

FULTON COUNTY SERVICES FOR CHILDREN
2016 ANNUAL REPORT
Human Services Administration
2016 Annual Report



FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Stuart L. Ulsh, Chairman
Rodney L. McCray
Larry R. Lynch

Jean E. Snyder, Agency Director

COUNTY OF FULTON

S E R V I C E S F O R C H I L D R E N

Agency Staff

Jean E. Snyder	Director/Human Services Admin.
Christine McQuade	Casework Supervisor (Intake)
Stephanie Branche	Casework Supervisor (Ongoing)
Karri Downes	Caseworker 2
Nicole Grimmett	Caseworker 1
Cindy Sonne	Caseworker 2
Crystal Long	Caseworker 2
Angela Rotz	Caseworker 2
Vacant	Caseworker 2
Marilyn Lazarus	Fiscal Technician
Nancy Shafer	Clerk/Typist
Dusteny Cunningham	SWAN LSI Paralegal



Advisory Board Executive Committee

Cindy Fraker	President
Faye Elvey	Vice-president
Carolyn Kneas	Secretary

Support Staff (supporting agency and/or children & families)

Stanley J. Kerlin, Esq.	Agency Solicitor
Lynn Y. MacBride, Esq.	Guardian Ad Litem
Kristen B. Hamilton, Esq.	Conflicts Guardian Ad Litem
Abby Salawage	Conflicts Guardian Ad Litem
Janice M. Hawbaker, Esq.	Conflicts Guardian Ad Litem/ Assistant Agency Solicitor

Elected Officials

COMMISSIONERS	
Stuart L. Ulsh	Fulton County Commissioner, Chair
Rodney L. McCray	Fulton County Commissioner
Larry R. Lynch	Fulton County Commissioner

Juvenile Court Judges, Court of Common Pleas, 39th Judicial District

President Judge Carol L. Van Horn	FCSC Administrative Judge
Judge Angela R. Krom	Juvenile Court Judge



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DEMOGRAPHICS

Fulton County is an eighth (8th) class county located in south-central Pennsylvania in the Cumberland Valley. It is a rural community covering an area of 438 square miles. The county has two (2) boroughs (McConnellsburg, and Valley-Hi) and eleven (11) townships (Ayr, Belfast, Bethel, Brush Creek, Dublin, Licking Creek, Taylor, Thompson, Todd, Union and Wells). Eighth class counties are the smallest in the state and are designated for those counties having a population of less than 20,000. Eighth class counties in Pa. in addition to Fulton are Cameron, Forest, Montour, Potter and Sullivan.

Fulton County is 100% rural and is served by three (3) school districts (Central Fulton, Forbes Road, and Southern Fulton) and three parochial schools. There is an average of 2,486 students enrolled in the three districts and other schools. The average expenditure per student is \$14,279. IN 2015-16, nearly 50% of students are eligible for free and reduced school lunches including Central Fulton District (45.9%), Forbes Road (47.8%) and Southern Fulton (48.8%). School dropout rates were 1.3% for the 2013-14 school year, slightly lower than the state rate of 1.7% for the same time period.

According to the 2015 U.S. Census estimate, the total Fulton County population is 14,629. This is a less than 1.5% decrease over the 2010 Census number. There are approximately 3,410 children/youth under the age of 18 in Fulton County which equals 21.1% of the total population.

Data collected for the 2012 Census of Agriculture show more cows living in Fulton County than people. According to the Ag Census, Fulton County had 14,629 people and 18,344 cows. Fulton is the only county in the state with more cows than people.

The County's population by race and ethnicity includes: 97.2% Caucasian, 1.4% African American and 1.0% Hispanic/Latino. Fulton County has 7,115 housing units with a total of 5,965 households. In 2010-2014, the median household income in Fulton County was \$48,452. Approximately 11.1 % of the County's population lives below federal poverty level while approximately 21.3% of children under the age of 18 live below the 100% federal poverty level.

Fulton County had double digit unemployment in both 2010 and parts of 2011 and 2012. The county did not experience any months of double digit unemployment in 2014, 2015 or 2016 as the economy began to recover. The following table illustrates how Fulton County's statewide ranking and unemployment rates stayed fairly stagnant over four of the past five years with only small, but yet steady, gains in employment. The rankings are based on the rankings of the 67 counties in the state. (A ranking of 67 would indicate the highest unemployment rate in the state).

COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT RANKINGS OUT OF 67 COUNTIES

MONTH	2012 RANK	2013 RANK	2014 RANK	2015 RANK	2016 RANK	2016 UE RATES
JANUARY	56	49	54	51	39	5.3
FEBRUARY	36	44	53	54	46	5.9
MARCH	52	54	55	49	38	6.1
APRIL	62	56	49	37	37	6.6
MAY	58	52	46	44	32	6.1
JUNE	55	52	47	47	32	5.8
JULY	54	59	39	47	25	5.7
AUGUST	46	47	50	45	35	6.5
SEPTEMBER	48	*	49	60	43	6.7
OCTOBER	46	53	47	50	43	6.8
NOVEMBER	48	50	56	57	39	6.1
DECEMBER	61	52	44	44	44	6.3

SOURCE: PA. DEPT. OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

*DUE TO THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN EARLIER IN THE YEAR, RANKINGS FOR SEPTEMBER WERE NEVER MADE AVAILABLE.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND GOALS

Fulton County Services for Children (FCSC) is the local public child welfare agency that has responsibility for ensuring that the children of Fulton County have a safe, permanent living arrangement that assures that they are receiving the essentials of life and an opportunity to achieve their maximum potential in growth and development.

All families have problems from time to time. Most caretakers who receive services from FCSC have not abused their children and accept support services voluntarily. However, when services must be mandated, it is with the hope of engaging families to realize and accept the value of the imposed intervention. With support and guidance, even the most difficult problems can be resolved.

The role of child welfare is to protect children and to preserve the family unit; however, it defines itself. We believe that children do best in their own homes; and that it is a parent’s right to raise children according to their own value system, provided the child’s physical, emotional, and social needs are met. Government intervention is justified when the family cannot, or will not, provide for the child’s safety and/or basic needs. Placement of a child by child welfare can only occur if ordered by the Juvenile Court.

We believe that every child has a right to:

- be safe and secure in their home

- be provided with food, clothing, shelter, and medical care
- be loved and understood
- a good education
- have appropriate role models
- be advocated for by the community

Child welfare services is the general term used to describe a broad range of services designed to promote the well-being of children and their families. The criteria and jurisdiction to permit the agency to intervene in a family's domain is defined by the Pennsylvania Child Protective Service Law and/or the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Act.

Child welfare services include:

- Information and referral
- Screening and response assessment
- Assessment of general reports of neglect or status offenses
- Investigation of reports of child abuse
- Safety Assessment and Planning
- Risk Assessment
- Ages and Stages Developmental Assessments
- Case management, coordination and collaboration
- In-Home support services
- Court ordered and Placement services
- Concurrent planning
- Permanency planning
- Independent Living services
- Adoption Services
- Data entry and collection of statistics (CWIS, CPCMS)
- Public awareness, education, and training

POPULATION SERVED

Fulton County Services for Children (FCSC) provides assistance to children from the county who are from birth to 18 years of age who have been or are alleged to have been abused, neglected, exploited, are incorrigible and/or truant and the families of these children. Countywide services are provided without regard to race, religion, gender, disability, ancestry, or national origin. In some instances, children may be eligible to be served past their 18th birthday through 21 years of age.

Placement services can be extended to youth who after age 18 years elect to continue in an educational or treatment program until they can achieve independence or become 21 years of age. Remaining in care after age 18 requires the Juvenile Court's approval and the youth's compliance with the placement plan. Every effort is made to help these young people successfully transition into adulthood. Act 91 was adopted in

Pennsylvania effective July 1, 2012 to extend an extra safety net to youth who leave placement at age 18 years. Under certain circumstances these youth retain the right to re-enter care before their 21st birthday. To date, Fulton County Services for Children has had no requests from youth to exercise this option.

An array of Independent Living (IL) services is available to eligible youth who are no longer active with the agency. Traditionally, to be eligible for these IL services, the youth must have been adjudicated dependent, dually adjudicated (dependent & delinquent) or delinquent youth with court-ordered shared case responsibility and in placement on or after age 16 years and are not yet 21 years of age. PA House Resolution 4980 expanded the availability of IL services to youth age 14 and older in foster care. Best practice includes those same aged youth receiving in-home services in this eligible category also.

The new Affordable Care Act extends health insurance eligibility to youth who were 18 years or older when leaving foster care until they are 26 years of age. This is another safety net which can enhance the chances for a successful transition to independence for youth who have experienced the child welfare and/or juvenile justice system.

Public child welfare is an entitlement program. Services are provided without consideration of financial status. There is no fee for services from FCSC. However, parents may be required to pay support to the county for children who are involved in court ordered services. Support matters are handled by the county's Domestic Relations Office.

JURISDICTION AND LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

The Pennsylvania Child Protective Service Law (CPSL) (Title 23 Pa. C.S.A. Chapter 63) and the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Act (42Pa.C.S. Sec.6301 et seq.) defines the authority and parameters for intervention by FCSC. The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services promulgates regulations that provide direction to the agency to implement the laws into practice. In addition to regulations, the agency is obligated to implement practice recommendations made by the Department of Human Services, Office of Children, Youth and Families which are mandated by published Bulletins. Changes in practice and regulatory requirements are often driven by the State's need to adhere to federal requirements in order to secure federal funding.

Both the Child Protective Service Law (CPSL) and the Juvenile Court Act were amended in recent years to address current events and needs throughout the Commonwealth. Act 90 was passed in 2011 amending a number of provisions in the Juvenile Court Act. Most significantly, the definition of "child" was redefined as an individual who is under the age of 21 years and was adjudicated dependent before reaching the age of 18 years, who has requested the court to retain jurisdiction and who remains under the jurisdiction of the court as a dependent child because the court has determined that the child is:

- (l) Completing secondary education or an equivalent credential;

- (II) Enrolled in an institution which provides postsecondary or vocational education;
- (III) Participating in a program actively designed to promote or remove barriers to employment;
- (IV) Employed for at least 80 hours per month;
- (V) Incapable of doing activities described in subparagraph (1), (II), (III), or (IV) due to a medical or behavioral health condition, which is supported by regularly updated information in the permanency plan of the child.

This change expands our ability to assist youth in placement who may not have a solid connection or plan upon their 18th birthday which would assure a safe and sustained release from care.

In 2013, the Pennsylvania Legislature worked diligently to address gaps and weaknesses in the current CPSL relating to the reporting and investigation of child abuse. These efforts were largely driven by the Sandusky scandal that rocked Penn State University and opened the public eye to the deficiencies (both real and perceived) of the current system. Throughout 2014, staff attended trainings about the changes in the CPSL and the impact those changes will have on daily practices in the agency. Child welfare agencies, law enforcement, and the Courts across the Commonwealth began implementing changes in practice to comply with new legislation which significantly expanded the definition of child abuse.

In 2015, the many changes made to the CPSL were fully implemented internally and across the state. These changes have impacted all levels of service within the agency as well as our colleagues in the community in their role as mandated reporters. As one continues to read through this document, the impact on volume (numbers and monies), expanding/changing services and responsibilities, demands on staff and our relationships in the community will be reflected.

The Pennsylvania Child Welfare System long ago adopted the *Pennsylvania Best Practice Standards for Child Welfare Services* which were modeled after the Child Welfare League of America practice standards. Fulton County Services for Children has embraced and incorporated these recommended practice guidelines at every level of service provision in an effort to improve the professionalism and success of our child welfare practice. Similar adaptation has occurred as we have implemented the new legislative measures.

In an effort to provide local school districts with information on the new legislation, the agency provided a two-hour overview of the new Child Abuse laws to the administration of all three school districts in 2014. The agency went on to establish a formal platform for continued collaboration between the agency, the three school districts, the three magisterial districts judges, JPO, and the Court. This group has since been recognized as a subcommittee of the local Children's Roundtable. These meetings are held two times per year – in January and in June. During the most recent meetings, we have discussed the new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the new changes in the truancy law (Act 138 of 2016)

AGENCY STRUCTURE AND OPERATION

As the local public child welfare agency, Fulton County Services for Children is administered by the County Board of Commissioners. The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services' Office of Children, Youth and Families provides support and regulatory oversight to the agency. The State Civil Service Commission certifies all FCSC staff as eligible employees. The program is funded by local, state and federal tax revenue.

Fulton County Services for Children is led by a director who has 40+ years of experience in child welfare. The director also serves as the County Human Services Administrator. The director is supported by two supervisors, six caseworkers, a fiscal officer and a receptionist. The agency benefits from the additional support of the County Solicitor, the full time support of a paralegal funded through the SWAN LSI program and a part-time child welfare consultant. (See organizational chart in appendices.)

FCSC divides the casework responsibilities between two units: Intake and Ongoing. Each unit is monitored by a supervisor and has three caseworkers assigned accordingly. Although divided into two units, the entire professional staff is trained and capable of providing the full range of child welfare services. Mutual support and assistance is necessary to assure that all responsibilities and mandates are met at all times. The agency requested and received approval and funding for an additional caseworker. The need for additional staff support is driven largely by the expansion of services and workload related to the previously mentioned legislative mandates. To date, we have not filled this position as there are logistical barriers regarding physical space and other priorities which need to be addressed before we begin this staff expansion. We do expect to fill this position in this 2016/2017 fiscal year.

All workers share information, referral and screening responsibilities by responding to incoming contacts to the agency. On 12/28/14, the state implemented the Child Welfare Information System (CWIS) which is a statewide data and delivery system managed through the PA Department of Human Services. Every county is mandated to use CWIS. CWIS provides a portal to permit access by mandated reporters and the general public to make reports on-line. These reports are registered and sent by CWIS to the appropriate county child welfare agency for assessment/investigation. CWIS also tracks the outcomes of all reports as determined by the counties. The enormity of this system and the many facets necessary to assure the success and integrity of CWIS presents daily challenges to all those using the system. Whether by the portal, by mail, by phone, or in person, when contact is made with the agency, a worker is available to discuss questions, concerns and/or allegations. This worker gathers information and begins the assessment as to how the agency should respond. The availability of a trained child welfare worker to respond to contacts with the agency is a 24 hour, seven day a week

requirement. Daily in-office screening duty and after hour emergency duty coverage is rotated among the caseworker staff and supported by both supervisors and the director.

FCSC uses the Child Accounting Profile System (CAPS) which is a case management computer program to record all casework activities. Incoming referrals are imported from CWIS to CAPS and assigned to a specific caseworker for case management. Review by the supervisors in CAPS is an ongoing process. The case will travel through the CAPS system from the initial contact until it is legally expunged from the system. FCSC began using CAPS in the fall of 2011. The program not only tracks casework activities but also collects data and provides a variety of reports. The full scale capability of CAPS has yet to be realized and offers future possibilities for other beneficial options. CAPS is compatible with CWIS and allows the county agency to communicate reports to CWIS that were not received from CWIS and also allows for the submission of outcomes of all investigations to CWIS without the need to enter into an additional system.

❖ **INTAKE UNIT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

All screening contacts are shared with the Intake Supervisor who reviews the information and makes a determination regarding the action to follow by the agency. Consideration of safety is first and foremost in making this determination. Primary jurisdiction and responsibility for intervention is determined by where the alleged event occurred or condition exists. If jurisdiction lies outside of Fulton County, a referral to the appropriate child welfare agency in the other jurisdiction will be made. The changes in the CPSL regarding jurisdiction of reports have also impacted the County agency. The county agency can be the primary agency responsible for investigations of abuse/neglect that have occurred outside of the county or state under certain circumstances. In order to implement the changes in the CPSL regarding jurisdiction of reports, CWIS has the capability to assign primary and secondary investigation responsibilities to counties. Most primary roles are assigned to incidents occurring in the county. Examples of secondary response may be the request for home visit or interview(s) of any subjects of the report, request for assistance from DHS or Law Enforcement referrals. Any changes to the designation of the report must be requested through CWIS. Workers assigned to the Intake Unit investigate and assess both child abuse and general protective service referrals as defined by the CPSL and Juvenile Court Act. Another change to the CPSL has required all GPS and CPS reports to be registered in CWIS and that the outcomes of both types of investigations are submitted to the CWIS. This required a significant increase in processed outcome reports being submitted.

The Intake Unit performs a number of functions and has a number of goals when providing services to the community some of which include:

- To reduce the risk of further abuse/neglect to the child and ensure the safety of the child,

- To enhance family functioning through the arrangement and provision of necessary services,
- To heighten the community's awareness of child abuse and neglect and its impact on families,
- To encourage more complete reporting and coordination of resources regarding the assessment, treatment and prevention of child abuse and neglect,
- To maintain and promote a positive working relationship between the agency, schools, medical staff, police and other professionals to meet the needs of the families and children within this community and,
- To continue to educate and train within the field of child welfare.

Following Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Human Services laws, regulations and guidelines and Fulton County procedures and policies, the Intake Unit assesses each child and the family using a comprehensive risk and safety assessment methodology and case management techniques. The main priority of the assessment/investigation is to determine whether the child(ren) will remain safe in his/her current environment and to assess the probability of future risk to the child(ren).

The caseworker will also evaluate the families' strengths and needs to determine if Fulton County Services for Children and/or another community agency should serve the family.

While the criteria for child abuse allegations and the investigation thereof are specifically defined by the amended CPSL, the Juvenile Court Act continues to offer a broad scope of jurisdiction for general protective service assessment by the child welfare agencies. Any concerns regarding the safety and/or negative impact of a child's environment to the well-being of that child can be addressed by the agency. This includes but is not limited to the following:

- Physical, sexual and emotional abuse
- Inadequate supervision
- Inadequate housing
- Inadequate food, clothing, health care
- Inappropriate or excessive punishment
- Self-referrals for assistance & support
- Incurable behaviors
- Runaways
- Truancy
- Requests from other child welfare jurisdictions for courtesy services

With each referral accepted for assessment, the Intake Caseworker has face to face contact with all of the children in the household, their caregivers and observes the home environment. Each allegation is addressed in addition to a general assessment of the following:

- family's living conditions

- the availability of family and community supports
- the nature of the parent/child interaction
- the effectiveness of parenting skills
- the threat of drug and alcohol or domestic violence issues in the household
- whether the children have developmental delays, educational needs and/or or behavior problems
- the parents' history and personal characteristics
- the family's supports, connections and resources
- other indications of safety or risk threats

The broad goal of Children and Youth is two-fold: to protect children from birth to age 18, and to strengthen and sustain the family. The children who are opened to receive ongoing protective services may have been referred for any of the reasons previously discussed. The decision to provide ongoing in-home protective services depends on the assessment of the child's safety and well-being, the level of potential risk, and the family's strengths and needs as determined by the broad intake assessment discussed above.

In the tragic event of a child fatality or near-fatality, the agency follows a state mandated protocol for reporting, investigating and determining an outcome disposition in the case. Every county is required to have a standing Child Fatality Review Team (CFRT) and a Multi-disciplinary Investigative Team (MDIT). The MDIT includes the specific individuals involved in the immediate response and subsequent investigation of the child abuse and neglect and allows for a collaborative approach to the investigation to reduce the trauma to the victim and increase the likelihood of a successful prosecution. The MDIT approach is used in investigations of sexual abuse/exploitation, physical abuse and in child fatality and near fatality investigations and collaborates to determine the likely cause and other circumstances related to the specific event. This team then cooperates with the CFRT to prepare for the submission of an outcome report to the state.

The CFRT meets to discuss all child fatalities or near-fatalities with any remotely possible connection to child abuse to look generally at specific cases and at system-related issues with a focus on prevention. In Fulton Co., this team includes representatives from law enforcement, the district attorney's office, Women in Need, the Family Partnership, JPO, the agency solicitor, a behavioral health provider, Guardian Ad Litem, State Health Center, other medical providers specific to the case as well as FCSC staff. At the conclusion of the investigation of a child fatality or near-fatality, the agency prepares a Child Fatality (or Near-Fatality) Report which is submitted on behalf of the entire team to the regional office of the Office of Children, Youth and Families. Eventually, all of the Child Fatality Reports across the state are redacted for confidentiality and posted on the state web-site for public review.

In 2016, there were a total of 318 referrals made to Fulton County Services for Children. Of these 318 referrals, there were 60 child abuse (CPS) investigations and 185 general protective service (GPS) assessments and 73 other requests which include referrals to

the TIP program (26), to law enforcement (11) contacts and assessments completed as a courtesy for another child welfare agency (13), calls for information only and contacts that did not meet the child welfare criteria for intervention (23).

In 2016 there was a decrease in the number of reports received resulting in numbers similar to 2014 which was prior to implementation of CWIS. Multiple reports received regarding the same allegations were now registered as supplemental reports to the original referral. These reports were recorded as case notes and had reduced the number of multiple reports involving the same incident that were being made to the county. CWIS continues to transmit all reports received to the county agencies and law enforcement. Therefore, reports that do not meet criteria for child abuse/neglect or general protective services are disseminated to the county from CWIS for the county to make the determination of whether to investigate or to screen out the report. All reports transmitted to Law Enforcement are also screened to determine if there are child abuse/neglect concerns that should be investigated by the agency.

Of the 60 CPS investigations, 40 were physical abuse, 18 sexual abuse, 0 mental abuse, and 2 serious physical neglect. Due to the changes in the CPSL, imminent risk was incorporated into physical abuse definition under the category of creating the likelihood of physical or sexual abuse. Additionally, student abuse was also removed from the CPSL and is now included in the definition of child abuse by other persons responsible for the welfare of the child. Of these cases, 9 were Substantiated/Indicated and 46 were Unfounded and 5 outcomes were pending. There were no founded cases in 2016. The agency almost doubled the number of reports received involving Drug Abuse of Parent from 19 received in 2015 to 35 in 2016.

The above intake activities reflect services provided to 324 families with 583 children. Of all of the cases assessed/investigated at intake, 26 families were accepted for ongoing protective services.

