



2022

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



Mahoning County
Children Services

Protecting Children. Preserving Families.

2022 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

2022 Mahoning County Children Services Board

Dr. Benjamin McGee,
Chairman
Marilyn Montes, Secretary
Daniel Wakefield,
Vice Chairman
Dr. Sherri Lovelace-
Cameron
Rev. Lewis Macklin
Samuel Moffie
Maria Pappas
Mag. Richard White
Kriss Wolford

Mahoning County Commissioners

David C. Ditzler
Carol Rimedio Righetti
Anthony Traficanti

2022 Mahoning County Children Services Advisory Committee

DJ Depp
Megan Ellashek
Katrina Harris
Michele Kuhar
Tracy Lamb
Tadarrelle Lett
David J. Magura, Jr.
Andrea L. Mahone
Lisa Manente
Pete Milliken
Dr. Joseph Mosca
Mary Alice Noble
Patricia Sciarretta
Officer Shawnacie Ott
Mary Jo Truman
Yvonne Wilson

OUR MISSION

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

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.

STAFF COMPOSITION

SUSAN BABINEC,
HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

At the conclusion of 2022, Mahoning County Children Services employed 118 employees to serve and support the services of children and families in Mahoning County.

4 Administrative Staff

18 Management/Supervisors

65 Caseworkers

1 Family Peer Mentor

8 Social Service Unit Aides

22 Support Staff

Qualifications: All Child Welfare Caseworker 2 positions possess Bachelor's degrees in Social Work, Sociology, Psychology, or a related social services field.



Mahoning County
Children Services

Mahoning County Children Services is Accredited by the Council on Accreditation



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

RICHARD TVAROCH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Note: Randall B. Muth, J.D., served as the Agency's Executive for 10 years until June 2023. Richard Tvaroch was selected as the new Executive Director June 2023 after Mr. Muth accepted the Executive Directorship at Lucas County Children Services (Toledo, Ohio).

Dear Community Members:

Mahoning County Children Services constantly strives to develop, implement, and provide family-centric, evidence-based services to achieve positive outcomes for the children and families we serve. As we reflect on the past year, the Agency has navigated numerous challenges with dedication and resilience while also making strides toward addressing critical issues within our system and community. Despite the progress that has been made, there is still work to be done and challenges that remain. The child placement crisis was one of the most pressing challenges Mahoning County Children Services faced in 2022 and will continue to face in 2023.

When the child welfare system receives referrals involving children and youths with multi-system, high-acuity needs, we are often required to find and secure custody and placement of these youths. Consequently, almost a quarter of children taken into child welfare's care are not there due to child abuse or neglect; diverse factors such as mental health conditions, developmental/intellectual disabilities, or diversion from the juvenile justice system contribute to their placement. Ohio's child welfare agencies are not equipped to handle these children and youths. And as a result, we are encountering real challenges in securing timely, appropriate, and available placements for these children and youths. Funding challenges aside, the crux of the placement crisis lies in the scarcity of community-based alternatives, feasible therapeutic homes, and other placement resources due to staff challenges, particularly within residential facilities. No child should be forced to sleep in county agencies due to a lack of community resources, but sadly, as the placement crisis deepens, this is happening more and more frequently across the state.

Focusing on solutions that create joint accountability and ownership among the other systems for children and youths impacted by the placement crisis would



significantly improve their outcomes while offering the child welfare system relief. Fortunately, because Gov. Mike DeWine's administration has prioritized enhancing services for children, particularly those in the child welfare system, help may be on the horizon. This prioritization translates to an increase in services and programs aimed at addressing many of the root causes of the placement crisis. One of the most promising among these initiatives is Ohio Medicaid's OhioRISE program.

By working hand
in hand, we can build
a community where all
children and families
have the chance
to flourish.

