



# Mahoning County Children Services

Protecting Children. Preserving Families.



Report to the Community | 2016

# MISSION | VISION

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES



### Guiding Principles

#### WE ARE CHILD WELFARE LEADERS.

- We take pride in working with families and our community with care and compassion.
- We provide quality services that respect each family's culture.
- We are fiscally responsible, effectively utilizing resources to benefit the families we serve.
- We educate the community on recognizing and preventing child abuse and neglect.

#### WE RESPECT AND VALUE FAMILIES AND THEIR CHILDREN.

- We respect families' strengths and provide individualized services.
- We empower parents and partner with families to ensure child safety, permanency and well-being.
- We recognize children are best served within their family and community.

#### WE VALUE OUR PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE COMMUNITY.

- We recognize the need to work in collaboration with the community to protect children and preserve families.
- We support the well-being of children and families; it is a shared agency and community responsibility.

### MISSION

**Mahoning County Children Services, in partnership with the community, is committed to being the leader in protecting children while helping preserve families.**

**The 2016 Report to the Community** is published by Mahoning County Children Services and is submitted in Accordance with Section 5153.14 of the Ohio Revised Code.

**Editor and Designer:** Jennifer T. Kollar  
Public Information Officer



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

RANDALL B. MUTH, J.D.



Dear Community Members:

The mission of the Mahoning County Children Services Board is, of course, to protect children and strengthen families. To accomplish this mission, we must constantly strive to develop and implement the most effective, evidenced based strategies to provide children with safe, nurturing and permanent families.

Over the course of 2016, many Ohio counties witnessed how the wave of the opioid crisis systematically swept and ultimately exploded throughout Ohio. Opioid addictions lead families down a terrible path of destruction taking with it many, many victims. Here in Mahoning County, we are beginning to see evidence that this epidemic is impacting Mahoning County families to a greater degree than ever before. Prudence dictates that we, as an Agency, begin to put strategies in place to ensure that we are in the best position to meet the needs of the numerous affected children which are sure to come.

No matter what type of crisis or epidemic may present in our community, child safety is Mahoning County Children Services' top priority. This Agency will continue to assess any issues of any substance abuse which impacts a parent's ability to safely and adequately care for their children.

Sadly, and ultimately, it is the children who---through no fault of their own---have become the "Invisible Victims" of the opioid crisis. Children cannot and should not be blamed for the actions of their parents. Truly, they cannot control their parents' or their own circumstances.

Children are the Invisible Victims because they're in the background when they witness their parents buying drugs, taking drugs, shooting up, overdosing, passed out, unresponsive, getting revived or even dying. These are the children who dial 911 (if they know how) to call for help for an unresponsive parent. These are the children who we have seen strapped in a car seat while their parents are near-death and unresponsive in the front seat. These are the children who are exposed to unstable, dangerous situations and strangers at all times of the day or night.

In neighborhoods all over this County, and behind closed doors, these are the children who are taken on drug buys, have easy access to drugs and drug paraphernalia often found littered around their home. These are the children who are left at home to fend for themselves or found wandering the streets with little or no regard for their

safety or well-being. These are the children who find themselves living in and lingering in foster care while their parents are in recovery, relapse or die. There is a tremendous social, emotional and financial toll to the opioid crisis, but most of all, it's the children who are left as the Invisible, Vulnerable, Voiceless Victims of circumstances beyond their control.

Prudence dictates that we cannot fail these innocents.

As the opioid issue began to increase to epidemic proportions, the Agency, in keeping with its mission, attained several goals in 2016 which included: to significantly reduce our reliance on publicly run residential services, safely reduce congregate care placements and improve outcomes for all of the children in our custody. While the Board recognized that, at times, congregate care may be necessary to ensure a child's safety and stabilization, such level of care should, and ought to be, used judiciously, efficiently, and effectively.

At the beginning of 2016, the Agency operated and maintained two child residential facilities within the city of Youngstown, which served as the primary housing for up to 20 children at any one time. We were one of only five counties in the state that continued to offer residential services as a direct governmental function. All other counties rely exclusively on private child placing organizations to provide care for children who cannot function in a family-like setting.