The following tables reflect 2016 and a comparison of historical intake data:

TYPES OF REFERRALS MADE TO FCSC

	Total number of referrals	CPS	GPS	Misc.
2011	281	53	177	51
2012	237	39	162	36
2013	260	54	153	53
2014	310	53	173	84
2015	395	65	203	127
2016	318	60	185	73

NUMBER OF CPS CASES BY ALLEGATION

	Physical	Sexual	Mental	Imminent Risk	Serious Physical Neglect
2011	21	28	0	4	0
2012	23	14	0	2	0
2013	31	16	0	5	2
2014	27	20	0	3	3
2015	42	20	0		3
2016	40	18	0		2

DISPOSITION OF CPS CASES

	Founded	Substantiated	Unfounded	Pending
2011	0	14	39	0
2012	6	5	33	1
2013	3	7	44	0
2014	1	10	43	0
2015	0	4	61	0
2016	0	9	46	5

NUMBER OF REFERRALS BY TYPE AND AREA IN 2016

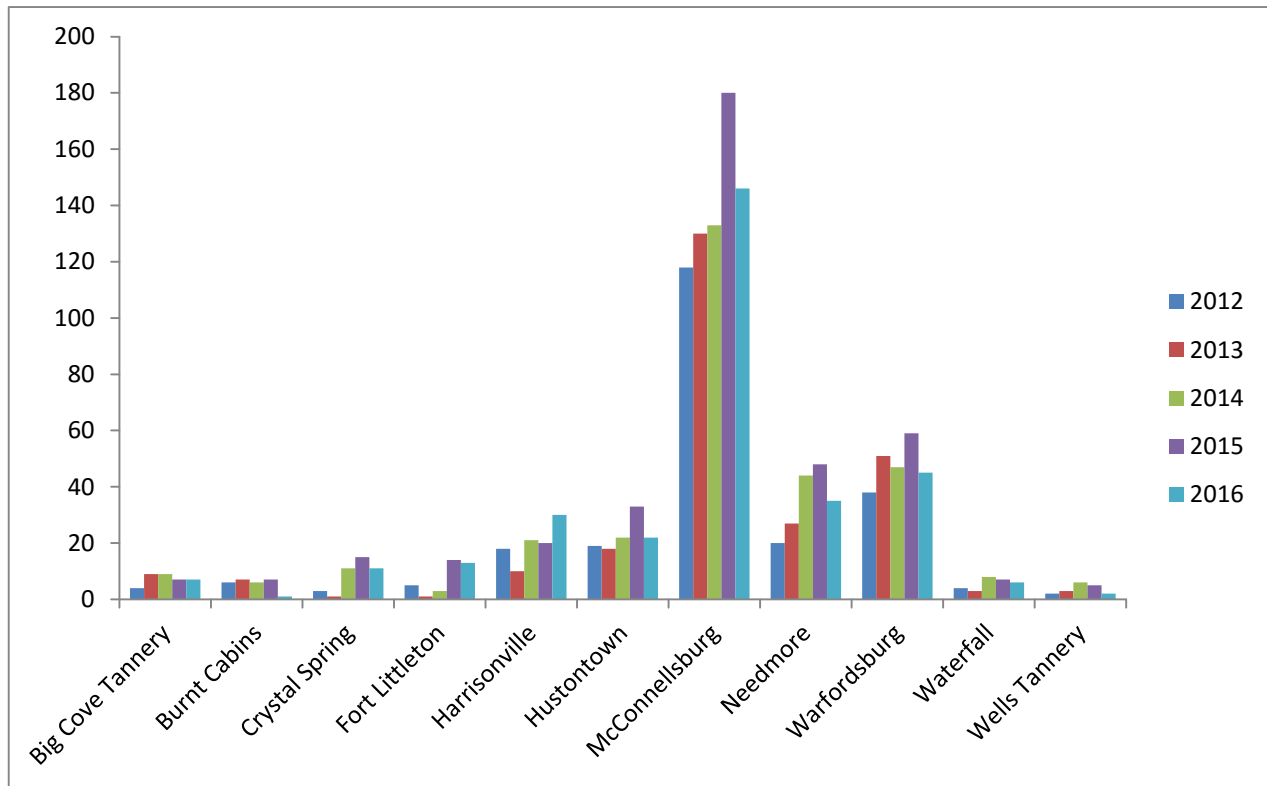
I = INDICATED U=UNFOUNDED *PENDING

Allegation		Big Cove Tannery	Burnt Cabins	Crystal Spring	Fort Littleton	Harrisonville	Hustontown	McConnellsburg	Needmore	Warfordsburg	Waterfall	Wells Tannery	Totals
Physical Abuse	I	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	3
	U	0	0	3	3	1	4	16	3	6	0	1	37
Sexual Abuse	I	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	5
	U	0	0	0	*(3)	4	0	3	2	*(1)	0	0	9 *4 pending
Mental Abuse	I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	U	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Physical Neglect	I	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	U	0	0	0	0	0	0	*(1)	0	0	0	0	*1 pending
Total CPS Referrals		1	0	4	6	6	4	23	7	8	0	1	60
Inappropriate Discipline		0	0	1	2	2	3	11	4	3	0	0	26

General Neglect	0	0	2	1	10	5	43	6	9	2	1	79
Inappropriate Supervision	0	0	0	1	2	2	17	2	3	0	0	27
Medical Neglect	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Environmental Neglect	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drug Exposed Infant	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	5
Drug Abuse Parent	3	0	3	2	4	3	11	3	5	1	0	35
Adolescent Behavioral Problem	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	5
School Attendance Problems <13	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	1	1	0	0	7
Total GPS Referrals	4	0	7	6	20	14	91	16	23	3	1	185
	Big Cove Tannery	Burnt Cabins	Crystal Spring	Fort Littleton	Harrisonville	Hustontown	McConnellsburg	Needmore	Warfordsburg	Waterfall	Wells Tannery	Totals
Courtesy Interviews	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	5	1	0	0	11
Home Studies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Truancy Prevention	0	1	0	0	1	1	15	2	6	0	0	26
Other Total	0	1	0	0	2	3	17	7	8	1	0	39
Total Investigations	5	1	11	12	28	21	131	30	39	4	2	284
Law Enforcement Referrals	1	0	0	0	0	1	7	1	0	1	0	11
Information Only	1	0	0	1	2	0	8	4	6	1	0	23
Total Reports	7	1	11	13	30	22	146	35	45	6	2	318

Law Enforcement and Information Only Referrals are reviewed by the Intake Supervisor to determine if any of the allegations warrant an agency assessment, either GPS or CPS.

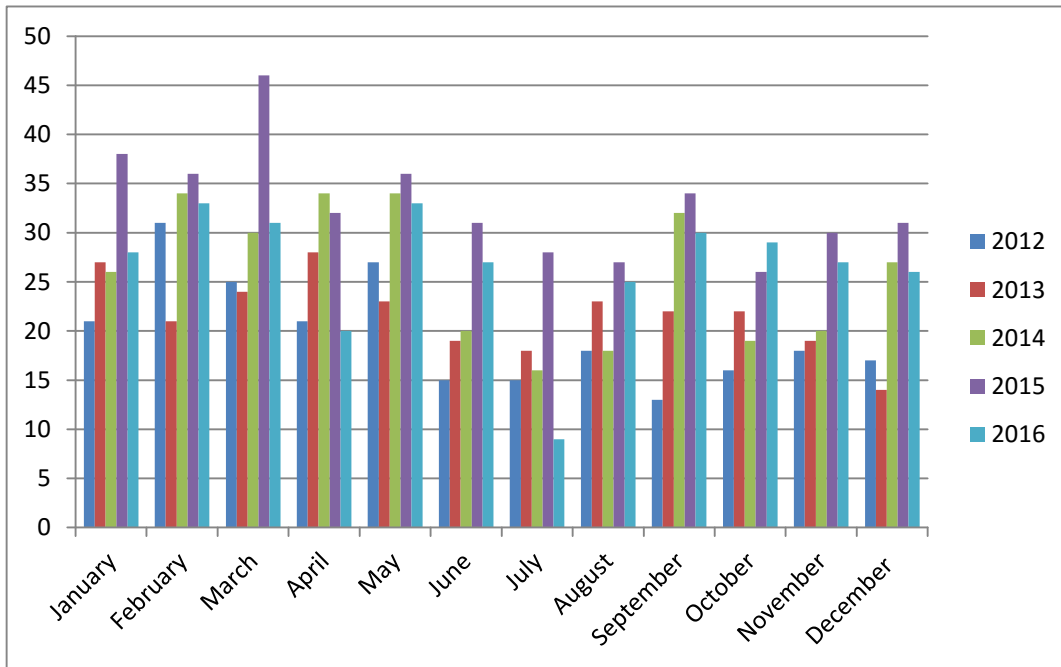
HISTORICAL REFLECTION OF REPORTS BY AREA



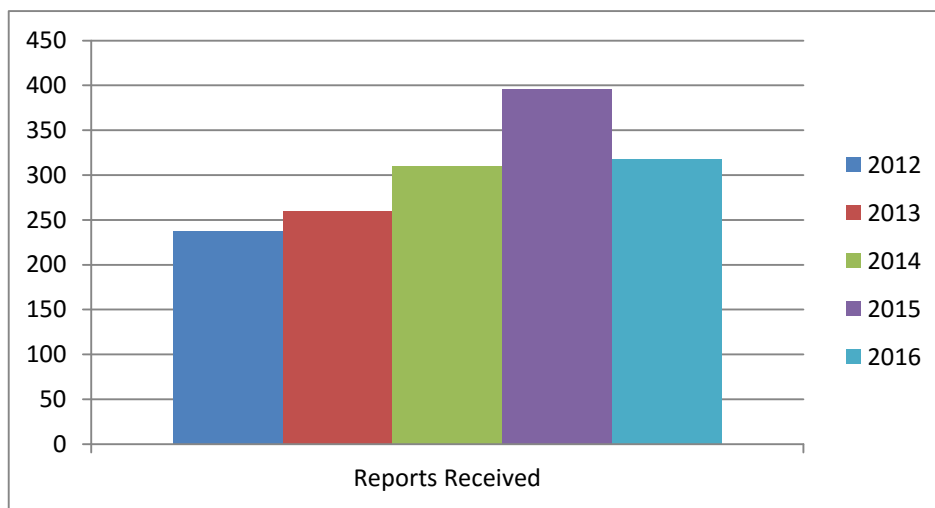
NUMBER OF REFERRALS PER MONTH IN 2016

MONTH	REFERRALS
January	28
February	33
March	31
April	20
May	33
June	27
July	9
August	25
September	30
October	29
November	27
December	26
TOTAL	318

HISTORICAL REFLECTION OF MONTHLY REPORTS



HISTORICAL REFLECTION OF THE YEARLY VOLUME OF REFERRALS



❖ ONGOING UNIT RESPONSIBILITIES:**❖ In-Home Services**

When it is determined at the intake level that a family needs or might benefit from ongoing protective services, a case file is prepared by the Intake Caseworker, approved by the Intake Supervisor and passed to the Ongoing Supervisor. The Ongoing Supervisor reviews the case file and determines which ongoing caseworker will be the best match to provide ongoing services. The Ongoing Caseworker is then introduced to the family. Together, the Ongoing Supervisor and Caseworker assure the family's transition and follow through with ongoing services.

The primary goal of the Ongoing Unit is to safely maintain children in their natural home and to prevent the need for an out-of-home placement. The custodial parent or caregiver is responsible for the day-to-day care and supervision of their children and must keep them safe and minimize the threat of potential for harm whenever possible. If the failure or inability of a child's caregiver to protect and care for the child results in harm or indicates the potential for harm were it to continue and would have a detrimental effect on the child's health, development, or functioning, the need for ongoing agency intervention is justified. If identified issues could not be resolved during the intake assessment, the case is opened for ongoing protective services and in-home services are initiated. Once the case is opened for services, the Ongoing Caseworker continues to evaluate with every contact the immediate threat of harm to the child's safety as well as the apparent risk to the child's future well-being.

The Ongoing Caseworker meets regularly with the child and family to ensure the child's safety and that their needs are met, including adequate food, shelter, clothing, medical care, supervision and guidance. By cultivating a climate of trust and respect, the Ongoing Caseworker attempts to engage family members in the casework process and to understand the family dynamics, needs and strengths. In a collaborative effort, the caseworker, family members and other significant parties meet to develop a Family Service Plan (FSP) that builds on family strengths and addresses identified problems and needs. This plan becomes a roadmap for services and is discussed and reviewed at each future face-to-face contact. The FSP identifies service needs, defines goals and objectives, and sets priorities. The level of service and frequency of contact is determined by the identified strengths and needs of the family and the level of apparent risk to the child. The objectives and goals are measurable with concise, short-term actions and tasks to be completed by the identified party.

FCSC employs many strategies to provide effective intervention services. With the family's consent, our social service partners from the community are invited to join efforts to resolve family problems. The Ongoing Caseworker facilitates referrals, arranges transportation, serves as a liaison for the family and organizes intervention efforts. Additional services such as COPE, Family Group Decision Making, MH-MR,

D&A, Early Intervention, Head Start and Early Head Start as well as Family Partnership Parenting Support Services etc. are often utilized to supplement child welfare casework services. In most cases, the services implemented are sufficient to resolve the issues which impact the safety and well-being of the children and result in a successful case closure. Juvenile Court action is initiated only when the parents/caregivers are unwilling or unable to meet the needs of the child and their safety and welfare is at jeopardy.

The Ongoing Caseworker also continues to further the Family Finding process which starts during the intake assessment period. These efforts are directed at identifying the family's existing and potential supports in extended family and/or close connections. A Family Tree is developed by the worker and the family members. Family Finding efforts also include diligent searches conducted by the agency's paralegal using Accurint and other avenues to locate family. Family Finding is only one element of family engagement which is an ongoing and essential process if child welfare intervention is to be helpful and successful.

❖ **Placement Services**

When the Ongoing Caseworker with the support of other community professionals is unable to effect positive change within a family, and the child's safety and welfare is deteriorating, a petition may be filed asking the Juvenile Court to consider order services that could include placement of the child outside the home. The request for Court intervention is made only after all reasonable efforts to avoid a placement have been exhausted and the child's safety and well-being continue to be at risk.

After the Court has made a determination that a child needs to enter placement, the Ongoing Caseworker must locate the most appropriate placement setting for the child and continue to provide and arrange for services to the child and family where separation has occurred. Earlier efforts made in Family Finding to identify the family's existing *or potential* supports and resources are critical at this planning stage. Every effort is made to place the child in the least restrictive, most homelike environment which will meet the child's specific needs. This includes maintaining the child in their current school setting whenever it is possible and in the child's best interest to do so. Relatives and other parties with significant connection to the child or family are considered as placement resources. This is known as Kinship Care. Fulton County Services for Children adheres to the standards set forth in the OCYF-issued Fostering Connections Bulletin which brings Pennsylvania into compliance with federal legislation regarding the placement of children.

FCSC is committed to locating kinship care resource families in order to explore their availability and appropriateness as a placement option. As previously stated, these efforts include but are not limited to the following:

- Family Interviews
- The use of a Family Tree or genogram which is developed with the caregivers, age appropriate children and other family supports
- Family Finding

- Accurint Searches
- Family Group Decision Making

There is a formal process prescribed by the Office of Children, Youth and Families which the agency must follow when contacting potential kinship care resource families to determine if they are viable placement resources. Kinship care resource families must meet the same criteria for approval as is required for foster care families. Even if an identified family resource is unable or unwilling to be a placement resource for the identified child, they may be able to support the child and/or family in some other way and may become an active participant in the treatment team.

Effective July 2013, the Office of Children, Youth and Families issued a Bulletin to mandate counties to begin to implement Concurrent Planning. Concurrent Planning is the process of working towards one legal permanency goal (i.e. reunification) while at the same time establishing and implementing an alternative permanency goal and plan (i.e. adoption) that are worked on concurrently (at the same time) to move children more quickly to a safe and stable permanent family. Implementing Concurrent Planning not only requires a shift in practice but also in documentation. During the implementation period, the agency conducted necessary trainings to make needed adjustments in our documentation to assure full compliance and enhanced success towards achieving timely permanency in all cases.

Our first formal training effort was on April 11, 2013 when SWAN provided an in-service training event specific to concurrent planning at FCSC for agency staff. Also on October 10, 2013, the agency sponsored a mini-summit funded through a grant provided by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC). A SWAN representative offered a presentation to introduce and engage participants in the concurrent planning process. A total of seventeen professionals representing SWAN, GALs, placement providers, the Family Partnership and FCSC attended this summit. At this time, concurrent planning is being fully implemented according to the timeline set forth in the Bulletin.

In further legislative updates, effective August 2013, the General Assembly of Pennsylvania passed House Bill 1075 which is intended to ensure that Family Finding occurs on an ongoing basis for all children entering the child welfare system intending to promote the use of kinship care. Traditionally, Family Finding was primarily used in placement cases to locate alternative placement resource options. The new spirit of Family Finding focuses on expanding the support base for all families opened for services with the agency by enhancing connectivity between extended family, friends and community supports.

Efforts to continue growth and improvement in these practice areas continued in 2016.

- In April, 2016 both supervisors, two GALs and a private provider represented Fulton County at the statewide Family Group Decision Making Conference in Hershey.

- Agency staff participated in trainings held here on: Adolescent Suicide Training (presented locally by the CWRC); Terminations Demystified (presented by an attorney with SWAN/Diakon); and Road to Success (a training on transitional youth presented by an attorney with SWAN/Diakon).
- A supervisor and caseworkers participated in a Caseworker Safety Training held in Altoona (Blair County) in August 2016.

As part of the local Roundtable’s current agenda, Fulton and Franklin Counties have and continue to work on developing and implementing formal protocols for Family Group Decision Making and Family Finding. Although a collaborative effort, each county must customize its own protocol to meet specific county practices and needs. Other formal protocols will follow this same process as other initiatives are reviewed, updated, expanded and improved. In 2016, formal protocols for Family Group Decision Making, Family Finding and Visitation were adopted.

Both of the above mandates, the search for kinship care options and concurrent planning, are consistent with the best practice standards that call for children to be placed in the least restrictive, most home-like environment for the least amount of time until a permanent resolution can be determined as well as mandating that the agency exhaust all reasonable efforts to avoid placement.

In an effort to locate potential kin for not only placement resources but also to enhance connectivity for all children in the child welfare system, the FCSC SWAN paralegal conducts Accurint/Diligent searches. Searches are used at every level of service in order to develop the most comprehensive picture of our families in an effort to maximize their successful resolution of problems in the most positive and least intrusive way.

In 2016, the FCSC SWAN paralegal completed 74 Accurint/Diligent searches. The tables below discuss detail about these searches. Accurint/Diligent searches are an initial family finding tool and not the only effort made to locate and engage families. Subsequent searches are conducted as new information is discovered.

SEARCHES CONDUCTED IN 2016 FOR CHILDREN ADJUDICATED DEPENDENT

<u>Child</u>	<u>Type of placement</u>	<u># of Searches</u>	<u>Types of Searches</u>	<u>Information Disseminated from Searches</u>	<u># of Notification of Kinship Care letters sent</u>	<u># of Responses from Searches</u>
D	Group Home	9	Person Search	Address Summaries	19	1
E	Foster Care	1	Person Search	Address Summary	4	1
J	Foster Care	21	Person Search	Comprehensive Reports, Relatives, Neighbors and	8	1

				Associates Reports, Address Summaries		
K	Foster Care	7	Person Search	Comprehensive Reports, Relatives, Neighbors and Associates Reports, Address Summaries	10	1
L	Foster Care	16	Person Search	Comprehensive Reports, Relatives, Neighbors and Associates Reports, Address Summaries	12	3
M	Foster Care	11	Person Search	Comprehensive Reports, Relatives, Neighbors and Associates Reports, Address Summaries	12	2
N	Group Home	6	Person Search	Comprehensive Reports, Relatives, Neighbors and Associates Reports, Address Summaries	9	1

SEARCHES CONDUCTED FOR FAMILIES WITH NO COURT INVOLVEMENT

<u>Child</u>	<u># of Searches</u>	<u>Purpose of Search</u>	<u>Information Disseminated</u>
O	1	Missing Parent/CPS Investigation	Address Summary
P	1	Missing Parent	Address Summary
Q	1	Missing Parent/CPS Investigation	Address Summary

When managing placement cases, the agency is responsible for implementing the regulatory requirements of the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA). The intent of the law is to focus upon the need for all children in placement to have a permanent plan established within a time-limited period. Under ASFA, there are only five (5) possible permanency goals that can be presented to the Court for review and decision at the Permanency Hearing. These permanency goals include the following:

1. Reunification
2. Adoption
3. Permanent Legal Custodianship
4. Permanent Placement with a Fit and Willing Relative
5. Another Permanent Court-Approved Living Arrangement, but *only* if there is a compelling reason why none of the other ASFA permanency goals is in the child's best interests. This goal may only be used with children age 16 or older.

The Permanency Plan must consider the five (5) permanency goals, which are listed above, in order of preference. The agency is required to consider the most permanent first to the least permanent goal and may only consider other goals, if the preceding goal is ruled out and a new goal is established by the Court. The Court reviews all placement cases with the goal of reunification every three months to assure that all parties are aware of and on track with the goals and objectives developed in the Permanency Plan and to review the progress or lack thereof in each case. In addition to the details of the plan, the agency must update the Court regarding what reasonable efforts the agency made to finalize the plan and when permanency is expected to be achieved. The Court can approve or modify the plan.

As soon as a placement occurs, the Ongoing Caseworker works with the family and all of their potential supports to develop the Permanency Plan to achieve a permanent resolution to the child's need for placement. Every effort is made to assist the family to alleviate the conditions that necessitated their child's placement in order to safely return the child home. Reunification is the first priority placement goal in the child welfare system. However, to minimize a child's length of stay in placement without a permanent solution, the Ongoing Caseworker must also do concurrent planning. When reunification is not achievable, the alternate permanency plan or concurrent plan is implemented to ensure the child's safety and well-being while achieving stability and permanence.

If there is not a viable kinship care resource family, the Ongoing Caseworker utilizes contracted resources throughout the Commonwealth to locate the best placement setting to meet the child's needs. Again, the focus is to locate the least intrusive and most appropriate placement setting to meet the child's specific needs. Frequently used local resources for foster care include: Northwestern Human Services, Family Care Services Inc., Professional Family Care Services for Children and Youth and the Children's Aid Society of Franklin County. FCSC purchases services from these agencies by contractual arrangement.

