

Stark County
Job & Family Services



2014 Annual Report

PROMOTING STRONG &
SUPPORTIVE PARTNERSHIPS
AMONG COMMUNITIES, FAMILIES
& SERVICE PROVIDERS



Our Mission

To partner
with our
customers,
community
and other
service
providers
to protect
children and
vulnerable
adults, stabilize
and strengthen
families and
encourage self-
sufficiency
and personal
responsibility.

Dear Friends,

Stark County Job and Family Services worked diligently in 2014 to make a positive difference in our community, and I am pleased to share the results of our efforts in this year's annual report. In 2014, our organization embarked upon a journey of rebuilding and transformation.

The journey continues, but has its roots in the economic challenges we faced in 2009-2010 with the loss of federal TANF dollars across the country. Budget cuts, layoffs and reduction in services followed. It wasn't until 2012 that economic stability improved, and 2013 became a year of assessment and re-evaluation.

Key to our efforts in 2014 were transparency and collaboration. Collaboration defined staff efforts, both internally, and with client services and community partners. As an organization we have embraced transparency internally among all staff, and externally with our clients and the community.

Successes were celebrated and challenges faced with determination, resolve and creativity. Success included the much needed addition of staff to fill long-standing openings in all divisions, bringing the workforce to 513. Staff was empowered to seek new opportunities to reach out to families and community partners and to embrace creative solutions to obstacles.

As a result, client services have been expanded, community involvement increased, and we are working to develop a holistic approach to serving our clients. Work has also begun on a new strategic plan focused on a global approach to fulfilling our mission and providing services with the most efficient and comprehensive means possible.

The year was not without challenges. In January, frozen pipes in the Renkert building led to flooding and extensive water damage throughout the Children Services Division. Remarkably, though, what might initially be viewed as one of the organizations major challenges in 2014, ultimately highlighted our staff's resiliency and commitment to working collaboratively in support of one another.

As 2014 ends, and preparations for 2015 are underway, we at Stark County Job and Family Services extend our sincere appreciation to the community in which we work, to our community partners and supporters with whom we work, to our clients for whom our work is so important and to all of our employees who have worked so hard.

Deborah Forkas, M. Ed
Executive Director



Nedra Petro M.P.A. , L.S.W
Deputy Director,
Children Services Division

Staff: 170

The Children Services Division serves the county's children at risk of abuse or neglect, and their families. Children Services is legally responsible for taking, and investigating, reports of child abuse, neglect and dependency; and acting to protect children at risk of harm.

The Division also takes reports of suspected abuse, neglect and/or exploitation of adults 60 and older. SCJFS contracted with Coleman Professional Services to provide services.

Children Services recruits and trains foster and adoptive families, prepares children for adoption, arranges for post-adoption services to families, and provides independent living skills for older teens.



Children Services

REPORT LINE

6,712 calls to the Report Line resulted in 2,778 reports of child abuse and/or neglect. Thirty-five percent of those reports were handled through an alternative response designed to be more family friendly and less investigative. Of the remaining 65% handled in the traditional manner:

- 43.1% were calls reporting suspected neglect
- 32.7% were calls reporting suspected physical abuse
- 20.4% were calls reporting suspected sexual abuse
- 3.8% were calls reporting suspected emotional maltreatment

400 additional calls to the report line resulted in assistance to families. Of these:
266 were calls from families in need of services
134 were calls about children who were determined to be dependent

ONGOING SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

In an average month, 310 families received case management and supportive services.

Children who could not remain safely in their own homes were provided placement services. Following is the average number of children/month:

- 178 Agency Foster Care
- 123 Purchased Foster Care
- 8 Group Home Care
- 22 Residential Placement
- 143 Kinship or Relative Home

