

MERCER COUNTY

Department of Job & Family Services **REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY**



2013 ANNUAL REPORT

DALE J. BORGER, DIRECTOR

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FROM THE DIRECTOR	2
SERVING OUR COMMUNITY WITH EXCELLENCE	3
SOCIAL SERVICES / CHILDREN SERVICES	4
FISCAL SERVICES	5
CASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS	5
OVERPAYMENT COLLECTIONS	6
PREVENTION, RETENTION, & CONTINGENCY	6
FOOD ASSISTANCE	7
MEDICAID BENEFITS	7

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Certainly, 2013 qualifies as a year of transition in Job & Family Services agencies in Ohio. This transition certainly had an effect on the people working at the agency. Change gives us new opportunities to succeed but also new challenges.

For all Medicaid programs, a change to the software eligibility system was being prepared for in late 2013. The new software is called OIES (Ohio Integrated Eligibility System). All new Medicaid cases will be entered into this system beginning for new cases effective January 1, 2014. Existing cases will be added into OIES through 2014. A new online Medicaid application portal at ohio.benefits.gov was also added in December.

Also on Medicaid, applications were accepted beginning December 10, for the Medicaid Extension program. Childless couples, single individuals, and even working adults and families with incomes up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (currently \$16,104 for a family of one) are eligible. The state of Ohio has estimated that 1300 additional individuals could potentially qualify for Medicaid by the end of 2014, through this program.

Ohio Works First (Cash Assistance) numbers have decreased to levels (76 Families and \$330,263 in annual payments in 2013) unseen since at least before the beginning of the "Great Recession." PRC (Prevention, Retention and Contingency) assistance slightly exceeded PRC levels in 2009, and represented a 90% increase over 2012. The TANF Summer Youth program certainly represented a significant portion of the increase.

SNAP Food Assistance (formerly called Food Stamps) benefits continue their downward trajectory in the County. This trend began in 2010. There was an average of 3146 Mercer Countians on Food Assistance per month in 2013.

Rosie Moeller, Eligibility Referral Supervisor, retired on 03/31/2013, after working at the agency for 30 years. Her wit and knowledge are missed.

There are many numbers in this report. However, they all boil down to services delivered by the 26 people, including 6 part-time, who, in 2013 have worked their best to extend a helpful hand up to those we serve.

Dale J. Borger

Giving Mercer County families a helpful hand in fulfilling their potential

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY WITH EXCELLENCE

MERCER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

- Jerry Laffin
- Rick Muhlenkamp
- John Bruns

MERCER COUNTY FAMILY SERVICES PLANNING COMMITTEE

Dale Borger, MCJFS	Karen Howick, Mercer County
Sue Bills, Coldwater Schools	Council on Aging
Brian Engle, Foundations	Kathy Mescher, OUR Home
Behavioral Health Services	Cissy Muntzinger, MCJFS
Rev. Rich Fields,	Michael Overman, Mercer County DD
Serving Friends and Family	Karen Platfoot, Workforce Development

MERCER COUNTY JOB & FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

(And Years of Service)

Milissa Albers (12)	Lucy Gaerke (25)	L. Elizabeth Rinderle (16)
Cindy Bittinger (13)	Janice Klenke (10)	Hillary Rowland (New Hire 3-13)
Dale Borger (25)	Angela Kraner (2)	Tonya Sieftring (12)
Mary Jane Braun (24)	Anita Kremer (24)	Amanda Slavik (New Hire 12-2013)
Barbara Brazle (19)	Deb Loera (1)	Robin Springer (10)
Tia Caldwell (1)	Cindy Luedke (8)	Scotti Straub (1)
Terry Coutts (20)	Amanda MacLean (New Hire 3-13)	Jodi Trego (4)
R. Jason Cupp (20)	Rosie Moeller (30)	Holly Uhlenhake (8)
Heidi DuHamel (12)	<i>Retired 3.31.2013</i>	Debra Vogel (33)
Dee Fullenkamp (24)	Cicely Muntzinger (8)	Carol Weitzel (23)
		Marge Zwiebel (34)

