

MahoningKidsMatter



Mahoning County
Children Services

The Exclusive Publication for Staff, Stakeholders and Friends

FALL 2017



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Child Abuse & Neglect Report Line

330.941.8888

If you suspect child abuse or neglect, report to Mahoning
County Children Services 24/7, evenings, weekends, holidays.

Protecting Children. Preserving Families.

Ohio Attorney General's Heroin Unit Rep Makes Stop at Mahoning County Children Services

Mahoning County Children Services is on the frontline working to protect children and preserve families as the opioid epidemic continues to escalate across the state and into the county. Children Services officials describe children as the 'Invisible Victims' of the opioid epidemic.

Recently, Alisha Nelson, a representative of the state Attorney General's Heroin Unit addressed a packed room full of Mahoning County Children Services caseworkers, support staff, other community agencies and media who were invited to the special presentation.

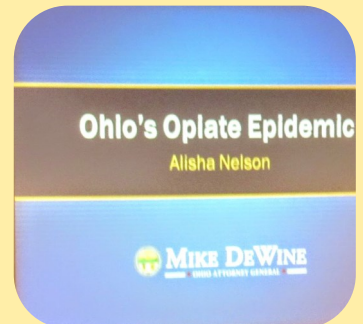


Nelson serves as a community outreach specialist for the Ohio Attorney General's office. She discussed how the epidemic has escalated over the last few years and also asked caseworkers about their experiences.

The State of Ohio's Opioid Crisis:
Alisha Nelson, Ohio Attorney General
Office talks about how Ohio's opioid
crisis has escalated.

See
**ATTORNEY
GENERAL HEROIN
UNIT**

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AROUND THE COUNTY

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ATTORNEY GENERAL HEROIN UNIT

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The stories that I hear about the kids that are impacted are the hardest stories to listen to," Nelson stated to the audience.

One of the reasons for the presentation is to help Agency caseworkers better understand the state of the crisis.

The opioid crisis has significantly affected every department at Mahoning County Children Services including: increased reports from the community have led to: increased investigations which has then led to an increase in need for more licensed foster homes along with intensive search and engagement casework to identify appropriate relatives as

“ The stories that I hear about the kids that are impacted are the hardest stories to listen to.”

—Alisha Nelson, Ohio Attorney General Office, Heroin Unit.

more relatives are caring for children affected by parental opioid issues. Caseloads have become more demanding as family cases become more complex with addiction combined with other issues including addiction relapse rates mean children linger in foster care longer and reunification of family—the goal—is more challenging to accomplish.



Julie Rudolph, Mahoning County Children Services Program Administrator, Family Services Department, introduces Alisha Nelson of the Ohio Attorney General's Heroin Unit.



Alisha Nelson. From Ohio Attorney General's Heroin Unit is interviewed by local media.

PHOTOS BY:
JENNIFER T.
KOLLAR/MCCS

Children Services' Caseworkers Provide "Frontline" Experiences for WKBN Investigates Heroin Crisis: Impact on Families Show