TRANSITIONAL YOUTH SERVICES

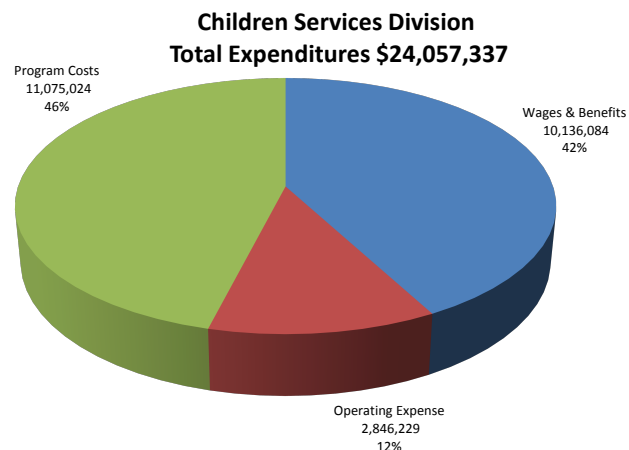
- 124 youth received independent living services
- 26 previously emancipated youth received services

FOSTER CARE/ADOPTION

- 180 licensed foster families (average/month)
- 58 finalized adoptions

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

SCJFS contracted with Coleman Professional Services to provide services. There were 329 new cases of elder abuse/neglect or exploitation in 2014.



Child Support

NUMBER OF CHILD SUPPORT CASES: 33,500 cases

COLLECTIONS:

FFY 2014: \$63,005,222

Payment Window in 2014 collected \$2,840,945

INCENTIVE PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES FOR FFY 2014

Paternity Establishment: 97.43% (ranks 3rd among Ohio's metro counties)

Support Order Establishment: 85.97% (ranks 4th among Ohio's metro counties)

Collections on Current Support: 71.98% (ranks 1st among Ohio's metro counties)

Collections on Arrears: 68.81% (ranks 2nd among Ohio's metro counties)

COST EFFECTIVENESS OF CSEA FOR FFY 2014

\$13.45 was collected for every \$1.00 spent to operate the CSEA in FFY 2014 (ranks 3rd among Ohio's metro counties, and 15th for all counties).

AWARDS RECEIVED BY CSEA IN 2014

Highest percentage in FFY 2014 for "Collections on Current Support for Metro Counties" (presented by State Office of Child Support).

SIGNIFICANT STATISTICS FOR 2014

488 Paternity Cases scheduled for DNA testing

1,178 Cases referred for Support Establishment

3,309 Court Hearings by Legal Department

101,715 Phone calls received by Customer Service

14,428 Customers seen in the CSEA Lobby

RIGHT PATH FOR FATHERS PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROJECT

CSEA, in October 2012, was awarded a five year, \$2.3 million federal grant to assist long term unemployed, non-custodial parents. The project assists fathers who are job challenged and need additional skills and education in order to compete for employment. Fathers are referred to job skill/employment programs operated by Goodwill and the Stark County Community Action Agency. The Early Childhood Resource Center provides fatherhood classes for participants. The project also works with the Domestic Violence Project Inc. to ensure the safe delivery of services to families. In 2014, Right Path helped 90 participants become employed.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: FATHERHOOD COALITION

CSEA is a key member of the Stark County Fatherhood Coalition which encourages, and takes action to advance, responsible fatherhood in our community. Major outreach efforts conducted in 2014 included: Reading to Allen Elementary Students on National Reading Day, Fishing Rodeo, Child Support Warrant Amnesty Day and Expungement Informational Clinic, and Walk Your Child to School Day.

In October 2014, the Coalition and our agency began a year long conversation in our community on the importance of fathers being involved and active in their children's lives. The vehicle for this on-going conversation was public showings of the film, *Fatherhood 101*.

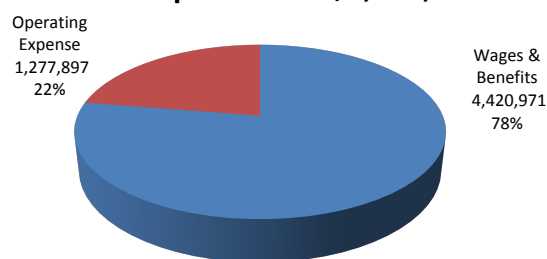
Rob Pierson
Deputy Director,
Child Support
Enforcement Division

Staff: 93

The Child Support Enforcement Division is committed to providing quality child support services which include: establishing paternity and support, issuing orders for medical support, modifying and enforcing support orders, and monitoring the collection and disbursement of support payments.