We have known for many years that congregate care was not best practice and that we needed to move toward other, more effective

responses. Outcomes for children are much better when child welfare agencies use the Resources, which would have otherwise gone to funding congregate care facilities, to develop and implement the supports necessary to provide for more family-like placements for children and youth. However, past experience has taught this transition must be carefully crafted in order to avoid the unintended consequences, which we have seen in previous transitions from a residential care model in other fields.

Sadly, and ultimately, it is the children who---through no fault of their own---have become the "Invisible Victims" of the opioid crisis.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

CONTINUES on page 11

# FINANCIAL

**MELINDA K. POSTERLI**  
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR  
BUSINESS OPERATIONS

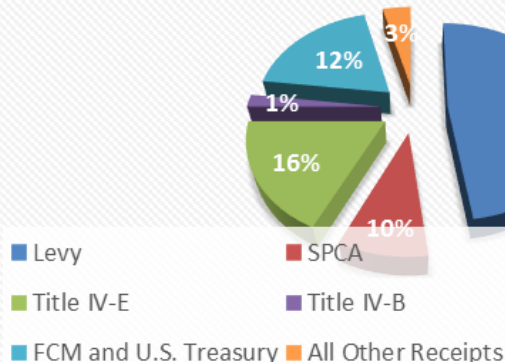


## 2016 RECEIPTS

Real Estate Taxes .....	\$8,181,274.11
Personal Property Tax .....	\$135.48
Rollback Taxes.....	\$0.00
Manufactured Home Taxes.....	\$9,107.95
Tax Loss Reimbursement .....	\$118,253.76
Homestead Credit.....	\$1,486.42
Rollback Credit.....	\$468,853.99
Proceeds From Sale of Assets .....	\$0.00
Child Welfare Subsidy IV-B.....	\$145,737.00
Title IV-B (ESAA).....	\$107,381.00
Independent Living Skills Allocation .....	\$53,336.00
PASSS.....	\$93,814.37
Foster Parent Training Reimbursement .....	\$4,762.00
Child Abuse and Neglect Allocation.....	\$0
Title IV-E .....	\$2,402,509.43
U.S. Treasury .....	\$54,140.00
Foster Care Maintenance.....	\$1,839,907.42
Food Subsidy.....	\$0.00
Parent Relative Support .....	\$0
Bureau of Support .....	\$17,871.15
Mental Health Board (Shared Costs) .....	\$0.00
MBDD (Shared Costs) .....	\$0
State Child Protective Allocation .....	\$1,218,713.08
Kinship Permanency Incentive.....	\$49,050
User Fees.....	\$325.00
Reimbursement .....	\$469,812.36
Donations.....	\$0.00

**TOTAL RECEIPTS 15,236,470.52**

## 2016 Receipts



## 2016 EXPENDITURES

Salaries	\$4,639,731.83
PERS	\$1,024,439.95
Medicare	\$66,254.15
Workmen's Compensation	\$102,190.95
Unemployment	\$32,035.17
Hospitalization	\$1,442,237.33
Hospitalization Opt-Out	\$15,925.20
Life Insurance	\$1,741.53
Food	\$19,884.57
Medical Supplies	\$6,692.03
Postage	\$15,000.00
Materials and Supplies	\$18,968.19
Office Supplies	\$28,607.26
Automobile Gasoline and Service	\$3,474.09
Software	\$7,850.68
Equipment	\$4,850.00
Seminars/Conferences	\$17,169.08
Travel	\$177,836.53
Organization Dues	\$37,293.24
Contractual Agreement	\$350,431.76
Professional Services	\$42,340.67
Water/Sewer	\$3,431.83
Telephone	\$12,050.86
Electric	\$9,957.12
Gas	\$4,088.74
Medical Assistance	\$448.00
Advertising	\$32,819.83
Printing	\$5,530.24
Rent	\$26,000.00
Maintenance Agreements	\$215,051.16
Audit Fees	\$3,761.30
Data Board Service Agreements	\$3,874.60
Furniture and Fixtures	\$13,353.55
Insurance Liability Casualty	\$40,215.23
Equipment Lease	\$13,442.28
Board and Care Clothing	\$72,337.09
Public Assistance	\$11,040.30
Daycare	\$136,250.68
Public Foster Care	\$724,039.80
Residential Placement Costs	\$2,518,678.39
Therapeutic Foster Care	\$979,270.30
ESAA Preservation	\$138,053.21
ESAA Reunification	\$68,869.89
Child Abuse Prevention	\$232.00
Subsidized Adoption	\$234,964.74
PASSS	\$102,277.05
Independent Living	\$59,428.86

