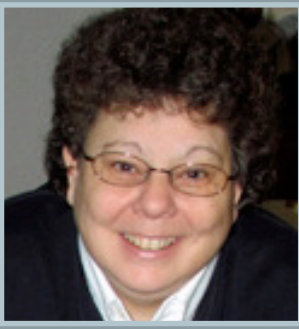




Richland County Children Services 2012 Annual Report to the Community



It's who we are. It's what we do.



2012 year of transition, progress for our agency

By Patricia Harrelson, MSSA, LISW-S

There is no doubt Richland County Children Services experienced a year of change in 2012. The Agency managed many difficult chapters with respect to its leadership, and still maintained a high level of service to children and families, operated in a fiscally sound and transparent manner, and achieved reaccreditation by the national Council on Accreditation.

Led by the efforts of our all-volunteer Board, appointed by our County Commissioners, and stabilized by staff within the Agency who stepped-up and assumed critical roles, RCCS managed to maintain services, re-engage community partners and close the year successfully and with renewed direction and focus. In total, the agency handled 7,501 calls from our community, investigated 2,860 reports of alleged maltreatment, served 504 families through ongoing family services, closed the year with 61 youth in custody, 57 foster homes, and finalized five adoptions. Still, we also closed the year with 15 children waiting for forever homes.

We offered an extensive program of kinship care because we believe (and national research supports) that when kin can meet a child's safety needs, they are generally better off with kin than in foster care. This does not mean foster care is bad; it serves a purpose in the lives of our most vulnerable children who lack a kin support network. It simply means children, when placed with suitable kin generally do better overall than kids who are in other placements. Still, we also maintain a network of skilled foster parents who are ready to open their homes to children in need and whom we can be proud of. There are few jobs I believe are more difficult than agreeing to raise another's child for a short time or a lifetime.

On Feb. 27, 2013, I began my duties as the new Executive Director for Richland County Children Services. I want to reach out to our community, to thank you for your past, present and I hope future support. I'd also like to thank our Board and Leadership Team for its steady guidance over the course of a difficult year for RCCS. I want to thank our kin, foster and adoptive parents as well as our community agencies and schools who work closely with us to serve our children and families.

The work of a child welfare agency is labor intensive and requires a highly skilled, well supervised team. I am thankful for our staff members who dedicate themselves each day to protecting children and serving families in Richland County.

I am proud of the direction we are headed together and I look forward to an exceptional 2013!

Patricia Harrelson, MSSA, LISW-S
RCCS Executive Director

Board Members

Robert Konstam, Esq.
Chair

Dean Wells
Vice Chair

James Kulig
Secretary

Dr. Michelle Kowalski
Treasurer

Pamela Siegenthaler

David Leitenberger

Cheryl Carter

Robert Kirkendall

Monica Cirata

Administrative Staff

Patricia Harrelson, MSSA, LISW-S
Executive Director

Nikki Harless, MSW, LISW-S
Director of Operations

Marsha Coleman, MSW, LISW-S
Clinical Director

Kevin Goshe, MBA
Director of Finance

Elayna Rizor, JD, SPHR
HR Director/Legal Counsel

Tim Harless, MSW
*Dir. of Community Outreach
and Programming*

Kevin Wharton, MSCJ
Program Supervisor, Intake Division

Scott Basilone, MSCJ
*Program Supervisor, Ongoing
Division*

Lori Feeney, MSW
*Program Supervisor,
Placement Division*

Edith Gilliland, JD
Agency Attorney II

J. Peter Stefaniuk, JD
Agency Attorney

Christopher Zuercher, JD
Agency Attorney

Carl Hunnell, BSJ
*Public Information and
Outreach Supervisor*

Agency again earns re-accreditation

Richland County Children Services in 2012 again received national re-accreditation through the New York-based Council on Accreditation.

Organizations such as Richland County Children Services pursue accreditation to demonstrate the implementations of best practice standards in the field of human services. The COA evaluated all aspects of the agency's programs, services, management and administration.

Richland County Children Services offers the following services: child abuse investigation and ongoing services; Kinship; foster care and adoption. The child protective service agency has been accredited every four years since 2000 and continues to demonstrate best practice standards to promote the well being of individuals, families and communities.

RCCS kinship efforts continued during 2012

When a child cannot safely remain at home, the first alternative for Richland County Children Services is kinship care -- placing the child with an adult relative or non-related adult who already has a bond with the child or family.

Kinship care helps to stabilize family situations and ensure the child's safety while preserving and maintaining family identity, culture and ethnicity.

The agency maintained its kinship efforts in 2012, despite the fact a three-year federal grant to help fund the program expired in the

“The agency takes much pride in this accomplishment in that it reflects a standard of practice that exceeds the mandates set forth by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services,” said Marsha Coleman, the agency's clinical director. “Richland County Children Services is one of 22 currently accredited agencies in Ohio.”

The COA accreditation is endorsed and supported by ODJFS.

To achieve COA re-accreditation, Richland County Children Services first provided written evidence of compliance with the COA Standards.