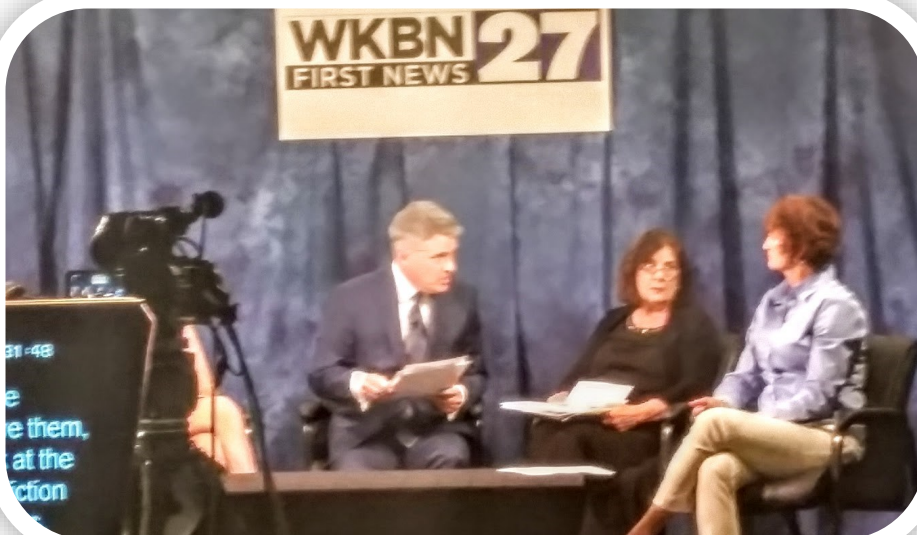


PHOTO BY JENNIFER T. KOLLAR/MCCS

Opioid Crisis Impacting Children and Families: Stan Boney, Anchor, (left) WKBN, and host of the "27 Investigates Heroin Crisis: Impact on Families," interviews Patty Amendolea, (far right), Intake Unit Caseworker, Mahoning County Children Services about her experiences as a first responder.

Marisa Litch, Caseworker Supervisor and **Christopher Fink**, Caseworker both at Mahoning County Children Services were interviewed along with a Children Services' client who shared her personal addiction recovery story for a segment that aired during the live, one-hour show that aired on September 13th.

AROUND THE COUNTY

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Out & About

It's been an 'event-filled' summer for Mahoning County Children Services. From symposiums, summer carnivals, community-wide wellness walks and runs, family night in the park, an adoption mixer ice skating event, a back-to-school fair, and the Grand-Daddy of all community outreach—the Canfield Fair—Agency staff have been very visible in the community all summer long.

Children Services' staff at Mahoning County Child Support Enforcement Agency's "Back to School Fair."



Children Services' Caseworkers at the "2017 African American Male Community Wellness Walk and Run" held at the Covelli Centre in August.



Canfield Fair: Our booth in the Medical Building. Theme: Every Child Deserves an Endless Summer.



Blue skies, an abundance of sunshine and kids' smiles made for a perfect Summer Carnival Day for Mahoning County Children Services. This is the Second annual Carnival sponsored and hosted by members of 614 Church for children in foster care and foster families.



Boardman Park Family Night: Our table 'runneth' over with guests at this August event.



She's So Cool: Theresa Pancoe, LISW, Supervisor, Adoption Unit, braved the ice at the Adoption Mixer Event.



Cooldest Place In Town: Our Adoption Mixer Event held at the Ice Zone, Boardman in July. Adoption Mixers events are held to connect waiting children with adoptive families. The Team (left to right) Valerie, Foster/Adoption Inquiry Specialist, Theresa Pancoe, LISW, Supervisor, Adoption Unit, and Lisa, Foster Unit Caseworker.

Gifts Changing Lives

Community Commitment to Mahoning County Kids



Life Changing Gifts: Thank You Greenwood Chevrolet and Chevy All Stars for an extremely generous sponsorship to Mahoning County Children Services' Youth Foster Care Emancipation & Independent Youth Living Services Program. **Pictured left to right:** Jim Conlin, Greenwood Chevy; Dave Workley, Mahoning County Children Services (MCCS); Ed Yohman, Greg Greenwood, Greenwood Chevy; Tankia Wainwright, Jeff Phillips, Jennifer Kollar, MCCS and Chris Davis, Greenwood Chevy. Not pictured but special thanks to Teri Simon, Greenwood Chevy!!!

TRIO Program Presents Backpacks Packed with College Info

Representatives from Eastern Gateway Community College's TRIO Program presented backpacks to Mahoning County Children Services. The backpacks were given to youth who recently graduated from high school and emancipated out of foster care.

The TRIO Programs provide a variety of

services to provide opportunities for academic development, assistance with college admissions and enrollment, referral programs for basic social needs, and career exploration. Trio also seeks to increase the college retention and graduation rates of its participants and facilitate the process of transition from one level of higher education to the next.

[Pictured above: Andrea Mahone, Trio Advisory Board, Jennifer Kollar, Information Officer, Children Services, Jeff Phillips, Supervisor, Children Services, Independent Youth Services Unit.]