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$13,779,417.68**



# LEGAL

**ATTY. LORI SHELLS**  
**ATTY. KERRY LIMBIAN**  
Legal Representatives



**M**ahoning County Children Services is represented in Juvenile Court by Attorney Lori Shells, Assistant Mahoning County Prosecutor and Attorney Kerry Limbian, Assistant Mahoning County Prosecutor.

Attorney Shells meets with Agency staff regarding cases, new statutes, case law and court decisions. In addition both attorneys attend conferences and seminars to remain knowledgeable of new laws and legislation regarding child welfare.

The majority of our cases in the Juvenile Court involve children whose parents are unable to provide adequate care for them requiring Agency intervention. In 2016, Mahoning County Children Services filed numerous cases in Mahoning County Juvenile Court involving:



- custody transfer to relatives or interested third parties
- temporary and permanent custody to the Agency
- court-ordered protective supervision by Mahoning County Children Services.

LEGAL STATISTICS		
	2015	2016
Court Hearings Attended	681	578
Children Placed in Care under Juvenile Rule 6	65	45
Agreements for Voluntary Care	98	117
ExParte Orders	85	57
Commitments to a Relative Custody	45	26
Commitments to Non-Relative Custody	8	0
Temporary Commitments to Children Services	169	147
Permanent Surrenders	4	5
Permanent Commitments to Children Services	26	11
Orders for Planned Permanent Living Arrangement	13	3
Court-ordered Protective Supervision Granted	211	196
Cases in Court of Appeals	0	1

# COMPLIANCE DEPARTMENT

In August of 2016, Mahoning County Children Services renewed our national accreditation through the New York-based Council on Accreditation (COA). This is the first review of a four-year accreditation cycle.

The COA accreditation process involved a detailed review and analysis of the agency's administration, management and service delivery functions against international standards of best practice, including an on-site review by specially trained volunteer peer reviewers. COA accreditation demonstrates accountability in the management of resources and increases organizational capacity and accountability by creating a framework for ongoing quality improvement

Founded in 1977, COA evaluates community-based behavioral health care and social service organizations across the United States and Canada. Thousands of these organizations — including only 18 of the other 85 public children services agencies in Ohio— have successfully achieved COA accreditation.

Mahoning County Children Services employs a full-time Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Supervisor and a full time Quality Improvement Specialist. The duties of coordinating staff training, foster parent training and pre-service training for people interested in becoming foster or adoptive parents are completed in the CQI Department. The department also offers mandated reporter training and presents information about Mahoning County Children Services to any organization that requests our presence.

The CQI Supervisor reviewed nine dispositional appeals in 2016; of those nine appeals, one disposition was amended, eight were upheld and one was rescinded. Fourteen formal complaints were received and addressed by the CQI Supervisor. Four Critical Incident Reports were completed in the interest of ensuring that best practice guidelines are followed in the process of responding to an extraordinary event.



## 2016 Continuous Quality Improvement Reviews

- 9 Dispositional Appeals  
Note: 1 disposition amended and 8 upheld.
- 14 Formal complaints were received and addressed by the CQI Supervisor.
- 4 Critical Incident Reports were completed in the interest of ensuring that best practice guidelines are followed in the process of responding to an extraordinary event.

