



# REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



Mahoning County  
Children Services

Protecting Children. Preserving Families.

# 2020

## EXECUTIVE STAFF, BOARD, ADVISORY & COMMISSIONERS

### Administrative Executive Staff

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

**Assistant Director**  
Rona Curtis, BA, MS-ED

**Intake Services Department**  
Bradley Smith MSW, LISW-S,  
Program Administrator

**Family Services Department**  
Julie Rudolph, MPA, LSW,  
Program Administrator

**Placement Services Department**  
Anthony Paris, Program  
Administrator

**Fiscal Department**  
Denise Barnes-Carper, Fiscal  
Officer

**Human Resources Department**  
Susan Babinec, Manager

**Information Technology Department**  
Joshua Cayson, Manager

**Public Information Department**  
Jennifer T. Kollar, Public  
Information Officer

**Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Department**  
Nancy Walker-McCain,  
M.Ed, M.B.A, Diversity, Equity  
and Inclusion Officer

### 2020 Mahoning County Children Services Board

Dr. Joseph Mosca  
Dr. Benjamin McGee  
Marilyn Montes  
Daniel Wakefield  
Loisjean Haynes-Paige  
Kriss Wolford  
Rev. Lewis Macklin  
Samuel Moffie

### Mahoning County Commissioners

David C. Ditzler  
Carol Rimedio Righetti  
Anthony Traficanti

### 2020 Mahoning County Children Services Advisory Committee

DJ Depp  
Denise Dick  
Megan Ellashek  
Katrina Harris  
Calvin Jones  
Brigid Kennedy  
Michele Kuhar  
Tracy Lamb  
David J. Magura, Jr.  
Andrea L. Mahone  
Lisa Manente  
Pete Milliken  
Mary Alice Noble  
Officer Shawnacie Ott  
Dr. Matthew J. Paylo  
Johanna Slivinske  
Mary Jo Truman  
Philip Volpe-Monrean  
Yvonne Wilson

## OUR MISSION

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

## STAFF COMPOSITION

SUSAN BABINEC,  
HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

At the conclusion of 2020, Mahoning County Children Services employed 110 employees to serve and support the services of children and families in Mahoning County.

5 Administrative Staff

16 Management/Supervisors

69 Caseworkers

7 Social Service Aides

23 Support Staff

Qualifications: All caseworkers possess bachelor's degrees in Social Work, Sociology, Psychology or a related social services field.  
All Casework Supervisors possess a master's degree.



### Mahoning County Children Services

Mahoning County Children Services is Accredited by the Council on Accreditation



## 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.



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

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 our Mission, we must constantly strive to develop and implement the most effective, evidence-based strategies to provide children with safe, nurturing and permanent families. We must also preserve our fiscal resources to ensure that we are never precluded from applying those strategies in the future due to financial constraints. This is even more important given the grave economic situation our state and country has faced over the last decade and will likely face as result of the Novel Coronavirus.

I am happy to report that Mahoning County Children Services Agency has not skipped a beat during the unprecedented global COVID-19 pandemic. With its 120 staff of essential workers, the Agency remained open amid the entire duration of the pandemic and continued to receive reports, investigate child abuse and neglect, ensure the safety and security of children placed in Agency care, recruit new foster families, and find permanent adoptive “forever homes” for children.

In response to the pandemic, the Agency quickly developed and implemented a “COVID-19 Pandemic Response Plan” in order to: (1) slow transmission; (2) reduce the risk of exposure; (3) protect the health and safety of families; and (4) maximize the continuity of child protection operations to the fullest extent as is safely possible.

One of the major issues we had to face during this pandemic year was to create a contingency plan for child placements. We anticipated that, as infection rates increased, there may be substitute caregivers who, understandably, refuse to take in new foster placements into their homes. We also had to prepare for foster caregivers who may not be willing to facilitate visitation between their foster children and the children’s families of origin due to the legitimate concern that doing so could expose the child they’re caring for and/or their own family to the virus. We had to be prepared to provide care for children exposed to or infected with, COVID-19 until a foster home could be located. During the early stages of the pandemic, the Agency had secured isolation emergency shelter facilities which were stocked with essential items necessary for potential overnight stays. The goal was to reduce the trauma of removing children as much as possible while keeping the community, staff and children safe.

