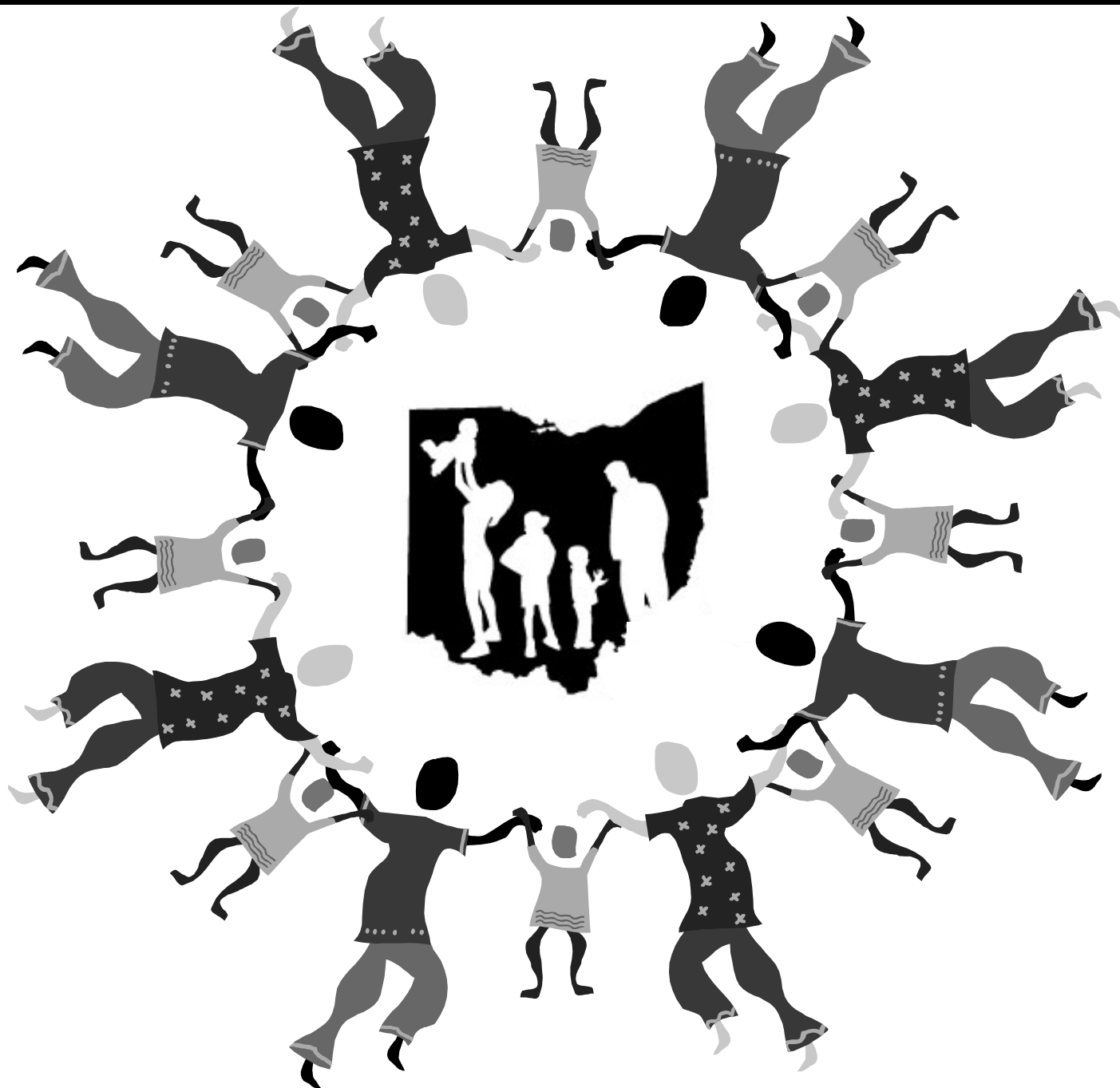


Huron County Job & Family Services

2009 Annual Report



“Proudly providing services and support
to strengthen our community!”

A letter from our director...

Dear Community Stakeholders,

What a time to begin a career in Job and Family Services. Exploding caseloads, decreasing budgets, record unemployment made my first year as director very interesting. It appeared to be the perfect storm. However, the Agency and community persevered.