## Agency Attains Re-Accreditation from Council On Accreditation



Mahoning County Children Services is one of the 18 public children services agencies out of 85 others in Ohio to attain accreditation from The Council on Accreditation (COA). The COA is an international, independent, nonprofit, human service accrediting organization. The COA's mission is to partner with human service organizations worldwide to improve service delivery outcomes by developing, applying, and promoting accreditation standards. COA envisions excellence in the delivery of human services globally, resulting in the well-being of individuals, families, and communities.

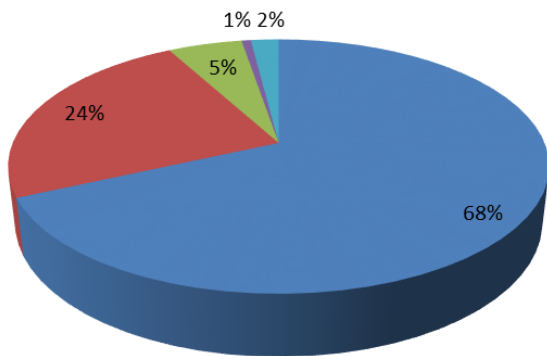
# CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

**JULIE RUDOLPH**  
**SUPERVISOR**



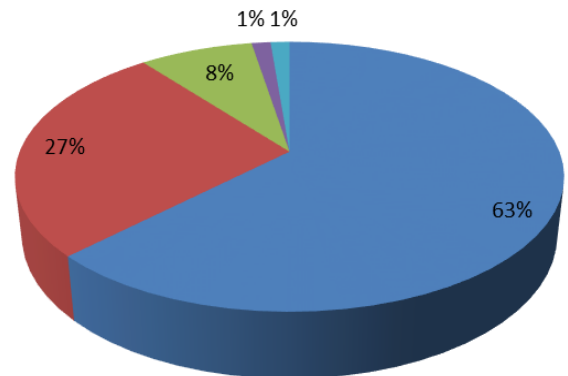
## 1. How satisfied are you with the casework services received from our agency?

■ Very Satisfied ■ Satisfied ■ Neutral ■ Dissatisfied ■ Very Dissatisfied



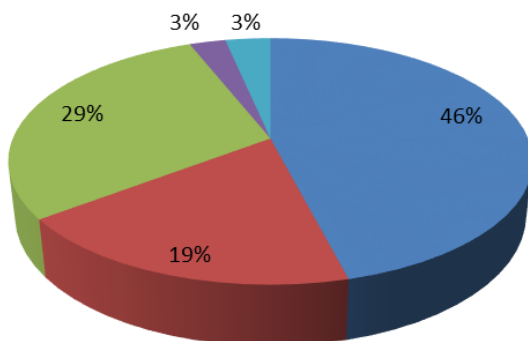
## 2. How satisfied are you of the caseworker or supervisor's availability to you when needed?

■ Very Satisfied ■ Satisfied ■ Neutral ■ Dissatisfied ■ Very Dissatisfied



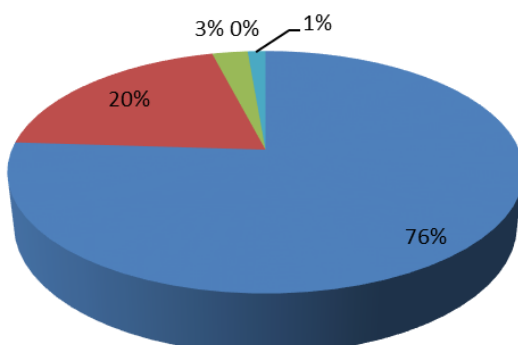
## 3. How satisfied are you that your situation improved because of CSB being involved?

■ Very Satisfied ■ Satisfied ■ Neutral ■ Dissatisfied ■ Very Dissatisfied



## 4. Were you treated with courtesy and respect by your caseworker or other agency staff?

■ Very Much Agree ■ Agree ■ Neutral ■ Disagree ■ Very Much Disagree



The CQI Department reviews and compiles *Client Satisfaction Surveys*. The results of these surveys continue to indicate, from year to year:

**“Those who interact with our casework and supervisory staff feel as though our staff are responsive, respectful and that they make every effort to positively impact the lives of the families that receive services from Mahoning County Children Services.”**