The OhioRISE (Ohio Resiliency through Integrated Systems of Excellence) program offers a comprehensive range of services to address the multifaceted needs of families and children within Ohio's child welfare system. This initiative focuses on providing intensive, individualized support to families at risk of or involved in the child welfare system, with services including counseling, mental health, and substance abuse treatment, parenting skills education, housing

assistance, and employment support. Adopting a holistic approach, OhioRISE aims to prevent the removal of children from their homes whenever possible and expedite reunification for those already in care, ultimately striving to improve family stability, well-being, and overall outcomes for both parents and children. As promising as OhioRISE and the other programs being implemented are, because they will need time to take root, grow, and mature, the placement crisis is unlikely to end any time soon.

The placement crisis will not be overcome in isolation. Now, more than ever, as a community, we must rally together and stand as pillars of support, advocates for change, and protectors of our young ones. By working hand in hand, we can build a community where all children and families have the chance to flourish.

Going forward, let us renew our commitment to these precious lives. We must seize the opportunity to make a lasting impact and create a brighter future for our community. Remember, the journey to prevent child abuse starts with each of us, united in purpose and determined to make positive change.

Sincerely,

Richard Tvaroch, Executive Director
Mahoning County Children Services

INTAKE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

BRADLEY SMITH,
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR



Throughout 2022, the **START** (Sobriety, Treatment and Reducing Trauma) & prevention program at Mahoning County Children Services has continued to grow and help families who are struggling with substance use disorders. In 2022, MCCS added a second START Team which consists of a Caseworker and Family Peer Mentor as well as a Prevention Intake Caseworker.

The START teams partnered with four new families in 2022 and were able to successfully close six family cases. Some of the highlighted successes of those cases include: a father receiving custody of his children, and a mother of twins maintaining custody of her children while achieving sustainable sobriety. A Prevention Intake Caseworker was hired in July 2022 and worked with 15 families throughout 2022.

Additionally, the Agency increased community collaboration in response to the Comprehensive Addiction & Recovery Act (CARA) by creating plans of safe care for newborns and mothers who are challenged by substance use/abuse. The Agency formed a collaboration by combining members of our START Steering Committee along with community partners who provide services to expectant mothers and mothers of newborns. Some of these partners are: Mercy Health, Akron Children's Hospital, Meridian Health Care and Help Me Grow. Together in this collaboration, the Agency is working to create Family Plans for newborns to ensure that mother and baby have all their treatment and medical needs being met.

4995
REPORTS RECEIVED

1148
CASES INVESTIGATED

444
INFORMATION/REFERRAL

The Intake Services Department consists of: 1 Program Administrator, 3 Casework Supervisors, 1 Screening Supervisor, 3 Screeners, 1 Start Supervisor, 2 Start Caseworkers, 14 Caseworkers, 1 Case Aid, 2 Family Peer Mentors