The pandemic also immediately forced us to embrace new technology. In 2019, the Agency invested in a major upgrade in technology including implementation of a new electronic records database and purchase of mobile tablet computers for all staff. The use of this new technology, in addition to virtual meeting platforms and other social media applications, enabled all staff to complete tasks and access Agency records in real-time while working in the field or remotely. Not only did this technology allow our team to stay connected, but it also made it possible for us to remain in compliance with all state and federal mandates while ensuring robust pandemic safety protocols.

When the State of Ohio mandated a “Stay at Home Order” in mid-March 2020, the Agency was perfectly positioned to have 95 percent of its staff work remotely. In addition, the Agency casework team quickly embraced the use of video-chat/conferencing apps/platforms available to ensure constant communication while working remotely and most importantly to keep children and families connected when it was unsafe to meet in-person.

***“I am happy to report that Mahoning County Children Services Agency has not skipped a beat during the unprecedented global COVID-19 Pandemic”***

We were also able to achieve many non-pandemic related (or, rather, non-pandemic deterred) strategic initiatives such as continuing our efforts to operationalize our deep-rooted commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion (DEI) and social justice issues. In November of 2020 the Agency selected its FIRST-EVER Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer to implement diversity, equality, and inclusion into every area of the Agency, becoming one of only three counties in the State to have such a full-time position. The Mahoning County DE&I Officer is charged with:

1. Developing and maintaining a diverse workforce that is aligned with the racial and cultural composition of the population we serve by implementing a robust minority recruitment program and ensuring adherence to culturally competent practices in all aspects of hiring, promotion, labor relations, and employee evaluation processes.
2. Ensuring non-discriminatory practices by embedding diversity and inclusion protocols

across all aspects of our policies, practices, organizational philosophy, data collection and evaluation mechanisms.

3. Building and sustaining a pathway for all persons to feel empowered, valued and respected.
4. Improving the outcomes for all Mahoning County families by improving the Agency’s ability to serve communities of color.

On June 9, 2020, Mahoning County Children Services Board unanimously voted to adopt, support and embrace a social justice position statement and add a section on the Agency webpage to address and respond to the civil unrest events.

Two Mahoning County Children Services’ Caseworkers received State-Wide Recognition and were selected for the Public Children Services Association of Ohio’s “Profiles of Hope & Courage” which featured stories from the front lines of child protection to raise awareness of the challenges caseworkers, children and families facing during pandemic.

Despite the limitations placed on hosting in-person events, the Agency continued to celebrate and support important National Events: Child Abuse Prevention Month in April and National Adoption Month in November using social media and creating digital events and campaigns.

In April 2020, The Agency achieved national re-accreditation through the New York-based Council on Accreditation (COA).

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

# INTAKE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

BRADLEY SMITH,  
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

**4483**  
REPORTS RECEIVED

**1462**  
CASES INVESTIGATED

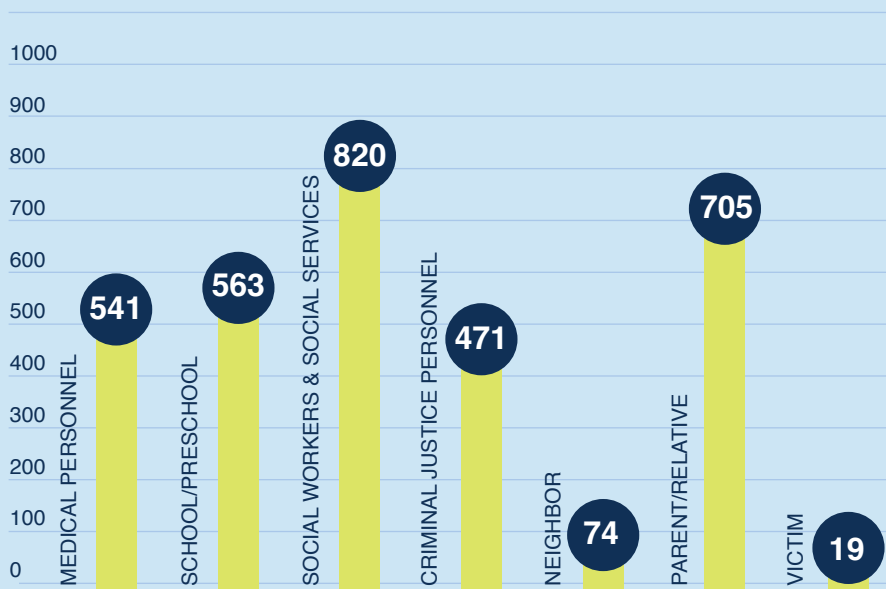
**390**  
INFORMATION/REFERRAL

The Intake Services Department consists of: 1 Program Administrator, 3 Casework Supervisors, 3 Screeners, 17 Caseworkers, 1 Case Aid

