988 hotline improves access to behavioral health crisis services

This month, as we celebrate Kentucky joining the nation in launching the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, I want to talk about the value and importance of service access.

988 is a great example of the type of effort that gives the right people incredible access to the services they need when they feel lost. This easy-to-remember three-digit number for talk, text and chat replaces the 10-digit crisis hotline (though that number will still work for callers) all across the U.S. It’s for anyone, anytime who has concerns about themselves or a loved one who may have thoughts of suicide, or have any other behavioral health emergency, including substance use issues. 988 is a safer, more effective, more direct alternative for customers. It requires no appointment for a future visit, or the challenges of going to an emergency room and getting connected to the right care.

From the Commissioner

Ashley Taylor named SuperHero

Congratulations to our latest DCBS Superhero, Ashley Taylor, a Family Services Office Supervisor in our Division of Service Regions Central Intake office.

Ashley is based in the Eastern Mountain Service Region. She has worked for the Cabinet for Health and Family Services since 2006. Prior to this, she worked at Mountain Comprehensive Care for four years as a developmental interventionist with First Steps.

She has worked in the field doing investigations for the Protection and Permanency offices Johnson and Floyd counties. She later began working in Centralized Intake, where she was promoted to Chief and then to FSOS. Ashley has over 20 years of experience working with the community and providing services for citizens of the state of Kentucky. She has an incredible knowledge of Adult Protection Service and Child Protection Service SOPs and policies, her nominator said.

Clinical Corner:

Dr. David Lohr

Safe sleep messaging helps reduce risks for babies

This month’s edition of the clinic corner focuses on safe sleeping. I’m currently involved with a group from the Fatality/Near-Fatality External Panel that is helping promote the message. We want every DCBS worker and parent to be aware of these recommendations!

In Kentucky, the infant mortality rate is almost double the national average. The second-leading cause of infant death is sudden and unexpected infant death (SUID). The category of SUID was created to reduce confusion for parents, researchers, and other professionals and is a category of all sudden unexpected infant deaths based on an algorithm developed by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The SUID category includes 3 causes of infant death: Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), unintentional asphyxia, and undetermined cause.
Greetings DCBS,

As we trudge onward into full Kentucky Summer bliss, I would like to take a brief moment to thank all of you for the important work that you do for Kentuckian’s each and every day. Without your commitment, expertise, and care for others our beautiful and vibrant state would be less than its full potential.

With that, I would like to encourage each of you to highlight the good work and deeds of your colleagues and peers for all to see. CHFS Impact Stories is a great venue for just that!

The Governor’s Office is asking to highlight stories that illustrate the dedication of our public servants and the great work they do for their fellow Kentuckians. By submitting stories of good deeds and great work, we can highlight our amazing and dedicated DCBS workforce for all to see.

Please encourage your teams to share stories on the web form, and anytime you hear about a great example of public service in action, direct folks to share it. Positive impacts are a great platform to show the public how we impact the lives of so many and how our work can transform the lives of others.

Our staff often operate in a “thankless” environment and it is time we show the Bluegrass state just how impactful we are.

Again, thank you all for everything you do and may your Kentucky Spring bring forth renewal of energy and hope for all we do.

Access the CHFS Impact Stories response form online and submit your own story: https://forms.office.com/g/TnkGDUvsMJ
Complex passwords protect privacy

The following message was sent to staff from Commonwealth Office of Technology Chief Information Security Officer David Carter on July 14 and is republished here as a reminder to employees to update their passwords for better security.

In an effort to further strengthen the Commonwealth’s IT security controls, COT is implementing a new password protection feature, July 19th, 2022. It is necessary to protect against potential security breaches by eliminating the use of common, weak, and/or easily guessable passwords.

Starting on July 19, when you reset your password, your password will be evaluated against a “Blacklist” before being accepted. A “Blacklist” is a filter that prevents the use of common, weak and easily guessable passwords.

People tend to create passwords that can be easily remember, but in doing so create very weak and guessable passwords. The result has been an increasing number of successful hacks in recent years that have exposed entire password databases of large organizations all over the world.

Read the story here

Coaches = wellness support

Need accountability with your physical activity, or help staying on track with water intake or adding more fruits and veggies to your diet? You may be ready to with a LivingWell coach! Connecting with a coach is a great way to get fast feedback and support. Coaches help you create a plan of action and overcome barriers to your wellness. Plus you can earn $10 for each session - up to $30 towards your LivingWell Engagement rewards.

If you have the Wellness At Your Side (WAYS) app on your phone, you can secure message a coach there. Or you can connect online through www.KEHPlivingwell.com.

Reach your goals with a professionally trained health coach!

New logo reflects unity

DCBS is using a new logo. This is the official CHFS Team Kentucky logo. All CHFS agencies are using it, and it is part of a statewide rebranding effort to create more consistent messaging. DCBS is using this logo on all publications and projects.

Read more about the statewide branding here.
Files of the new logo, plus the new PowerPoint templates and additional resources can be downloaded here from the CHFS intranet.

DCBS staff will share resources at State Fair

DCBS Staff will be a part of the overall CHFS State Fair exhibit Aug. 18-28 at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville.

The CHFS exhibit will be in the Health Horizons section of the center’s South Wing B, where the medical and human support services community gathers to educate Kentuckians about their health and well-being. The exhibit includes health and wellness information, substance use disorder resources, children and parents’ programs and family assistance initiatives.

DCBS personnel experts will be there every day to recruit new family support and social services employees. Program experts from the Division of Protection and Permanency, Foster Care and Adoption Program will be there. And the Adult Protection Branch will have information and games on Senior Day, Tuesday, Aug. 23.

Early bird tickets are available through Aug. 5 for $8 per person including parking. Tickets are available online or in-person at participating Kroger locations Admission at the gate is $10 per person and $10 parking per standard vehicle. Children 5 and under get in free.

Buy tickets, view fair maps and learn more about daily fair hours, activities, concerts and other offerings at www.kystatefair.org.