

Montgomery County Department of Health & Human Services
Child Welfare Services

Annual **2012** Report

*A future where
families are stable, children are safe,
and communities are strong.*



2012 CHILD WELFARE SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT

OUR VISION: A future where children are safe, families are stable and communities are strong.

MISSION STATEMENT: To protect children, preserve families, strengthen communities, ensure permanency and well-being for every abused and neglected child in Montgomery County.

GOALS:

- Provide family-focused, community-oriented services that adhere to national standards of best practice and result in positive outcomes for children and families
- Advocate for essential services to children and families
- Create a work environment that attracts and retains competent and diverse staff and promotes professional development and leadership

APPROACH: Child Welfare Services advocates an integrated service strategy to assure the safety and well-being of children, youth and families.

CHILD WELFARE SERVICES DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

This has been another challenging but very productive year for Child Welfare Services (CWS). Many families experienced great economic hardships, resulting in a higher than usual number of complex cases needing a variety of services. Our dedicated staff responded with intensive efforts to protect children, support families and provide other necessary services. CWS continues to be a key member of the Montgomery County Health and Human Services team and a strong partner of the Maryland Department of Human Resources. We also have outstanding partners in an array of community agencies and organizations.

A major focus continues to be Family Centered Practice (FCP), resulting in both more children being kept at home with supportive services, and an increased number of children living with relatives.

Family Involvement Meetings (FIM), during which the family gathers with others who are a part of their support system, increased in number this year and were highly successful. As a result both of these family meetings and more intensive family finding efforts, more relatives and community members were available to provide parents with needed supports.

Our diverse and highly dedicated staff and our strong community partners are the keys to our successful work with vulnerable children and youth. In keeping with what has become the culture in Montgomery County CWS, our staff continues to provide outstanding care and services to a large number of children and families. Our efforts are enhanced working with our wonderful, supportive partners both in government and in the community.

In the coming year, we are committed to providing excellent services to protect children and support families. We will continue our emphasis on family-centered practice strategies and outreach to communities, intensify our attempts to find relatives, and expand our efforts to identify new foster and adoptive parents. We are committed to maintaining children in their homes as much as possible and to providing high quality services to families in an effort to keep Montgomery County's children safe from abuse and neglect and achieve their full potential.

Agnes Farkas Leshner

Director
Child Welfare Services

THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

Child Welfare Services (CWS) is a complex system offering a wide range of services to assess and ensure child safety and well-being. Social workers conduct assessments to determine first, whether an intervention is needed and then, the most appropriate intervention. In some situations there is no need for services and the case can be closed. In other situations services are provided by a community agency. If problems are considered serious but the child can remain in the home, social workers provide in-home services and regularly visit the family. If children cannot safely remain in their home, they are temporarily placed with relatives or with a foster family. If over time, it is clear that reunification with parents is not possible, permanent placement with a relative or an adoptive family becomes an alternative. Having a safe, permanent living arrangement is the ultimate goal for all children.

SERVICES WE PROVIDE

The Screening Unit is the single point of entry for all Child Welfare cases. During the past fiscal year, they received a total of 8,747 telephone calls - an increase of over 2% compared to the previous year. Social Workers in this unit receive calls from citizens and professionals in our community, as well as calls from other state agencies seeking assistance with child maltreatment and family problems. Social workers evaluate each referral to determine if there is a need for an investigation/assessment of the maltreatment allegation and/or refer the callers to other community services to assist the family.

Assessment Units investigate allegations of physical and sexual child abuse and neglect, and then evaluate the need for services to ensure child safety and promote family preservation. This past year, social workers investigated 2,945 families, 13% increase. Of that number, neglect investigations/allegations accounted for 60% of the total, while 34% were physical abuse, 11% were sexual abuse, and less than 1% were due to mental injury. The social workers also conducted 327 assessments for other jurisdictions and the Courts.