## REPORT TYPE / NUMBER OF CASES

Physical Abuse .....	553
Neglect .....	592
Sexual Abuse .....	142
Families in Need of Services .....	239
Medical Neglect .....	63
Dependency .....	75
Emotional Abuse .....	41

## 2020 REPORTS BY SOURCE



## COVID-19 Impact on Child Welfare in Mahoning County:

**18%**

Reduction in referrals from the community

**44%**

Reduction in referrals from school personnel

**30%**

Reduction in referrals from social workers/social services personnel

IF YOU SUSPECT CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT

**REPORT IT!**  
**330.941.8888**

24 hours  
7 days a week

**Child Abuse Warning Signs**

Do You Know The Signs??



# PLACEMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

ANTHONY PARIS,  
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

The Placement Services Department (PSD) includes a Program Administrator, 3 Unit Supervisors, 18 Casework Staff, and 2 transportation aides. The department houses and administers our Foster Care, Adoption, Kinship and Independent Living programs. One of the primary responsibilities of the PSD is to ensure that there are enough placement resources available to meet the needs of children who have been exposed to abuse and neglect, as well as children who have been determined to be dependent by the Court. During calendar year 2020, a total of 150 children entered care and a total of 319 placements were made during the calendar year. This includes the initial placement, as well as all placement moves for each child.

## FOSTER CARE:

Private Foster Care (PFC) made up 39% of the total placements during the year. There were 68 public foster care placements which comprised only 14% of total placements. Kinship Care has become a major placement option for Mahoning County Children Services. Thirty percent of the total placements were in the homes of kinship caregivers.

## ADOPTION SERVICES:

The Adoption Unit was hard at work during the year. On January 1, 2020, there were 24 children in permanent custody and in need of a forever family. Through the efforts of our Adoption Workers, MCCA achieved permanency for 15 children who had their adoption finalized through Mahoning County Probate Court. During the past year, 15 youth were court-ordered into the permanent custody of MCCA with the power of adoption. As of December 31, 2020, recruitment continues for 24 children needing permanency.

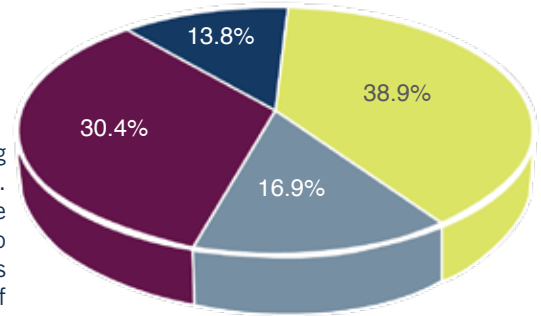
\* See placements by percentage pie graph for calendar year 2020.

## KINSHIP SERVICES:

The Kinship Unit was successful in locating and recommending approval of 97 placements. The home study process is not the only service our Kinship Program provides. Our Kinship Workers complete an Assessment of Needs for each family which helps identify areas of support needed. MCCA utilizes funding from the State's Kinship Caregiver Program, as well as local levy dollar to provide needed assistance to numerous kinship families. Kinship caregivers are relatives and non-relatives who are known to the child and have a former relationship with the child. Kinship care is the least restrictive out of home placement setting. Various studies indicate that children are less traumatized and outcomes are better when kinship care is utilized.

## INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES:

The Independent Living Caseworkers provided services to 113 teens and young adults. This included preparation for emancipation out of foster care through education and various supportive services. There were 3 youth who reached adulthood and emancipated. They received support in preparation for college entrance exams, links to skills training and locating safe housing. These efforts are all provided with the goal of successful transition to adulthood.