SOCIAL SERVICES / CHILDREN SERVICES

HELPING TO KEEP OUR FAMILIES STRONG, OUR CHILDREN SAFE - 2013

TOTAL NUMBER OF INTAKES: **223**

NEGLECT INTAKES: **76**

SEXUAL ABUSE INTAKES: **44**

PHYSICAL ABUSE INTAKES: **66**

EMOTIONAL MALTREATMENT: **1**

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVES INVESTIGATIONS: **14**

For 2013 ~ 21% of the investigations involved drug / alcohol

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT INTAKES, 2004 THROUGH 2013

Year	Phys. Abuse	Neglect	Sexual Abuse	Emotional Maltreat.	Medical Neglect	Depend. Child	Shaken Baby	Family in Need/Services	Total
2013	66	76	44	1	4	8	0	24	223
2012	44	56	36	7	7	4	1	29	184
2011	61	59	41	10	5	6		21	203
2010	67	52	43	5	5	5		28	205
2009	38	73	43	7	5	4		28	198
2008	38	56	44	3	6	4		4	155

Ongoing:

Total Children in Care: 57

Total Substitute Care Days: 15,702

Average length of stay of a child in substitute care: 275.4 days.

Reason Children Left Agency Custody:

2	Finalize Adoption
0	Age Out/Emancipation
24	Reunification
0	Custody to other agency
0	Child's Death
11	Custody to relative
1	AWOL

Age of Children in Care: 11 years and older: = 23

5 -10 year of age: = 10

4 years and younger: = 24

Placement Costs: Agency Foster Home: \$140,181.00

Private Foster Home: \$50,752.46

Residential: \$70,754.09

Group Homes: \$168,935.96

TOTAL PLACEMENT COSTS \$430,623.51

Average Cost per Placement \$7,554.80

74 children were in Court Ordered Protective Supervision of the Agency

21 children were served through Voluntary Services of the agency.

CHILD CARE

Average Children per month Served Through State Child Care Program: 116

Average Cost of Child Care per month of the Child Care Program: \$77,833

THE COST OF PROVIDING SERVICES 2012 FISCAL DEPARTMENT

Fund	2013	2012	2011	2010
Public Assistance Fund:				
Revenues	\$ 2,033,346.28	\$1,722,147.27	\$2,001,821.13	\$2,202,791.53
Expenditures	\$ 2,002,561.70	\$1,719,961.92	\$1,969,527.49	\$2,162,533.93
Public Children Services:				
Revenues	\$ 725,308.85	\$534,073.14	\$672,294.07	\$623,451.26
Expenditures	\$ 794,523.45	\$528,646.13	\$734,009.90	\$632,026.55
Total Expenditures:	\$2,797,085.15	\$2,248,608.05	\$2,703,537.39	\$2,794,560.48

The cost of providing services for 2013 increased by 24.39 % overall compared to 2012.

Cash Assistance Programs

In 2013, Mercer County again targeted work eligible OWF participants stressing the importance of becoming self-sufficient as quickly as possible in order to save any of their limited 36 months of eligibility for future unforeseen circumstances. We have partnered with WIA in implementing the OWIP (Ohio Works Incentive Program) striving to address the barriers of OWF participants in their search for employment.

OHIO WORKS FIRST BENEFITS COMBINED

Ave. Monthly #'s	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Asst. Groups	76	107	129	133	105
Participants	147	244	305	357	369
Net Payments	\$27,521	\$39,497	\$47,562	\$51,517	\$39,654
Total Annual Payments	\$330,263	\$473,964	\$523,184	\$618,198	\$475,848

Disability Financial Assistance Payments

Average Monthly #'s	2013
Participants	17
Net Payments	\$2113
Total Payments	\$25,359

Total # of OWF required All Family parent households: 283/average 23.5 households per month – 2012 all family participation rate of 60% was increased to 63.67% in 2013

Total # of OWF required two-Parent households: 31/average 2.5 households per month – 2012 two-parent participation rate of 75% decreased to 62.07% in 2013, however, this is due largely to the decreasing amount of two-parent households that are receiving cash assistance. They are the hard-to-serve population that will greatly benefit from the new OWIP Program.