A group of specially trained volunteer peer reviewers then confirmed adherence to standards during on-site interviews with board members, staff and clients.

fourth quarter of the year.

The agency's board, which has offered kinship navigator services since 2004, believes in the program and voted to continue funding it even after the federal grant expired.

The agency's two kinship navigators coordinate with other agencies to ensure clients understand how to navigate state and community assistance systems. For example, kinship navigators ensure clients have access to medical cards, Ohio Works First and food stamps, if they qualify. Workers also coordinate with the U.S. Social Security



Based on their findings, COA's volunteer-based Accreditation Commission voted RCCS had again successfully met the criteria for accreditation.

An endorsement of COA and its re-accreditation process is reflected in it being selected by the U.S. State Department as the sole national independent auditing body under the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption to accredit inter-country adoption service providers.

Founded in 1977, COA is an independent, not-for-profit accreditor of the full continuum of community-based behavioral health care and social service organizations in the United States and Canada. More than 2,000 organizations -- voluntary, public and proprietary; local and statewide; large and small -- have either successfully achieved COA accreditation or are currently engaged in the process.

Administration to redirect funding to the caregiver if applicable.

Kinship navigators are trained in the Ohio Benefit Food Bank and are able to provide assistance with filling out computerized state forms and other documents.

The agency kinship program may also be able to assist with some legal matters, including Power of Attorney, legal custody, legal guardianship, Caregivers Authorization Affidavit and other general legal questions. Call 419-774-4100 for more information about the agency's kinship program.



Ontario 4th of July Festival



Miss Ohio Parade



Breakfast with the Easter Bunny



Lexington Blueberry Festival

Community Involvement

Richland County Children Services believes in community involvement, from community festivals and parades to cultural and educational events.

"We think festivals, parades and other events are a great way to help out in the communities we serve and also a great opportunity for our agency to communicate our message on child abuse and neglect prevention," said Patty Harrelson, executive director of the agency.

Chances are good you saw our agency at one or more community events during 2012, including:

January through March:

- Black History Month Celebration
- Rally for the Kids tennis event
- Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

April through June

- Minority Health Fair
- Mansfield Juneteenth Celebration
- 24-hour Swim/Bike/Run
- Pinwheels for Prevention
- Miss Ohio Parade
- Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner

July through September

- Shelby Bicycle Days
- Richland County Fair
- Lexington Blueberry Festival
- Bellville Street Fair
- Fore Our Kids Golf Classic

October through December

- 5-K Run/Walk for Safe Children
- Mansfield Halloween Parade
- Downtown Mansfield Inc. Holiday Parade
- Staff Enrichment Pre-Game Pasta Dinner
- Foster Parent Association Holiday Party

We also trained county and municipal law enforcement, school districts, and day care facilities regarding their mandated reporter requirements under Ohio law for reporting child abuse and neglect.



Pinwheels for Prevention



Richland County Fair



Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner



9th annual 24-hour Swim/Bike/Run



Rally for the Kids



Mansfield Holiday Parade

Our Mission

Protect children at risk of abuse, neglect or dependency;

Provide children the opportunity to live in a safe, nurturing, permanent family;

Strengthen and support families in meeting the needs of children;

Partner with the people of Richland County to provide the services necessary to protect children, strengthen families and promote well-being.



Keep children safe. Strengthen families.

Those are the daily goals for Richland County Children Services, poised to enter its 132nd year as the local child protective agency.

Both of those broad tenants are spelled out in more detail in the agency's Vision and Mission statements, public documents adopted by the agency's board and reviewed every two years to make sure they are still on point with local child welfare issues.

The agency's Vision statement puts forth the long-term agency goals. It's the "in a perfect world" scenario, that while a strategic goal, is worth pursuing diligently every day.

Several words are essential in the Vision statement. Permanent family. Safe loving environment. All needs met. Families with skills and resources. Community investment. Respect diversity. Support racial, cultural and ethnic heritages.

The agency's Mission statement is a specific, daily road map that will help guide the agency toward reaching the goals spelled out in the Vision statement.

Again, there are some key words and phrases. Protect children. Provide safe, nurturing and permanent families. Strength and support families. Join with others in the county to provide necessary services.

Both of these statements are shared with agency employees on a regular basis, so these remain the focus of our work with families and children.

Keep children safe. Strengthen families.

As it's spelled out in the Vision and Mission statements, it's who we are and it's what we do.



Our Vision

Every child has a permanent family which provides a safe, loving environment that is emotionally and economically stable;

All children develop their full potential by having all physical, emotional, educational, cultural, spiritual, developmental and special needs met;

All families have the skills and resources to maintain their integrity, function to the best of their ability and be responsible to their family members;

A community that invests in the future of its children by providing services to empower families;

A community whose members respect diversity and support the strengths of the racial, cultural and ethnic heritage of families and neighborhoods.

14 agency employees reach milestones

Richland County Children Services ended 2012 with 123 employees, including 66 caseworkers.

Other employees are involved in administrative roles, including operations, legal, human resources, communication, finance, clinical and support.