The foster care agencies are responsible for the recruitment, evaluation, training, and approval of foster homes. Following Department of Human Services laws, regulations

and guidelines, as well as agency policies and procedures, the foster care agencies conduct comprehensive studies of foster home applicants to determine if they meet the standards necessary for approval. The foster care agency provides ongoing training and support to their foster parents. The ongoing needs of the foster parent for specialized training or support are assessed using a variety of techniques. General trainings are offered on a routine basis to better equip foster parents in their role. To meet the needs of all the children we serve, various levels of foster care are offered by the agencies. These include: respite foster care, regular foster care, specialized foster care, therapeutic foster care (authorized by Managed Care and paid by Medical Assistance) and foster to adopt care. Each level is unique and offers a different type of service. Foster care is intended to be temporary and is not considered a permanency goal but is a step toward achieving one of the goals in the permanency hierarchy.

Sometimes there are children who are not appropriate for foster care but require an out-of-home placement. More restrictive settings which provide closer supervision and specialized interventions are used. These specialized placement options offer different levels and specialties for care. Residential or group home placements generally address specific needs such as drug & alcohol treatment, behavioral health treatment, incorrigibility.

The following table reflects detail about the FCSC placements which either continued from 2015 or occurred during 2016:

CHILD	GENDER	AGE	TYPE OF PLACEMENT	PLACEMENT GOAL eff.12/31/16	STATUS EFF.12/31/16
A	Female	19 Yrs	*RTF	*PLC	*CIP
B	Female	16 Yrs	Foster Care	Adoption	Court Supervision Terminated-Adopted
C	Female	18 Yrs	Foster Care	*PLC	*CIP
D	Female	19 Yrs	Group Home	*APPLA-*IL	Court Supervision Terminated-Left Care
E	Female	14 Yrs	Foster Care	Reunification	*CIP
F	Female	1 Yr	Foster Care	Adoption	*CIP
G	Male	4 Yrs	Foster Care	Adoption	*CIP
H	Male	1 Yr	Foster Care	Adoption	*CIP
I	Female	18 Yrs	Group Home	Reunification	Court

					Supervision Terminated-Left Care
J	Male	12 Yrs	Foster Care	Reunification	*CIP
K	Female	8 Yrs	Foster Care	Reunification	*CIP
L	Male	<1 Yr	In-Home	Reunification	Court Supervision Terminated-Reunified
M	Male	1 Yr	Foster Care	Reunification	*CIP
N	Male	15 Yrs	Group Home	Reunification	*CIP

Explanation of Terms used above	
*CIP	Continues In Placement
*TPR	Termination of Parental Rights
*SCR	Shared Case Responsibility
*APPLA	Another Planned Living Arrangement
*IL	Independent Living
*RTF	Residential Treatment Facility
*PLC	Permanent Legal Custodianship

As we entered 2016, there were nine children in placement. Of those children, one had the goal of adoption; and that child achieved permanency with a finalized adoption in 2016. Two youth, 18 and older, were remaining in care as adults and in placement in IL Transitional Living Programs until they decided to both leave care as adults in 2016. One child came into care at the beginning of 2016, and was successfully reunified with a natural parent before the end of 2016. One youth (age 19 years) with the goal of permanent legal custodianship has complex mental health issues and is currently in an RTF. Three children’s parents’ rights were terminated in 2016, and those three children’s goals were changed to adoption; all three in a pre-adoptive home. Five children entered placement during 2016. Four of those five and six of the original nine children remained in care at the close of 2016.

The safety and well-being of every child in placement continues to be the primary responsibility of the child welfare caseworker. Although children are nearly always placed outside of Fulton County, the FCSC caseworker is responsible to work closely with the placement provider to monitor the child’s placement to assure that the placement is safe and meets the child’s needs. The FCSC caseworker is accountable to the Court, to the family and most importantly, to the child as a link to the home community and the keeper of their Permanency Plan. This will be paramount in 2017 as the agency strives to meet its responsibilities under the new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) with regard to school selection for children in placement.

In 2006, the Child and Family Services Improvement Act was signed into law. This federal legislation was introduced to add new and to enhance existing safeguards to

promote the safety and well-being of children and families. To assure compliance in one specific area of this Act, the Department of Human Services issued a Bulletin which directed the county agencies to track caseworker visitation with children in placement. Caseworkers have always maintained regular contact with children in care in the placement location, at school, in the community, at Court, and by phone and letters. However, this Bulletin requires specific face to face contact in the child’s placement location at least once each month which must be tracked and reported to the state. FCSC consistently meets, often exceeds, the tracking requirement. Monitoring of caseworker visitation by the state and internally by the director continues through the CAPS data system. The agency continues to meet or exceed state defined standards. Services for Children also enjoyed sharing in the state’s federal bonus for meeting or exceeding federal caseworker visitation standards. In 2015, the agency was allocated \$2,420. The staff decided to renovate and restock the children’s waiting/play room and purchase gift cards and items to assist children who are transitioning in and out of care. A TV and DVR were also purchased for caseworkers to use for viewing training CDs. In 2016, \$2,032 was allocated and the funds were used to give caseworkers and supervisors a one-time salary bonus. For 2017, \$2,000 has been allocated and how it will be used has not yet been determined.

CASEWORK VISITATION

MONTH	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15		2015-16	
	# CHILDREN	% VISITED	# CHILDREN	% VISITED	# CHILDREN	% VISITED	# Children	% VISITED
OCTOBER	11	100%	14	100%	11	100%	10	100%
NOVEMBER	11	100%	13	100%	11	100%	10	100%
DECEMBER	12	100%	13	100%	11	100%	10	100%
JANUARY	12	100%	12	100%	11	100%	10	100%
FEBRUARY	14	93% ¹	13	100%	11	100%	13	100%
MARCH	14	100%	13	100%	11	100%	13	100%
APRIL	13	100%	13	100%	7	100%	13	100%
MAY	13	100%	13	100%	6	100%	13	100%
JUNE	13	100%	13	100%	7	100%	13	100%
JULY	13	100%	11	100%	8	100%	14	100%
AUGUST	14	100%	12	100%	10	100%	13	100%
SEPTEMBER	14	100%	12	100%	9	100%	11	100%

¹ One (1) child out of fourteen (14) was not seen this month due to Caseworker leaving agency without completing the visit.

Federal and State legislation requires that the Department of Human Services establish criteria and regulation to guide the local public child welfare agencies to develop adoption assistance programs. These programs provide a resource for financial support to parents who adopt dependent children from the child welfare system who meet the eligibility criteria. The law defines the child-specific criteria for adoption subsidy as follows: A dependent child who

- Has a physical, mental/emotional condition or handicap
- Is a member of a sibling group placed together
- Has a genetic condition

- Is five years of age or older
- Is a member of a minority group

Of the dependent children finalized for adoption, more children than not meet the federal and/or state eligibility criteria for adoption assistance and are entitled to this subsidy. The amount of adoption assistance subsidy may not exceed the amount of foster care maintenance payment that would have been made for each child if the child remained in a foster home.

As previously stated, it is the agency’s responsibility to achieve the permanency goal which best meets each child’s needs; however, the agency also has a responsibility to be fiscally accountable for decisions that impact the agency and county budgets. To this end, efforts are made to explore all options and to select the most appropriate and most fiscally conservative permanency arrangement that is available for each child. The agency director meets with perspective adoptive parents to discuss their request for adoption subsidy in terms of their anticipated expenses and needs based on the child’s eligibility criteria. An agreement is negotiated which is re-evaluated at least every other year. Traditionally children could remain eligible for adoption assistance subsidy until they reach age 18. On July 1, 2012, Pennsylvania adopted Act 80 which extends kinship care guardianship and adoption subsidies to age 21 years for those youth who enter those arrangements at age 13 years or older. This applies to placements made after July 1, 2012 and does not impact adoptions that occurred before that date.

Given the availability of subsidy and the economic times, the requests by adoptive parents for adoption assistance subsidy have consistently increased for all Children and Youth agencies in recent years. As noted, FCSC has experienced an increase in the number of children receiving adoption assistance subsidy.

HISTORICAL REFLECTION OF ADOPTION ASSISTANCE DATA

	FY 11/12	FY 12/13	FY 13/14	FY 14/15	FY 15/16	FY 16/17*
Number of children receiving Adoption Assistance on the first day of fiscal year.	12	13	13	13	15	15
Number of children added to Adoption Assistance during the fiscal year.	2	0	0	2	1	4
Number of children who’s Adoption Assistance ended during the fiscal year.	1	0	0	0	1	1

Total days of care (Adoption Assistance) purchased during the fiscal year for all children.	4,451	4,745	4,745	5,183	5,478	5,736
Total cost of care (Adoption Assistance) paid per fiscal year for all children	\$81,372	\$88,330	\$88,330	\$100,018	\$123,658	\$123,263

*FY 16/17 are projected numbers

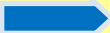

In 2012, FCSC implemented a new practice to improve our planning, preparation and presentation in Juvenile Court. A Pre-Hearing Conference is scheduled at a time convenient to all attorneys, the agency caseworker, supervisor, director, and the probation officer, if involved, prior to every planned Juvenile Court hearing. Participants are invited to attend in person or by teleconference and are provided with the Court packet in advance of the conference. This conference affords all those involved the opportunity to ask questions regarding information submitted to the Court and to clarify case issues.

It is expected that all parties will benefit in some way from the conferences and that ultimately it will be the children/youth and their families who benefit the most. Agency staff will benefit from knowing what they will be asked at the hearings and attorneys will benefit from knowing what to expect in terms of witnesses and the contents of court packets (that include the agency report, a parenting report, reports from foster homes or residential facilities, and other reports from providers such as therapists, psychologist, psychiatrist, D&A counselors, etc.). Points of agreement could include, but not be limited to, entry of exhibits (Will direct testimony be required? What should a visitation schedule look like? Treatment issues?) and recommendations. When compromises can be made, it is expected that all parties will work towards a compromise that is ultimately “in the best interests of the child.” It is recognized and expected that disagreements on this will occur and these will be resolved by the Judge. In 2016, the agency director and agency solicitor facilitated the following Pre-Hearing Conferences.

<u>CHILD</u>	<u>DATE OF CONFERENCE(S)</u>
B	4/11/2016
C	4/29/2016
D	4/7/2016
E	3/14/2016
F	7/18/2016
G	1/8/2016 & 4/8/2016
H	1/8/2016 & 4/8/2016
I	2/10/2016; 4/29/2016; 9/14/2016
J	2/17/2016; 5/23/2016; 8/23/2016
K	2/17/2016; 5/23/2016; 8/23/2016
L	2/17/2016; 5/23/2016; 8/23/2016
M	9/6/2016
TOTAL CONFERENCES	23

The table below reflects the agency’s use of Juvenile Court time and resources in 2016. The majority of hearings are held before President Judge Carol Van Horn who is also designated as the Administrative Judge for Fulton County Services for Children. She presided over 42 juvenile hearings; Judge Krom presided over 6 hearings; for a total of 48 Juvenile Court hearings in 2016.

HISTORICAL REFLECTION OF JUVENILE COURT HEARINGS BY JUDGE

	<u>2012</u>		<u>2013</u>		<u>2014</u>		<u>2015</u>		<u>2016</u>	
	Judge Van Horn	Judge Krom	Judge Van Horn	Judge Krom	Judge Van Horn	Judge Krom	Judge Van Horn	Judge Krom	Judge Van Horn	Judge Krom
Presiding Judge 										
Hearing Type 										
Shelter Care	4	2	2	3	2	0	3	0	4	0
Adjudication without Disposition	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Shelter Care/Adjudication	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shelter Care/Adjudication/Disposition	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Permanency Review	23	8	24	19	29	8	23	2	28	6
Interim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interim/Disposition	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disposition	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Adjudication/Disposition	4	2	2	2	2	0	4	0	5	0
Modification of Placement	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Voluntary Termination	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Involuntary Termination	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Adoption Finalization	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
TOTAL BY JUDGE	32	16	30	24	34	8	35	3	42	6
GRAND TOTAL	48		54		42		38		48	

❖ FISCAL SUPPORT

The ability of FCSC to provide child welfare casework services is dependent on the funding the agency receives from the state and the county. State funding is not only contingent on the availability of state funds but also on the state’s success in securing federal funding. No one resource can support the expenditures of the agency without the assistance of the other funding resources. The procurement and sustaining of funding is tied to accurate compliance with local, state and federal laws and standards.

Although compliance is an agency-wide shared responsibility, documentation and reporting of expenditures is largely the responsibility of the FCSC Fiscal Technician. The agency’s fiscal technician is responsible for the budget, accounts payable and receivable, Title IV-E and TANF compliance, Random Moment Time Study, contracting and inventory. Fiscal records are routinely reviewed by OCYF and by state and federal auditors for completion and accuracy. FCSC is proud to report that achieving 100% Title IVE compliance ratings again during the calendar year 2016. Ten TANF eligible cases

as well as twelve Random Moment Time Study hits were reviewed and all were found to be 100% in compliance. Details of the county's method of determining the administrative cost pool and Title IV-E child counts on quarterly expenditure reports were also reviewed and confirmed to be correctly developed.

Actual costs incurred in carrying out the program are proposed in the Implementation Plan and Needs Based Budget. Costs encompass the total county effort of providing services to children, youth and families which includes the activities of Fulton County Services for Children, specific activities of the Fulton County Juvenile Probation Department, the Juvenile Court, and any other related contracted providers of service to dependent and delinquent children. The Fiscal Technician works with the Director to develop the Implementation Plan and Needs Based Budget each fiscal year.

Administration of County Children and Youth Social Service Programs provisions and procedures are contained in regulations found in Title 55 of Pennsylvania Code, Chapter 3130. Allowable Costs and Procedures provisions and procedures are contained in regulations found in Title 55, Chapter 3170. Planning and Financial Reimbursement Requirements provisions and procedures are contained in regulations found in Title 55, Chapter 3140.

*Please see appendices for an analysis of expenditures and revenues for FY 2015/16.

QUALITY SERVICE REVIEW AND THE COUNTY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Fulton County Services for Children applied to be the first small county to participate in the State sponsored Quality Service Review (QSR). Fulton County, an eighth class county, was selected by the State as a QSR county on October 24, 2014. The core planning team included the director, both supervisors, the agency's consultant, a representative from the Child Welfare Resource Center and the agency's regional representative from OCYF. Building the actual review team involved recruiting staff and a team of professional colleagues. The actual reviewers included: representatives from the Center for Community Action; Franklin/Fulton MH/ID Program; a local parochial school and the agency's advisory board; Mifflin County Children and Youth Services; Adams County Children and Youth Services; Franklin County Children and Youth Services. Their efforts were supported during the site review by the core planning team.

The entire process was supported by the following: an On-Call Project Manager from the Child Welfare Training Center; a Resource Specialist from the Child Welfare Resource Center; a representative from the Hornby-Zeller Consulting Firm (HZA); a State Site lead from OCYF; and a State Site Co-Lead from the Child Welfare Resource Center.

FCSC caseworkers and administrative staff and our recruited reviewers participated in training on April 28 and 29, 2015 to understand the purpose and process to actually conduct the review. Three focus groups of key stakeholders were conducted: the Children’s Roundtable on April 27, 2015; the agency caseworkers on May 7, 2015 and the agency supervisors on May 19, 2015. The QSR was conducted on April 19, 20, and 21, 2015.

Three active cases were selected according to a protocol prescribed by HZA. The six reviewers were divided into teams of two. Each team was assigned a case. The case file was reviewed and the agency caseworker and supervisor, the family, the child and services providers in each case were interviewed. The reviewers prepared a presentation of their findings for the agency staff and core team. The QSR Final Report, a data analysis, was prepared by HZA and returned to the county in late June, 2015.

From this report, the core team worked to develop the County Improvement Plan (CIP) which was submitted to the state for approval on December 16, 2015. The CIP identifies three Outcomes which will be the focus of agency’s efforts to improve in those areas. For each Outcome, the CIP defines the objective, identifies agency strengths, challenges and root causes. For each Outcome, Outcome Plan Strategies and Action Steps to be Implemented and Monitored have been developed. A broad representation of the CIP outcomes follows and includes progress made on action steps:

OUTCOME #1: Teaming/Staff Retention

Goal #1: Improve Retention of Casework Staff

ACTION STEPS:
a.Perform “stay interviews” with identified staff This will be done in 2017.
b.Staff meeting presentation by management to staff regarding expectations and accountability This was done in two separate staff meetings in 2016.

The following outlines staff turnover for the agency over the past seven years.

- The staff turnover rate for 2009-10 was 45%
- The staff turnover rate for 2010-11 was 18%
- The staff turnover rate for 2011-12 was 27%
- The staff turnover rate for 2012-13 was 9%
- The staff turnover rate for 2013-14 was 20%
- The staff turnover rate for 2014-15 was 20%
- The staff turnover rate for 2015-16 was 33%
- The average staff turnover rate for the seven-year period is 25%
- (All in Caseworker 2 positions)

Goal #2: Formation and Functioning of Strong Teams

<u>ACTION STEPS:</u>
a. Create and utilize a case transfer policy and procedure This policy was created by line staff and approved by supervision and administration in 2016.
b. Create and utilize Team Meetings to gauge the progress of families and ensure positive communication among staff This has been done in 2016, but an actual policy to address this will be put in place in 2017.

OUTCOME# 2: Pathways to Independence

Goal # 1: Older youth receive the services that they need to be successful

<u>ACTION STEPS:</u>
a. Create an agency IL protocol and procedure that outlines where, when and how IL related activities should occur This was done in 2016 through various policies and procedures.
b. Use of Family Group Decision Making and family Finding are expanded. This was done in 2016 and is expected to continue in 2017.

OUTCOME # 3: Long Term View/Stability/Permanency

Goal # 1: Engage in practice that is trauma-informed and adheres to the philosophy of being strength-based and solution focused

<u>ACTION STEPS:</u>
a. The agency will begin to utilize trauma-based assessments. This is scheduled for 2017. It was scheduled to occur in 2016, but with two caseworker vacancies in the agency, it was not possible. The agency plans to have staff trained in both CANS and FAST.
b. The agency will create a protocol for safe case closure. This was done and is still being reviewed and will be fully implemented in 2017. It was part of the case policy transfer and procedure completed by workers in 2016.
c. The agency will continue to utilize SWAN units of service. This was done in 2016 and continues.

The agency is currently implementing this plan and another state supported QSR must occur at least every three years. Participation in the QSR initiative demonstrates the

agency's sincere commitment to ever-improving and expanding the professionalism of our services.

OFFICE OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES **LICENSING INSPECTION**

As previously mentioned, the agency underwent a Quality Services Review during 2015. The date of our annual licensing review was adjusted according to the protocol for the QSR. OCYF staff conducted the most recent licensing review on June 15, 2016. This involved a review of 5 of 56 Child Protective Service Intake records, 2 of 13 Placement records, 10 of 198 General Protective Services Intake records (plus 4 screenout/bogus cases), 1 of 1 Adoption records, 4 of 38 Ongoing/In-home Services records, and 2 of 2 personnel records of new employees, as well as training records for 8 casework and supervisory staff. In addition to program unit records, the Department reviewed the following administrative items: Current organizational chart with caseload count for each person carrying cases; completed copy of the agency's policy and procedure manual, current list of Advisory Committee members and addresses; copy of the Advisory Committee By-Laws and minutes of meetings for the past year; 10-day supervisory logs; MDT meeting minutes and training records for all staff.

Although the agency had two consecutive years with no citations, in 2016, there were two minor citations which included:

- 1) In **1 of 4 In-Home Case Files**, Family Service Plans completed on 8/05/15 and 2/05/16 were not signed by the father.
This case involved a father who was at work when the plan was completed. It was left for him to review and sign. This was never done prior to the subsequent case closure.
- 2) In **1 of 5 CPS Case Files**, a Risk Assessment was not completed at the end of the investigation which was reported to the agency on 8/19/15 and completed 9/15/15.
This involved a case where the family had moved prior to our completing the assessment.

The narrative discussion by OCYF regarding their overall impressions and observations of the agency's operations and performance was lengthy and very positive. The full document was shared with the full staff, County Commissioners and the Court. The public eventually has access to the licensing report by accessing <http://dhs.pa.gov/citizens/searchforprovider/humanservicesproviderdirectory/index.htm>.

COLLABORATION WITH OUR PROFESSIONAL COLLEAGUES

It is essential that the child welfare system interface closely with social, educational, health, legal and other community systems in order to effectively address the needs of the families we serve. All professionals who encounter children in their work are required by law to report suspicions of child abuse to the child welfare agency. In order for this mandate to work efficiently and effectively to protect children and enhance families, professionals in our community must be trained to be aware of and to respond appropriately to indicators and/or disclosures of child abuse. The State now provides

on-line training for mandated reporters which addresses the changes in the law and the new options for making reports.

FCSC is compelled to respond to these reports. In an effort to support our colleagues as we all work to implement the new mandates of the CPSL, we have participated in several work groups to spread awareness and to encourage the level of communication and cooperation needed to achieve our common goals. There must be a climate of support, communication and collaboration. In Fulton County, we have the advantage of the close proximity and the familiarity of a small county. The agency is well known and active in most community activities and initiatives. We welcome the partners who join in our mission to protect children and value the expertise and services they bring to this cause.

FCSC caseworkers and supervisors are encouraged to be active participants in as many local professional meetings, planning teams, community initiatives as possible. This affords the opportunity for FCSC to be widely represented and for each worker to share in the exchange and forwarding of information. Building bridges with our professional colleagues is always time well spent and serves to enhance our own service delivery.