- Kinship Care
- Public Foster Care
- Private Foster Care
- Residential Treatments Centers

**Mahoning County Children Services uses 4 primary resources for placement of children:**

- Kinship Care
- Public Foster Care
- Private Foster Care (Out of Network Foster care)
- Residential Treatment Centers





# FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

JULIE RUDOLPH,  
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

**The primary role of Ongoing Services is to assist at-risk families to keep their children safe from abuse and neglect in their own homes.**

## Family Services Department Program Statement

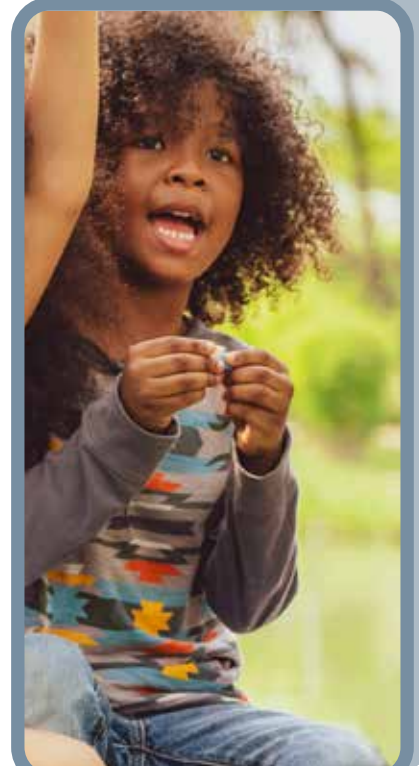
The primary role of Ongoing Services is to assist at-risk families to keep their children safe from abuse and neglect in their own homes. This is best accomplished with the family through partnership and protective services provided by the Agency and community. Services provided to families in this Department include: engaging the family in the decision-making process, shared case plan development, ongoing assessment of child safety and risk, as well as casework and case management activities which allow professional staff to effectively respond to the changing conditions or needs of the family. Continual contact, assessment, and evaluation of family progress are pivotal to child safety and to family stability.

Family Services casework staff must possess a unique combination of knowledge and skills to assess risk and safety to intervene in situations that place children at risk of abuse and neglect, and to assist families in becoming healthy, nurturing and safe.

Family Services staff are in the challenging position of maintaining children's safety while working to preserve families and to provide permanency. At times, it may be necessary to separate children from their family until the family is able to meet the needs of the children in a safe environment.

**It is the belief of the Agency that parents are the most appropriate caretakers for children unless the parents are unable or unwilling to ensure their children's safety.**

We further believe that when children cannot safely remain with their parents, relatives/kin are the best alternative. In cases where placement is needed to prevent harm to children, it is the goal of the Agency to return the child to their parents. If reunification is not possible the Agency is committed to identifying a permanent home for the child as quickly as possible.



# FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

The Family Services Department implemented:

## The START (Sobriety Treatment and Reducing Trauma) Program:

The program, which focuses on families who are struggling with substance use disorder, accepted its first client in the fall of 2020. In March, the Agency welcomed a Family Peer Mentor staff person to assist and support parents enrolled in the START Program. By definition, the Family Peer Mentor has “lived experience” with both recovery and child welfare, and assist the parent in successfully achieving case plan goals with the benefit of having “walked in their shoes.”

The Family Services Department received 148 case transfers in 2020. Upon case transfer the assigned caseworker is required to hold a Family Team Meeting, the purpose of which is to develop the case plan. Caseworkers report an increase in participation in Team Meetings of all types, thanks to the expanded familiarity with and increased use of technology among families and the professionals working with them.



## The Family Services Department Adapted to Meet the Needs of Mahoning County Children, Parents and Kin and Foster Caregivers:

Family Services Caseworkers were successful in achieving 95% compliance with the State of Ohio’s standards for caseworker contacts with members of cases open cases. Caseworkers were responsible for 9,536 contacts over the course of the year, which is about 794 visits a month!

Family Services Case Aides and Caseworkers ensured that parents and children in agency custody continued to enjoy visitation with one another. Caseworkers creatively utilized parks and other outdoor locations as well as phone call and video visits to keep children and their parents connected.

## Points of Interest:

In 2020 the composition of the Family Services Department included:

- **1 Program Administrator**
- **4 Unit Supervisors**
- **24 full-time Casework Staff**
- **4 Family Services Aides**
- **10 Average number of cases on a Family Services’ Ongoing Caseworker’s workload**

All Family Services Department Staff quickly became proficient at video and telephonic conferencing. This ensured the continuity of

services for the families involved with our services by partnering with the courts, hospitals, mental health providers to ensure that the safety, permanency and well-being of children was prioritized despite the challenges presented by the pandemic.