The agency employees constitute one of the most well educated workforces in Richland County. There are 89 employees with bachelor's degrees and 27 with master's degrees. Sixteen employees have earned LSW or LISW status.

A dozen employees achieved milestone anniversaries with the agency during 2012:

Cheri Denney, supervisor, 25 years
 Marsha Coleman, clinical director, 20 years
 Kim Miller, supervisor of administrative services, 10 years
 Mark Keck, supervisor, 10 years
 Michele Stiggle, caseworker 3, 10 years
 Heather Swanson, caseworker 4, 10 years
 Paula Johnson, intake screener, 10 years
 Rhonda Marsh, kinship navigator, 10 years
 Amanda Campbell, caseworker 2, 5 years
 Heather Higgins, caseworker 3, 5 years
 Angie Sams, caseworker 2, 5 years
 Shane Hedrick, building and grounds, 5 years
 Pat Markley, caseworker 3, 5 years
 Carol Smith, caseworker 2, 5 years

We also would like to acknowledge our quarterly H.E.R.O.E.S. (Honoring Employees by Recognizing Outstanding and Exemplary Service).

1st Quarter

Cate VanRiper – caseworker
 Courtney Dunlap-Knoll – supervisor
 Vickie Graves – support staff

2nd Quarter

Jason Kline – caseworker
 Jeanetta Elia – supervisor
 Amanda Belford – support staff

3rd Quarter

Jon Javurek – caseworker
 Kim Miller – supervisor
 Brianne Kindinger – support staff

4th Quarter

Tara Lautzenhiser – caseworker
 Chris Zuercher – supervisor
 Stacy Boak – support staff

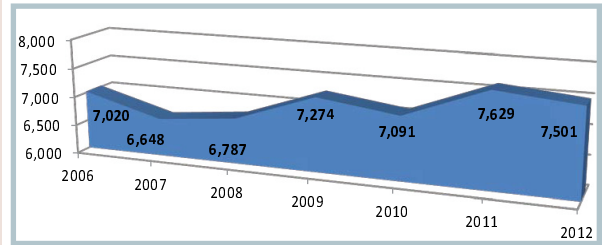
Revenue*

Federal	\$4,737,568
State	\$ 543,239
Income from Levies	\$3,018,078
Parental Support	\$ 5,132
Other Revenue	\$ 117,811
Total Revenue	\$8,421,828
End-of-Year Balance	\$4,609,785

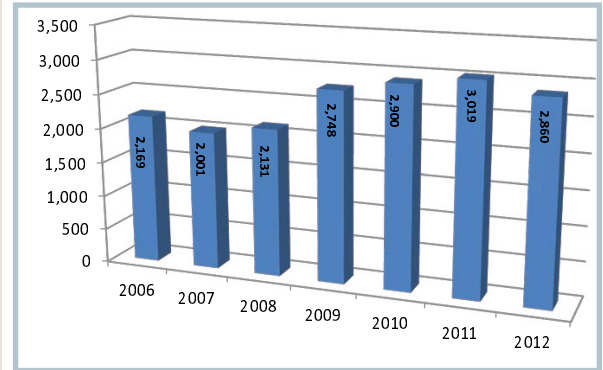
Expenses*

Personnel	\$6,956,940
Placement	\$1,104,375
Adoption	\$ 235,072
Purchased Services	\$ 633,712
Administration	\$ 661,273
Maintenance & Equip.	\$ 248,180
Total Expenses	\$9,839,551
*Unaudited	

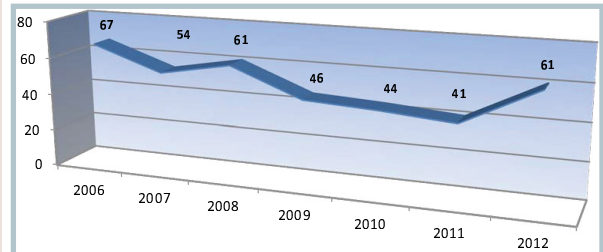
Calls Answered



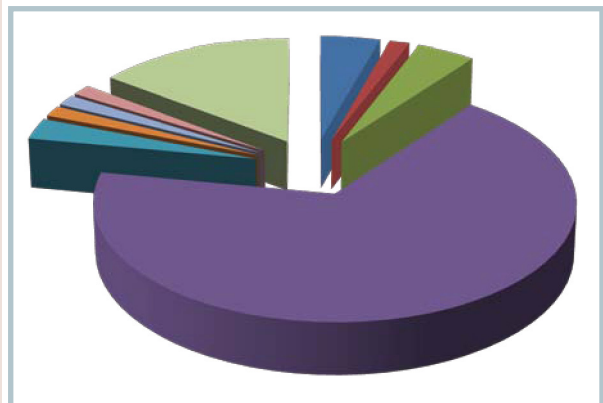
Number of Investigations



End-of-Year Placements



Reasons for Placement



Dependency	67.6%
Drug abuse (parent)	14.7%
Delinquency	4.4%
Sexual abuse	4.4%
Unruly	2.9%
Inadequate housing	1.5%
Deserted	1.5%
Child's behavior problems	1.5%
Incarceration of parents	1.5%



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