Currently FCSC caseworkers, supervisors and administration participate in the following regular activities in and about our community:

- The Fulton County Family Partnership
- The Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon Adoption Coalition
- The Franklin-Fulton Children's Roundtable
- The Leadership Roundtable – Co-Chair
- The State Leadership Roundtable
- CASSP
- Fulton County Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB)
- Safe Kids Program
- ChildFirst Program
- Camp Cadet
- Fulton County Child Abuse Prevention Team
- Franklin/Fulton Counties Child Death Review Team
- CAPS (Child Accounting Profile System) team
- Fulton County Medical Center Community Planning
- PCYA Administrator's Group
- Fulton County Human Services Block Grant (HSBG) Planning Team
- Franklin County Human Services Block Grant (HSBG) Planning Team
- Fulton County Youth Action Committee
- The local RoundTable's Transitional Youth Committee
- The local RoundTable's Family Engagement Committee
- Women in Need STOP program
- PerformCare QI-IM team
- Fulton County Multi-Disciplinary Investigative Team

The following is a discussion of our connections to other vital resources in our county that work closely with FCSC to fulfill our mission of protecting children and enhancing families:

❖ County Solicitor, Guardians ad Litem, SWAN paralegal

The Fulton County Solicitor is involved in all aspects of litigation, which arise under the Juvenile Act, the Child Protective Services Law, the Adoption and Safe Families Act, and parental termination proceedings under the Adoption Act. Additionally, the Solicitor represents the agency in administrative proceedings arising under these laws and applicable state and federal regulations, as well as appeals to the Superior and Supreme Courts. It is the Solicitor who advises, represents and protects the agency in legal matters and presents on behalf of the agency in Juvenile Court. The Solicitor also sits with the agency on the local Child Death Review Team, participates in pre-hearing conferences and is available as needed to confer regarding specific FCSC cases. The new Child Protective Services laws also require solicitor and administrator review of all “indicated” reports of child abuse.

A Guardian ad Litem (GAL) is appointed for every child whose case appears before the Juvenile Court. It is the role of the GAL to represent and advocate for the child’s best interest. In 2016, Fulton County had the support of four GALs, a primary, her secondary and two conflicts GALs. All four are experienced attorneys devoted to the welfare of children and well versed in child welfare law and practice and will continue to participate in new trainings as they are offered. The GALs also participate in pre-hearing conferences.

Through the Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN), FCSC benefits from the full time support of a paralegal. This position is funded by SWAN through the Legal Services Initiative. The paralegal has assumed many responsibilities that once fell upon caseworkers and added to their already heavy load of paperwork. These include but are not limited to: preparation of all court documents, coordinating the scheduling of juvenile hearings, CPCMS primary reporter, diligent searches, and support during agency meetings.

❖ Fulton County Juvenile Probation

Frequently, child welfare and juvenile probation share responsibility and jurisdiction over a common population of youth, those who are ages 13-18 years and have come within the purview of the Juvenile Court’s jurisdiction. Currently in Fulton County, Juvenile Probation Officers (JPO) are equipped to use a general screening tool with all youth to determine if there are child welfare issues/needs that impact their delinquent behavior and the inappropriate choices they have made which brought them to the attention of the Probation Department. If there is indication of such, the JPO will make contact with FCSC and together the agencies will accept Shared Case Responsibility (SCR). In 2010

the formal process of SCR was mandated to be implemented by counties through a Bulletin issued by OCYF with the endorsement of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. By sharing information, resources and expertise, it is hoped that intervention with youth and their families will be more effective, more sustainable and more cost efficient. Line workers in both agencies have enjoyed a long standing collaborative relationship and readily communicate when cases overlap. Formalizing this practice has only enhanced the efforts of both agencies. Both agencies have committed to this process and to the teamwork it requires to be successful. There was only one shared case in 2016.

The positive working relationship between Fulton County Services for Children and the Fulton County Juvenile Probation Department is further demonstrated by our joint efforts with the IL Peer Group Program. JPO has consistently recruited candidates to participate in the IL Peer Group Program and JPO staff has consistently participated in the graduation event. Also, Juvenile Probation participated actively in the development of our FY17/18 needs-based budget narrative by significantly expanding the JPO Executive Summary and participates in our county-wide collaboration in the School Success Roundtable Subcommittee.

❖ Fulton County Family Partnership

On July 1, 2013, the Fulton County Center for Families (FCCF) merged with the Fulton County Partnership to create the Fulton County Family Partnership (FCFP). The merger of these two 501©3 non-profit corporations has enhanced the efficiency and financial control of the new organization and provides more opportunity for growth. It is believed that the merger will provide ways to "do more with less," will involve cross-training on services provided to Fulton County's children and families and will provide a one-door approach to planning and for services. The FCFP continues to provide an array of services in the community which support and compliments the efforts of FCSC. Among those most closely aligned with FCSC are included:

The COPE (Community Outreach Prevention Education) program is focused on increasing the awareness of abuse risk factors and prevention methods for parents and the community. The COPE program provides an outreach program to parents via two research based curriculums (Parents as Teachers [PAT] and Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies [PATHS]) and with other educational materials provided by the Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance which focus on child development information, parenting guidance and support and skill building. In 2013, the Family Partnership in conjunction with FCSC, implemented the nationally recognized evidence-based, family focused parenting curriculum, Nurturing Parents. COPE workers make regular home visits and facilitate group meetings and team with FCSC caseworkers.

The TIP (Truancy Intervention Program) is one element of the county's Truancy Prevention Initiative. Introduced in September 2010, this program is designed to divert youth who have demonstrated early signs of chronic truancy. The school district must document illegal absences, develop a Truancy Elimination Plan with the student and

their caregiver and exhaust their resources to resolve the attendance problem. If unsuccessful, they will file a citation with the Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) with all the supporting documentation. The MDJ may refer the case to FCSC at which time the Intake Supervisor will review all information. If there are no prevailing child welfare issues or allegations, the case will be diverted to the TIP program. The TIP worker, staff provided by the Family Partnership, will attempt to intervene to resolve the attendance problem. If, however, child welfare concerns are identified, FCSC will resume responsibility for the case. These efforts will continue to be enhanced in 2017 fully implementing new truancy standards as outlined in Act 138 of 2016.

The Independent Living Peer Group Program is jointly sponsored by the Family Partnership, JPO and FCSC. Each IL Peer Group Session involves nine weekly classes for local youth ages 14-21 years who are on the active caseload of JPO or FCSC. In 2016, two IL Peer Group Sessions were offered; One in the spring and one in the fall. On June 1, 2016, 16 youth graduated and on November 7, 2016, 13 youth graduated from the IL program. To date, there have been seven rounds of IL Peer Group Sessions with a total of 68 youth who have graduated from the classes. Another round of classes is scheduled to begin on March 27, 2017. The IL Peer Group Sessions are designed so that youth may attend two rounds of classes without repetitive curriculum.

The specific curriculum is adjusted with each session to meet the needs of the group. Family Partnership staff facilitates the group meetings which address topics such as Individual Needs Assessment & self-esteem; educational options, transportation, budgeting & money management, job skill building, social media issues, health & personal safety, transitional planning & goal setting. Participating youth receive incentive stipends for attendance, a bonus stipend for perfect attendance and a graduation gift. Future sessions will be held as either or both agencies have a sufficient number of eligible youths to participate – hopefully twice per year in the spring and fall.

The Fatherhood Initiative's vision and long-term impact is that Fulton County families will have fathers who are involved, responsible and committed to providing the best possible environment for their children to learn and grow. The program serves families living in Fulton County and specifically fathers, both custodial and non-custodial, beginning prenatal through adulthood. Fathers are served in both the home and community settings. The goal is to increase community awareness of the important role that fathers have in child success by using strategies that support that concept. Strategies include parent education and the encouragement of positive male role models for families. Some examples of services include: parent education focused on curriculums including "24/7" DAD, Dr. Dad and Directions for Dads. Paid Fatherhood Initiative staff supported by community volunteers and partners conduct group meetings, workshops and monthly father/family events. A specific referral for this service is not required for this initiative; however, the service is overlaid to all families referred to the Fulton Co. Family Partnership by Fulton County Services for Children.

The School Success Program was an initiative first implemented through the Integrated Children's Service Plan Promising Practices Grant. This in-school intervention program offers one to one and group intervention with students who are at

risk of academic failure or who are disengaged with the educational process. Initially, the program was only offered at the secondary level in one school district then was expanded to include all three districts. The goal of the School Success Program is to identify students before they become chronic truants or determined drop-outs.

With the anticipation of the end of grant funding, the School Success Program was included in the agency’s Truancy Prevention/Intervention program budget in both the block grant and in the Act 148 needs-based budget. The program currently serves all three school districts and has, in 2016, expanded into the elementary schools. Referrals to the School Success Program are made directly to the program by the school districts.

2016 FCSC UTILIZATION OF FAMILY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMMING

Program/Year	# of Families			# of Children			Case Status (at end of year)		
	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
<u>COPE</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>20</u> families still open	<u>10</u> families still open	<u>5</u> Families Still open
<u>IL PEER Group</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>TRUANCY/SCHOOL SUCCESS</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>13</u> youth diverted	<u>17</u> youth diverted <u>10</u> still open	<u>16</u> youth diverted <u>4</u> still open

❖ Fulton County Truancy Prevention Initiative

In the spring of 2010, FCSC invited school officials from each of our three school districts, the three local Magisterial District Judges, Juvenile Probation, and the CASSP coordinator to join in developing a protocol to improve our efforts to intervene with students with very poor attendance and/or truant behaviors. This initiative was supported by Juvenile Court Judge Carol Van Horn in tandem with the efforts of the state’s Children’s Roundtable Initiative and has since been recognized as a subcommittee of the Roundtable. The subcommittee meets two times per year in January and June and includes all school district superintendents, principals, attendance staff, MDJ’s, JPO and the agency’s Juvenile Court Judge. By enhancing the process and communication with other local professionals who are compelled to address truancy issues, FCSC hopes to impact the number of truant students and the residual effects of that behavior. This will also be the vehicle to coordinate efforts on ESSA and on the new truancy laws.

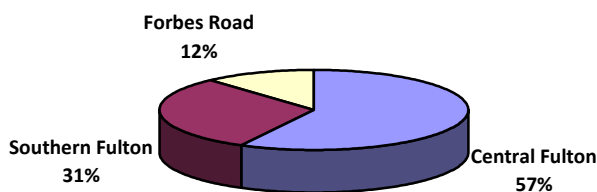
This group was able to agree on a written protocol for intervention in truancy cases. Single Points of Contact for the agency and each school district were identified; forms were developed; and a formal procedure was defined. We have agreed to revisit the protocol as needed to assure that we are effective in improving our services to address this issue. We are also hopeful that as communication improves other issues will be

easily addressed and resolved as they arise. One example was the frustration school officials shared regarding students who are habitually absent but provide medical excuses. These absences are not then illegal absences and fall outside the scope of this protocol. Although FCSC has no jurisdiction in which to intervene in these matters, as a support to the districts, the agency sent letters to local health care providers to make them aware of the truancy initiative and to encourage their close scrutiny of frequent student absences. Meetings are held regularly to support and continue this process.

In 2016, there were 30 truancy referrals made to FCSC. Of these referrals, 26 were made to the TIP. Of the 26 referrals made to TIP, 17 were diverted from agency involvement and 4 remained open with pending outcome at the end of 2016. Of the 6 students referred back to the agency, 3 had excessive illegal absences. 1 of these students did not respond to in-home efforts to remedy the truancy and was adjudicated dependent as a result the other 2 students are receiving in home services. The 3 other children referred back to the agency involved students with other general protective services concerns that resulted in these cases being accepted for services. There were 4 referrals that were not submitted to the Truancy Intervention Program. 1 referral involved an elementary student already open for services with the agency and was addressed through on-going case practice. 2 involved elementary students with minimal truant absences and was screened out at hearing by Intake Supervisor. The last one involved a high school student who had been through the TIP program the past two years. The student’s truant days were minimal and were addressed though MDJ hearing and fine was imposed.

Beginning in the fall of 2016, the elementary schools were included in the formal Truancy Intervention Program process and will have access to the services provided through the Fulton County Family Partnership to address their attendance and academic success. Again, this program will also discuss any concerns arising from the new ESSA and truancy laws in 2017.

2016 Percentage of Truancy Referrals by School District



*A copy of the truancy protocol is included in the Appendices.

❖ **Family Group Decision Making**

Family Group Decision Making is an evidence-based best practice intervention which focuses on empowering families to identify their own strengths and needs and to determine for them the direction of resolution. Through FGDM, families can avoid further immersion into the child welfare system, assure the safety and well-being of their children within their own family system, avoid out of home placement, and/or facilitate faster reunification if placement has already occurred. FGDM is one of several initiatives recognized and promoted by the Pennsylvania Children's Roundtable Initiative.

There are currently two providers who contract with FCSC to bring Family Group Decision Making services to our families. Since FCSC first implemented FGDM in 2005, the agency has a long standing contract with Professional Family Care Services for Children and Youth located in Johnstown, PA. In 2010, another contract was developed with a local team to do FGDM. Having a choice of FGDM providers affords caseworkers the opportunity to better match the family with the provider according to their needs and availability.

FCSC caseworkers are encouraged to consider FGDM referrals for families at every level of service. Early intervention with FGDM can help to avoid long term ongoing services and out of home placements. FGDM can also be helpful when doing Transitional Planning with youth who are preparing to age out of placement.

Convincing families to consider FGDM is the agency caseworker's first challenge. The worker must have the family's permission before submitting a referral to one of the providers for FGDM. It is then the provider's challenge to sell the service and get the family's buy-in to try the process. We have struggled at both levels in engaging families to accept FGDM. However, FCSC is committed to surmounting this barrier and continues to explore other strategies and resources for engaging families. FGDM is one of the services addressed by the Family Engagement Subcommittee of the local Children's Roundtable.

Franklin- Fulton Children's Roundtable Initiative

The Pennsylvania Permanency Practice Initiative (PPI) was commissioned by the State Judge's Roundtable in 2007. The underlining theory on which the PPI was built is that enhanced judicial oversight combined with strength-based, family-led practice will ultimately increase the number of children safely maintained in their own homes and support expedited permanency either through safe reunification or the finalization of another permanent plan.

As of January, 2015, thirty-seven (37) Pennsylvania counties are participating in the PPI. The thirty-seven (37) PPI counties are comprised of five Phases, Phase One (14 counties), Phase Two (13 counties), Phase Three (5 counties), Phase Four (4 counties)

and Phase Five (1 county) depending on when the individual counties entered the initiative. Fulton County is a Phase Two county.

The Honorable President Judge Carol Van Horn has led the local Children's Roundtable efforts since December 2006, and there has been cooperation among the Courts, C&Y, JPO, Human Services Administration and the Commissioners. All have supported it and have worked well together to make it a success. The Roundtable has and continues to evolve. Mental health, behavioral health managed care and school representation were invited to join the local Children's Roundtable discussions during 2010 to assist in bringing key players into the initiative in a way that will benefit the children we often jointly serve. This effort continued successfully throughout 2016. In December 2016, Judge Van Horn turned over leadership of the Roundtable to Judge Angela Krom.

Some of the PPI initiatives currently in practice with the agency's historical perspective include:

- **Family Group Decision-Making** – As previously mentioned, FCSC began using FGDM in late 2005. At that time, all staff was trained in Fulton County for four days by Oregon trainer, Jim Nice. The first FGDM conference was held in May of 2006. FCSC currently contracts with Professional Family Care Services for Children and Youth (PFCS) in Johnstown and with a local team from the Fulton County Family Partnership (FCFP) who provide the service to our local families. In 2016, the agency referred 17 families for FGDM. A total of 8 successful conferences were held (6 by PFCS and 2 by FCFP).
- **Family Finding** –A county team attended two full-day trainings in August and follow up trainings in September, October, November and December, 2009. Family Finding is combined with other casework efforts to identify and locate extended family members and significant others in an effort to expand the individual support system for each family. FCSC has incorporated the concepts of family finding in our general casework practice. Our family finding efforts continue to be led by our SWAN/Diakon paralegal who also receives support and training from Diakon. Each family's caseworker also plays an integral role in the ongoing family finding process. The agency caseworker works with each family accepted for ongoing services to develop a Family Tree which engages the family in exploring their extended family resources and in identifying potential supports. Pennsylvania House Bill 1075, effective 8/19/13, compels the child welfare agencies to do informal family finding as an ongoing effort for every child who enters the child welfare system. On November 6, 2014, FCSC met with Christy Stanek of AOPC to review specific cases to identify ways the agency can improve our Family Finding efforts in the future by expanding our view as well as our strategies. We continue to improve and to expand the scope of our Family Finding efforts as we move into 2017. Family Finding is a topic of the Family Engagement Roundtable subcommittee and that committee was tasked with developing written Family Finding protocol and this protocol was completed and adopted in 2016.

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- **Statewide Adoption Network (SWAN) Legal Services Initiative (LSI)** – Fulton County, beginning August, 2009 had a part-time paralegal paid for 100% by Diakon/Swan/FDR. The agency, beginning July 19, 2010 now has a full-time paralegal. The time, services and expertise provided by the SWAN paralegal has not only improved the flow of services within the agency but has also saved the caseworker and supervisory staff a significant amount of time which can then be devoted to direct services with families. The paralegal continues as an integral part of the FCSC team.
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- **Diakon-SWAN Diligent Search Initiative** – these searches are performed by our agency’s SWAN paralegal and supplement Family Finding efforts. As previously noted, seventy-four (74) searches were conducted in 2016.
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- **Three-month Permanency Review Hearings** continue to be held. The Court has scheduled the addition of an extra 2 days/month in Fulton County devoted to juvenile matters. The goal of 3-month reviews is to encourage everyone involved in placement cases to make every effort to move cases forward in the timeliest way possible. Close and more frequent oversight by the Court imposes more accountability on all parties. The 3-month review process has proven to be effective in reunification cases. In the past, parents often hurried to complete ordered services immediately prior to hearings; the more frequent hearings provide additional incentives to complete services immediately rather than delay for several months.
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- **CPCMS (Common Pleas Case Management System)** – In 2009, the agency began using the CPCMS court-reporting system which had recently been adapted to address Juvenile Court matters. Initially staff was given an overview orientation of CPCMS and assisted with the transfer of case information into CPCMS. In 2010, two supervisors and the paralegal attended three days of additional training for CPCMS yet still the system was difficult to navigate. One supervisor and the paralegal attended additional training in 2011 that was focused on cleaning up data entry from 2010. Ongoing tweaking and training for CPCMS users facilitated the successful data dashboard “go live” update in 2013. The dashboard is now available online for anyone who wishes to access the data for each county in the Commonwealth. Additional training was held for CPCMS users in both the Services for Children agency and in the Prothonotary’s office in April, 2014. In 2015, the ongoing supervisor and Swan paralegal attended a CPCMS training regarding Electronic Document Management. CPCMS now has the capability to save electronic versions of documents and store them as part of a case. On November 12, 2015, the agency’s paralegal and ongoing casework supervisor attended a local CPCMS training and opportunities for training will continue to be offered in the future.
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- **Grief and Loss Training** – In November 2010, all agency staff attended a two-day grief and loss training held locally and sponsored by Fulton County Services for Children. The Grief and Loss Model is a practice approach to work with those who have experienced profound losses in their lives such as children in foster care and those who are in the adoption process. It assists those individuals in the building of relationships through the attachment process. This training is now included as part of the Child Welfare Training Program’s curriculum so that every new caseworker has benefit of the information.
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- **Other Roundtable Initiatives** include: visitation (including visitation with incarcerated parents), Concurrent Planning, Permanency and Placement Trends, Substance Abuse, Transitional Youth, Psychotropic Medications, Legal Representation Education, Shared Case Management and Safety. The agency attempts to seek training on all of these initiatives and focuses on their importance both in staff meetings and at Roundtable meetings.
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STAFF TRAINING

All Children and Youth workers and supervisors benefit from the Competency-Based Training Program which is sponsored and provided through the collaborative efforts of the PA Department of Human Resources and the University of Pittsburgh. Each competency-based course is developed to focus topic information specifically as it relates to child welfare practice as defined by the PA Best Practice Standards for Child Welfare. All new Children and Youth Service caseworkers must participate in the “Charting the Course” curriculum which comprises 138 training hours in order to become certified as direct service child welfare workers. All new, uncertified workers are enrolled in the certification curriculum. While in “Charting the Course”, workers participate with the same training cohort group which builds cohesiveness and a stronger opportunity for the transfer of learning to be most effective. The introductory curriculum sessions are focused to ingrain the concepts of the PA Best Practice Standards in Child Welfare in all aspects of future child welfare practice.

After certification, all caseworkers and supervisors must accrue a minimum of 20 training hours each year. Training for ongoing caseworkers and supervisors is available via the Competency-Based Training Program. Staff also participates in local, in-house and county training opportunities. Caseworkers and supervisors meet regularly to staff cases in order to ensure that quality work is being completed, that safety is assured, that the Family Service Plan is regularly reviewed and revised as needed to reflect that pertinent services are being provided to address the families’ needs. Training and skill building is an ongoing and never-ending process which occurs in many different ways.

In 2016, FCSC caseworkers and supervisors invested in a total of 470 hours in training. This included a new employee completing the Charting the Course series.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

FCSC seeks to use every opportunity to not only enhance our agency staff's professionalism and expertise but also to extend information and awareness to our professional colleagues. During 2015, the agency's time and efforts were directed toward the QSR and development of the CIP. This was a time-intensive project that will drive many of our efforts to improve our services in 2017.

On May 17, 2016, the agency partnered with the Fulton County Family Partnership to sponsor a breakfast event to offer assistance to professionals and others working with addicted parents and families. Entitled, "Recovering Families: Addiction, Recovery and Parenting," the breakfast was held to discuss the very serious opioid addiction/overdoses and overdose deaths in the community. The guest speaker at this year's event was Beth Bitler, Program Director with the Pa. Family Support Alliance. Beth gave valuable advice to those working with families who are in recovery from an addiction. Invitations were extended to those who work in any capacity with children, youth and families, including the Courts, GALS, school officials, private providers and the FCSC staff. Over 100 participants attended the event.