**Overpayment Collections for
Cash, Food Assistance, and Medicaid Benefits**

Mercer County ended 2013 with a 95% completion rate of income matches in comparison of 93% in 2012 and 85% in 2011.

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
Tax Offsets	\$3959	\$ 3396	\$ 949	\$2603	\$3445
Cash Payments	\$2441	\$ 7313	\$18286	\$7717	\$5770
Recoupments	\$5799	\$ 6175	\$ 5709	\$7277	\$8565
Write-Offs	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
<hr/>					
OWF/ADC	\$3143	\$ 4031	\$ 2068	\$2441	\$ 4633
Food Assist.	\$8555	\$10780	\$ 7863	\$9837	\$13147
Medicaid	\$ 501	\$ 2073	\$15013	\$5319	\$ 7768
Total	\$12,199	\$ 16,884	\$24,944	\$17,597	\$25,548

Prevention, Retention, and Contingency Program

Due to increase in funding, the PRC Program was expanded as of October 1, 2013 to include shelter costs (rent evictions and utility shut offs). PRC for shelter expenses was approved at \$250 maximum for a 2 year period and Job Related expenses were increased from \$200 to \$250 per 1 year period. Family Preservation services remained to collaborate with the Children Services unit, and the Summer Employment Program (SEP) was also ran through PRC again this summer and was very successful and continues to grow.

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
Families Served	60	44	68	92	200
Total Assistance	\$79,142	\$ 41,491.	\$ 10,024	\$14,629	\$75,850

2013 Statistics

Shelter Costs approved from 10/1/13 through 12/31/13 : 17 Families were served with total assistance approved of \$3794.95

2013 total Work Related Expenses approved: \$125.00 in gas cards to 1 Family

2013 Summer Youth: 37 youth were placed in employment with a total of \$68,375.70

2013 Family Preservation applications approved: 5 families assisted with a total of \$6846.82

FOOD ASSISTANCE

During 2013, participation for those in receipt of Food Assistance that do not meet an exemption was reevaluated due to the reinstatement of ABAWD (Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents) by the State of Ohio. We began offering transportation for those required both for ABAWDs and all food assistance work required individuals. Along with assignments to the Work Experience Program (WEP), we began assigning individuals to complete Job Search/Job Readiness through the Mercer County WIA office in order to help give these individuals the information and skills necessary to obtain employment. Mercer County strives to use the requirements of work-required food assistance recipients to enable them to enter the workforce as quickly as possible.

<u>Average Monthly Statistics</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
Recipients	3146	3296	3264	3306	2544
Asst. Groups Rcvg.	1364	1440	1402	1383	1059
Dollar Issuance	\$344,233	\$400,509	\$433,995	\$405,380	\$333,589
Issuance / Person	\$109	\$121	\$132	\$134	\$131
Annual Dollar Issuance	\$4,130,797	\$4,806,114	\$4,773,950	\$4,864,565	\$4,003,066

MEDICAID BENEFITS

Beginning in approximately May of 2013 we began preparing for the January 1, 2014 implementation of MAGI (Medicaid Adjusted Gross Income) and Expansion Medicaid. Intense trainings began in approximately August of 2013, escalated from there and continue currently. In preparation, staff were restructured and procedures were put into place to manage the new system as well as coordinate this with our existing system. I, Elizabeth Rinderle, ERS Supervisor, am extremely proud of and grateful to my staff for their willingness to learn and positive attitude toward this transition. Mercer County is striving to embrace the new Medicaid changes, from newborns to nursing facility residents, and help as many people in our community as possible benefit from these changes.

Average Monthly Numbers	2013	FFY 2012	2011	2010	2009
Nursing Home Eligible	189	175	162	161	172
TANF/OWF Related Medical – Eligible	3580	4107	3041	2908	2428
All Medicaid Eligible	4846	5049	4595	4494	4023
All Medicaid Expenditures	\$2,690,989	\$2,926,533	\$3,353,803	\$2,403,659	\$2,282,604
Total Annual Expenditures	\$32,291,870	\$35,118,400	\$33,122,660	\$28,843,905	\$27,391,243
Percentage Increase/Year	n/a	6.7%	14.8%	5.3%	13.5%