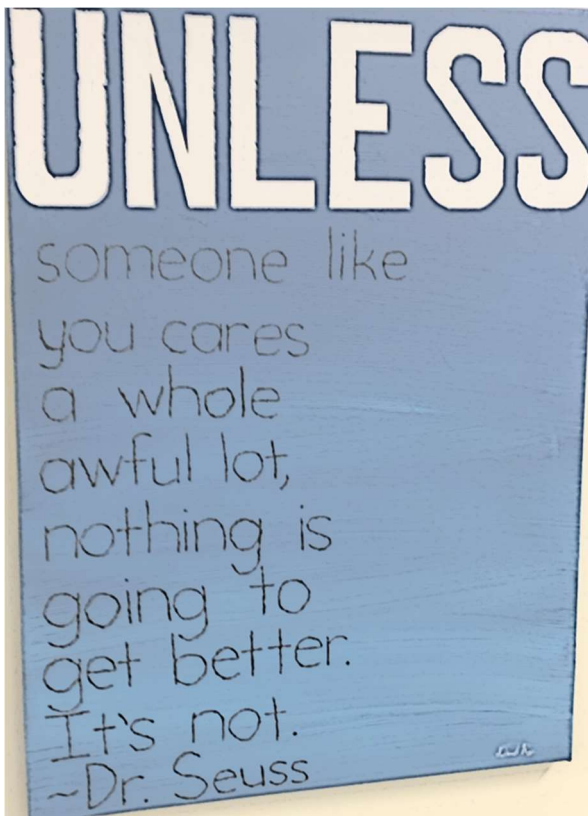




## DCF COVID-19 Daily Update Supporting Children, Families and Staff May 13 2020

### THE GROUP TEXT CAMARADERIE OF MIDDLETOWN INVESTIGATIONS

When the traditional worksite changed for twelve Investigators in the Middletown Area Office, they quickly created a group text in the spirit of camaraderie, not realizing full well, the supportive benefits that staying connected would present.



Last Friday, this internal support system became evident to Social Work Supervisor, Susan Sienkiewicz, who experienced firsthand a level of synergy amongst these frontline staff. She explained that they didn't miss a beat and the support offered amongst one another was "*just like as if we were in the office*".

There was a case emergency involving the removal of an infant. Her worker reached out via text to her colleagues for some guidance on an updated 96-hour hold form and the response from her colleagues was impressive. She received not only the form she needed but offers to help with the state car, the car seat, the necessary PPE to keep her safe and assistance during the removal.

The end result? A safe child and supported staff.

While we are not physically together, we are still connected.

This story of teamwork is yet another example of how quickly our staff have adapted and how our physical space has not

impacted their ability to support one another.