Past conferences have included:

- 2016 "Recovering Families: Addiction, Recovery and Parenting"
- 2015 "BROKEN" (with national speaker, Silouan Green)
- 2014 "Safer Kids"
- 2013 "Family Engagement: Strategies for Success"
- 2012 "Domestic Abuse IS Child Abuse"
- 2011 "The Week of the Young Child: Strong Families, Strong Communities"
- 2010 "The Week of the Young Child: A Celebration, A Remembrance"
- 2009 "Broken Families, Broken Dreams: High, Drunk & Parenting"
- 2008 "Protecting Children 2008"
- 2002 "Children First"
- 2000 "No Escape" (Kids and Substance Abuse)
- 1998 "When Home Isn't Safe"
- 1997 "The Impact of Change"
- 1996 "Keeping Promises to our Children"
- 1994 "Times of Change, New Solutions"
- 1993 "Forming New Partnerships, Exploring New Options"

APPENDICES

Including:

Fiscal Analysis

- Expenditures
- Budgeted vs. Actuals
- Revenues
- County Share
- IL Grant
- Information Technology Grant
- FGDM Referrals/Conferences
- Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) Grant
 - Alternatives to Truancy
 - AOPC/OCFC Grant
- Caseworker Visitation Grant
 - SWAN
- Dependency Placements
- Delinquency Placements

Truancy Intervention Program (TIP) Protocol/Referral Form

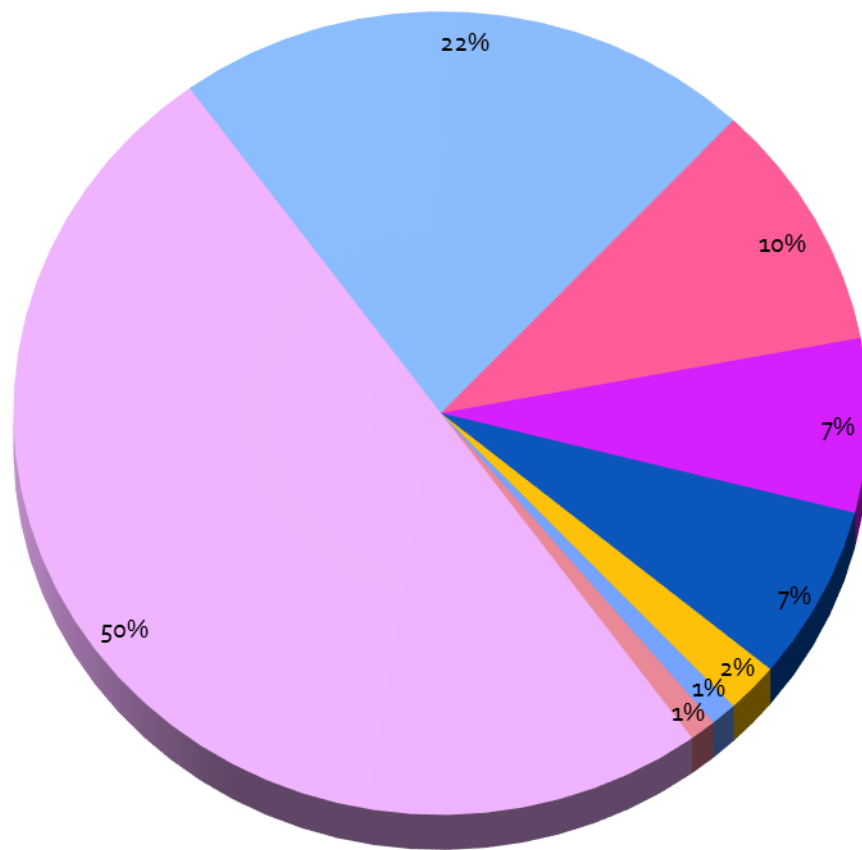
Organizational Charts

- Services for Children
- Human Services Administration

Human Services Administration 2016 Report

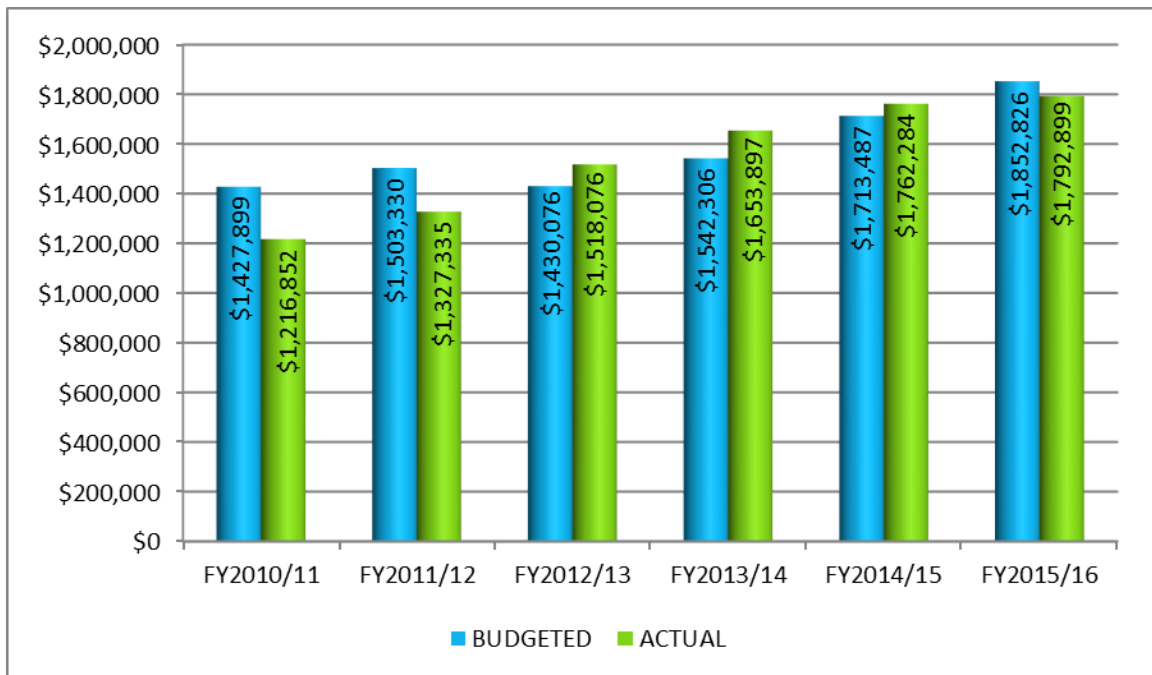
Fulton County Services for Children Expenses for FY2015/16 July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

- Purchased Services
- Wages & Salaries
- Employee Benefits
- Indirect Costs/Adv. Bd/Dues
- Adoption Subsidies
- Occupancy
- Program Consultant/Transportation
- Supplies/Assets



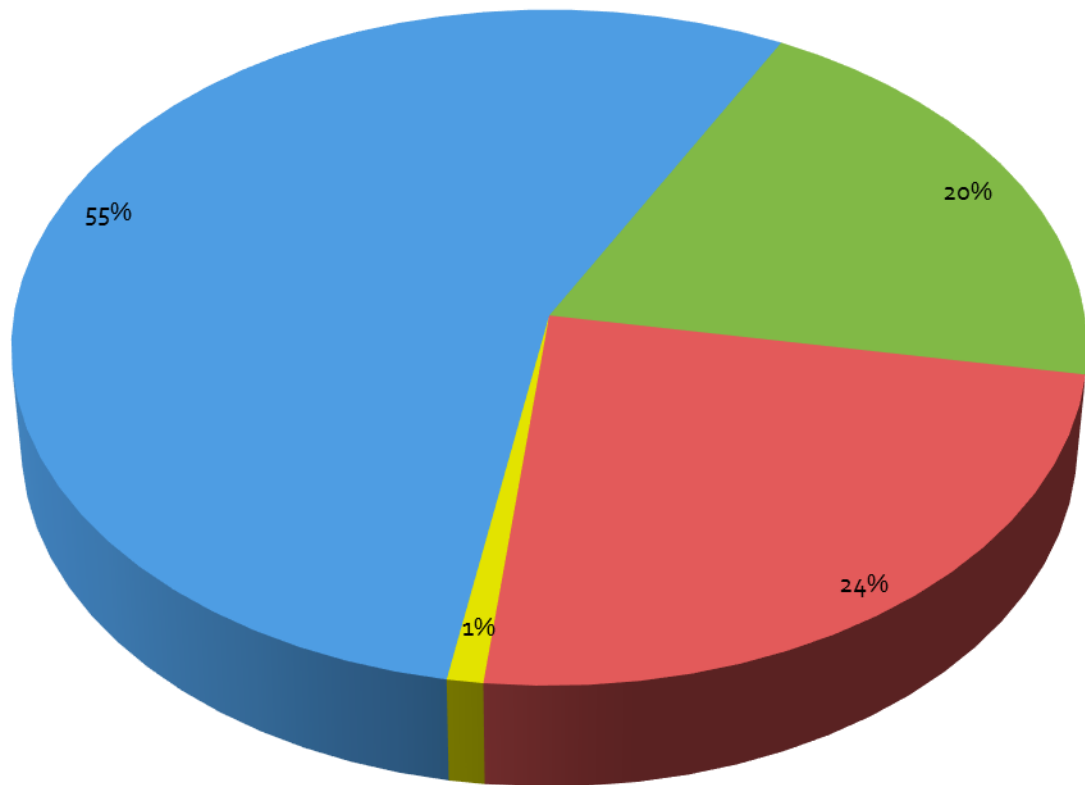
Total Expenses: \$1,792,899

Fulton County Services for Children
Budgeted vs Actual Expenses



Fulton County Services for Children Revenue Sources FY 2015/16 July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016

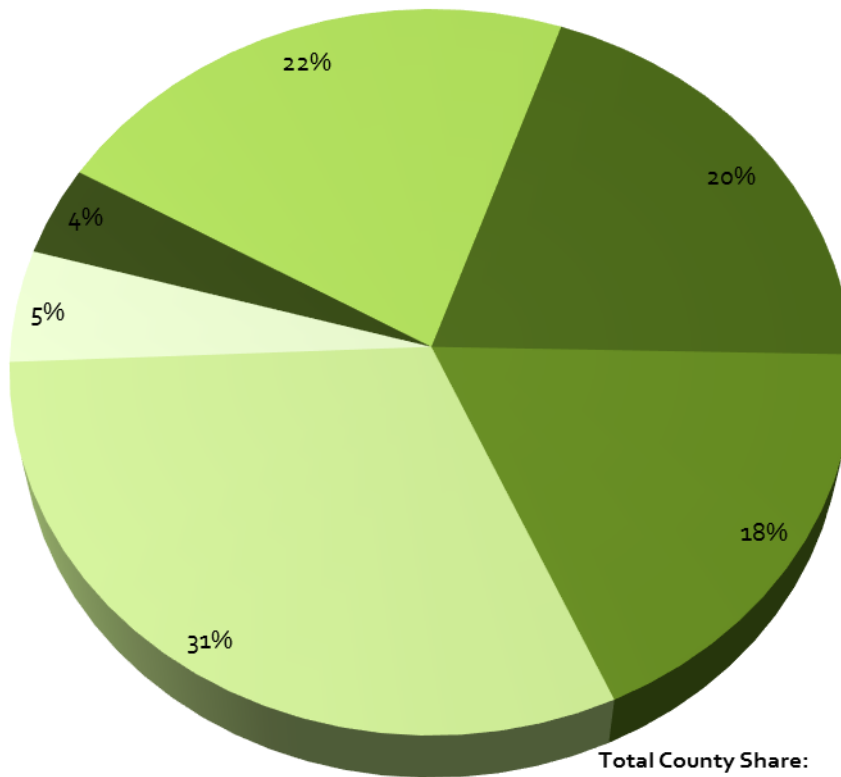
- State Act 148 Funds
- Federal Funds
- County Funds
- Support



Total Income:	\$1,792,899
State Share:	979,627
Federal Share:	361,123
County Share:	426,221
Support:	25,928

Fulton County Services for Children Analysis of County Share of Expenses July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016

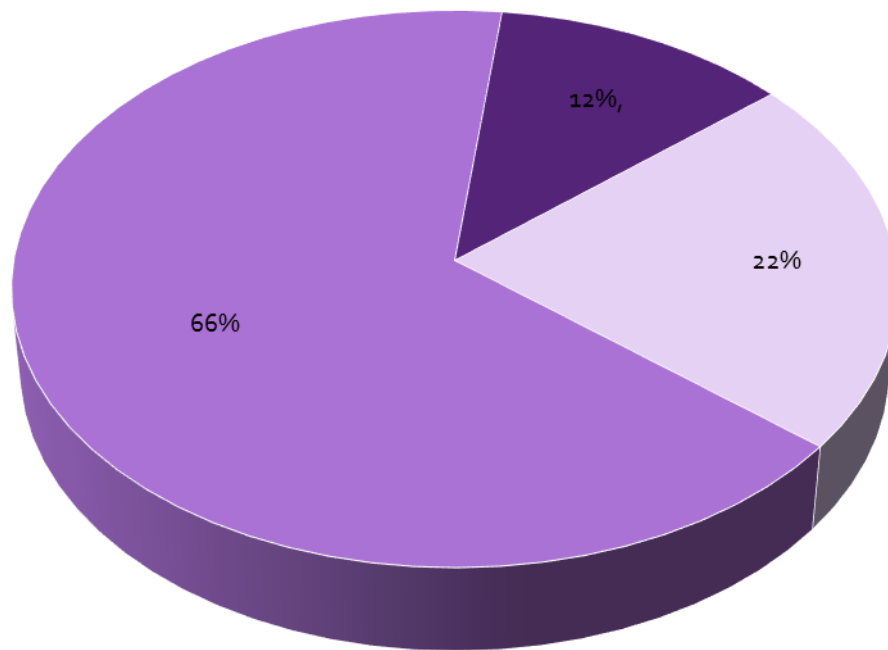
- In-Home Services
- Community-Based Services
- Non-Reimb. Indirect Costs/Unallowable Meals/Mileage
- Residential Services
- Administration
- Juv. Act Proceedings/Diagnostic Evals.



Total County Share:	\$426,221
(of Total Budget:	\$1,792,899)
In-Home Services	92,756
Community-Based Services	84,838
Indirect /Unallowable costs	75,396
Residential/YDC Services	131,509
Administrative Costs	24,074
Juvenile Act Proceedings/Evals	17,648

**Fulton County Services for Children
Independent Living Grant
FY 2015/16
July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016**

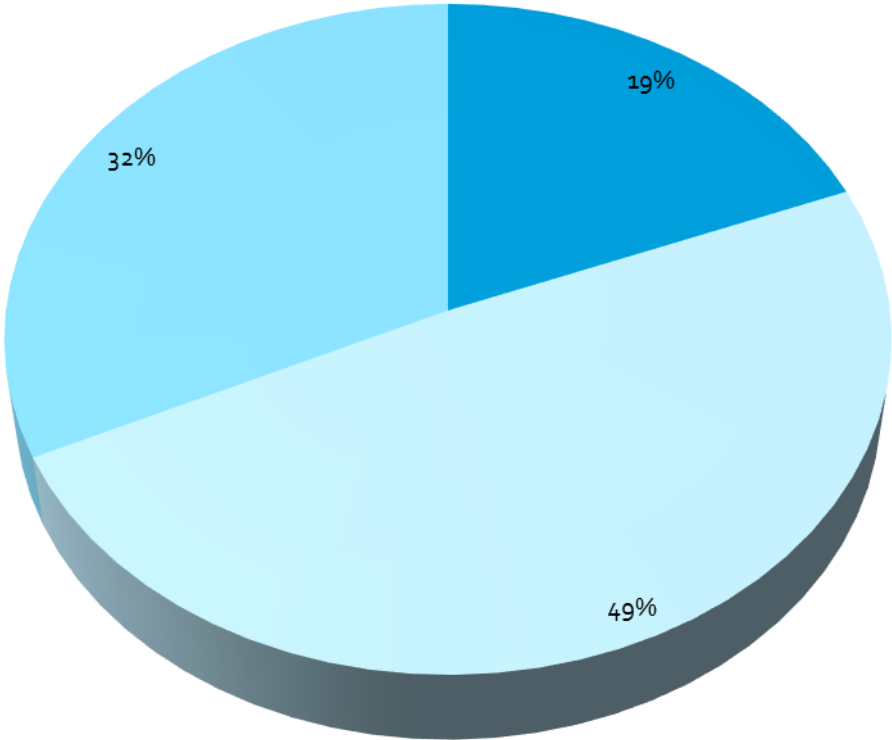
- Federal Funds
- State Funds
- County Funds



Total Amount: \$19,557.93
Federal Share: 4,365.00
State Share: 12,913.99
County Share 2,278.94

**Fulton County Services for Children
Information Technology Grant
FY 2015/16
July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016**

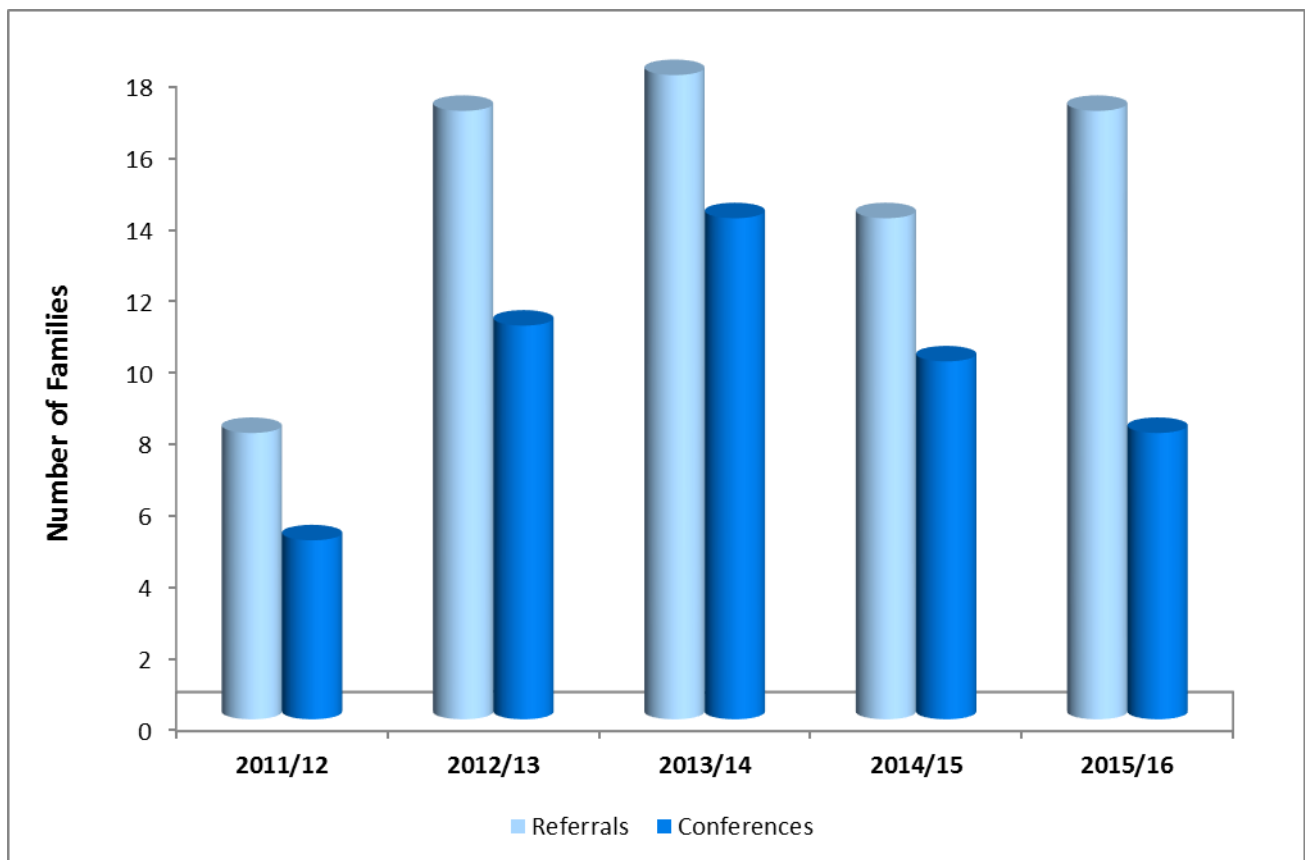
- Federal Funds
- State Funds
- County Funds



Total Amount: \$13,338.17
Federal Share: 2,568.15
State Share: 6,462.01
County Share: 4,308.01

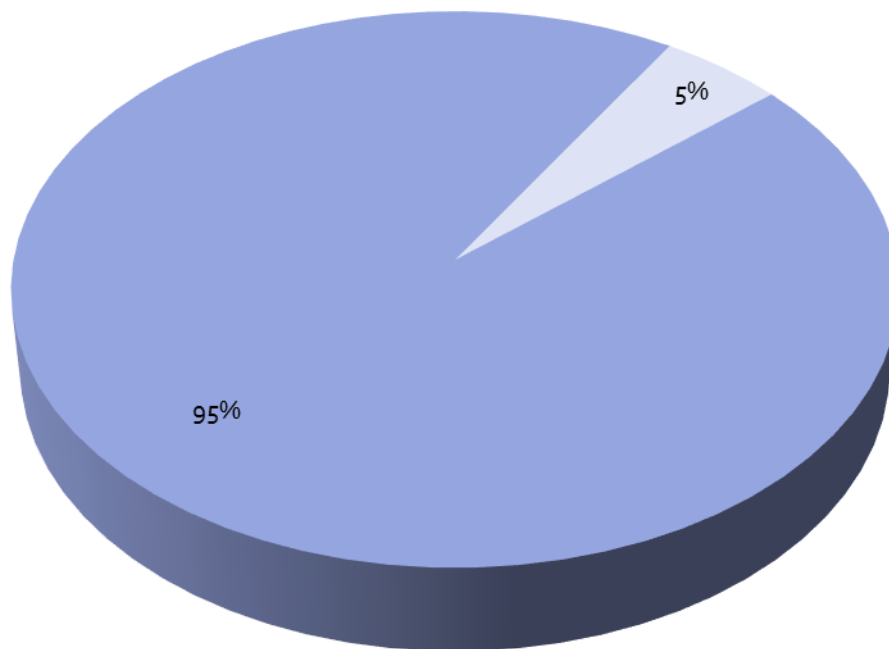
Fulton County Services for Children Evidence-Based Grant (Family Group Decision Making)

Referrals/Conferences



**Fulton County Services for Children
Evidence-Based Grant
(Family Group Decision Making)
FY 2015/16
July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016**