The Division is also a key member of the Stark County Fatherhood Coalition which encourages, and acts, to advance responsible fatherhood in our community. In addition, the Division continues to assist long term unemployed, non-custodial parents through a \$2.3 million *Right Path for Fathers Partnership Grant Project*.

Child Support Enforcement Division Total Expenditures \$5,698,868



MAJOR CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM EVENTS IN 2014

5.05.14 - National Child Support Strategic Plan Workgroup

Rob Pierson invited to participate as a member of the National Child Support Strategic Plan Workgroup convened by the Federal Office of Child Support to develop the 2015 - 2019 Federal Strategic Plan. In addition to Stark County, Franklin County and the State Office of Child Support were invited to serve on the workgroup.

7.12.14 - Fishing Rodeo for Children and Fathers

Fishing Rodeo for Children and their Fathers sponsored by Stark County JFS, Stark County Fatherhood Coalition, and Stark Social Worker Network. A total of 125 children and their parents participated.

8.14.14 - Child Support Warrant Amnesty Day and Expungement Informational Clinic

Child Support Warrant Amnesty Day and Expungement Informational Clinic, sponsored by Stark County JFS, Stark County Family Court, Community Legal Aid, and Stark County Fatherhood Coalition. Thirty-two warrants were canceled and 85 individuals attended the Expungement Clinic.

9.19.14 - Monthly Video Conferences with Inmates at Richland Correctional Institution Begins

CSEA began a monthly video conference with inmates at Richland Correctional Institution who have a Stark County Child Support case and are 12 months or less from being released from prison. The objective of the monthly video conference is to have a face-to-face meeting with the inmates to review child support cases. Inmates are also informed about programs such as Right Path for Fathers Partnership, which are designed to help non-custodial parents find employment. Stark County was one of only two counties in Ohio conducting video conferences with inmates in prison.

9.18.14 - Fathers Walk Your Child to School Day

Fathers Walk Your Child to School Day was held at the 14 Canton City Elementary Schools and the four Alliance City Elementary Schools. This event was sponsored by Stark County JFS, the Stark County Fatherhood Coalition and Fame Fathers. A total of 970 children and 860 fathers participated in this event.

10.23.14 - Kickoff Showing of the Film, *Fatherhood 101*

October marked the kickoff showing of the film *Fatherhood 101* to our community at the Palace Theater in downtown Canton. This began a year-long effort by the agency and the Stark County Fatherhood Coalition to have a dialog with residents of Stark County on how important it is to have fathers active and involved in the lives of their children. Also discussed was the adverse impact on children and our community when this does not happen. The film's Executive Co-Producer, Peter Lawson Jones, introduced the film at the Palace Theater showing. The film was shown in November and December at Life Ministries Church, Mt. Calvary 2nd Missionary Baptist Church, Alliance High School, Richland Correctional Institution and the Stark Regional Community Correctional Center.

Susan Lenigar, MBA
Deputy Director,
Human Services
Division

Staff: 251

Human Services, the largest of Stark County Job and Family Service's three divisions, provides the following services and programs.

- Food Assistance Program (FAP) with Ohio Direction Card food purchasing assistance
- Ohio Works First (OWF) cash assistance
- Medicaid for Aged, Blind and Disabled (ABD Medicaid)
- Nursing Home Medicaid & Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waivers
- Medicare Premium Assistance Programs
- Medicaid for Families and Children
- Non-emergency Transportation (NET)

Human Services

Food Assistance Program

In 2014, a monthly average of 57,650 individuals received food assistance. This is just over 15% of all Stark County residents.

Medicaid

According to the Ohio Department of Medicaid, about 90,800 individuals received Medicaid assistance in December, 2014. This increased from 78,900 individuals in January, 2014. Medicaid programs include Aged, Blind, & Disabled (ABD) Medicaid and individual and family programs such as the Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) program. MAGI includes children, families, and adults eligible due to Medicaid Expansion.