REPORT TYPE / NUMBER OF CASES

Physical Abuse 538

Neglect 448

Sexual Abuse 140

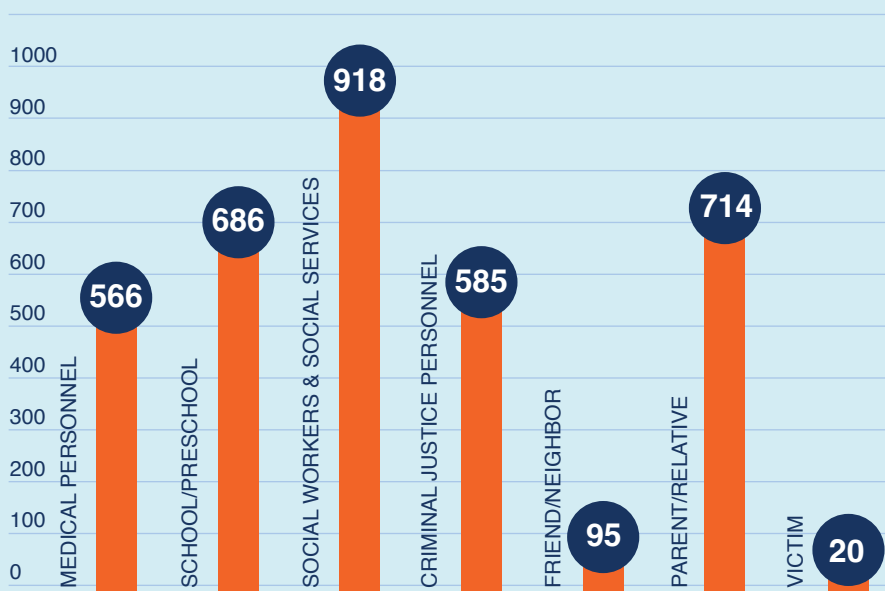
Families in Need of Services 225

Medical Neglect 70

Dependency 57

Emotional Maltreatment 43

2022 REPORTS BY SOURCE



PLACEMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

THERESA PANCOE, LISW-S
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

Note: The Resource Department has been overseen by Anthony Paris, Program Administrator until Mr. Paris's retirement in June 2022. Ms. Pancoe served as the Adoption Unit Supervisor until she was selected as Program Administrator of the Resource Department upon Mr. Paris's retirement.

The Resource Services Department includes a Program Administrator, 3 Unit Supervisors, a Floating Supervisor and 16 casework staff. The Department encompasses the following services: Foster Care, Adoption, Kinship, and Independent Living Programs. These four programs are housed within three units. The Resource Services Department Mission is "to always work in the best interest of the children to provide them with safety, permanency, and well-being. The Resource Services Department is committed to providing strength-based, family-focused, and compassionate services to the families and children of Mahoning County."

One of responsibilities of the Resource Services Department is to ensure there is an adequate number of placement resources available in order to provide a safe, stable environment for children entering foster or kinship placement. During calendar year 2022, a total of 266 children were in placement with Mahoning County Children Services. This has been a difficult year for placements as Ohio Public Children Services Agencies have been experiencing placement crises due to the escalating challenge of placing children with significant behavior health needs, developmental/intellectual disabilities, and juvenile delinquency and involvement in the Juvenile Justice System.

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

1. Kinship Care
2. Public Foster Care
3. Private Foster Care
4. Qualified Residential treatment programs (QRTP)

FOSTER CARE:

Private Foster Care made up 29% of the total number of placements. By comparison, 27% of total placements were made in MCCC licensed foster homes. In addition, Kinship Care accounted for 33%, Residential Treatment Centers for 9% and Adoptive Placements for 2% respectively.

ADOPTION SERVICES:

The Adoption Unit provided services to 52 children with a permanent custody legal status who were in placement on January 1, 2022. The Agency received permanent custody of 24 more children during calendar year 2022. Also, 14 adoptions were finalized during the same period. When permanent custody is court ordered, the Agency is also granted the authority to secure an adoption for that child. The Agency is legally responsible to recruit adoptive families for every child with a permanent custody status with the overall goal of achieving permanency for that child. The Adoption Caseworkers provide Adoption Preparation and Case Management to the children on their caseloads. The Adoption Unit continues to collaborate with the Wendy's Wonderful Kids Child Centered Recruiters to identify and recruit permanent families for these children.

When a child or sibling group is matched with an identified adoptive family, an adoptive placement agreement is signed. The adoption assessor/worker assigned, monitors the adoptive placement until Probate Court approves finalization of a legal adoption.

However, adoption is not always secured for youth in permanent custody and in these cases the Adoption Workers collaborate with the Agency's Independent Living Program Caseworkers to ensure the youth is provided services upon emancipation from the Child Welfare System.