While facing all of these challenges, the staff participated and completed a strategic plan. A new and improved website was developed and updated regularly. A satellite office in Willard funded by the Erie-Huron Community Action Agency, ARRA grant opened in the fall of 2009. The Southern Connection served 589 visitors in 2009.

In a time of deep recession, the Huron County JFS processed \$10,170,344 in food assistance which helped local families and grocers. \$1,088,652 was provided in cash assistance to help children and families who were without any other income. Local landlords benefited from \$124,348 from Prevention, Retention, and Contingency funds to help families maintain safe, stable housing. Local educational institutions and unemployed workers received \$694,490 in Workforce Investment funds for training. Children and families benefited from \$12,435,257 that was collected by the Child Support Enforcement unit.

In collaboration with the United Fund, the Agency provided free tax clinics in 2009. Ninety five federal and/or state tax returns were completed. Thirty nine people received the Earned Income Credit for a total refund of \$37,433. Total refunds for state and federal returns were \$155,673. During a time of high unemployment, it was very beneficial for county residents to receive free tax assistance and receive their full refund.

Huron County Job and Family Services has been and will continue to be an economic engine for the community. I am proud of how the staff has responded to the challenges. I am confident we will continue to rise to the challenge and serve the community proudly.

Respectfully,



Teresa Alt, M.S.W., L.I.S.W.
Director



Services for Children

In 2009, the Children Services Intake team responded to 1,418 calls or concerns regarding child maltreatment, child dependency, and families in need of services. Of the total number of referrals to the agency, almost 50% came from mandated reporters including school personnel, law enforcement officers, and medical staff. The other half of referrals came from family and friends of children or concerned citizens. There were 438 families whose needs warranted further assessment. Most of the situations involving children and their families were able to be resolved through the provision of immediate and short term services.

Families in need of longer term services were referred to the Ongoing Unit in Children Services. Some families receiving ongoing services worked with the agency on a voluntary basis, while others required additional support through court intervention.

More than 80 families were provided ongoing services which included referrals for other resources, concrete assistance and support to sustain housing and utilities, and parenting intervention. Of the children who could not remain safely at home, most were able to live with relatives or other kinship care providers. Forty-four children spent time in foster care and six children were adopted.

Ideally, children are able to stay in their community close to their school, their friends, and their family. If alternative care resources are not available in the community, the agency must look to network providers. This usually means children are placed in other counties. Thus, recruitment efforts by the agency for foster and adoptive families remain a critical part of ensuring that children are able to remain close to home.

Adult Protective Services

Huron County's Adult Protective Services (APS) staff assessed concerns of maltreatment of seniors and people with disabilities. In 2009, 56 incidents of suspected maltreatment or exploitation were investigated. The APS program staff continued to meet the needs of the community through strong partnerships with key community resource providers including Home Health Services, Meals on Wheels (Senior Enrichment), and medical health providers.

Child Care

It was another busy year for the Child Care Program as there were 415 children from 280 families that received child care services. There were 104 certified child care providers in January that provided care to children, but by December this number had declined to 91 providers. There was an increased effort in 2009 to ensure that families utilizing the child care program were receiving the highest quality of services available to them. The agency began a comprehensive review of all in-home child care providers to make certain that all providers were up to date with required training and certifications, and to ensure that their homes met all state and local safety standards. Last year \$2.15 million dollars was spent on child care across the county.

Community Involvement

Children Services, APS, and Child Care staff participated in community events throughout the year including the Coats for Kids program and sponsored a booth at the Huron County Fair. The Annual Child Abuse Prevention Breakfast was held in April 2009 highlighting the great partnerships that exist across the community to keep children safe. Additionally, during the holiday season which was particularly challenging for many families, the staff distributed a record number of donated gifts to children throughout the community.

Continuous Quality Improvement

Staff continued to work throughout 2009 on strengthening relationships and communication with key partners in the community who are part of the children's safety net. Staff were also engaged in the Child Protection Oversight Evaluation process with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. The final report issued in February 2010 reflected substantial improvements in practice from previous years.

