



STATE OF OHIO
OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR

JIM PETRO, AUDITOR OF STATE

Preventing Welfare Fraud

Locating and Preventing Public Assistance Payments To Fugitive Felons

An Operational Review by the:

**Fraud, Waste, and Abuse
Prevention Division**



STATE OF OHIO
OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR

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Ms. Jacqui Romer-Sensky, Director
Ohio Department of Human Services
30 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0423

Dear Director Romer-Sensky:

I am pleased to provide you with our report *Locating and Preventing Public Assistance Payments to Fugitive Felons*. The report discusses the results of a state-wide computer match for purposes of (1) locating and arresting fugitive felons by using addresses obtained from public assistance files, (2) identifying and seeking recovery of public assistance benefits paid to fugitive felons, and (3) identifying data sharing opportunities that would prevent fugitive felons from receiving future public assistance payments. The match resulted in the arrest of 409 fugitive felons and the identification of \$408,597 in public assistance overpayments subject to recovery. The report also recommends that ODHS establish a computer link to locate fugitive felons and prevent public assistance payments from being given to them. I greatly appreciate the cooperation of your staff in helping complete this project.

Copies of this report are being sent to members of the General Assembly, the Department of Public Safety's Ohio Highway Patrol, the Buckeye Sheriff's Association, the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, the Ohio Human Services Directors' Association, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Inspector General, and other interested parties. If you or your staff have any questions concerning the report or would like to discuss its contents further, please call John Butts, Chief of our Division of Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Prevention, at (614) 466-3212.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Petro", written over a large, stylized flourish that loops around the text below.

JIM PETRO
Auditor of State

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Although expenditures for public assistance benefits have shrunk substantially in recent years, the outlay is still significant. During Calendar Year 1998, Ohio issued about \$1.1 billion in public assistance benefits to 1 million Ohio Works First and Food Stamp recipients. The Auditor of State (AOS) has a continuing interest in assuring that public assistance benefits are only paid to those who need and are entitled to them.

Sections 5107.36 and 5115.04 of the Ohio Revised Code and 42 United States Code Section 608(a)(9) prohibit fugitive felons, probation violators, and parole violators from receiving most forms of public assistance. In October 1998, the Auditor of State (AOS), in cooperation with the Ohio Highway Patrol, the Ohio Department of Human Services (ODHS), the Buckeye Sheriff's Association, the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, the Ohio Human Services Directors' Association, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Data Linkage Project¹, launched a joint initiative to identify fugitive felons receiving public assistance. The initiative had three objectives: (1) to locate and arrest fugitive felons by using addresses obtained from public assistance files, (2) to identify and seek recovery of public assistance benefits paid to fugitive felons, and (3) to identify data sharing opportunities that would prevent fugitive felons from receiving future public assistance payments.

Computer match information on 1,926 fugitive felons who were drawing public assistance was sent to County Sheriff's Departments and County Departments of Human Services in October 1998. Through June 22, 1999, AOS staff had received results from the investigations of 1,041 individuals by county sheriffs and 903 individuals by human service departments. Their investigations resulted in 409 arrests and the identification of \$408,597 in public assistance overpayments that are subject to recovery. In addition, human service agencies expect to refer 101 welfare recipients for fraud prosecution because of false statements made in regards to their criminal status. Appendix I provides a county by county list of arrests, overpayments, and fraud referrals.

At least three counties followed the state-wide match with matches of their own. Based on supplemental information provided by the AOS, Cuyahoga and Franklin Counties reported the arrest of 113 felons (included in the 409 arrest total above). The Mahoning County Sheriff's Office and Department of Human Services collaborated on a match of their own and reported the arrest of an additional 76 fugitives. Although arrest data was not available, other counties reported establishing more direct contacts between Sheriff's offices and County Human Services

¹ The Data Linkage Project was established in 1993 (Amended Substitute House Bill 152) to encourage the exchange of agency data to prevent overpayment and fraud in Ohio's public assistance programs.

Departments as a result of collaborating on the state-wide match.