KINSHIP SERVICES:

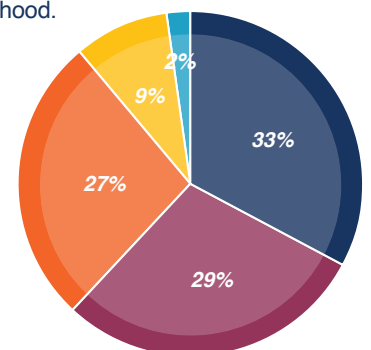
The Kinship Unit's diligent efforts, allowed for 158 children to be placed with 72 Kinship families. This is almost double the number of children placed with Kinship families in 2021. The Agency provides various types of supports to kinship families utilizing "Kinship Caregiver Program" (KCP) funding which continued in 2022. The supports provided through the KCP often allow kin to care for a child or sibling group in their home. Ohio Governor Mike DeWine signed Senate Bill 310 on December 20, 2020. As a result, the Kinship Support Program (KSP) was created. The KSP allows Ohio Department of Job & Family Services (ODJFS) to pay eligible Kinship Caregivers \$11.64 per day for each child they provide care for in their home. The KSP promotes the use of kinship care and reduces dependency on the use of other forms of placements. Without KCP and KSP funding, children who are currently in Kinship Care would likely have been placed in a more restrictive placement setting, such as private foster care. Kinship care allows children to stay connected to their family. It can also allow children to maintain their sense of identity because family traditions, values and norms are often maintained. Kinship caregivers may be blood relatives including grandparents, aunts, uncles, or adult siblings. In addition, a Kinship Caregiver may also be a stepparent or non-relative(s) known to the parent(s) or child.

INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES:

The Agency has two workers who provide Independent Living Services (ILS) to teens starting at age 14, up to age 17 years in the care and custody of Mahoning County Children Services. The ILS Program provides many supports including life skills training, and various educational, and vocational resources. The

ILS Program aims to gear programs and have supports in place in order to help prepare youth for successful transition to adulthood.

Mahoning County Children Services is also required to provide Independent Living Services to young adults, age 18 to 21 years who have emancipated and exited foster care. However, youth participation is voluntary after exiting foster care. Young adults participating in the ILS Program also receive supports to help them achieve their educational and vocational goals. However, they also receive assistance from the Agency to help them locate appropriate housing and find employment. The Agency can use available IL funding to help with payment of the initial security deposit and rent. In addition, the IL Caseworkers can coordinate the purchase of some furniture and appliance items needed for setup. Youth who exit or emancipate out of Foster Care, are referred to the Bridges Program. The Bridges Program through Ohio Department of Job & Family Services (ODJFS) offers ongoing housing assistance and other forms of case management to these youth. Studies indicate that foster care alumni are at a much higher risk of unemployment, homelessness, and incarceration. Enhanced access to IL funding, and the implementation of the Bridges program in recent years, has had a positive impact on these problems. Providing the supports noted, is crucial to meeting the overall goal of successful transition to adulthood.



- Kinship Care
- Private Foster Care
- Public Foster Care
- Residential Treatment Centers
- Adoptive Placements

FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

JULIE RUDOLPH,
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

***Note:** The Family Services Department has been supervised by Julie Rudolph, Program Administrator in 2022 until Ms. Rudolph was promoted as Assistant Director in May of 2023. Angela Polito was selected as the new Program Administrator for Family Services Department after serving as an Intake Department Supervisor at the Agency.*

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.

The Family Services Department (FSD) was reconfigured in 2022 to consist of three units of six caseworks each who carry ongoing cases and one unit of support staff. The support staff provide transportation and visitation assistance, among other tasks, required to keep kids safe in their own homes or to assist a family in reunifying. The Agency transitioned to monitoring all court ordered supervised family visitation, as Hope House Visitation Center closed its doors in the spring of 2022. The FSD hired 7 new staff in 2022, and continued to partner with Youngstown State University's University Partnership Program (UPP) which incentivizes social work students to explore child welfare as a career choice. Two interns were placed through the UPP Program within the Family Services Department.