SERVICES TO FAMILIES

Family Preservation Services were provided to many families when abused or neglected children remained in their homes. These services are intensive, home-based, and time-limited. There were 251 children served and 99% of the children remained safely in their homes and did not require an out-of-home placement. In addition, Montgomery County has a Family Preservation program through a contract with the Montgomery County Collaboration Council. The program served 58 families and was highly successful in keeping children in their homes.

CWS also provided less intensive, in-home services to an average of 170 families each month. These services are offered to families when abuse or neglect occurred, yet imminent danger is no longer deemed to be present. Social workers monitored these homes for the continued safety of these children by visiting the family regularly and offering other services.

Kinship Care

The Kinship Care Program serves children who have been abused or neglected and were removed from their parents for safety reasons and placed with relatives. The factors leading to children being removed from their parents' care were parental substance abuse, mental illness, and domestic violence. The program is a central feature of our Family Centered Practice (FCP) Initiative. Relatives can participate in Kinship Caregiver Support groups and can also participate in or training and evaluation process to become "Restricted Foster parents" and receive the foster care stipend. There were 156 children placed with their relatives this past year, with 37 relatives approved to be restricted foster parents. A guardianship subsidy is available to support relatives who agree and are approved to assume full guardianship of children, when parents have been unable to resolve the issues that led to children's out of home placement. This past year the relatives of 60 children were awarded full custody and guardianship by the Juvenile Court enabling these children to live permanently with their relatives and exit the child welfare system.

Kinship Navigator Services Program

The Kinship Navigator Services Program is a Maryland Department of Human Resources, grant-supported program. The focus of this program is informal kinship care and we provide information with no Departmental involvement. 63 families received services and 687 were provided information and referral.

Foster Care

Children who are abused or neglected and thus unable to remain safely in their homes are provided temporary "Out of Home Care" services with an assigned social worker, to improve conditions leading to safety concerns. The social workers provide case management and reunification services. The goal is to reduce the time children remain out of their homes. If reunification is not possible, the social worker explores other permanent living arrangements for the children. The social worker's ultimate plan, in conjunction with the family, is to have each child in a stable, permanent placement (home and family) that allows the child to grow and become a healthy, productive citizen who can contribute positively to society.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 . MCCWS reduced the number of children in out of home care from an average of 514 to 474 per month- a decrease of 8%. Early involvement and intervention with a out of home family's natural supports, such as extended family, friends and community members, encouraged prevention and reduction in the number of children entering foster care.

Treatment Foster Care

Treatment foster families provided a home environment for children with special needs. Twenty families received intensive training to serve children with serious health and/or mental health problems including behaviors that are difficult to manage. The treatment foster care team continued to provide specialized training to assist foster parents in managing children's needs. Many children were placed with private agencies specialized in licensing therapeutic foster home providers. Social workers monitored an average of 98 children each month in specialized/treatment foster homes.

The Treatment Foster Care Program of Montgomery County continued to be one of the only successful public Treatment Foster Care programs in the State of Maryland. The program which has 18 licensed homes has proven to be a significant cost-saving measure in comparison to private Treatment Foster Care programs. Our Treatment Foster Care program provides the same level of treatment and oversight to serious emotionally fragile, medically and behavioral disordered children. The Treatment foster care team saw an increase in the number of seriously medically fragile children during the previous year. The foster parent capacity remained consistent with several foster parents finalizing adoptions of children in their care during the previous year.

Foster and Adoptive Families

Last year there were monthly average of 280 approved foster and adoptive homes. Foster Family Recruitment meetings were held each month in Rockville and other parts of the County and were attended by 186 prospective Foster parents. There were 82 home-studies initiated and 42 new resource families were licensed.

Adoption

In FY'12, there were 29 finalized adoptions, the majority of which were ages 1-5 years. National Adoption Day was celebrated on November 18, 2011 and there were 8 adoptions finalized. There are six "Waiting Children" children waiting to find an adoptive family. These children range in age from 14-20. Multiple Child Specific Recruitment efforts were held including Matching Event sponsored by Freddie Mac Foundation and participation in Floating Heart Gallery, which was displayed at the Adoption Expo at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, DC., the Executive Office Building (EOB), Black Rock Center, and a local mall.