Sections 5101.28(A) of the Ohio Revised Code requires that ODHS enter into data sharing arrangements with law enforcement agencies to assist in identifying and locating fugitive felons who are receiving public assistance. Ideally, that data sharing should occur when a fugitive felon applies for public assistance, or at the point a public assistance recipient becomes a fugitive felon, to help law enforcement locate a fugitive felon at the earliest possible time, and to prevent an erroneous payment from occurring. The latter would avoid the need for more costly and often unsuccessful recovery actions.

The Department of Human Services and the Department of Public Safety have met several times to discuss establishing a computer link between welfare files and the State Highway Patrol's Law Enforcement Automated Data System; however, a formal information sharing agreement has yet to be signed. The AOS believes the results of the state wide match demonstrate both the feasibility and desirability of establishing such a link.

Accordingly, the AOS is making the following recommendations to the Ohio Department of Human Services (ODHS):

- Establish an on-line computer link as part of a data sharing arrangement with the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Highway Patrol. This link, which could be between ODHS' public assistance computer system (called CRIS-E) and the Highway Patrol's Law Enforcement Automated Data System (LEADS), should function to identify (1) fugitive felons when they apply for public assistance and (2) public assistance recipients who become fugitive felons while on assistance.*
- Follow up with the appropriate CDHSs to investigate the fugitive felons on public assistance rolls identified by the AOS match and to recover the \$408,597 in overpayments.*

In response to the Auditor's recommendations, ODHS stated that it sees the value of on-line data exchanges of this type and has initiated an Offenders Data Exchange project that will include the exchange of information on fugitive felons. It added, however, that the project is on hold due to the priority of Year 2000 work. Until the project can be successfully implemented, the Auditor intends to continue assisting law enforcement and public assistance agencies by conducting periodic fugitive felon matches.

ODHS also stated that it will monitor each county department's progress in the investigation and collection of overpayments discovered through this match.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AOS	Auditor of State
CDHS	County Department of Human Services
LEADS	Law Enforcement Automated Data System
ODHS	Ohio Department of Human Services
ORC	Ohio Revised Code
SSN	Social Security Number

BACKGROUND

Under federal and state welfare reform (42 United States Code Section 608 (a)(9), Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Sections 5107.36 and 5115.04), individuals with outstanding felony warrants or with probation/parole violations are ineligible to receive most forms of public assistance. Over the last several years, the Auditor of State (AOS) has assisted individual county law enforcement authorities and county human service departments identify fugitive felons² who were drawing public assistance benefits. This assistance has resulted in the arrest of over 350 fugitive felons and the identification of tens of thousands of dollars in overpaid public assistance benefits. The success of this assistance, and recent legislation³ which requires the sharing of public assistance information for purposes for arresting fugitive felons, prompted the AOS to expand this assistance state wide.

ORC Section 5101.28(A) requires the Ohio Department of Human Services (ODHS) to enter into written agreement with law enforcement agencies to exchange, obtain, or share information about public assistance recipients. The information is to be used to assist law enforcement agencies, ODHS and county agencies determine whether an individual is a fugitive felon or has violated a condition of probation, a community control sanction, parole, or a post-release control sanction. ORC Section 5101.28 (F) requires that the Auditor of State prepare an annual report on the outcome of the agreements entered into under ORC Section 5101.28(A).⁴

PURPOSE, SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

This project had three objectives: (1) to locate and arrest fugitive felons by using addresses obtained from public assistance files, (2) to identify and seek recovery of public assistance benefits paid to fugitive felons, and (3) to identify data sharing opportunities that would locate fugitive felons earlier and prevent fugitive felons from receiving future public assistance payments. The project was conducted in cooperation with Ohio Highway Patrol, ODHS, the Buckeye Sheriff's Association, the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, the Ohio Human Services Directors' Association, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Data Linkage Project.

² Under ORC Section 5101.26, "Fugitive Felon" means an individual who is fleeing to avoid prosecution or custody after conviction, for an offense that constitutes a felony under the laws of the place from which the individual is fleeing regardless of whether the individual has departed from the individual's usual place of residence.

³ Amended Substitute Senate Bill 52, which became effective September 1997.