Workforce Development

The Workforce staff, Job Store, and community partners had a very busy 2009. Unfortunately the ending trend for 2008 stayed with us into the new year leaving Huron County with the highest unemployment figures in Ohio for January, February and March. This upward movement prompted our agency and the community to reevaluate the needs of our dislocated workers and how to address the crippling impact of company lay-offs and closures.

The Workforce Development Department had a wide variety of opportunities to lead and be a part of new programs and groups in 2009. The Community Workforce Response Team held 4 community forums to give presentations, answer questions and provide resources to all dislocated workers. There were 15 rapid response sessions to address the needs and questions of dislocated workers tied to specific company closures. The agency applied for and received a Community Services Block Grant to open a Satellite Office in Willard. The Southern Connection opened in October and has been a huge success. It opened up Job Store accessibility to the southern part of our community that found it difficult to utilize our Norwalk Office. The Willard Office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays and had 589 visitors in the first three months. The State offered stimulus dollars for a summer youth program serving young adults ages 14 – 24. The Workforce and Ehove Staff successfully created a work experience program connecting 33 employers and 113 youth who received a steady paycheck and valuable portable skills. It is our hope that Huron County will rebound and attract new companies and grow existing companies that can benefit from our exceptionally skilled workforce. In anticipation of that time we will continue to find new ways to work with employers and provide Huron County residents opportunities for success.

W.I.A. Board Members

Alex Beres	Dirk Hiler	Harry Brady	Mike Adelman
Becky Fair	Donna Slack	Janet Cok	Ricky Branham
Bob Talcott	Duane Woods	Jerry Shoemaker	Rob Wilkerson
Bob Utter	Ellen Heinz	John Clark	Shawn Tappel
Charlotte Wagner	Eric Ebinger	Kitty Smith	Sue Lesch
Chris Robertson	Gary Bauer	Larry Corn	Teresa Alt
Colene Horning	George Mays	Larry Silcox	Trista Piccola



Job Store Partners

ABLE - Norwalk City Schools
 Bureau of Vocation Rehabilitation
 Ehove Career Center
 Experience Works
 Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
 Sandusky Bay Area Goodwill Industries, Inc.
 SCORE
 Terra Community College

2009	
Workforce Investment Act (WIA)	
Adult	\$ 309,605.65
Adult Stimulus	\$ 30,801.04
Career Advancement Accounts	\$ 152,254.55
Dislocated	\$ 592,906.91
Dislocated Stimulus	\$ 123,416.86
Incumbent Worker Training	\$ 40,756.39
Youth	\$ 305,338.93
Youth Stimulus	\$ 324,041.23
TOTAL	\$1,879,121.56

Child Support

The Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) strives to ensure that children receive the financial support they deserve. Various services are provided including paternity establishment as well as the enforcement of medical and financial support orders.

Huron County CSEA collected \$12,435,257.89 in 2009. Payments totaling \$347,182.42 were taken at the Agency. The total number of walk-ins that were seen by caseworkers was 5789. The fees collected were \$236,350.62.

In 2009, CSEA partnered with the Huron County Sheriff 's office to execute 132 arrest warrants. The CSEA worked at building relationships through outreach programs with the local vocational school, Ehove, and the Counseling Options and Parenting Education (C.O.P.E.) classes.



Medicaid Disbursements

Aged Medicaid	\$ 12,434,001
Blind Medicaid	\$ 1,527
Disabled Medicaid	\$ 19,761,886
Foster & Adoptive Care Medicaid	\$ 21,838
Health Start Medicaid	\$ 5,296,716
Nursing Home Medicaid	\$ 10,460,852
OWF & Family related Medicaid	\$ 23,490,357
Transitional Medicaid	\$ 2,204,148
Total Medicaid Expenditures	\$ 73,671,325

Total Food Assistance Disbursement \$ 10,170,344

OWF Cash Assistance Disbursement \$ 1,088,652

Disability Assistance Disbursement \$ 78,108

Total Money into the Community!
\$85 Million

2009

Administrative Hearings Held	388
License Suspension	411
License Reinstatement	253
Entries prepared and filed	1,644
Court Hearings attended	589
Contempts filed	270

2008 2009

Total Open Cases	6,137	6,143
DNA Testing Completed	246	370
Support Orders Finalized	397	315
Case Reviews Completed	386	456
Paternity Established	148	98

Food Assistance

- The Huron County community benefited from \$10,170,344.00 in food assistance for 2009. The average person received \$88.00 in food assistance. On average 2,874 households or 7,168 individuals received food assistance.
- In 2009, the number of individuals receiving food assistance increased from 6,039 to 7,168. The number of households receiving food assistance increased from 2,422 to 2,874.