Barriers to adoption finalizations include severe psychological, behavioral and emotional needs of the children, and economic problems with pre-adoptive families, and age of adoptees as it impacts eligibility for college Tuition Waiver.

Transitioning Youth

The former Independent Living Unit adopted a new name to better reflect the services that are provided to all youth that are preparing to transition out of the foster care system. The Transitioning Youth Services Program again served over 70 youth in Fiscal Year 2012.

Ready By 21 is a DHR initiative focusing on preparing youth for adulthood as they prepare to exit the Child Welfare System at age 21. In order to ensure that youth are prepared for the transition to adulthood, the Department is partnering with various community groups to ensure that youth have the following: safe and stable housing, a high school diploma or GED, financial stability through employment, access to healthcare services and at least one mentor for ongoing support.

With 19 high school graduates, we are proud to report that 9 youth are attending college and 3 are pursuing certificates at vocational/technical schools. Job readiness and improved employment outcomes for youth continue to be a high priority. The Arbor Foster Youth Employment Program, a public-private partnership received funding for another fiscal year and served approximately 20 youth. The employment services specialist worked individually with our youth to develop job opportunities and paid internships in their field of interest.

The Supportive Youth Housing Program was established in the spring of 2012 to address the pressing need for affordable housing for youth exiting care. Through a grant from the Freddie Mac Foundation, the Housing Opportunities Commission is assisting 11 eligible youth with a rental subsidy and case management support for 12 months. A case manager is assigned to work with individual youth to locate an apartment or room for rent in their community. The youth then makes application to the property manager and obtains the lease in their own name. With support provided in the areas of education, budgeting and employment, it is expected that the youth participant will be self sufficient at the end of the 12 month period.

Future Link continues to guide our young people in the area of self-advocacy, educational advancement and career development. The program was a recipient, of a \$25,000 grant from the Jim and Carol Trawick Foundation to develop internship programs with several county businesses.

Safe & Stable Families

Through a grant from MDDHR, CWS established an evidence-based model of intervention for adolescents who are “hard to manage” by their parents and are at risk for out-of-home placement. The Safe & Stable Families program offers intensive in-home interventions beginning with an assessment of the child’s environment and the family’s functioning to establish a service plan incorporating the values of safety and well-being into the service delivery. The targets of these interventions were adolescents who were referred to CWS with serious “out of control” behaviors and whose parents lack the skills and knowledge to advocate for mental health, educational, and social services necessary to stabilize the crisis. The focus was improved family functioning, maintaining youth in their communities, and reinforcing the family system so that youth can safely remain with their families. The Safe & Stable Families program worked with 78 children in 64 families during the past year and all the children remained in their home.

The Tree House Child Assessment Center (CAC)

The Tree House Child Assessment Center (CAC) of Montgomery County, Maryland, serves child and adolescent victims of sexual and physical abuse, and neglect, and their non-offending family members. The program provides a child friendly environment and is a public-private partnership between the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Primary Care Coalition of Montgomery County (PCC). The Tree House provides integrated services to victims including forensic interviewing, pediatric

medical evaluations, nurse case management, mental health assessments and ongoing therapy, and victim advocacy. Primary funding is obtained through DHHS, and supplemented by federal and local grants, foundations, and donations. Governance and oversight is provided by The Tree House Operations Board and a Community Council.

The Tree House works collaboratively with The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, Police/Family Crimes Division, Office of the County Attorney, and the State's Attorney's Office. This multidisciplinary team approach eliminates the trauma that children experience when they are required to talk about their abuse multiple times. Coordinating investigations and treatment plans enables the victims and their families to begin healing as soon as possible.

During FY 2012, The Tree House provided 2767 services to 677 victims of abuse or neglect, including 562 new and 115 ongoing clients. Sexual abuse victims comprised 50% of new clients, while 19% were seen for physical abuse, 28% for neglect, and 3% for foster care exams., The majority of clients seen were female (65%), and age ranges for all clients were 0-6 (30%), 7-12 (22%), 13-17 (14%), and 18 and older (34%). Adults served are non-offending parents and a few adult siblings.