⁴ To meet the annual reporting requirement, an preliminary report on the results of this project was sent to members of the General Assembly, the Governor, and the Director of ODHS on December 28, 1998. (AOS/FWAP-99-074L)

To meet the first two objectives, a computer file of the one million recipients on public assistance rolls as of June 30, 1998 was matched against a file of outstanding warrants maintained on the Highway Patrol's Law Enforcement Automated Data System (LEADS) as of September 1998. The match identified 1,926 individuals (fugitive felons) who appeared⁵ to be receiving public assistance benefits in 72 Ohio counties. On October 2, 1998, a list of persons receiving assistance in each county was forwarded to the respective County Sheriffs' Offices and the County Human Services Department for further investigation. The Sheriffs' Offices and County Departments of Human Service (CDHSs) were asked to complete and return a questionnaire to the AOS on the results of their investigations. The questionnaires were used to tally information on such items as (1) whether or not an arrest was made; (2) whether or not benefits were overpaid to a public assistance recipient (and how much), and (3) whether a recipient was being referred for fraud prosecution.

In November 1998, the Franklin County Sheriff's Department asked the Auditor of State to conduct a follow up match that would provide them with updated match information. That match identified an additional 86 fugitive felons who appeared to receiving public assistance. Another follow up match was conducted for the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department in March 1999. Because these counties investigated cases and reported results from both sets of matches, the results of the follow on matches are included in this report.

To meet the last objective, AOS staff discussed data sharing opportunities with ODHS, the Highway Patrol, and the Ohio Data Linkage Project Manager. Among the issues discussed was the potential to develop a computerized link between ODHS' public assistance computer system (called CRIS-E) and LEADS, which is maintained by the Highway Patrol.

RESULTS

Depending on the number of matches in the county and the availability of investigative resources, County Sheriffs and County Departments of Human Services (CDHSs) used different approaches to investigate the matches sent to them. Some County Sheriffs conducted a one or two night sweep, in which a coordinated team of law enforcement personnel attempted to arrest as many individuals as possible, as quickly as possible. Other County Sheriffs chose to investigate their match results over a period of time, making arrests over a period of several months. CDHSs also varied their investigation periods, usually allowing the Sheriffs in their county to attempt an arrest before initiating action to adjust a recipient's benefits. The latter was done to avoid alerting a recipient who may be attempting to avoid arrest.

⁵ The computer match was based on Social Security Numbers. In some instances, false matches occurred because computer files contained an erroneous Social Security Number for one of the matched individuals. County investigation was required to confirm whether matched individuals were in fact fugitive felons drawing public assistance.

County performance varied widely in terms of the number of cases investigated and the results of those investigations that were reported back to the AOS. Overall, through June 22, 1999, the Sheriffs' Offices reported results on about 54 percent (1,041 of 1,926) of the individuals referred to them. The CDHSs reported results on about 47 percent (903 of 1,926) of the referred cases. A county by county breakout is shown in Appendix I.

SHERIFFS' INVESTIGATIONS RESULTED IN 409 ARRESTS

Through June 22, 1999, the AOS had received responses from county sheriffs on 1,041 of the 1,926 individuals that had been forwarded to them for investigation. The sheriff's offices reported making 409 arrests, which included individuals wanted for such offenses as theft, sale/use of dangerous drugs, forgery, sex offenses and parole violations. In another 632 cases, the sheriffs' offices reported that the individual was not arrested because, for example, the person could not be located at the address provided, or the public assistance recipient was not the same person as the fugitive felon (e.g., a false match). The latter accounted for 33 of the cases in which an arrest was not made.

At least three counties followed the state wide sweep with a second sweep of their own. Based on supplemental information supplied by the AOS in November 1998, the Franklin County Sheriff's Department arrested 79 additional persons. Similarly, supplemental information provided to the Cuyahoga County Sheriff in March 1999 resulted in additional arrests of 34 persons. (The additional Franklin and Cuyahoga arrests are included in the 409 arrests noted above.) In addition, the Mahoning County Sheriff's Office and the Mahoning County Department of Human Services conducted their own match on 319 additional arrest warrants and arrested an additional 76 persons.⁶ Although arrest data was not readily available, other counties reported establishing more direct contacts between Sheriff's offices and County Human Services Departments as a result of collaborating on the state-wide match.

CDHSs' INVESTIGATIONS IDENTIFIED \$408,597 IN OVERPAYMENTS

Through June 22, 1999, the AOS had received responses from CDHSs on 903 of the 1,926 individuals that had been forwarded to them for investigation. Table 1 summarizes the results of their investigations.