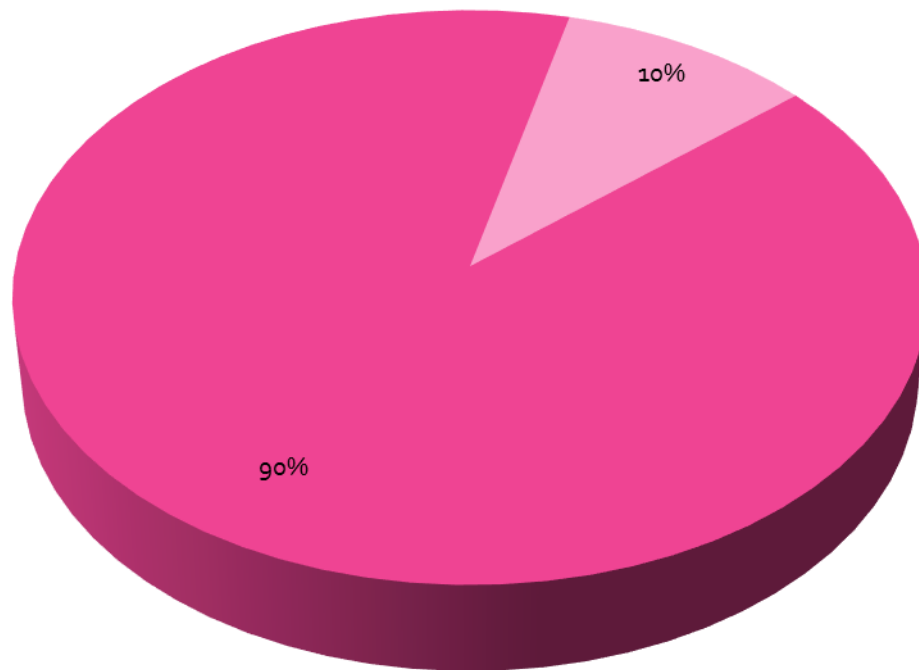
■ State Funds
■ County Funds



Total Amount: \$26,072.26
State Share: 24,768.65
County Share: 1,303.61

**Fulton County Services for Children
Evidence-Based Grant
(Alternatives to Truancy Prevention)
FY 2015/16
July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016**

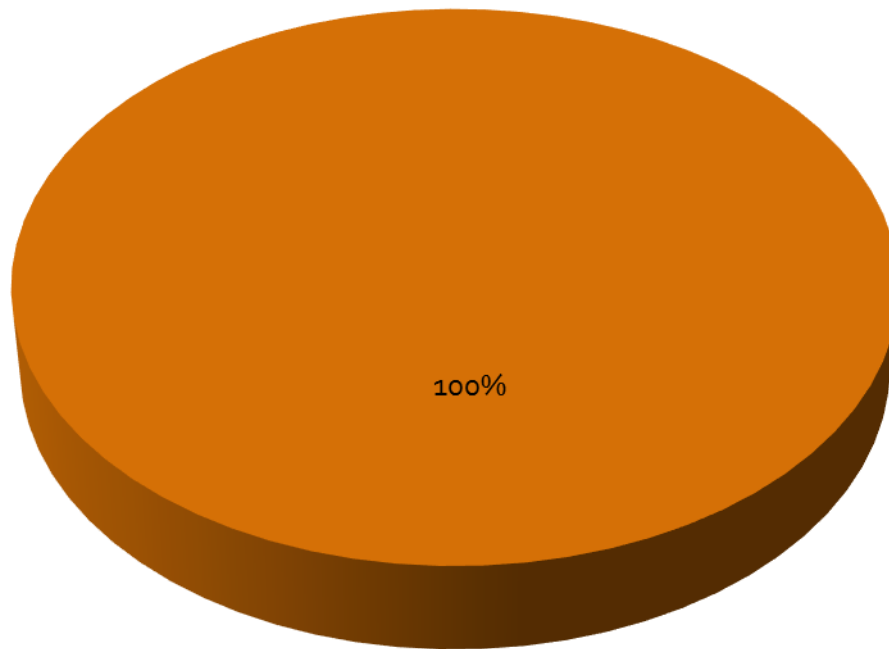
■ State Funds
■ County Funds



Total Amount: \$70,598.45
State Share: 63,538.61
County Share: 7,059.84

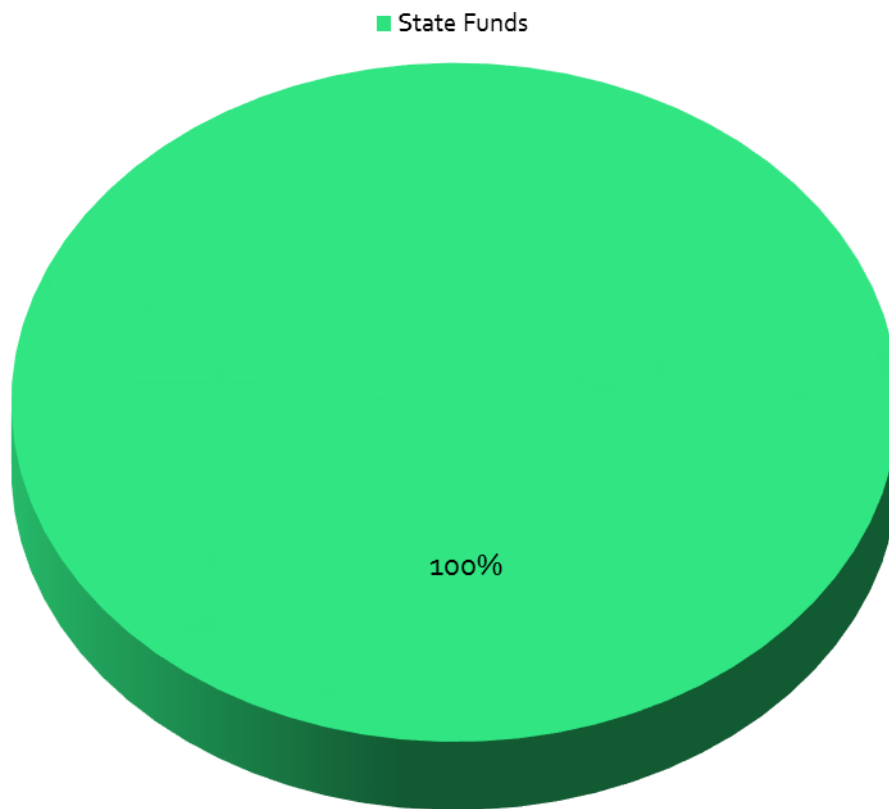
**Fulton County Services for Children
AOPC/OCFC Grant
FY 2015/16
July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016**

■ State Funds



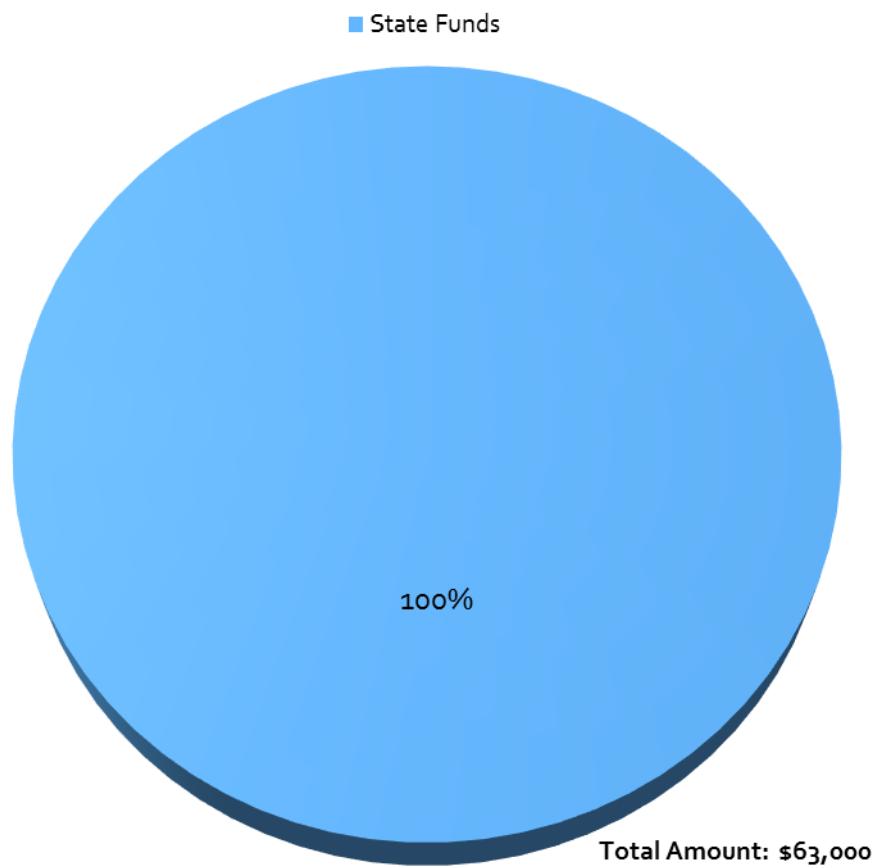
Total Amount: \$2,000.00
State Share: 2,000.00
County Share: 0

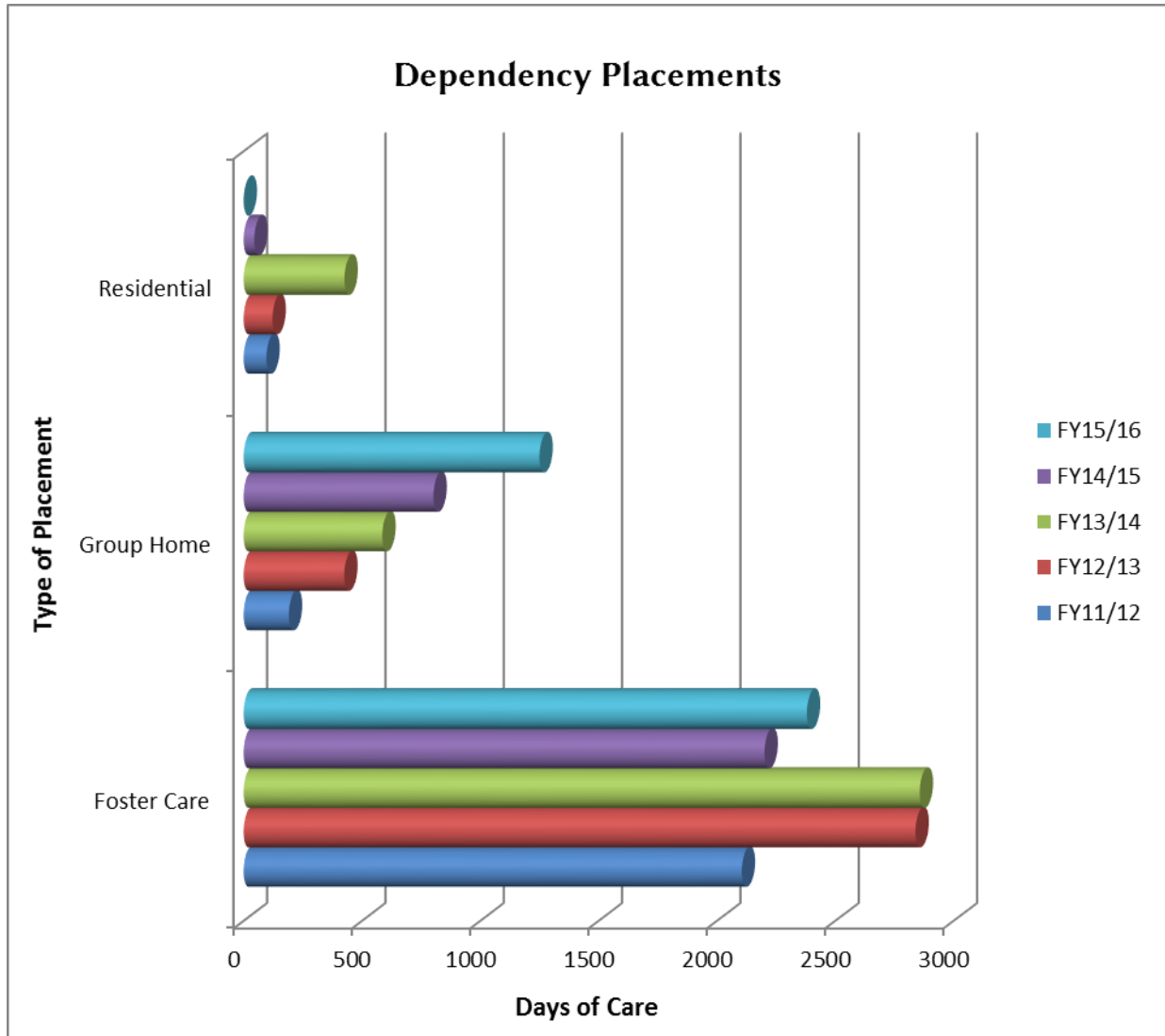
**Fulton County Services for Children
Caseworker Visitation Grant
FY 2015/16
October 1, 2015-September 30, 2016**



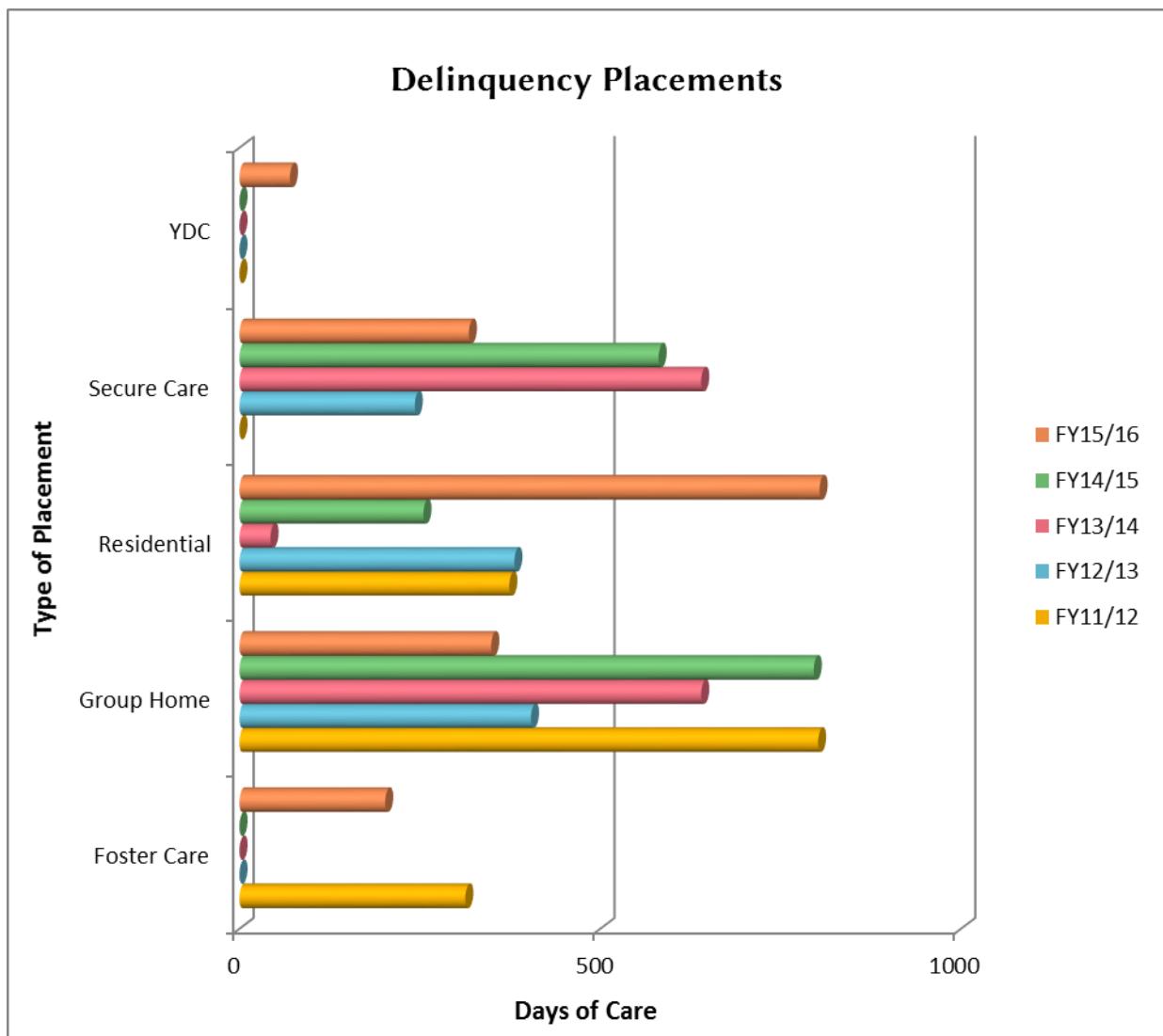
Total Amount: \$2,420.00
State Share: 2,420.00
County Share: 0

**Fulton County Services for Children
State Wide Adoption Network
(SWAN)
FY 2015/16
July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016**





Dependency Placements					
Type of Placement	Days in 11/12	Days in 12/13	Days in 13/14	Days in 14/15	Days in 15/16
Foster Care	2105	2839	2857	2201	2380
Group Home	191	425	586	802	1250
Residential	96	122	427	45	0



Delinquency Placements					
Type of Placement	Days in 11/12	Days in 12/13	Days in 13/14	Days in 14/15	Days in 15/16
Foster Care	313	0	0	0	202
Group Home	802	404	640	796	349
Residential	374	381	43	255	804
Secure Care	0	243	640	581	318
YDC	0	0	0	0	70

Fulton County Truancy Intervention Program Protocol

Effective September 1, 2010

Each school district will follow Section IV of the Department of Education Basic Education Circular (BEC) issued to address truancy. Each district has a designated staff who will track student attendance and send the recommended notices to parents if unexcused absences occur. Every effort will be made by the child's home school team to identify and address issues that may contribute to the student's attendance problem by developing a Student Attendance Improvement Plan (SAIP)

If, despite these efforts, unexcused absences persist, a citation will be filed with the Magisterial District Judge (MDJ). These filings will be timely as per the BEC guidelines. The school districts will submit their SAIP and the Fulton County Services for Children (FCSC) Referral for Truancy Intervention form (copy attached) with the documentation for the citation. When making a judgment on the citation, the MDJ will have the prerogative to order the student and the parents to cooperate in a course of intervention decided by FCSC in lieu of payment of a fine. It is suggested that maximum fines be the alternative in order to encourage participation with FCSC rather than simply paying the fine.

The FCSC Intake Supervisor will review every referral received to determine the most appropriate course of intervention. If there are no allegations of abuse or neglect and if the case is not an open case with FCSC, the new referral will be diverted to the Truancy Intervention Program (TIP) offered by the Center for Families. The Center for Families TIP coordinator will employ an evidence-based approach to truancy intervention. This program will be time limited and adjusted to meet the needs of each student and their families. Collaboration will continue with the referring school district, and with FCSC until the attendance problem is resolved. FCSC will provide feedback to the MDJ.

We are hopeful that this team effort will prove to be effective and helpful to everyone but especially to the students who are struggling to succeed or simply marking time before dropping out and/or moving on to other less desirable adventures. Together we can make a difference.

REFERRAL FOR TRUANCY INTERVENTION

Name of Youth:		Gender & Date of Birth:
Address: (mailing & physical with directions)		
Name of Parent(s)/primary caregiver:		
Home Phone #:	Cell Phone#:	Work Phone#:
Parent(s) Work Schedule :		

School Information:

School/Address:		Grade:	
Special Educational Needs:	Does child have an IEP: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Learning Support: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Emotion Support: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

School Referral Information:

Date of Referral:	
Name of Individual Making Referral: (same address as above?)	Phone#:
Name of Individual for Follow-up Contact: (same address as above?)	Phone#:
Copy of Student Attendance Improvement Plan Attached?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Youth's History:

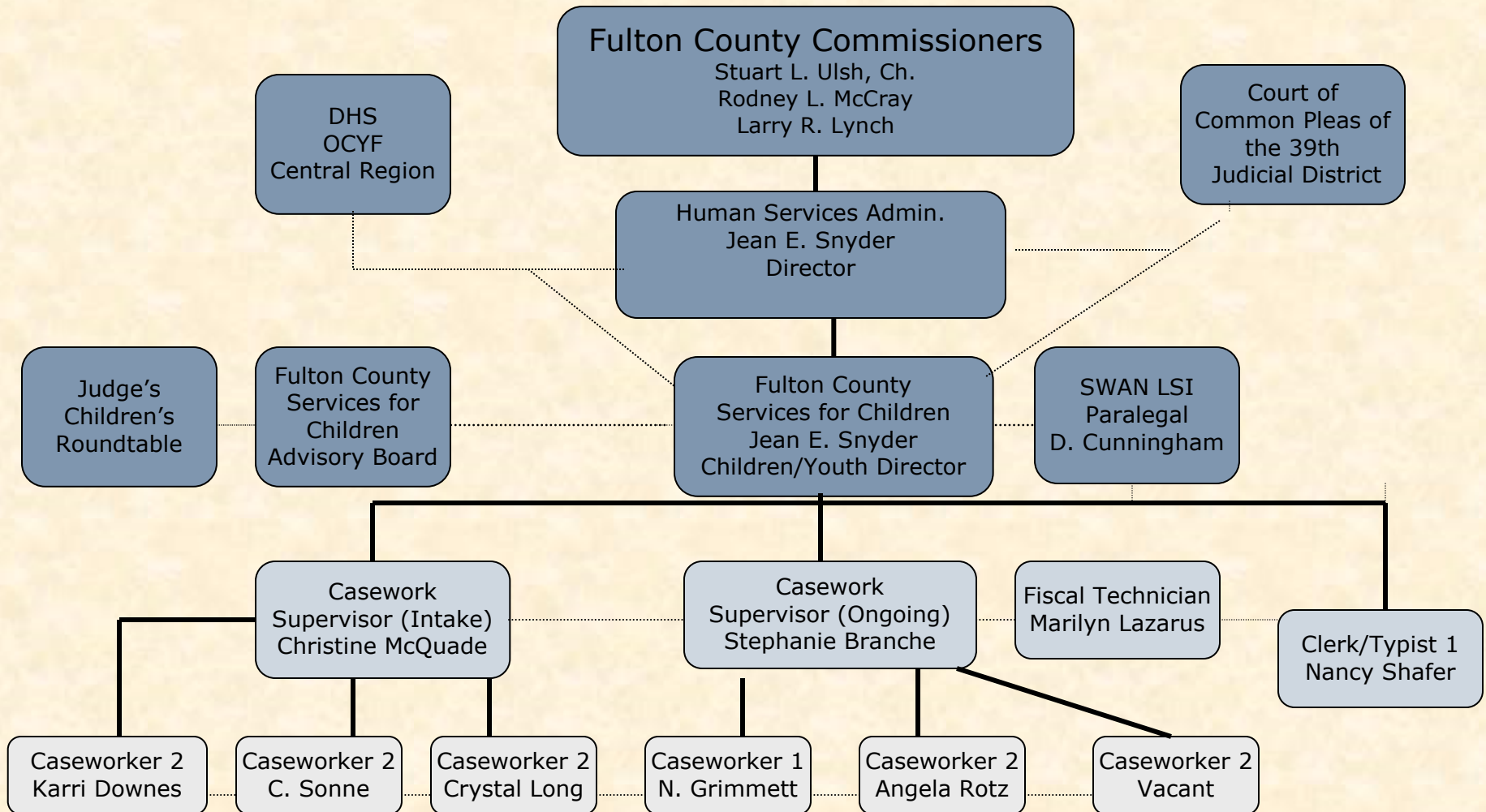
Prior Offenses, Referrals and Results: (i.e. Prior Truancy Citations, C&Y , Mental Health, SAP, JPO):
Number Days Truant (illegal): _____ (Please attach a current attendance print out.)
School Based Interventions: (Please state specifically what interventions have been implemented to date and with what results.)