Budget and Administration

The FY 2012 budget for Child Welfare Services was \$21,619,120. The Maryland Department of Human Resources (MDDHR) provided approximately 70% and Montgomery County funds contributed approximately 30% of the total budget. In addition to funds designated for personnel and operating expenses, MDDHR provided flexible and/or special purpose funds for a variety of services, such as intensive in-home services, psychological evaluations, preparing youth for independent living, child care for foster parents and relative caretakers, court-ordered services, foster/adoptive parent recruitment and retention efforts, and adoption promotion. In addition, MDDHR also provided funds for weekend and holiday coverage, for after-hours screening and investigation of child/adult protective services reports.

In prior years, Child Welfare Services received funding from the Mental Health Core Service Agency for in-home crisis intervention/stabilization services and for attachment and bonding studies for young children. Those funds were eliminated from the budget in FY12. Child Welfare Services was able to fund those services, at a reduced level, using County and State funds. In addition, County funds were used for community education, specialized services such as service coordination, parenting skills training, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), post-adoption services and home based community support services to prevent adoption disruption. In FY 2012, Child Welfare Services managed twenty (21) contracts that totaled over \$2,000,000

Legal Activities

The Office of the County Attorney, Division of Health and Human Services, continued to be co-located with Child Welfare and provided the legal representation for CWS staff. This team consists of staff and contract attorneys, paralegals, and legal secretaries. CWS was represented in Juvenile Court, during mediations and in administrative appeals. In addition, the attorneys served as general counsel to the CWS administrators, participated in weekly case reviews with child welfare staff and prepared social workers to testify. The attorneys provided regular legal training programs for CWS staff, foster parents, and kinship providers. Each year one of these trainings involves a review of recent legislative changes and the impact on CWS practices. The attorneys also represented the Director of the Tree House, Montgomery County's Child Assessment Center, and they participated in weekly multi-disciplinary team (MDT) case reviews. In addition, the attorneys participated in the Children's Action Team (CAT) headed by Judge Katherine Savage, bi-monthly CINA Bench Bar meetings and the Juvenile Court's Mediation Oversight Committee.

FY 2012 saw a slight decrease in new Children In Need of Assistance (CINA) petitions filed in the Juvenile Court as well as a slight decrease in the number of Juvenile Court hearings that were held. The CWS Court Liaison continued to maintain an office in the Juvenile Court. The Court Liaison plays a critical role by drafting the court petitions and facilitating communication between the Court staff, judges, CWS staff and the DHHS legal team.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST YEAR

Family Involvement Meetings

Family Involvement Meetings (FIM), is a collaborative effort to ensure the safety and well-being of children, and includes family members, agency staff, service providers, community members, foster parents, members of the family's support network and (if age appropriate), the child is also included in placement decisions

FIM meetings are convened at key decision points over the course of a child's case such as:

- When out of home placement has been recommended
- When there is an emergency or planned placement change
- When changes in the child's permanency plan occurs
- When a youth is recommended for Independent Living

In FY 2012, 364 FIMs were held relating to 546 children. 193 children were diverted from out of home placements; 144 remained with parents, and 43 were diverted to relatives. Satisfaction surveys from biological family members, community partners, social workers, and supervisors indicate continuing support for these meetings.

Family Finding

The Family Finding Program is an evidence-based model used in locating relatives of children and youth involved with Montgomery County's Child Welfare Services. Focus of the program is to search for lifelong connections to increase the likelihood of a stable family for every child. Frequently, family members are found as permanent resources as they develop caring relationships and provide much needed emotional stability for these children. Montgomery County was one of seven counties to participate in a pilot study with the University Of Maryland Baltimore- School Of Social Work. In FY 2012, the Family Finding Program worked with 46 youth and their families in an effort to make permanent connections. The Family Finder was successful in connecting over 60% of the youth with life long connection including relatives or fictive kin.