In 2014, approximately:

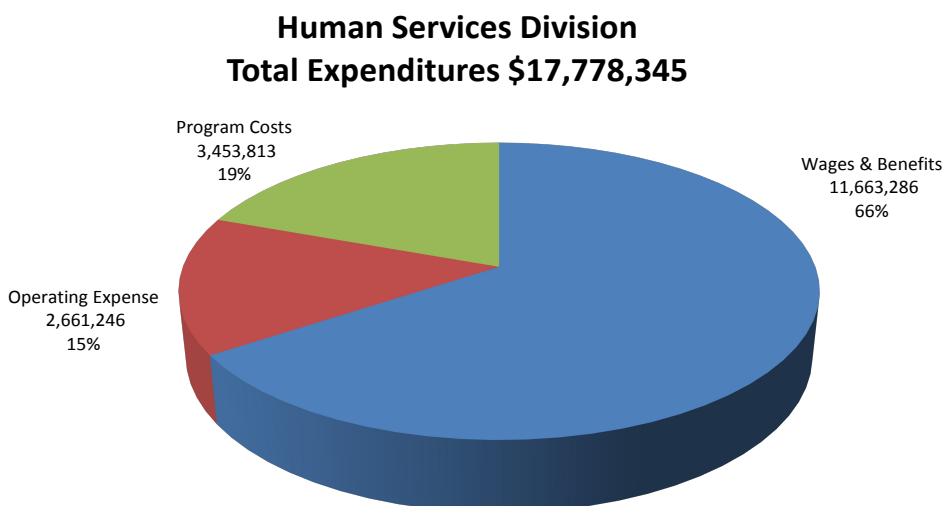
13,107 individuals received ABD Medicaid

69,285 individuals received MAGI Medicaid (children, families, expansion adults)

1,050 individuals received Medicaid through Foster Care Adoption Assistance

4,124 received Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) or Special Low Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB). These are federal Medicare Savings Programs which help low income elders and younger Medicare beneficiaries access Medicare benefits.

3,219 received Family Planning Medicaid Benefits, which covers pregnancy prevention and other limited services.



- At-Risk Pregnancy Services
- HealthChek
- Breast & Cervical Cancer Project
- Job Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS)

Services·Training·Alternative Work·Job Search·Learning, Earning & Parenting (LEAP)

- Child Care Programs

Ohio Works First Cash Assistance, Disability Financial Assistance, and Child Care

3,970 individuals per month, on average, received Ohio Works First (OWF) cash assistance.

19 individuals gained employment through the Work Employment Program (WEP) and JOBS program. This work experience program is required when individuals are receiving cash assistance benefits.

286 individuals who participated in the Human Services on-site Job Club became employed within 90 days of attending the program.

333 individuals received Disability Financial Assistance (DFA) as of December 2014. DFA is a cash assistance program intended for individuals who have pending applications for SSI/SSDI, but have been determined to be disabled by the State.

3,749 children were cared for through publicly funded child care.

It is estimated that in 2014, Human Services Division programs injected, nearly \$700 million into the Stark County community. Local grocers, hospitals, clinics and retailers benefited from these services:

Medicaid Disbursements \$597,688,850*
 Total Food Assistance Disbursement \$ 80,240,723
 OWF Cash Assistance Disbursement \$ 8,651,386
 Disability Assistance Disbursement \$ 637,887
 Child Care Assistance \$ 11,077,270 (approximate)

Percentage of Stark County population participating in selected public assistance programs based on an estimated population of 375,087:

Families Below Poverty Level 6.80%
 Food Assistance Program 15.37%
 OWF Cash Assistance 1.04%
 Disability Assistance 0.11%

*From Ohio Department of Medicaid

AGENCY EXPENDITURES BY DIVISION FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2014