Please use reverse side if needed >>>>>>>>>>

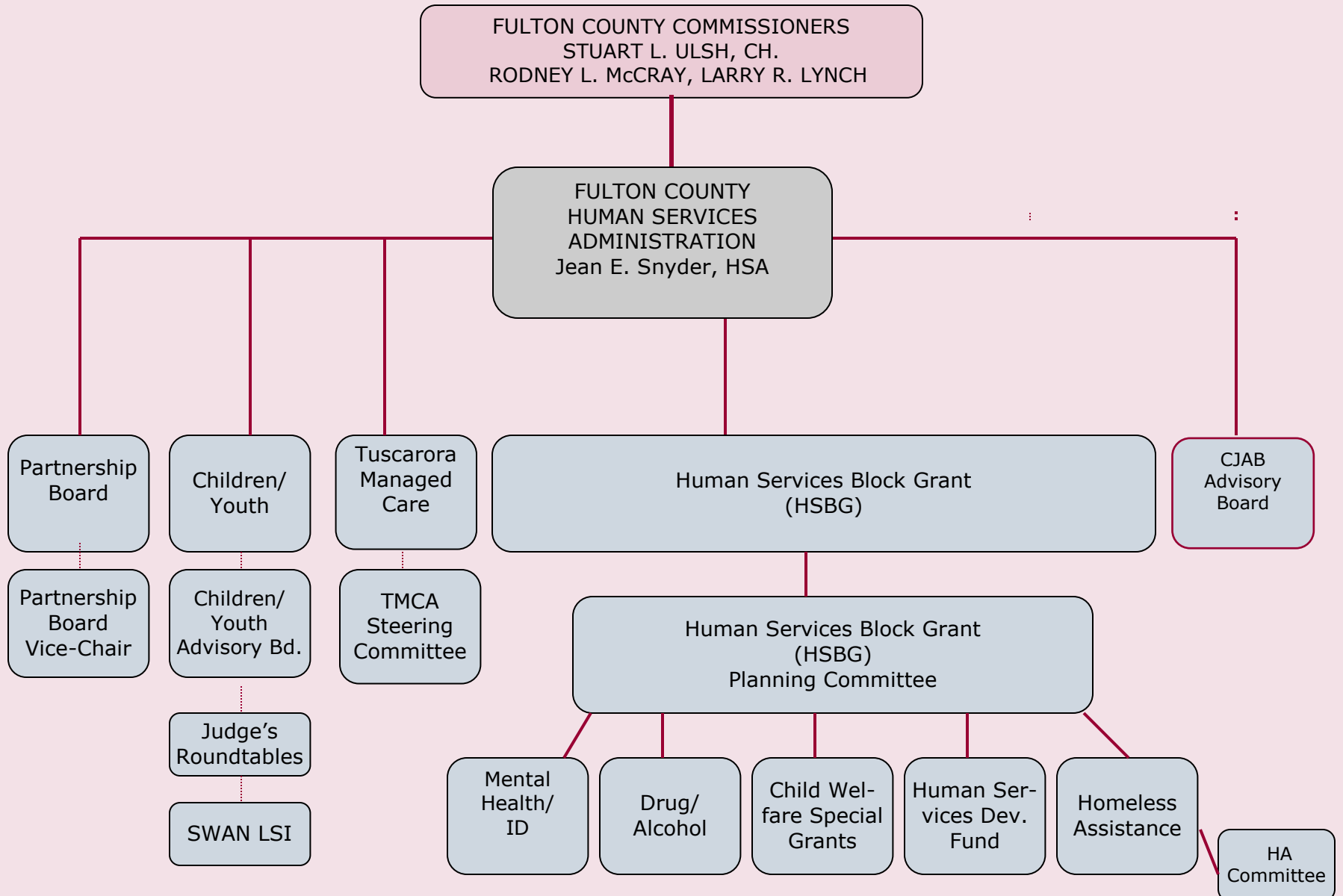
This is the sixth annual report prepared and submitted by the Fulton County Services for Children. This process has been adopted as a yearly practice to be modified and enhanced as needed. Your input regarding content and other information of interest is appreciated. If you have feedback or suggestions, please contact Jean E. Snyder, Director at 717-485-3553 or at jsnyder@co.fulton.pa.us.

02/17

FULTON COUNTY SERVICES FOR CHILDREN



FULTON COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES ADMINISTRATION Organizational Chart



**FULTON COUNTY
HUMAN SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**

**2016
ANNUAL REPORT**



Jean E. Snyder
Human Services Administrator

Fulton County's Services for Children Director also serves as the county's Human Services Administrator and, as such, has oversight in Fulton County over the following programs in addition to the Children & Youth program:

- Franklin/Fulton Mental Health/Mental Retardation Program – (MH/MR)
- Franklin/Fulton Drug & Alcohol Program – (D&A)
- Tuscarora Managed Care Alliance – (TMCA)
- Homeless Assistance Program
- Human Services Block Grant (HSBG) – Fulton is one of 20 pilot counties for FY 2012-13 and was accepted to continue the grant in 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17.

Seven programs are included in the Block Grant and they include:

Mental Health
Intellectual Disabilities
Drug & Alcohol
Drug & Alcohol Treatment and Prevention (Act 152)
Child Welfare Special Grants
Homeless Assistance
Human Services Development Fund (HSDF)

Below are highlights of the accomplishments Fulton County in the above programs in 2015-2016.

Franklin/Fulton Mental Health/Intellectual Disabilities/Early Intervention

(Steve Nevada, Administrator)

Mental Health Program Specialists met with Long Care living staff at Fulton Medical Center to evaluate involuntary commitment process as it pertains to their residents. There have been several situations where mental health was the presenting issue and the staff expressed interest in learning other skills to expand their ability to serve their patients.

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) graduated its largest class of eighteen (18) members. Those members included dispatchers, Chambersburg Police, Shippensburg University, Fulton County Medical Center, and Occupational Services, Inc. (OSI) staff. According to the pre/posttest, knowledge was gained in all subjects presented during the 40 hours of training.

Mental Health, Child and Adolescent Service Systems Program (CASSP), Children & Youth, Fulton County Family Center and Healthy Communities Partnership (HCP) attended a two (2) day workshop and are now trained to implement the evidence based program Check and Connect. This program will be present in all Fulton County school districts from Kindergarten through 12th grade and in Chambersburg School District 6th -8th grades. Waynesboro School District currently has the program in place.

TrueNorth Wellness Services, a Franklin and Fulton County provider, had their annual license review with DHS for outpatient services, crisis and peer support services and passed all without any citations. Mental health was present and assisted in the outpatient licensing visit.

Mental Health was successful at securing a grant from SAMHSA to train twenty (20) trainers to present "How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses". These twenty (20) trainers will then be available to complete this training throughout the community with the primary audience being law enforcement, probation, community corrections, courts and other service provider agencies

The Housing Program participated in the Fulton County Housing Seminar. There was a presentation to landlords and housing providers on the Fair Housing Act and some round table discussion of landlord issues. The Housing Program also participated in the Kick your Drug Free Summer event at the Fulton County Medical Center and handed out resource and program information throughout the day.

The Housing Program presented information regarding programs at the Intro to Human Services Day and the Fulton County Housing Symposium in order to provide education on the different programs available, the eligibility criteria for each one, and the type of assistance that can be provided.

Intellectual Disabilities Program Specialist participated in the Fulton County Transition Council meeting. Attendees investigated the potential of teachers becoming certified to administer the community based work assessments. These assessments no longer can be completed at sheltered workshops such as OSI as per the Workforce Innovative and

Opportunities Act. It was discovered that there is no formalized training or certification for the assessment. There is also no standard format for the report. It is considered an assessment when teachers take students out into the community for volunteer work. They are able to watch them work and assess their skills at that particular job.

Employment Fair, that is part of logic model for mental health and intellectual disabilities programs, was held May 12, 2016. Collaboration between the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), schools, Lincoln Intermediate Unit (LIU), employment providers and the business community have provided valuable insight from different perspectives. There were a total of 91 people who participated in the Employment Fair; this included 52 participants, 18 businesses, 4 invited guests and 17 committee/agency representatives. Representatives from agencies and the Office of Developmental Programs also attended.

Provider Monitoring Cycle for ID Providers was completed. All onsite visits are completed and CAPs were completed and validated. Provider Qualifications were also all completed for providers in Franklin/Fulton County.

The Administrative Entity Oversight Monitoring was held to audit whether the Intellectual Disabilities Program was fulfilling obligations per the Administrative Entity Operating Agreement. There were three (3) items questioned that if they result in non-compliances would need remediated but unless something else is found in record review, there will be no Corrective Action Plan required.

Intellectual Disabilities Program is part of the new Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) initiative, "Communities of Practice". The application and plan was accepted by ODP and Franklin/Fulton ID program will be a Regional Collaborative. The stakeholders formed a regional collaborative group to reach families with tools to use to support people with developmental disabilities and their families across the lifespan. The goals of the Collaborative for year one (1) will be to host an event to inform families about the Life Course Planning tools, find out where families need more support and access community/social capital to fill those needs, develop a vision and create an action plan for year two (2).

ID program engaged United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) to explore the potential of creating service opportunities in Fulton County. With the development of the Pathways program in Franklin County, a similar model along with other program options such as respite and community supports would best meet the needs in that area. Information provided on the number of people needing support in Fulton County is being assessed

As Early Intervention participated in the Coaching Grant, webinars were presented at three separate sites: Chambersburg, Greencastle and at the Fulton County Medical Center. Coaching is a tool for EI staff to use when they interact with families and caregivers, to help them think purposefully about what they're doing with the child. The components of coaching (observation, action, reflection, feedback, and joint planning) can be used on every visit. Eventually, they will be woven into practice so that they don't take so much effort and just become how part of the interaction with families.

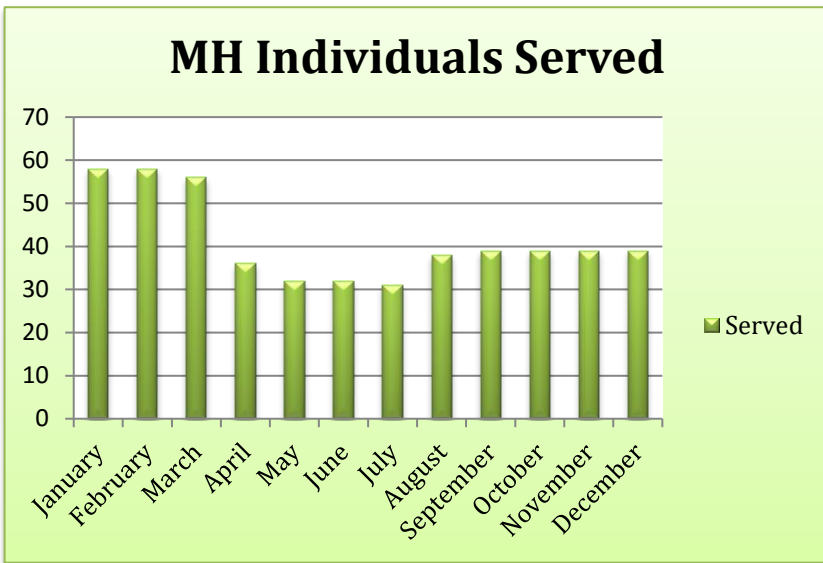
Fulton County Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC) is creating a calendar for infant/toddlers zero to three (3) and preschoolers - kindergarten through 2nd grade. The calendars will cover activities for spring, summer, fall and winter. The calendar will also have age appropriate books corresponding to each season as well as child crafts, recipes and a list of school districts.

Early Intervention Program developed a contract with Aspirations. This provider has both a hearing and vision itinerant which is a service that is mandated. Aspirations also employs a Social Worker; a service that Early Intervention has been hoping to add as a choice for families.

Mental Health (MH)

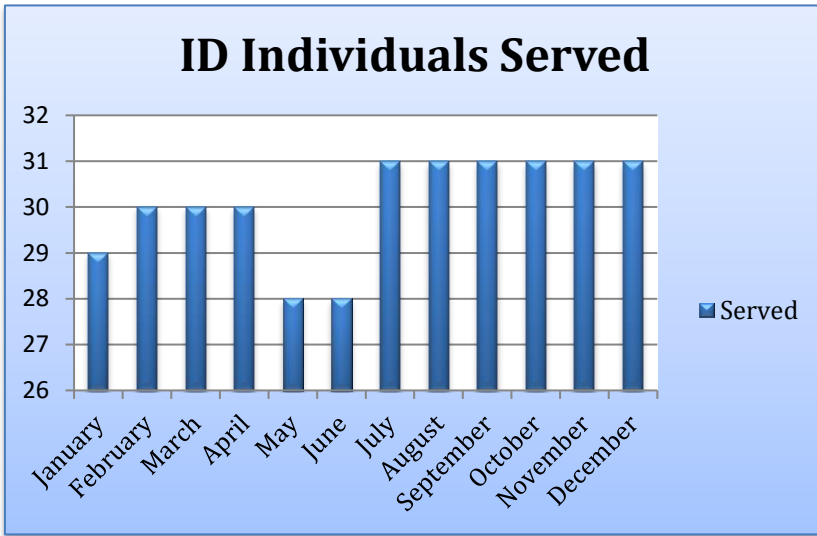
Individuals Served

<u>Month</u>	<u>Served</u>
January	58
February	58
March	56
April	36
May	32
June	32
July	31
August	38
September	39
October	39
November	39
December	39



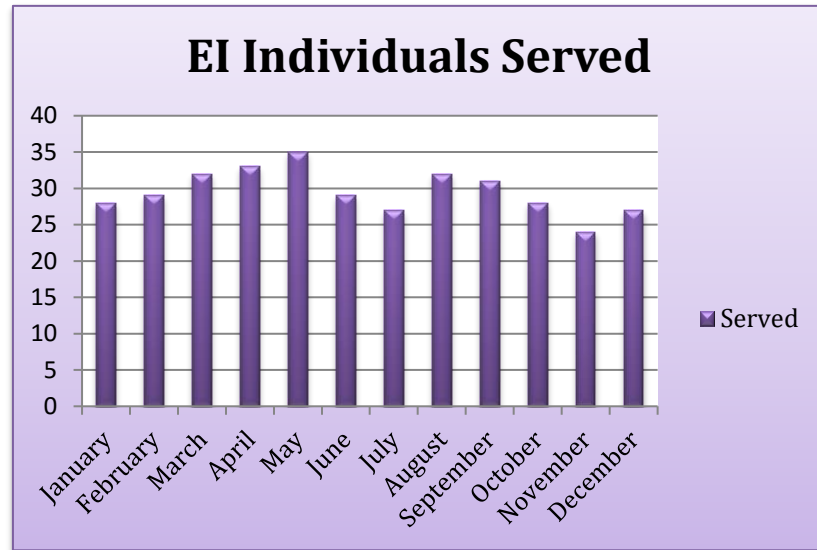
Intellectual Disabilities (ID)

<i>Individuals Served</i>	
<u>Month</u>	<u>Served</u>
January	29
February	30
March	30
April	30
May	28
June	28
July	31
August	31
September	31
October	31
November	31
December	31



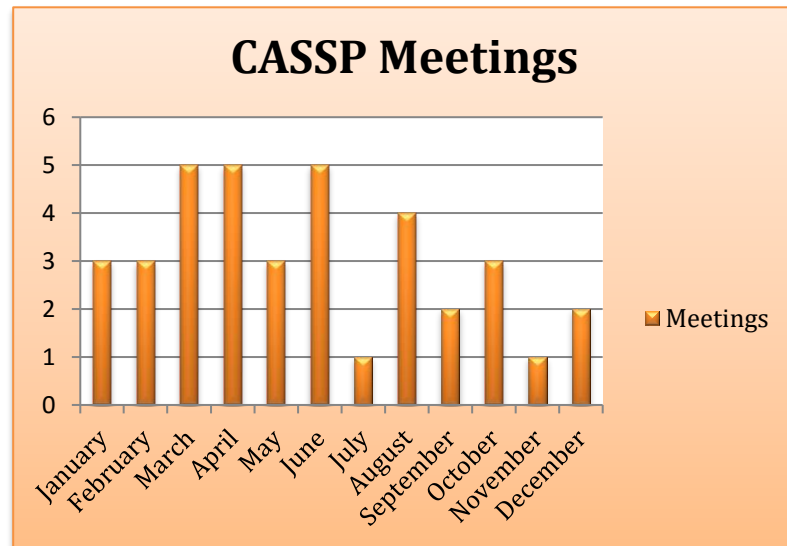
Early Intervention (EI)

<i>Individuals Served</i>	
<u>Month</u>	<u>Served</u>
January	28
February	29
March	32
April	33
May	35
June	29
July	27
August	32
September	31
October	28
November	24
December	27



Child and Adolescent Service Systems (CASSP)

<i>Meetings</i>	
<u>Month</u>	<u>Meetings</u>
January	3
February	3
March	5
April	5
May	3
June	5
July	1
August	4
September	2
October	3
November	1
December	2



FRANKLIN/FULTON DRUG & ALCOHOL

(April Brown, Administrator)

- For fiscal year 15-16 and calendar year 2016, FFDA did not deny any requests for funding of treatment services. All individuals who were deemed eligible received funded services. The majority of individuals received at least: 10 days of detox, 28 days of rehab, 10 weeks of IOP, and 4 months of OP. A total of 34 Fulton County residents were funded for treatment. A total of 43 assessments were completed on Fulton County residents by FFDA case management staff.
- Case Management staff continued to assess individuals at the Franklin County jail (Fulton County Adult Probation involved individuals) when requested.
- FFDA provided assessment/treatment service funding for 77 individuals. Of those 77 individuals, 38% (29) were funded for alcohol treatment and 62% (48) were for funded for drug treatment. Historically, treatment for alcohol has been the primary substance of use/abuse funded within Fulton County; however, for CY 2015, 80% of individuals were funded for drug treatment. It appears that Fulton County continues to see a shift between alcohol and drug treatment needs from those funded by county dollars. Two areas of drug treatment that were present in CY2016 that were not present in CY2015 were crack/cocaine and benzodiazepines.

Out of the total of 62% funded for drug treatment (48 individuals)

- 8% (4 individuals) were in need of services for prescription opiates;
- 50% (24 individuals) were in need of services for heroin;
- 29% (14 individuals) were in need of services for marijuana;
- 8% (4 individuals) were in need of services for crack/cocaine;
- 0% (0 individuals) were in need of services for synthetics;
- 4% (2 individuals) were in need of services for benzodiazepines.
 - See chart below on next page
- Prevention: supported Fatherhood events; PATHS curriculum use for preschool and toddlers; Too Good for Drugs curriculum use in all three school districts; Interrupted Underage Drinking curriculum use for the COPE program; education event for Forbes Road Early Head Start; health education promotion events in all three school districts and the Christian School at the elementary level; and information dissemination for school readiness for all three school districts.
- Maintained oversight of the Student Assistance Program throughout the county.
- Alternative activities held in Fulton County included Kick Off Your Drug Free Summer event at the Fulton County Medical Center and Prom Promise activities in all three district high schools.
- Operation Save A Life (overdose response/naloxone) community trainings were initiated and began occurring within this reporting period.