Responsible Fathers Program

The Responsible Fathers program continues to provide services to fathers and their children involved in Child Welfare Services. The program's goal is to enhance the relationship between fathers and their children while working to provide individualized services to help fathers identify and overcome obstacles in their parental involvement and responsibilities. Support is offered to fathers in navigating barriers to successful involvement with their children and includes services such as: parenting classes, relationship classes, economic stability classes and individual counseling. The program continues to develop successful working relationships with various County departments including the Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) and Workforce Solutions Group (WSG) to provide services to fathers and their families. Throughout the year the Responsible Fathers programs provided services to 100 fathers and their families.

The Visitation House

The Visitation House moved to a new, temporary house and provided a home-like atmosphere for supervised visitation for parents, children and siblings in the CWS system. The House is a collaborative effort between various departments of Montgomery County government (Health and Human Services, Housing and Community Affairs, and the County Attorneys), the Courts, the legal community and various community agencies. The Children's Action Team (CAT) provided additional support for the House and its operations. In FY 2012, 78 families with 107 children had 1,289 visits at the Visitation House. There were 2,825 hours of visits scheduled at the Visitation House this year. In addition, Foster Parent training, the Responsible Fathers groups and the Kinship Support Group held monthly meetings there.

Continuous Quality Improvement Activities

Child Welfare's Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Council and several standing Committees (Training, Cultural Competence, Stakeholders, and CHESSIE)) continued to serve a vital part of the Child Welfare system by advocating for service improvements, enhancing communication between frontline staff and various levels of management, and strengthening employee morale.

The CQI Council answered case inquiries and managed the standing committees and Ombudsperson activities. The Ombudsperson provided training on "Recognizing & Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect" at many places including the Reginald S. Lourie Center, Early Head Start Program, MCPS and Montessori Schools. A great deal of time and effort on the part of individuals, committees, and the Administration have gone into implementing best practices, enhancing service delivery, and improving employee morale.

CQI Council's support of Child Welfare Services goals included the following activities:

- Re-introduction of the How-To-Do electronic manual for Child Welfare Services staff; a manual that provides departmental information and is used to give direction to new and current staff.
- Supported the re-development of the Secondary Trauma Team to provide support to staff.
- Distributed Quarterly Service Awards to highlight the accomplishments of individual staff, units and teams within Child Welfare Services who do outstanding work.
- Supported the Stakeholders Committee who regularly survey and communicate with Stakeholders.
- Helped to improve accountability and the completion of specific work activities that improve the daily functioning of Child Welfare Services.

CQI is moving to support the "Montgomery County Community Projects Program" and is developing an Outreach program to educate the public about what is Child Protective Services/CPS, as well as how to keep children safe and out of harm's way. Involvement includes a public education and information campaign targeting church groups, PTA's, schools, and service groups, just to name a few.

During the past year, CQI participated in the Continuous Quality Improvement State Review with MDDHR. The review included a Self Assessment Report of the Local Department of Social Services prepared by Child Welfare Services and DHHS. CQI was involved with the preparation process of gathering necessary documentation, charts and Standing Committees information. The review results were very positive.

Maryland Children Electronic Social Services Information Exchange (MD CHESSIE)

MD CHESSIE, the statewide automated CWS system that enables the tracking of children and facilitates information sharing, continued to be utilized by child welfare staff across the State to maintain client service history and contact information. The electronic database allows workers to share cases locally and across Maryland, and makes information readily available to all workers involved in the case. The system also allows the local Department and DHR to monitor caseloads and actual spending, as CHESSIE is used to generate Child Welfare payments.

During FY 2012, further financial functionality was implemented in MD CHESSIE to allow a broader array of payments to be created. With a few exceptions, all payments are made within the CHESSIE system at this time. Additional work has been done with the "tickler" system in CHESSIE, which gives reminders and notifications to workers on case management mandates, fiscal processes, and other information.