# INTAKE SERVICES

**BRADLEY SMITH**  
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR



**4,831**  
Reports  
Received

**1,683**  
Cases  
Investigated

**600**  
Information/  
Referral

## Intake Department Enhancements **Increases** Assessments Investigations of Abuse and Neglect

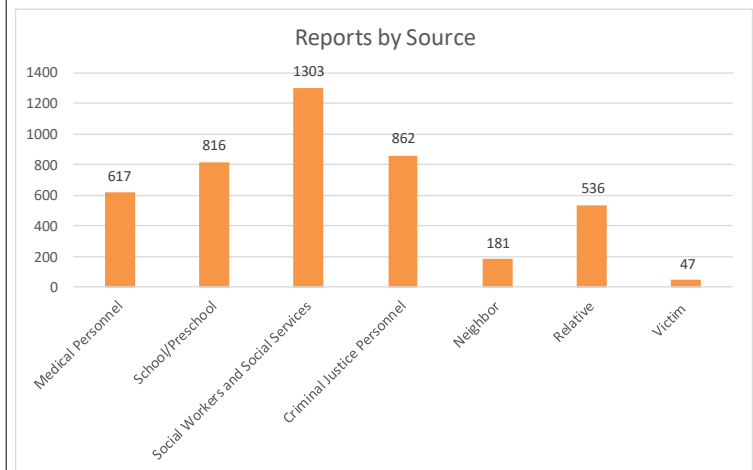
In 2016, Mahoning County Children Services (MCCS) took decisive steps towards building an Intake Services Department to best protect children and strengthen families. Over the Fall of 2016, the Intake Services Department increased by 33 percent with the creation of an additional unit to assess and investigate reports of child abuse and neglect. The Agency believes that every family has strengths to build upon. When a child is not safe, Mahoning County Children Services works with the family to help make positive changes through supportive services. The Agency helps promote family resiliency to prevent out-of-home placement, prevent further maltreatment of children and prevent re-opening of cases for children. It is the goal of Intake Services to be proactive and responsive to the community and the children and families of Mahoning County.



### Report Type/Number of Cases

PHYSICAL ABUSE	723
NEGLECT	697
SEXUAL ABUSE	244
FAMILIES IN NEED OF SERVICES	220
MEDICAL NEGLECT	96
DEPENDENCY	81
EMOTIONAL ABUSE	36

### 2016 Reports By Source



**If you Suspect Child Abuse or Neglect Report it!**  
Mahoning County Children Services  
24/Hours/Day Nights/Weekends/Holidays

**REPORT LINE**  
**330.941.8888**



# PLACEMENT SERVICES

**ANTHONY PARIS**  
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR



## Placement Dept Focus: Child Safety, Permanency and Well-Being

The Placement Services Department (PSD) encompasses three programs: Foster Care, Adoption, and the Independent Living Program. We added Meghan Tarantino as our Foster Care Unit Supervisor. The three programs are now managed by a Program Administrator and three Unit Supervisors. One of the primary functions of the PSD is to provide safe, stable, nurturing placement settings for abused, neglected and dependent children who enter foster care in Mahoning County. On April 21, 2016 our Board approved a resolution to abolish our Residential Services/group home program. This necessary board action abolished 24 positions at MCCA and changed the Agency's Placement Services Department structure dramatically.

### 2016 Placements

Placement of children occurs along a continuum of care. When a child or sibling group requires out-of-home placement, our staff utilize the most appropriate, least restrictive, placement settings which is driven by an approved level of care assessment tool which helps us determine a child's needs. Rule requires that we give serious consideration to barriers to visitation with family and proximity to the child's current school district.



On January 1, 2016, there was a total of 150 children in placement. Mahoning County Children Services made 313 new placements in 2016.