D&A FUNDED SERVICES PROVIDED IN FULTON COUNTY CY2016

Level of Care	Number of Individuals	Gender	Substance	Funding
Detox	3	3-males	1-opiate 1-heroin 1-alcohol	\$2,299.00
Short-Term Inpatient	6	5-males	1-opiate 2-heroin 1-alcohol 1-benzodiazaphine	\$9,200.07
		1-female	1-heroin	
Long-Term Inpatient	1	1-male	1-heroin	\$999.00
Intensive Outpatient	5	5-males	1-heroin 4-alcohol	\$6,274.32
Outpatient	19	16-males	4-heroin 8-alcohol 3-marijuana 1-crack/cocaine	\$7,519.81
		3-females	1-heroin 2-marijuana	
Assessments	43	36-males	2-opiates 11-heroin 15-alcohol 7-marijuana 1-crack/cocaine	\$2,554.70
		7-females	2-heroin 2-marijuana 1-benzodiazaphine 2 crack/cocaine	

Funding Source	Inpatient	Outpatient
DDAP	\$2,015.00	\$4,978.83
Fulton Block Grant	\$10,483.07	\$10,417.00
Fulton DUI	\$0	\$953.00

TUSCARORA MANAGED CARE ALLIANCE

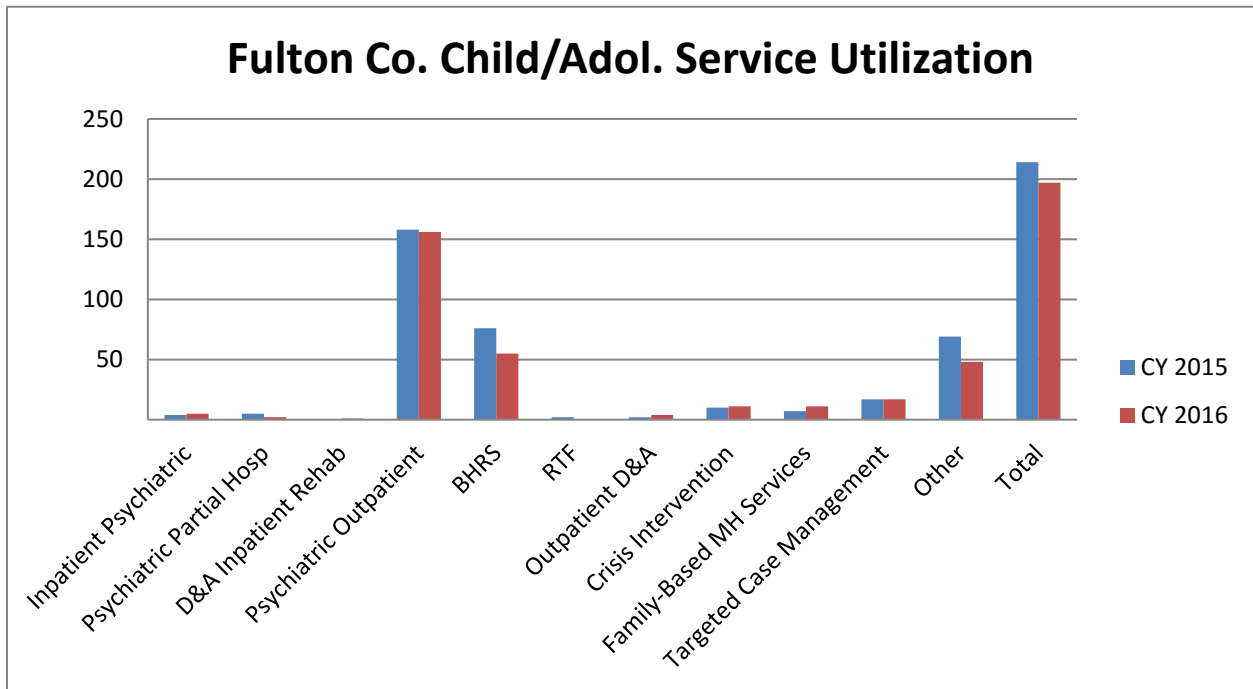
(Melissa Reisinger, Executive Director)

Overall Impressions

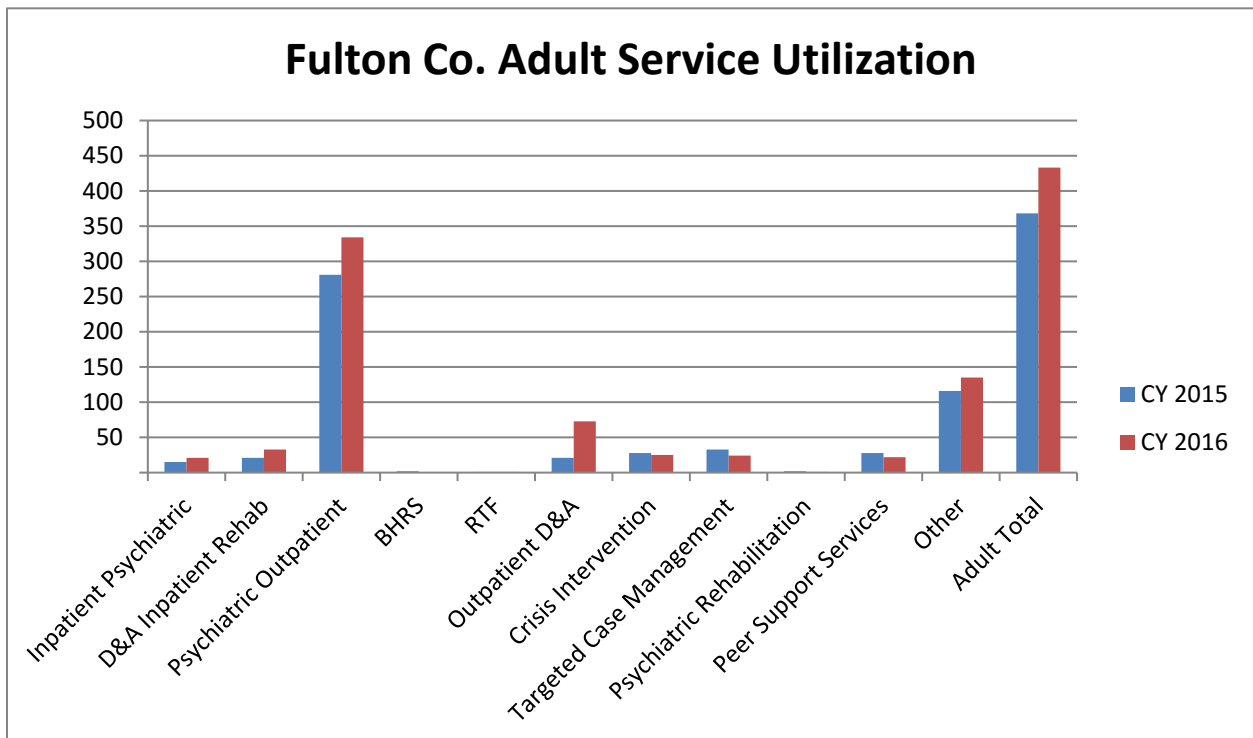
- Overall service utilization rates remained the same, 17% 2015 and 17% in 2016. Membership and utilization both increased in 2016 resulting in a consistent service utilization rate from 2015.
 - Fulton Consumers/Members 2015: 576/3489=17%
 - Fulton Consumers/Members 2016: 629/3659=17%
 - Those qualifying for Medicaid through the Medicaid expansion utilized services at a rate of 15% which is an increase from the previous year (10%)
- There was a slight decrease in the number of Children/Adolescents utilizing a Behavioral Health (BH) service from the previous year 214 (2015) to 197(2016).
- There was also a slight increase in the number of Adults utilizing a BH service from the previous year 368 (2015) to 433 (2016).
- Youth in CYS custody who utilized a BH service decreased from the previous year, 12 in 2015 to 8 in 2016.
- To date claims dollars paid for Fulton County Individuals increased from 2015 to 2016. The increase is primarily due to an increase in utilization overall. In addition increased utilization was realized in several services; Inpatient Psychiatric, Drug & Alcohol Inpatient Rehabilitation, Drug & Alcohol Outpatient, and Family Based Mental Health Services.

Dollars	CY 2015	CY 2016*
Child/Adol	\$880,072.44	\$951,960.25
Adult	\$1,065,028.32	\$1,426,009.52
Grand Total	\$1,945,100.76	\$2,377,969.77

**2016 claims dollars are not final.*



Service Utilization Trends for Adults



HUMAN SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (HSBG)

(Jean E. Snyder, Human Services Administrator)

Portions of DPW Programs transferred to the Human Services Block Grant in 12-13 included*:

PROGRAM	STATE	FEDERAL	TOTAL
Intellectual Disabilities (ID)	\$66,917	\$28,790	\$95,707
Community Mental Health	\$427,541	\$9,091	\$436,632
Drug & Alcohol Treatment (Act 152)	\$28,513	0	\$28,513
Child Welfare Services	\$70,425	0	\$70,425
Homeless Assistance Services	\$14,389		\$14,389
Human Services Development Fund (HSDF)	\$50,000	0	\$50,000
TOTAL	\$657,785	\$37,881	\$695,666

*The allocations for the 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 years essentially remained the same.

For fiscal year 2012-13, the Governor’s budget offered a Human Services Block Grant to twenty (20) pilot counties. Fulton County applied and was one of the 20 chosen to pilot the block grant which included funding for the above programs. Fulton County was the only 8th class county chosen and Franklin/Fulton was the only joinder county chosen.

Subsequently, 10 more counties were chosen as block grant counties and new legislation will allow potentially all counties to apply to become block grant counties in 2017-18.

The Fulton County Commissioners formed a human services planning team in June, 2012 in order to explore opportunities that might arise from piloting the block grant. It was decided at that time that there likely would not be enough time to put together a plan in the first year that would look a whole lot different from current plans. Also, with the state cuts in budgets, it was also felt that cutting those programs additionally would be detrimental to consumers. Therefore the initial planning team was composed largely of those persons representing agencies currently receiving funding. The Fulton County Human Services administrator serves on the Franklin County planning team and the Franklin County Human Services Administrator serves on the Fulton County planning team. For planning for the 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 fiscal years, the planning team was expanded and consumer representation was added as well.

The biggest change represented by the new block grant is the fact that Fulton County’s share of **MH/ID and D&A** now comes directly to Fulton County whereas previously it went to Franklin County as the signatory county for the joinder.

Another change was the addition of **Child Welfare Special Grants** that prior to now were included in the child welfare grants budget. For Fulton County, those grants are Alternatives to Truancy and Family Group Decision-Making. However, in the upcoming 2017-18 Block Grant, those CW special grants will be taken out of the Block Grant and returned to Child Welfare funding stream(s).

Another change for the 2017-18 Block Grant year will be the ability of counties to carryover up to 5% of the total funds vs. the current 3%.

The **Human Services Development Fund** (now in the HSBG) is state-funded on a state fiscal year (July 1-June 30) and for FY 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17, funding has remained flat at \$50,000 for Fulton County. Although HSDF had suffered severe budget cuts in recent years, the enabling legislation states that no county may receive less than \$50,000; hence, Fulton County’s allocation has remained the same.

These funds have traditionally been utilized by the Fulton County Family Partnership for coordination of services and transportation; by the County of Fulton for administration and service coordination and by a few other agencies to provide services that are not available under any other funding stream, such as literacy and homeless assistance case management. The flexibility of the new block grant has been very helpful in that funds left over from categoricals can be re-allocated to HSDF or to other categoricals. In 2015-16, \$60,312 was the total allocated to HSDF and those funds were used in the following way:

PROGRAM	PROVIDER	PERCENT SPENT
Adult Services	Fulton County Family Partnership	1%
Aging Services	Fulton County Family Partnership	1%
Service Coordination *	Fulton County Family Partnership/ Human Services Administration	72%
Specialized Services	Center for Community Action	9%
Administration/Match		17%

*Some of the Service Coordination projects included: community planning and mobilizing, coordination for collaborative meetings with CJAB, Homeless Assistance, the Children’s Roundtable, the schools and the Fulton County Family Partnership, the county’s social services planning entity.

- Approximately 70 clients were served with HSDF funds in FY 2015-16.

The Homeless Assistance Program is also state-funded on a state fiscal year (July 1-June 30). The funds are used to serve the homeless and/or near homeless with housing assistance and emergency shelter. In the past, Fulton County has received as much as \$20,000 in funding but in the past 3-6 years, that amount has drastically decreased and the allocation for 12-13, 13-14, 14-15 and 15-16 was \$14,389. Approximately 120 consumers can be served with these funds. In 2015-16, the block grant enabled the county

to add an additional nearly \$10,000 to the Homeless Assistance program and 101 additional consumers were served. The funding is subcontracted to the Fulton County Catholic Mission and is used for:

- Homeless assistance (to pay rent for those facing eviction and for utility bills for those facing eviction). This represents approximately 98% of the grant.
- Administration – due to tough economic conditions, very little, or approximately 2% or less of the funds were used for administration.
- Approximately 221 clients were served with HAP funds in FY 2015-16.

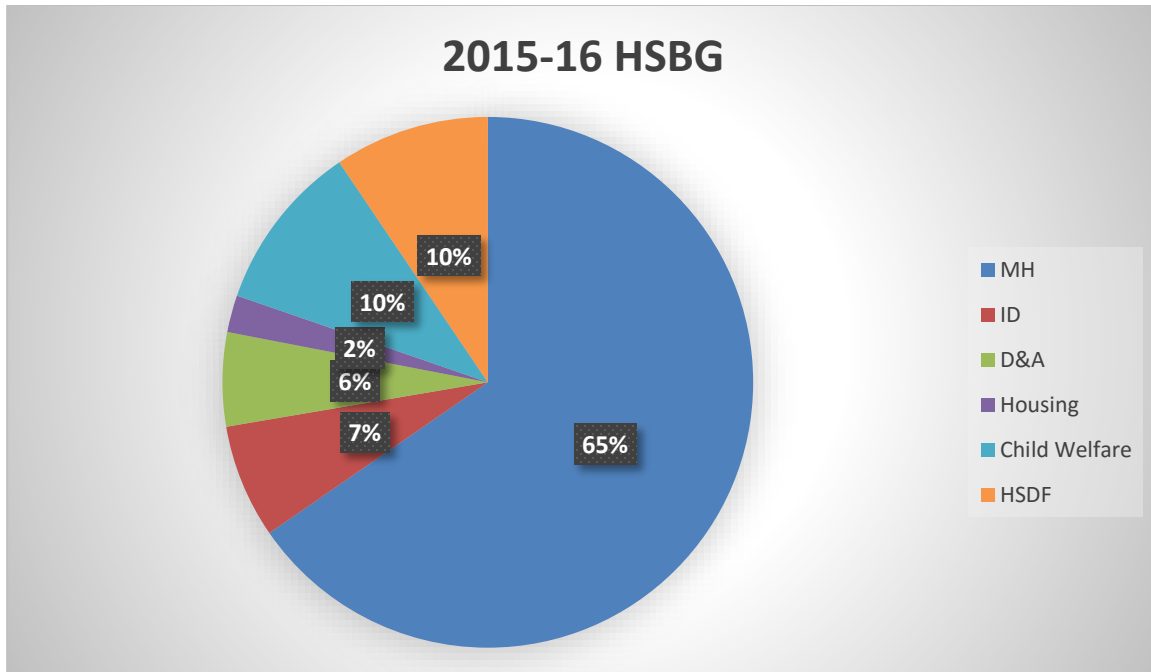
Fulton County’s Homeless Assistance subcommittee of the Block Grant Planning Committee meets quarterly in March, June, September and December. In 2016, the membership was expanded to include landlords. A special meeting was held September 2016 and landlords were invited and attended as well as Diana T. Myers of Diana T. Myers and Associates. Representatives from the Housing Authority, MH/ID, the Housing Assistance (HAP) program, Huntingdon/Bedford/Fulton Area Agency on Aging, Pa. Dept. of Aging, PA LINK and Center for Community Action as well as Myers presented during the meeting. The meetings are well-attended and focus on specific issues regarding housing in Fulton County and how to improve services.

The following is the summary of block grant expenditures in each category with number of consumers served for 2015-2016 (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016)

PROGRAM	AMOUNT ALLOCATED	AMOUNT SPENT	# CONSUMERS SERVED
Intellectual Disabilities (ID)	\$95,707	\$69,888	13
Community Mental Health	\$436,632	\$427,554	428
Drug & Alcohol Treatment (Act 152)	\$28,513	\$36,513	228
Child Welfare Services	\$70,425	\$65,418	113
Homeless Assistance Services	\$14,389	\$14,389	221
Human Services			
Development Fund (HSDF)	\$50,000	\$60,312	15
TOTAL	\$695,666	\$674,074	1,018

Funds remaining = \$22,848 (Block grant carryover = \$19,734 - Federal unspent - \$3,114)
 In addition to the above expenditures, block grant carryover of \$10,315 from 2014-15 was also expended in HAP and in HSDF.

(The chart below shows only state HSBG dollars)



Please see below for the HSBG Outcomes for FY 2015-16 as they relate to funding changes made possible through carryover revenue:
Homeless Assistance

Program Funded	Category Moved From	Category Moved To	
Homeless Assistance Program expansion	ID	HAP	
\$ Amount Moved	\$ Amount Expended	# of Individuals Served	Duplicated or Unduplicated Count?
\$9,611	\$9,611	55	Unduplicated
What was the reason for the move? (Please Explain):			
Fulton County’s HAP program is funded at only \$14,389 per year. This is an insufficient amount to serve those homeless/near homeless who need assistance with rent and/or utilities.			
What was the funding previously used for and what was the impact on that funding program? Please explain.			
Funding was used for ID services and that program reported that they could not spend all of their allocation.			
Outcome – Where you able to support more individuals who were at risk of institutional placement by providing services in a home/community setting? If			

yes, please describe.
Yes. By meeting the waiting list needs for those needing HAP services, we are able to prevent potential child welfare placements for those youth who may be homeless or living in unfit/unsuitable living arrangements.
Outcome – Did this allow you to improve timely access to services that are targeted to meet specific individual needs, are of high quality and effective in meeting identified needs? If yes, please describe.
Yes – needs were met for families who had eviction notices for either unpaid rent or utilities. We were able to do it quickly and effectively and, in most cases, the funding allow families to remain in the same home without needing to seek alternative shelter.
Outcome – Did this allow you to improve employment opportunities for those receiving human services? If yes, please describe.
No
Outcome – Were there any additional outcomes? If yes, please describe.
Needs were met for a total of 221 individuals, some of whom were also receiving MH, D&A and Domestic Violence services. Some of the individuals were also employed at the time of intake and the funding prevented their having to lose work to find other living arrangements.

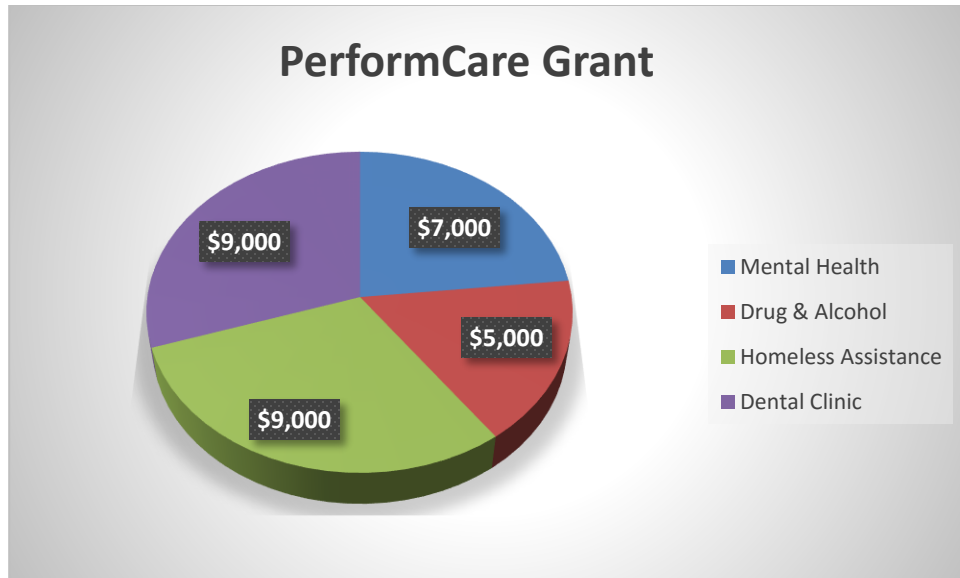
Literacy

Program Funded	Category Moved From	Category Moved To	
Literacy/GED Specialized Service	Unexpended funds from previous year	HSS Specialized services	
\$ Amount Moved	\$ Amount Expended	# of Individuals Served	Duplicated or Unduplicated Count?
\$704	\$704	4	Unduplicated
What was the reason for the move? (Please Explain):			
Center for Community Action asked the Block Grant committee to fund a literacy program for 4 Fulton County individuals. There was no existing literacy program in Fulton County and these individuals did not have transportation to and from literacy classes.			
What was the funding previously used for and what was the impact on that funding program? Please explain.			
This was unexpended funds from 2014-15.			
Outcome – Where you able to support more individuals who were at risk of institutional placement by providing services in a home/community setting? If yes, please describe.			

No
Outcome – Did this allow you to improve timely access to services that are targeted to meet specific individual needs, are of high quality and effective in meeting identified needs? If yes, please describe.
We were able to provide literacy services to individuals seeking those services who would not have been able to access this service in another county due to distance and lack of transportation.
Outcome – Did this allow you to improve employment opportunities for those receiving human services? If yes, please describe.
Outcome – Were there any additional outcomes? If yes, please describe.
Desired outcomes are as follows: 20% of clients will obtain their GED. 66% of clients will take the GED test and pass at least one section 90% of clients will increase their grade level by at least one grade 90% of clients will obtain at least half of their established goals for the program

Also, in late 2016, our MCO (PerformCare) gave a \$30,000 corporate grant to our Block Grant Planning Committee for their recommendations on how to use the funds. This was not part of the Block Grant funds, but was a corporate donation. A subcommittee made the decision to fund the following:

- 1. Dental equipment** for our volunteer dental clinic. The Fulton County Partnership operates a volunteer dental clinic for kids with ACCESS cards. It operates on a shoestring budget and the dental equipment basically comes from retiring dentists who donate their used equipment. With these funds, the clinic will be able to buy the equipment needed to remain operational. **Amount allocated: \$9,000 Recipient: Fulton County Partnership**
 - 2. Sponsorship of a Drug & Alcohol Recovery Event** – aimed at addressing and promoting awareness of the opioid epidemic within the county as well as celebrating recovery. This will include a recovery event as well as a billboard and other educational materials. **Amount allocated: \$5,000 Recipient: Franklin/Fulton Drug & Alcohol who will coordinate the event in the county.**
 - 3. Homeless Assistance** – these funds will supplement block grant funds for the Homeless Assistance program which is grossly underfunded by the state. Fulton County’s state allocation is only \$14,387 annually. There is a waiting list for people in need of housing and utility assistance. **Amount allocated: \$9,000 Recipient: Fulton County Catholic Mission**
 - 4. Mental Health assistance with school-based therapy** – These funds would be set aside to assist families in need of school-based mental health service who do not have ACCESS cards or private insurance to cover it. It could also be used to offset the costs of expensive co-pays and non-credentialed providers for those who have private insurance. This can be used for school-based mental health services or others in need. Funds will be paid directly to the provider(s). **Amount allocated: \$7,000 Recipient: Provider(s) – to be administered through the block grant fund at the county level with the assistance of Tuscarora Managed Care Alliance and PerformCare.**
- Total = \$30,000**



This is the sixth annual report prepared and submitted by the Fulton County Human Services Administration. This process is a yearly practice to be modified and enhanced as needed. Your input regarding content and other information of interest is appreciated. If you have feedback or suggestions, please contact Jean E. Snyder, Human Service Administrator at 717-485-3553 or at jsnyder@co.fulton.pa.us.

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