Mental Health Services

Montgomery County continued to fund six therapists to provide specialized in-home services for children and families who are in the Child Welfare system. Although short one therapist who was otherwise deployed, the Home Based Team (HBT) worked with 78 families, providing intensive individual and family therapy, and clinical case management. Treatment focused on assisting children and adults to strengthen family functioning and stability, and resolve trauma related to child abuse and neglect. Most of the therapists are trained in Trauma-

Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, with new staff to be trained in the coming year. These therapists, co-located with Child Welfare staff in the Piccard and Germantown office buildings, provided direct services, consultation and progress reports. Two of the current HBT therapists are Spanish speaking.

Social Work Student Training

The Department continues its partnership with the University of Maryland and Catholic University to offer Social Work graduate students an opportunity to gain valuable experience through a Child Welfare internship. The program had 14 graduate students, including the IV-E Multicultural Unit which is an expansion of our Social Work Field Instruction Program. Through collaboration with the University Of Maryland School Of Social Work along with DHR, this program develops child welfare competencies in a multicultural group of student social workers and prepares them for work in a public agency. The mission of the unit is to develop the knowledge and skills of graduate social work students in working with clients of diverse backgrounds and experiences. The Department has successfully recruited graduating MSW students, with various language capabilities, to become full-time employees.

Early Childhood Programs

Partnerships with Infants & Toddlers, Head Start and other programs have been successful in facilitating early evaluation and intervention for children with developmental disabilities. These trans-disciplinary approaches start with rapid assessment and services often take place in the home. Children and parents benefit from the skills gained, socialization and a gained knowledge of available community resources. Collaboration with the Head Start program assures that eligible children are enrolled in preschool programs to better prepare them for elementary education. This year, the issues of educational surrogates and confidentiality related to the Infant & Toddlers evaluations resulted in revising policies and procedures to facilitate services for CWS children and families.

Citizens Review Boards and Panel

Community members serve on two review boards: one appointed by the Governor's Office and the second by the County Executive. Four Citizens Review Boards, all appointed by the Governor, review a random selection of cases each month. More than 160 cases were reviewed with a focus this year on cases where a child's permanent placement was delayed. The results of the case reviews were presented to Child Welfare managers and to the Court.

The members of the Citizens Review Panel examined the training provided to foster parents. In addition to making recommendations for improvement to training, a new procedure was introduced to assure that foster parents know how to contact the child's social worker, supervisor, child's attorney, and other significant people in the child's case. , A tracking form, developed by the Panel, was piloted with relatives and foster parents to track health and mental services children in foster care receive.

Community Education

Community Education continued to be a valuable project during the past year. There were 38 presentations attended by more than 850 people. This included 10 new organizations who requested informational workshops and the development of two new booklets focusing on the problems of sexual abuse and parenting difficult teens. From these presentation, 39 people requested information on how to become a foster parent.

Maryland Choices Interagency Family Preservation Services (IFPS)

Maryland Choices developed a program with the Montgomery County Collaboration Council, in which children and youth with intensive needs received a variety of services to prevent Out-of-Home placement. 79 youth received services which included: helping children who have been in group or residential care make the transition back into the community. Programs included home-based therapy, mentoring, specialized services and professional team coordination along with Interagency Family Preservation Services (IFPS) to children in danger of being removed from their home.

STAFFING

Recruitment and retention of staff continued to be a major challenge during the past year. Twenty-one individuals resigned (18 social workers) and new staff were hired to replace those who left. Exit interviews identified that the highly stressful nature of the work was the leading reason people left and personal reasons (children and re-location) was the second reason. Many young social workers were recruited during the past few years and they have remained energetic and committed to fulfilling Child Welfare Service's mission. New CWS social workers are required to attend extensive pre-service training offered through the University of Maryland and the CWS Training Academy. This training takes more than three months to complete and is held in Baltimore.

AN INTEGRATED APPROACH

Health and Human Services and Child Welfare Services advocated an integrated approach to assure the safety and well-being of children, youth and their families. To that end, CWS maintains a large array of professional partnerships and collaborations. Easy access to services was made possible by a variety of specialists from other County programs and agencies.