Points of Interest:

In 2022 the composition of the Family Services Department included:



FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

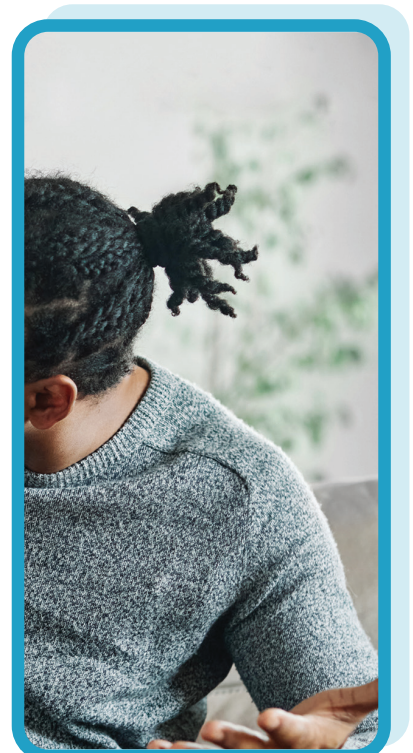


The Family Services Department staff partnered with local organization Cadence Care as Ohio's Resilience through Integrated Systems and Excellence (OhioRISE) Program was rolled out across the state of Ohio.

OhioRISE is a specialized managed care program that focuses on children and youth who have complex behavioral health and multisystem needs. Child welfare caseworkers make referrals to the program for youth, both living with family and also youth who live in an out-of-home care setting, to ensure that children who needed additional support and care coordination receive those services. The OhioRISE program is expected to continue to expand in both program participants and services available in 2023.

The Family Services Department was again in compliance with the Federal mandates for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY)

2021-2022 with over 95% of required contacts with parents and children receiving services from the Agency being completed by the casework staff. The Family Services Department prioritized ensuring placement stability of children in custody and achieving permanency in 12 months and were successful in meeting goals set in those areas. The Department also created an Intensive Family Search and Engagement caseworker who completed intensive family finding activities on 61 families in 2022 and located over 1200 potential family connections for children in Agency custody. This has resulted in an increased number of children in Agency custody residing with family or friends and with their siblings, as often as possible.



FINANCIAL REPORT

DENISE BARNES-CARPER,
FISCAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022

2022 Receipts

Levy 55%	\$10,161,589.88
Federal 25%	\$4,705,003.91
State 19%	\$3,579,997.34
All Other 0%	\$75,405.09

Total \$18,521,996.22

2022 Expenditures

Salaries and Related Expenses 54%	\$9,658,069.75
Operating Expenses 9%	\$1,588,029.67
Public Foster Care 3%	\$579,923.85
Residential Placements 11%	\$1,992,244.73
Therapeutic Foster Care 16%	\$2,935,855.09
Services 6%	\$1,041,920.86
Other Expenses 1%	\$206,203.92

Total \$18,002,247.87

2022 RECEIPTS

Real Estate Taxes	\$9,851,946.54
Manufactured Home Taxes	\$11,097.96
Personal Property Taxes	\$211.44
Rollback Credit	\$296,988.82
Homestead Credit	\$1,345.12
Medicaid Child Welfare	\$6,311.39
Title IV-B - Child Welfare Subsidy	\$141,560.80
Title IV-B - ESAA	\$140,890.73
Federal Chaffee	\$83,065.11
Title IV-E	\$2,594,718.16
U.S. Treasury	\$16,913.00
Foster Care Maintenance	\$1,721,544.72
State Child Protective Allocation	\$2,336,091.69
State Reimbursements	\$148,840.83
Foster Parent Training	\$9,550.00
Multi-System Youth	\$50,681.38
ODNR - State	\$1,766.04
Ohio Start	\$182,874.05
Reimbursements	\$850,193.35
Bureau of Support	\$35,838.56
BWC True Up Charges	\$39,466.53
Contributions and Donations	\$100.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$18,521,996.22