⁶ The additional Mahoning County arrests were not included in our arrest totals because the AOS did not provide the match information.

Table 1: Summary of CDHS Investigations of AOS Fugitive Felon Matches

Number of Individuals Referred to CDHSs for Investigation	1,926
Number of Questionnaires Returned as of June 22, 1999	903
Number of Overpayments Assessed	330
Amount of Assessments	\$408,597
Number of Assistance Cases Terminated	142
Number of Cases with Future Benefit Reductions	69
Number of individuals Referred for Fraud Prosecution	101
Number Reported as "No Action Taken" ¹	297

¹ A CDHS may not have not taken any action because, for example, (1) the warrant was not active, as advised by the Sheriff's Office; (2) the CDHS was unable to obtain a warrant date from the Sheriff's office, so they could not calculate the amount of the overpayment; or (3) a recipient had been removed from public assistance before the date of the warrant.

Source: Questionnaires Returned by CDHSs

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUTURE DATA SHARING

The AOS' match was directed towards identifying persons who, in many cases, had outstanding warrants dated several years previously, (several had outstanding warrants dating back to the 1980's) and who had also been drawing public assistance for several years. The delays involved in identifying these individuals raises questions about whether a better method exists for law enforcement and human services agencies to share information.

Ideally, data sharing should occur when a fugitive felon applies for public assistance, or at the point a public assistance recipient becomes a fugitive felon. In this way, law enforcement would have information to locate a fugitive felon at the earliest possible moment that new information became available, and human services agencies would be able to prevent the payout of erroneous benefits.

The latter would avoid the need for more costly and often unsuccessful recovery actions.

The Department of Human Services met several times during 1998 to discuss establishing a computer link between welfare files and the State Highway Patrol's Law Enforcement Data System; however, a formal information sharing agreement has yet to be signed. Some of the issues that have delayed the signing of an agreement are (1) concerns about the quality of information generated by computer matches, (2) the need to verify the information before acting upon it, and (3) the resources required to perform the verifications.

The AOS believes that the results of this computer match demonstrates the desirability and feasibility of establishing a computer link between public assistance files and law enforcement files to identify fugitive felons at the earliest possible time.

CONCLUSIONS

Issuing public assistance benefits to persons who are not entitled to them, such as fugitive felons, contributes to fraud, waste and abuse in public assistance programs. As the administrator of Ohio's public assistance expenditures, ODHS needs to ensure benefits are issued

only to eligible recipients.

This was the first year that a state wide fugitive felon sweep had been undertaken. Overall, the project successfully met the objectives of locating and identifying fugitive felons for purposes of arresting them and adjusting their public assistance benefits. The AOS believes the state wide sweep also served to establish communication channels between county law enforcement authorities and human service agencies that will encourage direct data sharing in the future.

Nevertheless, the AOS believes the most effective way to identify and locate fugitive felons is to establish a direct computer link between public assistance and law enforcement files. With such a link, the location of a fugitive felon could be determined at the earliest moment an address became known to human service agencies, and correspondingly, human services agencies would be alerted at the earliest moment a public assistance applicant or current recipient became a fugitive felon.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Auditor of State recommends that ODHS:

- Establish an on-line computer link as part of the data sharing arrangement with the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Highway Patrol. This link, which could be between ODHS' public assistance computer system (called CRIS-E) and the Highway Patrol's Law Enforcement Automated Data System (LEADS), should function to identify (1) fugitive felons when they apply for public assistance and (2) public assistance recipients who become fugitive felons while on assistance.
- Follow up with the appropriate CDHSs to investigate the fugitive felons on public

assistance rolls identified by the AOS match and to recover the \$408,597 in overpayments.

AGENCY COMMENTS

ODHS' Bureau of Systems Development reviewed a copy of this draft and provided comments on June 22, 1999. (See Appendix II.) The Bureau stated that it clearly sees the value of exchanging (fugitive felon) data on-line and has initiated an Offenders Data Exchange project that will allow for the exchange of information on 1) incarcerated prisoners; (2) persons on parole or probation; (3) released prisoners and released parolees; and (4) fugitive felons, probation violators and parole violators. The Bureau added that while it continues to support data sharing agreements with other state agencies, the Offenders Data Exchange project has been put on hold, due to the priority of Year 2000 work. It plans to resume the project at some future point, but the timing for its completion is unclear.

