

BUTLER COUNTY CHILDREN AND YOUTH AGENCY ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR

MISSION STATEMENT

The Butler County Children and Youth Agency serves the community by investigating child abuse and neglect allegations and assessing the risk and safety of children as mandated by federal and state laws. Our goal is to preserve the family unit and provide timely permanence for children by collaborating with natural supports and community resources.

Successes/Accomplishments

- Low turnover rates: FY 08/09 = 4%
FY 09/10 = 2%
FY 10/11 = 2%
FY 11/12 = 4%
FY 12/13 = 9% (1 Program Specialist retired, 1 caseworker transferred to the LSI program, one clerical left for a better job, and 1 temporary caseworker was discharged)
- The County of Butler created and implemented a new merit-hire system to replace the State Civil Service Commission improving recruitment efforts.
- Agency completed fiscal year under budget again for the third year in a row.
- Added 3 more therapy dogs for a total of 4 to assist with reducing trauma
- Continuous Quality Improvement committee continues to provide positive changes. (1) Recommendation made and accepted to revamp the county-run foster program as a mentoring program where resource family works with natural family to aid in reunification; (2) recommendation made and accepted to revise our Mission Statement to mirror the OCYF practice model; (3) recommendation made and accepted to hire new specialty caseworker to aid intake workers in creating family-driven service plans; (4) conducted Concurrent Planning self-assessment and wrote the action plan; (5) conducted an off-QSR year Quality Assurance test to assure timely caseworker visits. The review showed a direct correlation to the higher number of visits to quicker reunification.
- Butler County was selected as a pilot Block Grant County and planning is underway to create Community Mobilizers to help organize natural supports to expand housing, transportation, and employment options in the community. Also, a contract with Southwest PA Mentoring Partnerships is being drafted to

assist with developing mentoring throughout the county including our resource parents.

- The Administrator was appointed to the CAPS Governance Board to assist with the development of the statewide data base.
- The Administrator was appointed as co-chair of the Technical Assistance Collaborative Steering Committee.
- Many of our indicators continue to be at or above the state average:

<u>Indicator</u>	<u>Butler County</u>	<u>State Average</u>
Entries into care	0.770/1000	1.508/1000
Reunification (12 months)	57.14%	47.91%
Placement stability:		
0-12 months	93.98%	86.04%
Abuse rates/1000	6.5	9.7
Re-abuse/1000	4.9	9.1
Re-entry	22.06%	27.54%

Goals for 2013/14

- Successfully implement Out of Home Safety Assessment
- Successfully implement Concurrent Planning
- Revise drug-testing policy
- Replace 3 leased vehicles
- Hire QA Specialist
- Implement CANS/FAST assessments using new Family Team Facilitator position
- Participate in the Human Service Department's project to develop a trauma-informed system of care