CHILDREN SERVICES DIVISION

Wages	6,854,402
Benefits	3,036,300
Wendy's Wonderful Kids Grant	205,148
Mental Health Grant	40,544
Contracts	329,831
Shared Costs	1,376,082
Countywide Indirect Costs	136,352
Purchased Foster Homes	3,625,749
Residential Treatment	1,513,014
Agency Foster Homes	1,487,799
Group Homes	852,174
Foster Children Clothing	177,473
Foster Children Medical	19,114
Title VI-B Adoption	27,893
Advertising/Recruitment	7,328
Alternative/Differential Response	14,951
Bus Passes	153,125
Child Abuse Protection Unit	328,820
Communications	99,629
County Share Adoption Subsidy	409,319
Data Processing	42,192
Emergency Services	605,105
Foster Parent Training & Stipends	224,075
Independent Living	132,562
Kinship Permanency Incentive Program	143,475
Maintenance/Utilities	13,180
Membership Dues	11,271
Mileage	343,244
Miscellaneous	247,976
Non-Recurring Adoption	49,297
Office Supply	28,854
PASSS	193,118
Professional Liability Insurance	125,651
Public Records	52,663
Reimbursements	142,584
Rent	431,509
Service Review Committee	15,892
State Adoption Subsidy	6,500
Tax Settlement Fees	156,366
Travel & Training	50,254
Work Related Daycare	346,522
Operating Totals	\$24,057,337

CHILD SUPPORT DIVISION

Wages	2,883,631
Benefits	1,334,848
Countywide Indirect Costs	86,102
Data Processing	68,270
IV-D Contracts	150,888
Legal Services	106
Miscellaneous	79,125
Rent	210,605
Right Path Program	263,513
Shared Costs	615,385
Travel/Training	6,395
Operating Totals	\$5,698,868

HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION

Wages	8,077,278
Benefits	3,586,008
Books/Periodicals	635
Contracts	316,461
Countywide Indirect Costs	16,196
Data Processing	214,288
Equipment/Furniture	600
FAET Participation Allowance	14,750
Maintenance/Utilities	59,509
PRC/Auto Repair	82,484
PRC/Job Related	216,553
PRC/Parent Mentoring Program	19,005
PRC/Parenting Skills	117,742
PRC/Quality Childcare	287,428
PRC/SEP	203,200
PRC/SEP	97,694
PRC/WIA	13,701
PRC/Work Allowance	158,810
Reimbursements/Special Projects/Dues	54,034
Rent	380,519
Shared Costs	1,660,760
Supplies	40,236
TANF Summer Youth	1,205,435
TANF WEP	41,006
Transportation	
Medical, Healthcheck, PRS, SSI	880,709
Travel/Mileage/Education	33,304
Operating Totals	\$17,778,345

Total Agency Expenditures

\$47,534,550

STARK COUNTY FAMILY SERVICES PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Stark County Family Services Planning Committee provides recommendations to Stark County Job and Family Services for the most effective and efficient delivery of services.

Members

R. Scott White
Chairperson

Sherri McKinney-Frantz
Vice-Chairperson

Mary Lou Sekula
Secretary

Deborah Forkas
SCJFS Executive Director

Mary Ann Abel
Amanda Anderson
Cynthia Burnell
Patricia Croskey
Ann Durkin
Patti Fetzner
Michael Flood
Eric Henderson
Rebecca A. Marchino
Evelyn Moore
John Petit
Todd Porter
Rhonda Sommers
Diane C. Thompson
Daphne E. Thomson
Erica Wilson-Domer

STARK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Tom Bernabei
Janet Weir Creighton
Richard Regula

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Brant Luther, Esq.

SCJFS EXECUTIVE TEAM

Deborah Forkas, M.Ed
Executive Director

Susan Lenigar, MBA
Deputy Director,
Human Services Division

Rob Pierson, MA
Deputy Director,
Child Support Enforcement
Division

Nedra Petro, MPA, LSW
Deputy Director,
Children Services Division

Jane Bethel, CPA
Deputy Director,
Finance

Kelly Lockhart, M.Ed, LSW
Deputy Director,
Human Resources & Support
Services

CONTACT INFORMATION

Children Services Division

300 Market Ave. North
Canton, OH 44702

Child Abuse/Neglect Report Line:

330-455-KIDS

Foster/Adopt

330-451-8789

Child Support Enforcement Division

122 Cleveland Ave. N.W.

P.O. Box 21337

Canton, OH 44701

Customer Service

330-451-8930

Human Services Division

221 3rd Street S.E.

Canton, OH 44702

Cash, Food & Medical Assistance

Customer Service Call Center

330-451-8861

New Applications

330-451-8500

Directory Assistance

330-452-4661

JOBS/Child Care

330-452-4661

www.starkjfs.org