2022 EXPENDITURES

Salaries	\$6,331,531.91
PERS	\$1,211,512.63
Medicare	\$89,495.67
BWC Premium Expense	\$63,416.31
Unemployment	\$1,954.57
Hospitalization	\$1,872,935.06
Hospitalization Opt-Out	\$11,078.40
Life Insurance	\$10,043.84
Tuition Reimbursement	\$30,149.70
BWC Claims Expense	\$35,951.66
Food Supplies	\$9,783.81
Postage	\$13,755.42
Materials and Supplies	\$5,027.34
Office Supplies	\$44,265.77
Gasoline	\$887.37
Vehicle Parts	\$451.25
Seminars/Conferences/Training	\$9,682.66
Travel	\$220,241.80
Organization Dues	\$13,187.66
Contractual Agreement	\$620,416.40
Professional Services	\$72,417.74
Telephone	\$11,877.07
Medical Assistance	\$10.00
Advertising	\$1,985.44
Printing	\$8,322.00
Subscriptions	1,835.23
Rent	\$49,428.00
Maintenance Agreement	\$231,773.18
Audit Fees	\$3,685.90
Printer/Copier Maint Agrmt	\$7,715.33
Repairs and Maintenance	\$5,838.44
Recruitment	\$88,846.37
Equipment	\$24,211.67
Data Equipment	\$39,927.50
Software	\$1,760.94
Furniture and Fixtures	\$34,386.43
Vehicles	\$30,112.31
Reimbursement Expense	\$36,196.64
Public Foster Care	\$579,923.85
Residential Placements	\$1,992,244.73
Therapeutic Foster Care	\$2,935,855.09
Board Care & Clothing	\$50,552.22
Public Assistance	\$12,562.75
Daycare	\$150,796.19
ESAA Preservation	\$60,294.05
ESAA Reunification	\$126,828.21
Child Abuse Prevention	\$1,625.99
Subsidized Adoption	\$243,335.15
PASSS	\$91,428.49
Independent Living	\$66,596.35
Youth Advisory Board	\$1,176.06
Nonrecurring Adoption	\$7,600.00
Kinship	\$209,964.42
Start Funds	\$19,160.98
Taxes Aud/Treas Collection Fees	\$167,481.94
County Cost Allocation	\$63.98
Shared Costs	\$38,658.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$18,002,247.87

CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT DEPARTMENT

LYNETTE PARIS,
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR



The Quality Improvement Department has been overseen by Mahoning County Children Services, Assistant Director, Rona Curtis, since 2015. Ms. Curtis dedicated 37 years of her career, to Mahoning County Children Services, and retired at the end of November 2022. Lynette Paris was selected as the new Quality Improvement Program Administrator.

The Quality Improvement Department, ensures a neutral third party, attends all legal semi-Annual Review meetings. In addition, the Department conducts monthly permanency reviews, for children in Agency custody and participates in Agency adoption matchings. The Department also monitors to ensure the Agency is in compliance with the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act (MEPA) a Federal law that governs how foster and adoption placement decisions are made involving race, color or national origin are considered. The Department also provides Mandated Reporter training to daycare providers in Mahoning County,

and to high school students enrolled in the childcare program at Choffin Career & Technical Center. In 2022, Mahoning County Children Services developed a Foster Parent Telephone Hotline which the Quality Improvement Department monitors calls received. The Hotline is exclusive to the foster parents licensed through Mahoning County. The Hotline is a way for foster parents to express their concerns and ensure prompt follow up. In 2022, the Agency received 16 phone calls to the Foster Parent Hotline.

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The Quality Improvement Department is also responsible overseeing all Agency complaints and appeals. Mahoning County Children Services continues to maintain the 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. Mahoning County Children Services is due to go through the reaccreditation process, in the summer of 2023. Peer reviewers from COA will complete a site visit, and review a plethora of data.



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 world-wide to improve service delivery outcomes by developing, applying, and promoting accreditation standards.