The Auditor encourages resumption and completion of ODHS' Offenders Data Exchange project. In the meantime, however, the Auditor believes it is important for law enforcement and public assistance agencies to continue receiving information on fugitive felons receiving public assistance. Thus, the Auditor plans to periodically continue providing fugitive felon match information to law enforcement and human services agencies for follow up action.

In a separate e-mailed response received on June 22, ODHS' Fraud Control Section stated that District Office fraud control staff plan to monitor each county department's progress in the investigation and collection of overpayments discovered through this match. They requested that the Auditor's Office provide a listing of the cases in which overpayments were identified. This listing will be provided to ODHS.

Appendix I
County Breakouts of Fugitive Felon Match Results

County	Unique Matches	County Sheriffs' Offices		County Human Service Departments				
		Responses Received	Arrests Made	Responses Received	Cases Terminated	Over-Pmt. Amount	Future Benefits Adjusted	Referrals to Prosecutor
Adams	2	1	0	2	1	\$935	0	1
Allen	6	0	0	6	2	\$1,350	1	0
Ashtabula	13	2	2	13	0	\$0	0	0
Athens	5	5	0	5	1	\$1,622	1	0
Belmont	1	0	0	1	0	\$0	0	0
Butler	17	8	8	17	1	\$2,531	1	0
Carroll	2	2	0	2	0	\$2,854	0	1
Champaign	1	0	0	1	0	\$0	0	0
Clark	10	0	0	10	6	\$3,456	1	2
Clermont	4	2	0	4	1	\$0	2	0
Columbiana	3	3	0	3	1	\$1,361	0	0
Coshocton	1	1	0	1	0	\$0	0	0
Crawford	3	3	0	3	0	\$0	0	0
Cuyahoga	852	144	75	0	0	\$0	0	0
Darke	1	1	1	1	1	\$369	0	0
Defiance	3	0	0	3	0	\$0	0	0
Delaware	2	2	1	1	1	\$707	0	1
Erie	3	3	0	1	1	\$122	0	0
Fairfield	7	0	0	7	1	\$0	0	1
Fayette	3	3	2	3	0	\$2,960	1	3
Franklin	218	181	98	87	29	\$37,330	2	7
Gallia	1	0	0	1	0	\$0	0	1
Greene	1	1	0	1	0	\$0	0	0
Guernsey	2	0	0	2	0	\$12,729	0	2
Hamilton	132	132	58	113	13	\$22,034	6	30
Hancock	1	1	0	1	0	\$0	0	0
Harrison	1	1	0	1	0	\$0	1	0
Henry	1	1	0	1	0	\$0	0	0
Hocking	1	1	1	1	0	\$0	0	0
Holmes	1	1	0	1	0	\$0	0	0

Appendix I
County Breakouts of Fugitive Felon Match Results

County	Unique Matches	County Sheriffs' Offices		County Human Service Departments				
		Responses Received	Arrests Made	Responses Received	Cases Terminated	Over-Pmt. Amount	Future Benefits Adjusted	Referrals to Prosecutor
Jackson	3	0	0	3	0	\$0	0	0
Jefferson	2	0	0	2	0	\$0	0	0
Knox	2	0	0	2	0	\$0	0	0
Lake	7	2	2	6	0	\$4,141	1	1
Lawrence	3	0	0	3	0	\$932	0	0
Licking	6	6	1	6	2	\$500	1	0
Logan	1	1	0	1	0	\$0	0	0
Lorain	38	37	14	37	5	\$20,463	3	0
Lucas	171	169	47	171	29	\$125,150	23	3
Madison	4	1	1	4	0	\$1,742	0	2
Mahoning	62	61	27	61	6	\$44,267	1	0
Marion	4	4	1	4	1	\$2,299	0	3
Medina	1	0	0	1	0	\$0	0	0
Meigs	3	0	0	3	1	\$80	0	1
Mercer	1	1	0	1	0	\$0	0	0
Miami	2	2	2	2	0	\$244	0	0
Monroe	1	1	1	1	0	\$0	0	0
Montgomery	77	76	16	69	0	\$49,586	2	30
Morgan	2	0	0	2	1	\$0	0	0
Morrow	2	2	2	2	1	\$3,095	1	0
Muskingum	6	6	1	6	0	\$1,025	1	2
Paulding	1	1	0	1	0	\$0	0	0
Perry	2	0	0	2	1	\$0	0	0
Pickaway	2	2	1	0	0	\$0	0	0
Pike	5	0	0	5	0	\$0	0	0
Portage	10	10	2	10	0	\$0	0	0
Preble	1	1	1	1	0	\$46	0	0
Richland	6	1	1	6	4	\$0	0	0
Ross	4	0	0	4	0	\$0	0	0
Sandusky	3	3	0	3	0	\$0	0	0
Scioto	22	4	4	22	6	\$579	0	0