# FINANCIAL REPORT

DENISE BARNES-CARPER,  
FISCAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020

## 2020 Receipts

<b>Levy</b>	\$9,891,072.88
<b>49%</b>	
<b>Federal</b>	\$5,720,169.13
<b>28%</b>	
<b>State</b>	\$4,588,583.33
<b>23%</b>	
<b>All Other</b>	\$99,105.53
<b>0%</b>	
<b>Total \$20,298,930.87</b>	

## 2020 RECEIPTS

Real Estate Taxes	\$9,525,400.88
Manufactured Home Taxes	\$9,923.80
Personal Property Taxes	\$0.00
Rollback Credit	\$354,208.38
Homestead Credit	\$1,539.82
Title IV-B - Child Welfare Subsidy	\$167,809.00
Title IV-B - ESAA	\$117,849.80
Independent Living Allocation - Federal Chaffee	\$72,541.38
Title IV-E	\$2,303,701.71
U.S. Treasury	\$22,737.00
Foster Care Maintenance	\$3,035,530.24
State Reimbursements	\$225,243.04
PASSS (Post Adoption)	\$32,016.89
Ohio Start	\$79,244.93
State Child Protective Allocation	\$2,214,201.02
Children Services Best Practice	\$217,990.81
Foster Parent Recruitment	\$37,171.91
Multi-System Youth	\$753,831.00
ODNR - State	\$677.16
Reimbursements	\$1,028,206.57
Bureau of Support	\$26,511.37
BWC True Up Charges	\$72,544.16
Donations	\$50.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$20,298,930.87</b>