The Agency's accreditation is valid through August 31, 2023.

CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT DEPARTMENT

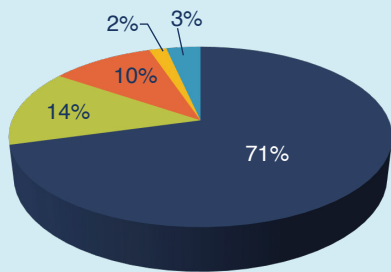
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The Quality Assurance Department conducts regular reviews to evaluate the practices and outcomes, ensures rule compliance with Federal, State and Agency requirements. These reviews and assessments are completed to help ensure, the Agency can provide the community with quality services. The families served are sent satisfaction surveys regarding the services received. The results of the surveys are documented in pie charts below:

The 2022 Satisfaction Survey Results:

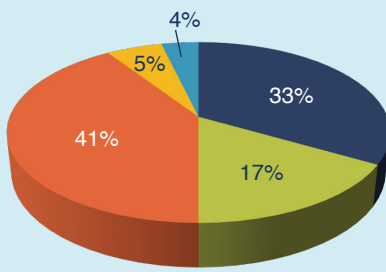
(Note: CSB refers to Mahoning County Children Services Board)

How satisfied are you with the services received from CSB?



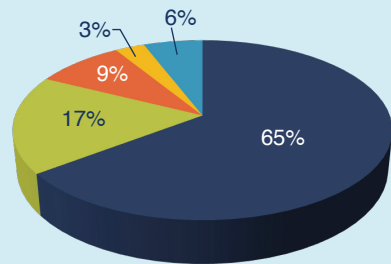
Very Satisfied
Satisfied
Dissatisfied
Very Dissatisfied

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



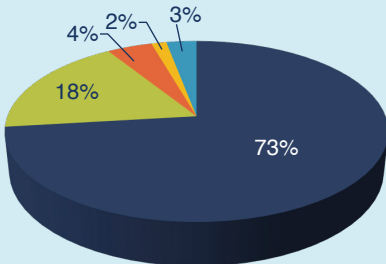
Very Satisfied
Satisfied
Dissatisfied
Very Dissatisfied

How satisfied are you of the case-worker or supervisor's availability to you when needed?



Very Satisfied
Satisfied
Dissatisfied
Very Dissatisfied

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



Very Much Agree
Agree
Disagree
Very Much Disagree
Neutral

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??



LEGAL DEPARTMENT

Mahoning County Children Services is represented in Mahoning County Juvenile Court by 4 Assistant Mahoning County Prosecutors: Attorneys Lori Shells Simmons, Kristie Weibling, Tia Jackson and Ebenezer Appiagyei.



2022 LEGAL STATISTICS

139	Ex Parte Orders
35	Commitments to Custody of a Relative
9	Commitments to Custody of a Non-Relative
149	Temporary Commitments to CSB
6	Permanent Surrenders
20	Permanent Commitments to CSB
4	Orders for Planned Permanent Living Arrangement
62	Court-Ordered Protective Supervision Granted
1	Cases in the Court of Appeals
39	Initial Voluntary Agreement of Care (VAC)

PUBLIC INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

JENNIFER T. KOLLAR,
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

The Public Information Department is comprised of one staff person who serves as the Public Information Officer. The Department is responsible for promoting the Agency's Mission and to work to enhance the public's understanding of Agency programs and services. This is accomplished throughout the year via Agency events, community outreach activities as well as advertising and marketing campaigns.

The Agency's Public Information Department implemented several multi-media campaigns focusing on "Kids Matter" and "Positive Parenting" utilizing television spots, news segments, public service announcements, print ads, feature and news articles, and billboards to help increase awareness of child abuse and neglect, how to report it as well as the great need for foster and adoptive caregivers, and how the community can help keep children and families safe. In addition, a "Caseworker Recruitment" campaign was developed to address the shortage of frontline Caseworkers.