### Breakdown of 2016 Placements

132 Paid placements	112 Public foster home placements.
61 Kinship placements	8 Placements in Agency's Public Group

## Placement Services

### Public Foster Care

Mahoning County Children Services (MCCA) has its own network of Agency managed foster homes also known as "Public Foster Homes." MCCA was able to add 5 new foster homes in 2016. However, 22 homes closed or transferred during the year. The Agency ended the year with 48 homes available for placement. There is growing concern as the number of Public foster homes has decreased in recent years. To address this issue, in the Fall of 2016, MCCA embarked on a robust recruitment effort which included launching a multi-media campaign consisting of outdoor billboards, television and movie theatre advertising along with community outreach events.

Mahoning Co. Active Public Foster Homes  
**January 1, 2016:** 49 public foster homes  
**January 1, 2015:** 65 public foster homes  
**January 1, 2014:** 71 public foster homes

### Kinship Program

Many studies find that kinship placements are best for kids and that children experience better outcome and more placement stability with supports being provided to the caregiver(s). The Agency strives to ensure that the services provided by our program will be beneficial to families served. Therefore, program development will occur utilizing fact-based research in 2017.



### Adoption Services

The Agency employs 4 Adoption Assessors who play a crucial role for youth in need of permanency. Permanency for children is often found through adoption.

#### Adoption finalizations:

**2016:** 26 adoptions finalized  
**2015:** 26 adoptions finalized  
**2014:** 21 adoptions finalized  
**2013:** 6 adoptions finalized

### Independent Living Program

Mahoning County Children Services' Independent Living Program serves youth from 14 to 18 years of age. The Agency also provides services to 18 to 21 years of age who have exited the foster care system. The Agency's program is designed to prepare transition-age youth for the adult phase of

life. Services include: daily living and soft skills instruction, academic support, as well as vocational supports. Similar supports along with housing assistance is provided to the young adults participating in the program.

**Independent Living staff provided supports and education to 66 teens and young adults in 2016.**

# FAMILY SERVICES

**RONA CURTIS**  
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR



The Family Services Department provides assistance to at-risk families in order to keep their children safe from abuse and neglect in their own homes. This is best accomplished in partnership with the family and community supports. Caseworkers initiate services at the intake level by engaging families to actively participate in assessing and identifying what is important in achieving safety of children



and strengthening healthy family functioning. Should additional services remain necessary beyond the intake level, the case is transferred to ongoing, for seamless service delivery.

In the Family Services

Department, the goal is to strengthen the family unit and decrease or eliminate risk to children. By using innovative case management techniques, agency resources, and community services, we strive to respond to the wide variety needs of the children in our community.

**In 2016, Ongoing Casework Staff provided a myriad of child welfare services to an average 200 families monthly.**

The composition of the Family Services Department changed in the latter part of 2016 to consist of

- 1 Program Administrator
- 5 Unit Supervisors (4-Ongoing Supervisors & 1-Training Unit Supervisor)
- 24 full-time Casework Staff
- 4 Training Unit Caseworkers
- 4 Family Services Aides

## Specialized Programs

### Lead Caseworkers

Lead Caseworkers support the learning experience of new agency employees, and Youngtown State University's UPP (University Partnership Program) students, through a hands-on, mentoring approach. Lead caseworkers facilitate quarterly meetings with community partners throughout each year. This collaboration has continued to pave the way for developing new partnerships throughout Mahoning County.

### Parent Education Program:

The Parent Education Program is designed to improve and/or enhance parenting skills and parent/child bonding. It provides an eight (8) week series of classes that include: Building Self-Esteem, Child Health Care and Development, Homemaking I (Budgeting), Homemaking II – (Nutrition/Meal Planning and Preparation along with Housekeeping Skills), and Discipline I (Various Approaches-Praise/Charting/ Logical Consequences), Discipline II, 1, 2, 3 Magic, Enjoying Your Children, and Fire and Poison Safety/ Evaluation Review).



### Therapeutic Foster Care Program:

The goal of the Therapeutic Foster Care Program is to prevent placement disruption by addressing the behavioral and emotional problems of children in foster care. It provides Intensive Therapeutic Services to Foster Families and Foster Children to find creative solutions to problems while in substitute care.