Making Kids Count Donates Comfort Duffle Bags for Foster Care Unit

Over the years, Making Kids Count (MKC), a local organization, has donated hundreds of comfort duffle bags

The comfort bags are customized with age appropriate items such as hygiene items, blankets, toys,



to Mahoning County Children Services (MCCS). In fact, MCCS, was MKC's first comfort duffel bag project. Since then, MKC has provided comfort duffel bags to eight other county agencies. The comfort duffel bags are given to children and youth entering or leaving foster care.

snacks, and other items to help ease the transition for children at this most vulnerable time.

[Pictured above: left to right: Colleen Eisebraun, Program Director, MKC, Jenn Kollar, Mahoning County Children Services and Jana Coffin, Co-President, MKC.]

Mahoning County Waiting Children Seek Families

Introducing.... Krystal

Krystal is a sweet young lady in need of a home.

She enjoys doing typical teen things such as hanging around with friends and being on her phone.

Krystal likes being creative and expressing herself artistically. She plays the guitar and would like to explore this further to enhance her artistic abilities.



Krystal

Birthday: December 2001

To learn more about Krystal contact Mahoning County Children Services:

Sarah Pinciario, Caseworker

Phone: 330.941.8888

Fax: 330.941.8787

Email:

Sarah.Pinciario@jfs.ohio.gov

To Meet More Waiting Children Available for Adoption, visit our website:
mahoningkids.com



EVENTS

October 28 Want to Learn More About Fostering/Adopting?
11 am-2 pm Bring or Tell A Friend and Attend Our
Informational Luncheon, Austintown Library

November **National Adoption Awareness Month**
"Adoption Day Celebration Event"

December **Gifts For Kids Holiday Campaign**

April **National Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Month**

May **National Foster Care Awareness Month**

June **High School Graduation Party** for agency
Involved youth who are graduating

* Stay Tuned for Dates/Times/Locations *

CSB Train Tradition Delights Fair Visitors of All Ages

Congratulations to **Janice L. Scott** of East Liverpool, Ohio. Janice beat out 660 entries to win a Lionel Train set. Janice says she and her family love trains. She plans to place her new "Union Pacific"

Lionel train around her Christmas tree for her grandchildren. Each year, at the Canfield Fair, fair-goers of all ages delight in watching the "CSB Lionel Train" make a continuous loop around the Agency's fair booth and have a chance to register for the



trainset give-away. See you next year!

Special thanks to True Value Crouse Mills Hardware Store, North Lima, Ohio for keeping the CSB Train Running and the Train Give-Away a Tradition!

• NEW ROLES • NEW FACES • HONORS

New Roles & Faces

Note: All reflect staff changes from July through September 2017

Becky Haddle has been named as a Lead Caseworker in the Intake Unit.

Margaret Baker has been named as a Lead Caseworker in the Intake Unit.

Joe Lenzo has been named as a Lead Caseworker for the Intake Unit.

Domonique Williams has accepted a position as a Caseworker in the Intake Department.

Lori Robinette has transferred laterally from a Caseworker in Training to Caseworker in the Foster Care Unit.

Brittany Snyder accepted a position as a Technical Typist in the Clerical Unit.

Samantha Harrington has transferred laterally from Caseworker in Training to Caseworker in Intake Unit #1.

Taylor Kutsch transferred laterally from Caseworker in Training to Caseworker in Intake Unit #3.

Jessica Guzzy accepted a position as a Caseworker in the Training Unit.

Judy Stevens accepted a position as a Unit Aid in the Placement Services Department.

Field Instructor of the Year



Congratulations Are in Order: (left) Dr. Grover Gilmore, Dean of the Jack, Joseph & Morton Mandel School of Applied Sciences awards Bradley Smith, Program Administrator, Intake Services Department at Mahoning County Children Service with the 2017 Field Instructor of the Year Award at a special awards presentation hosted by Case Western Reserve University.

CSB Takes 3rd in Division at Community Cup

September 9th marked the culmination of the 2017 Youngstown Area Community Cup!

Over 50 Children Services' staff members participate in the annual community event sponsored by the Youngstown YMCA.

