent

If your company, group, or organization would like to offer a presentation about how to become a foster or adoptive parent, Hamilton County can help! Hamilton County Job and Family Services' Community Recruitment can bring a presentation to you.

To learn more, please contact:

John Cummings at 946-7587
E-mail: cummij02@jfs.hamilton-co.org

or Kathy Pflum at 946-2189
E-mail: pflumk@jfs.hamilton-co.org

A Caring Family is Needed!



Cody Born October 1992

Dynamic and intelligent, Cody has been teaching himself how to play the guitar, and "Guitar Hero" is currently his favorite game. He likes being active and playing football; someday he would like to play professionally, or be an architect.

His personality is infectious, and Cody has an energy about him that people love. Besides playing his guitar, he also likes to draw and spend time at home. He thinks he would do well with a calm family where he would be the youngest of just a few other siblings.

**To learn more about Cody and others available for adoption,
Please call 513-632-6366 or visit www.hcadopt.org.**



Please post "Hello Hamilton County," so everyone can see what's going on!

Hello Hamilton County is published twice each month. It is designed to inform citizens and employees about news and events related to Hamilton County government and our community in general. You can find current and archived editions on the County's website. If you have questions, suggestions, or article submissions, please contact Laura Maus or Eric Stuckey.

Laura Maus: 513-946-4708
Laura.maus@hamilton-co.org

Eric Stuckey: 513-946-4303
Eric.stuckey@hamilton-co.org