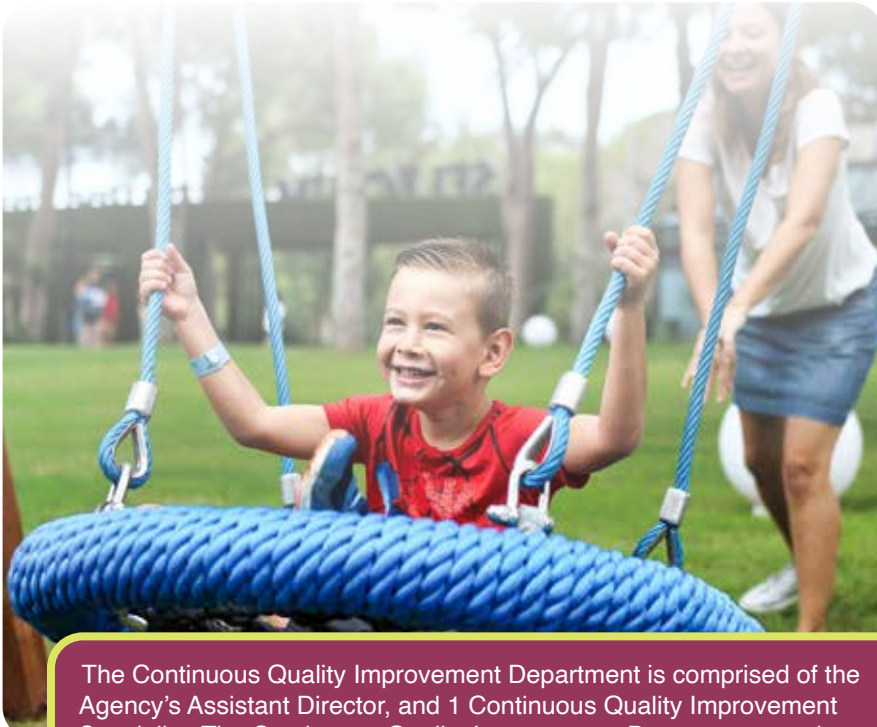
## 2020 EXPENDITURES

Salaries	\$5,756,197.41
PERS	\$1,332,526.13
Medicare	\$84,936.17
BWC Premium Expense	\$57,725.45
Unemployment	\$12,268.23
Hospitalization	\$1,788,287.20
Hospitalization Opt-Out	\$7,108.64
Life Insurance	\$10,547.09
Tuition Reimbursement	\$51,367.40
BWC Claims Expense	\$16,110.84
Food Supplies	\$6,291.13
Postage	\$15,710.82
Materials and Supplies	\$2,056.66
Office Supplies	\$19,140.48
Gasoline	\$337.86
Seminars/Conferences/Training	\$10,251.27
Travel	\$182,294.59
Organization Dues	\$21,309.36
Contractual Agreement	\$701,680.48
Professional Services	\$158,234.71
Telephone	\$12,737.46
Medical Assistance	\$8,833.27
Advertising	\$35,806.23
Printing	\$7,68.00
Subscriptions	\$35.00
Maintenance Agreement	\$209,053.22
Audit Fees	\$1,310.69
Insurance Liability Casualty	\$26,222.44
Equipment/Auto Lease	\$636.57
Board Care & Clothing	\$44,673.87
Public Assistance	\$6,893.52
Daycare	\$118,833.23
Public Foster Care	\$552,377.59
ESAA Preservation	\$105,152.60
ESAA Reunification	\$44,706.51
Residential Placements	\$2,735,871.11
Subsidized Adoption	\$265,622.51
PASSS	\$110,628.35
Independent Living	\$38,287.75
Youth Advisory Board	\$4,132.38
Therapeutic Foster Care	\$3,209,623.57
Nonrecurring Adoption	\$2,800.00
Kinship	\$31,434.85
Repairs and Maintenance	\$2,917.22
Recruitment	\$50,186.14
Equipment	\$48,803.40
Data Equipment	\$112,244.30
Software	\$69.70
Furniture and Fixtures	\$575.99
Vehicles	\$49,818.25
Taxes Aud/Treas Collection Fees	\$158,915.69
Reimbursement Expense	\$44,714.85
County Cost Allocation	\$38.01
Shared Costs	\$57,987.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$18,334,003.19</b>



# CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT DEPARTMENT

RONA CURTIS,  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



The Continuous Quality Improvement Department is comprised of the Agency's Assistant Director, and 1 Continuous Quality Improvement Specialist. The Continuous Quality Improvement Department conducts reviews to analyze the Agency's practices and outcomes, ensures rule compliance with Federal, State and Agency requirements. Ongoing reviews and assessments are completed to provide the community with quality services, and to make procedural changes to benefit those served when necessary.

Mahoning County Children Services sends out satisfaction surveys to families, who have received services from the Agency. The CQI Department compiles and reviews the client satisfaction survey responses. It is important that the families served are satisfied with the quality of services provided.

In 2020, six formal complaints were filed, and four formal disposition appeals were filed and processed. The Quality Improvement Department provides "Mandated Reporter Trainings" for daycare providers, in Mahoning County.

In 2020, due to the pandemic, there were 4 full day mandated reporter training presented to the community in which 90 individuals participated. The in-person classes are held at the Mahoning County Children Services, and virtual options were also made available.

Current schedules can be located on the Agency website.

Mahoning County Children Services continues its national accreditation status through the Council on Accreditation (COA).

The COA's mission is to partner with human service organizations worldwide to improve service delivery outcomes by developing, applying, and promoting accreditation standards.

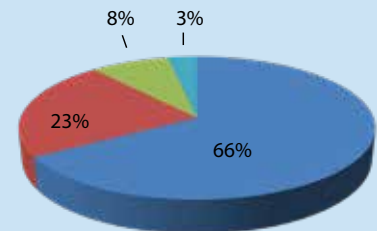
The accreditation is valid through August 31, 2023.



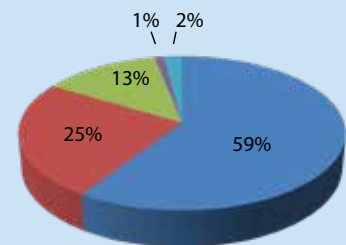
## The 2020 Satisfaction survey results:

- Very Satisfied
- Satisfied
- Neutral
- Dissatisfied
- Very Dissatisfied

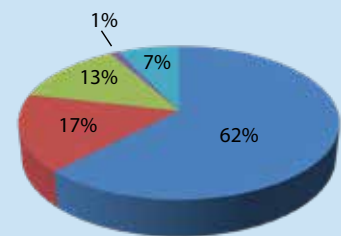
### How satisfied are you with the casework services received from our agency?



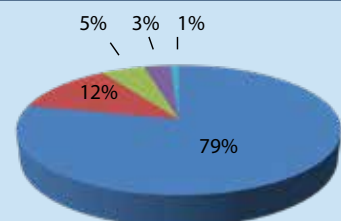
### How satisfied are you that your situation improved because of CSB being involved?



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



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



# DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION DEPARTMENT

NANCY WALKER-MCCAIN  
DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION  
OFFICER

Mahoning County Children Services proudly announced in November 2020 the selection of Nancy Walker-McCain as the Agency's FIRST-ever Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer.

"The Agency has been planning for this position for over two years. This new position is key to implementing the Agency's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan which serves as the Agency's guide to how we view, assess, promote, measure and advance diversity, equity, and inclusion into virtually every aspect of our work," explains Randall B. Muth, J.D., Executive Director, Mahoning County Children Services. The Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DE&I) position was created especially to further demonstrate Mahoning County Children Services' deep-rooted commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and social justice issues.