Now Hiring Child Welfare Caseworkers!
Help Protect Children & Preserve Families
Mahoning County Children Services
Apply online mahoningkids.com/careers/

Recruiting Caseworkers

The Agency created a new *Recruitment and Retention Committee* to address the shortage of frontline casework staff. The Ohio Child Welfare System, like the private sector, found itself in the midst of what was referred to as the "Great Resignation." In response to the caseworker shortage, the Agency held an in-person "Career Fair" and a virtual "Open House." Both events aimed to raise awareness of child welfare careers and to recruit new caseworkers. Additional incentives and appreciation initiatives were created to retain current casework and support staff.

National Child Abuse Prevention Month



Report Child Abuse Because Kids Can't
Protecting Children, Preserving Families
Mahoning County Children Services
REPORT LINE 24/7 **330.941.8888**

A month-long child abuse prevention awareness campaign was launched through a media partnership with WKBN/WYTV. Throughout the month, WKBN/WYTV WKBN.COM aired TV spots, and feature stories, as well as links to resources for parents and caregivers on the website and app.



Ohio Wears Blue Campaign

Ohioans are encouraged to wear Blue to work, school or community event in support of Ohio WEAR BLUE DAY. Ohio Wears Blue Day is held on the second Wednesday of April. The color blue is the national color symbolizing Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention.



Canfield Fair

The Agency staffs a booth in the Medical Building. This is our biggest community outreach of the year!

Community Pinwheel Garden Display

In addition to the media Awareness Campaign, a Community Pinwheel Garden Display is 'planted' during the month of April in Boardman Park. Pinwheel Garden Displays are planted in communities across the nation. The pinwheel is the national symbol for child abuse prevention. Over a 1,000 colorful pinwheels planted represent community members who advocated on behalf of an abused or neglected child in Mahoning County.



APRIL - NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT PREVENTION MONTH



PUBLIC INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

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JENNIFER T. KOLLAR,
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Annual Community Spotlight Award

recognizes community organizations or individuals who demonstrate generosity, commitment, and distinguished on-going community service to Children of Mahoning County. The 2022 **Spotlight Award** was awarded to Shepherd of the Valley (SOV). For over 10 consecutive years, SOV's Activity Department along with their residents created beautiful Easter Baskets filled with a variety of age appropriate items and candy to help brighten the Easter Holiday for hundreds of children of all ages on our caseloads.



National Adoption Celebration Event

November marks **National Adoption Awareness Month**. Each year courts, child welfare agencies and community partners join together on one day to do something AMAZING—create forever families! In support of the month, together, Mahoning County Probate Court and Mahoning County Children Services co-host an Annual Adoption Day Celebration Event. At this year's Celebration Event, two children found their "Forever Home!"



Graduation is A Milestone

Mahoning County Children Services had FIVE wonderful reasons to celebrate this graduation season! Five Agency-involved youth graduated from area high schools. High School Graduation is always a special time for students. However, for youth in foster care, graduation is an especially significant milestone. Many of these students have experienced difficult childhoods and significant trauma throughout their young lives. Remaining in school despite these circumstances and overcoming obstacles to graduate is an accomplishment and the hope for a bright future for youth in the foster care system.



Annual Gifts for Kids Holiday Campaign

ensures that all children the Agency serves receive gifts for the Christmas Holiday. The Agency has been able to make the holidays brighter and joyous for hundreds of Mahoning County Children thanks to the generous spirit of individual community donors, organizations, and businesses. The Christmas Store is stocked with NEW toys, bikes, coats, clothing, and an amazing variety of other items for children ages infant to teens 18 years of age and EVERY age in between. Gifts collected are given to children who have an open case or Agency involvement. Often, the gifts the Agency provides for children on are the **ONLY** gifts the children receive for the Holidays.



Mahoning County
Children Services



Mahoning County Children Services is Accredited by the Council on Accreditation

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