### Enhanced Visitation Program:

The goal of Enhanced Visitation is to assure safety and promote positive parenting behavior during visits of family members with children in the agency's custody. Enhanced Visitation provides interactive supervised visits to assist parents in improving their ability to meet their children's needs. Through supportive, targeted, hands-on skill building, this

structured visitation is aimed to help a parent gain increased time with their children and eventually, allow reunification to safely occur. Enhance visitation utilizes a strengths-based approach by assisting parents in identifying those positive skills they do possess and building upon them.

# FAMILY SERVICES



## Community Collaborations

### Mahoning County Family Dependency Treatment Court (FDTC)

The goal of the FDTC collaboration is to provide immediate and comprehensive treatment to the substance-abusing parent so the family can remain intact or achieve reunification.

In 2016, Mahoning County Children Service made:

- **21** referrals to the Family Dependency Treatment Court.
- **9** participants who graduated from the extensive 18 month program.
- **11** participants continued to follow the program guidelines into 2017.
- **5** participants were negatively terminated from the program.
- **1** participant was neutrally terminated from the program.



## Crossover Youth Practice Model

### 2016 Program Provided **49** Youth With Crossover Services

Mahoning County Children Services and Mahoning County Juvenile Court have collaborated since 2012 to implement the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM). The program is designed to address the unique issues presented by children and youth who are known to both the Child Welfare system and Juvenile Justice System. With goals of reducing the number of youth placed in out-of-home care, a reduction in the use of congregate care, a reduction in the disproportionate representation of children of color, and a reduction in the number of youth becoming dually-adjudicated.

## Director's Report

Continued from page 2



In April of last year, the Board determined that best-practice dictated that we must transition away from governmental run residential facilities. Drawing from the experiences of the past generation, the Board also directed the Agency to implement the following strategies to SAFELY reduce congregate care placements and improve outcomes of our children:

- Develop and implement a unified strategic plan
- Emphasize leadership and workforce development
- Focus resources on prevention and early intervention
- Strengthen community-based services and reduce barriers to access
- Enhance the Agency's treatment-focused foster care resources
- Implement a robust Kinship program and department

Therefore, in July of last year, as we closed our group homes, we had to say goodbye to 22 dedicated civil servants who had devoted their professional careers – evenings, weekends, midnight shifts, holidays – in direct service to the abused and neglected children of Mahoning County. Some had been serving the Agency in this capacity in excess of 25 years.

However, as we begin to redirect those resources toward community-based services and evidence-based interventions, we anticipate realizing improved long-term outcomes for children. We will keep you posted.

I am firmly convinced that child protection truly takes a community. So, as you read this, please take a moment to reflect on how you may help build a community where all children can thrive, develop character, and learn to be responsible citizens in an environment of security and love. By honoring our obligation to support and protect our young people, we all have an opportunity to make a positive difference in the life of a child and build a brighter future for our community. I encourage all citizens of Mahoning County to recognize that child abuse prevention starts with each one of us.

Sincerely,  
**Randall B. Muth, JD**  
Executive Director





# COMMUNITY RELATIONS

JENNIFER T. KOLLAR

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER



## Agency Events & Campaigns **BOOST** Awareness

**Launched** a multi-media advertising billboard, TV and movie theatre campaign to recruit new foster and adoptive homes.

**Connected** the Agency to the social media world with new Facebook and Twitter accounts.

**Created** an exclusive new Agency E-Newsletter, *Mahoning Kids Matter*, for staff, stakeholders, donors and friends.

**Increased** awareness of National Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention month in April with a billboard on U.S. Route 224.

**Awarded** the "Community Spotlight Award" to Dobbins Elementary School at the annual *Pinwheels for Prevention Community Event*. The Award recognizes organizations demonstrating service / commitment to Mahoning County children.

**Planted** a "Pinwheel Garden" with over a 1,000 Pinwheels in Boardman Park. Pinwheels represent individuals who advocated on behalf of a child. The Pinwheel Garden is on display the whole month of April.

**Fulfilled** over 400 Mahoning County kids' Christmas Wishes. Individuals, businesses and organizations helped make kids' wishes come true through the Agency's *Christmas Gifts for Kids Campaign*.