*"This new position reflects Mahoning County Children Services Board's on-going commitment to seamlessly implement diversity, equality, and inclusion into every area of the organization. This position will serve as the catalyst ensuring advancements in diversity, equity and inclusion are made as well as quantifiable and visible outcomes are attained,"* states Dr. Joseph L. Mosca, Chairman, Mahoning County Children Services Board.

In her new role, Walker-McCain will proactively lead the development and implementation of internal and external initiatives contained in the Agency's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan. See Over-Arching Goals.

It has been a pleasure to serve as Mahoning County Children Services (MCCS) as its first Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer. One of the first priorities during this tenure was to survey staff in order to obtain the "pulse of the agency." The survey was important to gather the opinions and needs of the staff.

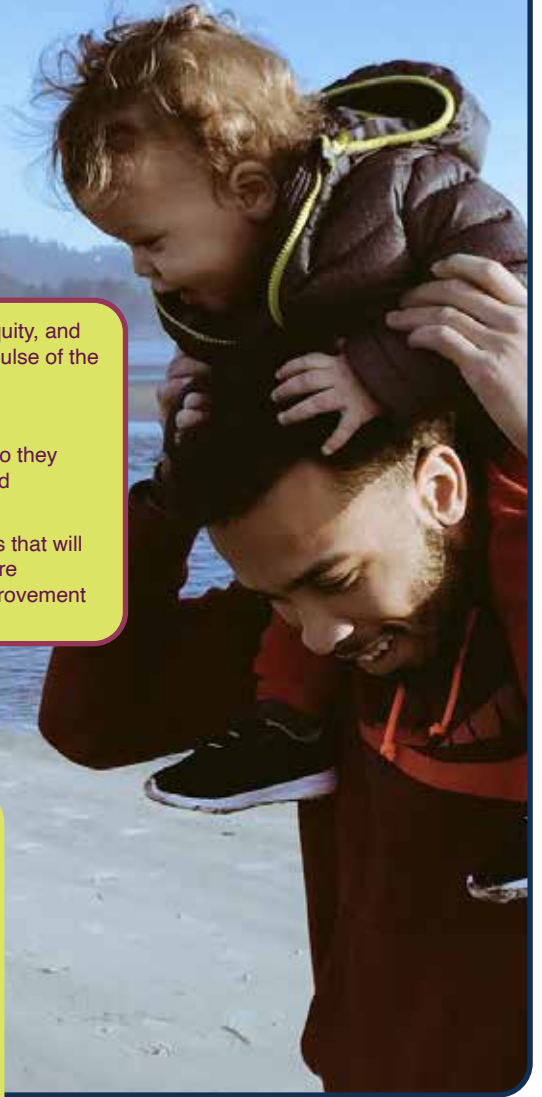
**The outcome of the survey revealed that MCCS will:**

- a.) **Commit** to and ensure that the successful implementation of the Agency's Diversity Plan is firmly rooted in the ability to document, account, and assess current diversity initiatives, policies, and procedures.
- b.) **Retain** under-represented staff where appropriate and increase inclusion strategies for All MCCS Employees.
- c.) **Examine** workforce demographics so they will be reflective of the FAMILIES and Population served by MCCS.
- d.) **Implement** Surveys and Evaluations that will engage Agency Stakeholders to share successes and opportunities for improvement as it relates to diversity.

## Over-Arching Goals for the Diversity & Inclusion Office

- **Demonstrate** the Agency's commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion both internally and externally.
- **Develop** and maintain a diverse workforce that is aligned with the racial and cultural composition of the population we serve by implementing a robust minority recruitment program and ensuring adherence to culturally competent practices in all aspects of hiring, promotion, labor relations, and employee evaluation processes.
- **Ensure** non-discriminatory practices by embedding diversity and inclusion protocols across all aspects of our policies, practices, organizational philosophy, data collection and evaluation mechanisms.
- **Build and sustain** a pathway for all persons to feel empowered, valued and respected.
- **Improve** the outcomes for all Mahoning County families by improving the Agency's ability to serve communities of color.
- **Monitor** to ensure compliance with Civil Rights Act, Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Programs and Multi-Ethnic Placement Act (MEPA).

- **Planning** to create a City/ County-wide initiative for Cultural Competency which will include key community stakeholders and leaders from private, public and government agencies and organizations.