In its 28th year, the Community Cup aims "to highlight the importance of fitness, teamwork, sportsmanship and cooperation to thousands of employees of area businesses and organizations." Athletic events like walking, swimming and running and team-oriented events like volleyball and tug-o-war are included. All of the events are designed to promote the importance of fitness and teamwork.



The SS CSB

Marisa Litch, Supervisor, Family Services Department serves as Team CSB's Community Cup Coordinator.

This year's Community Cup theme was "Lean and Mean in 2017." CSB staff chose Popeye the Sailor Man, the popular cartoon character and icon, who embodies lean and mean, to represent and give life to the Community Cup theme.

As part of the Popeye theme, the staff created the "SS Team CSB" ship which cleverly displayed the Agency's banner. Overall, CSB earned 3rd place in its division.

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

About Us

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LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Seeking Members for Citizens' Advisory Committee



Mahoning County Children Services Citizens' Advisory Committee is comprised of all volunteers who will serve in an advisory capacity. Members can be from a variety of backgrounds, professions and either live or work in Mahoning County. Current or prior experience or knowledge about child welfare is not required. Time commitment is minimal with meetings 4 times per year at Children Services offices and at 4PM. Meeting are one hour in length.

Advisory Committee purpose:

- Inform the citizens, community leaders and stakeholders of issues affecting Mahoning County's children in general, and, specifically, the issues affecting its children who are abused and neglected or at risk of being abused and neglected;
- To advocate and support services, laws and sound public policy to protect and benefit the children of Mahoning County;
- To advocate for the recruitment of foster and adoptive parents and support and celebrate the advantages of fostering and adopting children;
- To provide the Children Services Board with the perspective of local business and citizens relative to the Board's issues, policies, levies, legislation and services;
- To provide an orientation of the Children Services Agency to the citizens and business leaders in Mahoning County.

For Consideration: Please contact Jennifer Kollar, Public Information Officer via email: Jennifer.Kollar@jfs.ohio.gov or phone: 330.941.8810.

2017 Board, Advisory Executive Staff & Commissioners

Mahoning County Children Services Board

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

Mahoning County Children Services Advisory Committee

Denise Dick
Katrina Harris
Calvin Jones
Rev. Lewis Macklin
Andrea Mahone
Mary Alice Noble
Officer Shawna-Cie Ott
Dr. Matthew Paylo
Mary Jo Truman
Crystal Shells
Yvonne Wilson

Administrative Executive Staff

Executive Director

Randall B. Muth, J.D.

Assistant Director

Rona Curtis

Intake Services Department

Brad Smith, Program Administrator

Family Services Department

Julie Rudolph, Program Administrator

Placement Services Department

Anthony Paris, Program Administrator

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 Kids Matter is the official publication of Mahoning County Children Services. For questions or to submit news or information pertaining to Children Services, contact:



Mahoning County
Children Services

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mahoningkids.com

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Public Information Officer

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Upcoming Event



Mahoning County
Children Services

Bring or Tell A Friend!

WE NEED YOU NOW!

Children Services is experiencing a shortage of licensed foster homes available for Mahoning County kids.



Mahoning County
Children Services

330.941.8888

www.mahoningkids.com

Join us at our **Informational Luncheon October 28th**



Informational Luncheon

- ♥ Learn More About Fostering and Adoption
- ♥ Meet Our Foster Care & Adoption Team
- ♥ Talk to Current Foster Parents
- ♥ Ask Questions, Learn More
- ♥ Lunch Will Be Provided

October 28, 2017

11 am – 2 pm

Austintown Library

600 S. Raccoon Road, Austintown, OH 44515

Lunch will be provided

Registration Required:

Call: 330.941.8727

Email: Brittney.Snyder@jfs.ohio.gov

Note: The Library is not sponsoring or participating in this event.

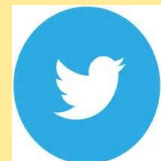
Stay CSB Connected @



Website:
Mahoningkids.com



Mahoning County
Children Services



MC Children Services
@MahoningKids