### Mahoning *Kids* Matter



East High School's Junior ROTC students 'planted' over 1000 pinwheels in Boardman Park



Dobbins Elementary Students accept the 2016 Community Spotlight



Local Union Counselors work on a Fence Build Project for a licensed foster family.



Adoption Mixer Event at the Mahoning Valley Scrappers



Battle of the Blue Game: YPD vs. Sheriffs'



Judge Robert N. Rusu, at the Adoption Celebration Event.

**Celebrated** National Adoption Month to raise awareness of waiting children seeking an adoptive families at our annual *Adoption Celebration* event, co-hosted with Judge Robert Rusu, Jr., Mahoning County Probate Court.

**Planned** the Agency's first-ever *Adoption Mixer Picnic* Event at a Mahoning Valley Scrappers' game. Adoption Mixer events are held to raise awareness and connect waiting children with adoptive families.

**Raised** funds, awareness and fun at the Agency's *Signature* event—*Above the Rim Basketball*. The annual event features a charity *Battle of the Blue* basketball game pairing local organizations with friendly rivalries. The game aims to raise awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month in April. *Blue* is the national color for Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention.

**Collaborated** with the Local Union Counselors on a Fence Building Project for an agency licensed Foster family to keep siblings safe.

**Introduced** a new Children Services Citizens' Advisory Committee.

**Outreached** and provided agency information at community events including the Canfield Fair—our biggest outreach event of the year.

April - National Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Month



Agency's Canfield Fair Booth



Agency Billboard Campaign



# HUMAN RESOURCES

**SUSAN BABINEC**  
MANAGER



## Mahoning County Children Services

### 2016 Board, Advisory Executive Staff & Commissioners

#### Staff Composition

At the conclusion of 2016, Mahoning County Children Services employed **98** employees to serve and support the services of children and families in Mahoning County.

- **6** Administrative Staff
- **14** Management/Supervisors
- **59** Caseworkers,
- **6** Family Service Aides
- **20** Support staff

**Qualifications:** All caseworkers possess bachelor's degrees in social work or other human services related fields. Supervisory staff possess master's degrees.

#### State Recognizes Caseworkers for Increased Performance in 2016

Fifty-two Mahoning County Children Services caseworkers were recognized in 2016 by the Ohio Office of Families and Children for "increased" and "most" improved in Visitation Compliance Percentage performance. Due to the caseworkers' efforts the Agency was awarded over \$31K for exceeding the state's requirements. The performance-based incentives are part of a state-wide initiative to improve the state's child welfare case worker compliance percentages. Ohio was measured and paid a \$3.8 million dollar penalty for non-compliance with Federal Requirements and created a \$3 million dollar fund allowing Ohio child welfare agencies in each county to "earn" back all of the funds by working to improve their Visitation Performance.

#### Mahoning County Children Services Board

Brigid Kennedy, Chair  
Anthony Spano, Vice Chair  
Delphine Baldwin-Casey  
Dr. Benjamin McGee  
Dr. Joseph Mosca, Secretary  
Pastor JoAnn Pangio

#### Citizens' Advisory Committee

Dr. John Cox  
Sr. Janet Gardner  
Calvin Jones  
Rebecca Keck  
Rev. Lewis Macklin  
Mary Jo Truman

#### Administrative Executive Staff

**Executive Director**  
Randall B. Muth, J.D.

#### Intake Services Department

Brad Smith, Program Administrator

#### Family Services Department

Rona Curtis, Program Administrator

#### Placement Services Department

Anthony Paris, Program Administrator

#### Compliance Department

Julie Rudolph, Supervisor

#### Business Operations Department

Melinda Posterli, Program Administrator

#### Human Resources Department

Susan Babinec, Manager

#### Information Technology Department

Joshua Cayson, Manager

#### Public Information Department

Jennifer T. Kollar, Public Information Officer

#### Mahoning County Commissioners

David C. Ditzler  
Carol Rimedio Righetti  
Anthony Traficanti





Mahoning County  
**Children Services**

222 West Federal Street | Youngstown, Ohio 44503

330.941.8888 | [mahoningkids.com](http://mahoningkids.com)