Appendix 1
County Breakouts of Fugitive Felon Match Results

County	Unique Matches	County Sheriffs' Offices		County Human Service Departments				
		Responses Received	Arrests Made	Responses Received	Cases Terminated	Over-Pmt. Amount	Future Benefits Adjusted	Referrals to Prosecutor
Seneca	2	0	0	2	0	\$545	0	0
Shelby	1	1	0	1	0	\$85	0	0
Stark	31	11	11	28	0	\$5,923	11	2
Summit	102	102	22	101	19	\$45,068	9	1
Trumbull	24	24	4	24	4	\$11,123	0	6
Tuscarawas	2	2	0	1	0	\$0	0	0
Vinton	2	2	1	2	1	\$0	0	0
Warren	4	4	0	4	0	\$0	0	0
Washington	2	2	1	2	0	\$1,344	0	1
Wayne	3	3	0	3	2	\$0	0	0
Williams	1	0	0	1	0	\$0	0	0
TOTALS	1926	1041	409	903	142	\$408,597	69	101



Ohio Department of Human Services

30 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43266-0423

Management Information Services

To: Jim Petro, Auditor of State
From: Lucy Grosz, Assistant Bureau Chief *LG*
 Bureau of Systems Development
Subject: Response to Fugitive Felon Report
Date: June 22, 1999

The ODHS Bureau of Systems Development (BSD) has reviewed the report entitled "Locating and Preventing Public Assistance Payments to Fugitive Felons". This memo is a response to the recommendations contained in this report.

The Offenders Data Exchange (ODE) project was initiated in response to the State of Ohio Senate Bill 52. This legislation requires state agencies to enter into agreements which allow exchange of available information related to child support, public assistance and employment for: 1) incarcerated prisoners; 2) persons on either parole or probation; 3) released prisoners and released parolees; and 4) fugitive felons, probation violators and parole violators.

The goals of this information exchange are to:

- ☉ Assist the State of Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (DRC) in enforcing financial and legal obligations for inmates in penal institutions and persons on parole or probation from penal institutions;
- ☉ Assist DRC with investigations of fugitive felons, probation violators and parole violators; and
- ☉ Assist the State of Ohio Department of Human Services in identifying inmates of penal institutions, parolees, persons on probation, fugitive felons, probation violators, and parole violators applying for public assistance.

The result of this project will be to create a data repository for matching/response processing and to provide on-line access through CRIS-E for several Ohio agencies:

- ☉ Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections
- ☉ Jail Linkage (County Jail Inmates)
- ☉ Youth Services
- ☉ Highway Patrol (felony warrants) LEADS
- ☉ Attorney General (felony drug arrest/convictions)

BSD clearly sees the value of doing this exchange of data on-line. We initiated the ODE project in January of 1998 to give other agencies more timely information. As with many other projects, this was put on hold, due to the priority of Year 2000 work.



Jim Petro

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June 22, 1999

The Data Exchange area supports the data sharing agreements with all other state agencies, including arrangements with law enforcement agencies. Now that the Year 2000 effort is coming to a close, project priorities for the Data Exchange area will be reviewed, resources assigned and project schedules established. We plan to resume the ODE project as part of the new priorities, but it is unclear what the timing will be for completion of this project.

cc: Matt Erb
Sheryl Harrington



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LOCATING AND PREVENTING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS TO
FUGITIVE FELONS

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report which is required to be filed in the Office of the Auditor of State pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in Columbus, Ohio.

By: *Susan Babbitt*

Date: JUN 29 1999