# LEGAL DEPARTMENT

Mahoning County Children Services is represented in Mahoning County Juvenile Court by three Assistant Mahoning County Prosecutors: Attorneys Lori Shells Simmons, Kerry Limbian and Kristy Weibling.



2020 LEGAL STATISTICS	
810	Number of Court Hearings Attended
60	Children Placed in Care Under Juvenile Rule 6
78	Agreements for Voluntary Care
109	Ex Parte Orders
86	Commitments to Custody of a Relative
10	Commitments to Custody of a Non-Relative
218	Temporary Commitments to CSB
3	Permanent Surrenders
16	Permanent Commitments to CSB
7	Orders for Planned Permanent Living Arrangement
155	Court-Ordered Protective Supervision Granted
6	Cases in the Court of Appeals
33	Initial Voluntary Agreement of Care (VAC)
34	All VAC Extensions

# PUBLIC INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

JENNIFER T. KOLLAR,  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

## 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

Twenty-twenty (2020) was the unprecedented Year of the global Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic that left no stone unturned—it captured every news headline, canceled every community event and interfered with gatherings, special celebrations and every day life. However, the pandemic did not stop Mahoning County Children Services. The Agency NEVER skipped a beat. When possible, the Agency celebrated and supported important holidays and milestones throughout the year utilizing creative and innovative methods to engage and interest our staff, stakeholders, foster parents, donors and friends whenever possible.

### CHILDREN SERVICES BOARD RE-AFFIRMS SOCIAL JUSTICE POSITION

Members unanimously voted to adopt, support and embrace a SOCIAL JUSTICE POSITION STATEMENT that addressed and responded to local, regional, national and international civil unrest events.

### CREATION OF A NEW SOCIAL JUSTICE RESOURCE PAGE

on Agency Website: [mahoningkids.com](http://mahoningkids.com)

The new page RE-AFFIRMS the Agency's deeply-rooted commitment to Social Justice invites and encourages visitors to learn about, reflect upon and become positive Agents of Social Justice CHANGE.

### New Foster Parent TV Campaign! Featuring Local Foster Parents & Former Foster Youth

Visit <http://www.mahoningkids.com/news>



### Easter Basket Donations Bring Joy to Many Children During COVID-19 Stay Home Order



### AGENCY ACHIEVES NATIONAL RE-ACCREDITATION:

In April 2020, the Agency achieved national re-accreditation through the New York-based Council on Accreditation (COA).

### COVID Couldn't Stop Agency Gifts for Kids Holiday Campaign





# PUBLIC INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

JENNIFER T. KOLLAR,  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

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## HIGHLIGHTS & HEADLINES AMID THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

### AGENCY DEVELOPS “PANDEMIC RESPONSE PLAN”

(1) help slow transmission of the virus in Ohio’s communities; (2) reduce the risk of exposure by our employees; (3) protect the health and safety of the families we serve; and (4) maximize the continuity of child protection operations to the fullest extent as is safely possible.

**CREATION OF A COVID-19 WEBPAGE** on the Agency’s Website to keep staff, stakeholders and visitors apprised of Information related to Agency news, operations and protocols during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**VIRTUAL EVENTS REPLACE PUBLIC EVENTS:** With limitations placed on hosting in-person events during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Agency continued to celebrate and support important National Events: including the launch of a month-long Television Child Abuse Prevention Campaign during Child Abuse Prevention Month in April and National Adoption Month in November using social media and creating digital events and campaigns

**Children Services Birthday Bag Program Founder and Donor Wanda Marland Named “WYTV HOME TOWN HERO”**



**KEEPING KIDS SAFE:** The Agency’s Public Information Department worked closely with local news media to raise awareness on how to recognize and report child abuse and ways the community can help keep children and families safe especially during the State of Ohio’s mandated “Stay-at-Home” order.



**STATE-WIDE RECOGNITION OF FRONT LINE WORKERS:** Two Agency Caseworkers, received State-Wide Recognition and were selected for the Public Children Services Association of Ohio’s “Profiles of Hope & Courage” which features stories from the front lines of child protection to raise awareness of the challenges caseworkers, children and families facing during pandemic



Mahoning County Children Services



Mahoning County Children Services is Accredited by the Council on Accreditation

222 West Federal Street, 4th Floor  
Youngstown, Ohio 44503

330.941.8888 • MAHONINGKIDS.COM