Ohio Works First – OWF

- In 2009, the amount or number of cash cases were 339, consisting of 168 adults, 539 children, for an average monthly grant totaling \$111,028.00.

Voter Registration

- Family Support Services registered 456 people to vote under the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA).

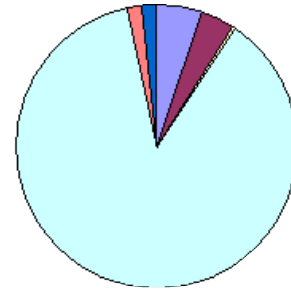
Benefit Recovery

OWF	\$ 5,019.00
Food Assistance	\$20,347.43
Child Care	\$ 4,737.00
Medicaid	\$ 16.00
TOTAL	\$30,113.43

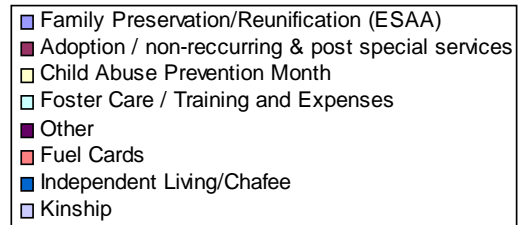
2009 Expenditures

Children Services

BENEFIT	EXPENDITURE
Family Preservation/Reunification (ESAA)	39,029.14
Subsidies / Non-Recurring / Post Adoption	29,434.19
Child Abuse Prevention Month	1,806.60
Foster Care / training and expenses	652,906.18
Other	1,290.00
Fuel Cards	11,712.00
Independent Living/Chafee	12,912.56
Kinship	68,275.00
	817,365.67

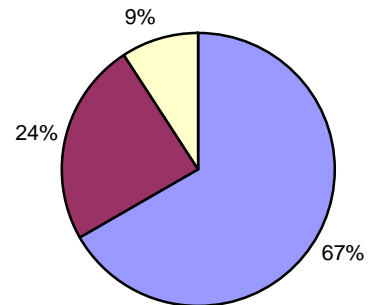


Children Services



Purchase of Service / Contracts

Child Care Providers	1,912,086.94
Child Care Quality	8,950.00
Help Me Grow	149,742.90
Parent Mentor	8,378.80
Parents As Teachers	21,450.00
Transportation	96,398.40
Pregnancy Prevention	56,206.34
MST	28,881.75
Cleveland Hearing & Speech	503.50
	2,282,598.63

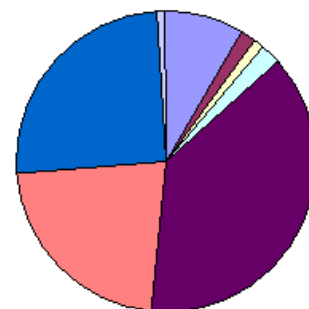


Expenditure Sources

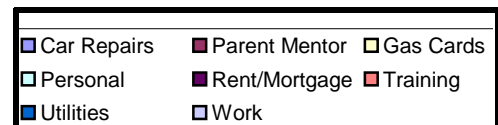
Federal	67%
State	24%
Local	9%

Administrative & Operating Expenses

Employee Salaries	3,158,497.62
Employee Benefits	1,559,784.99
Building Maintenance & Utilities	503,593.08
Supplies & Equipment	75,443.96
Travel / Training	10,410.51
Consulting Services & Bonds	2,621.30
	5,310,351.46



PRC Benefits



Prevention, Retention & Contingency (P.R.C.)

BENEFIT	EXPENDITURE
Car Repairs	28,637.00
Parent Mentor	5,661.00
Gas Cards	3,072.00
Personal	7,082.00
Rent/Mortgage	124,348.00
Training	73,245.00
Utilities	84,843.00
Work	2,418.00
	329,306.00