- County Attorneys co-located with Child Welfare staff, helped to address legal concerns and prepare cases for court.
- The Income Support program assigned and co-located a staff member with CWS. This individual provided medical assistance enrollment for children coming into out-of-home care.
- Six mental health therapists specialized in serving Child Welfare children and their parents.
- Representatives of CWS, the County Attorney's Office, Montgomery County Police Department, the State Attorney's Office, and the CAC staff met regularly at the Juvenile Assessment Center in a multidisciplinary team (MDT) to discuss complex multi-agency cases. In addition, the senior managers of those agencies met regularly to discuss the effective operation of the Tree House.
- The Metropolitan YMCA implemented a Court-supported, mentoring program which matched more than 25 young people in effective supportive relationships. This was the program's fifth year and it has been highly successful in keeping adolescents in school and encouraging social development
- Children's Action Team (CAT) - a group comprised of juvenile court judges, attorneys, CWS staff and Court administrators developed and implemented an agenda to help speed permanent plans for children. One of their major projects was supporting The Visitation House and improving communication among key participant

COMMUNITY GIVING

We are very fortunate that the Montgomery County community continued to be supportive in many of our efforts to assist children and families. Several of the larger programs were:

The Generous Juror Program, a joint project between the Circuit Court, and Child Welfare Services gave prospective jurors the opportunity to donate their jury fee towards activities to benefit children served by CWS and the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS). It continued to be a highly successful program. More than \$80,000 was collected and used to provide opportunities for children that otherwise would not be covered by state or local funds e.g. camp scholarships, tutoring, holiday arts and sports activities, and birthday and graduation gifts.

The Adopt-A-Social-Worker Program received voluntary donations from the community for children and families. Donations were used to provide children with school supplies and graduation presents for high school seniors. Items donated included: over 1200 pairs of shoes, 335 backpacks filled with school supplies and over 150 "stuff-a-duff" duffle bags filled with items for kids when they are removed from their homes—hygiene products, night shirts, towels, washcloths, etc. In addition, a private citizen collected food for 180 Thanksgiving dinners and another committed member donated 20 photo albums to the Visitation House.

Community Campaign: This year the Department worked in partnership with dedicated community volunteers who were interested in developing resources for CWS youth. In a short time, they identified a wish list from staff for CWS youth and then established a “Bank” of goods and services. This included circus and theater tickets along with tickets to various sporting events, food coupons, sleepover bags, and craft supplies. With their support, families and children had opportunities to attend activities and participate in events that are not within the funding capabilities of CWS.

Partnerships and Collaborations

These are some of the community groups and partners with which Montgomery County Child Welfare Services collaborates:

- *Addiction Services Coordination*
- *Arbor Employment Services*
- *Aunt Hattie's Place*
- *Behavioral Health Partners*
- *Board of Social Services*
- *The Casey Foundation*
- *Center for Adoption Support & Education (C.A.S.E.)*
- *Child Fatality Review Committee*
- *Citizens Review Boards*
- *Citizens Review Panel*
- *Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children*
- *Commission on Children and Youth*
- *Contemporary Therapeutic Services*
- *Council of Governments (COG)*
- *Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)*
- *Department of Juvenile Justice (DJS)*
- *Domestic Violence Alert Team*
- *Early Childhood Workgroup*
- *Family Service Agency*
- *Friends in Action (FIA)*
- *Hearts & Homes for Youth*
- *High Risk Consultation Team*
- *The Home Based Team (HBT)*
- *Homeless Shelter Providers Team*
- *Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC)*
- *Infants & Toddlers Program*
- *Institute for Family Centered Services*
- *Interagency Committee on Adolescent Pregnancy*
- *Interfaith Works*
- *Juvenile Justice Commission*
- *Linkages to Learning*
- *Local Coordinating Team (LCT)*
- *Maryland Choices*
- *Maryland Department of Human Resources (MDDHR)*
- *Maryland Department of Juvenile Services*
- *Maryland Multicultural Youth Center*
- *Mental Health Assoc. of Montgomery County (MHA)*
- *Moms Offering Moms Support (MOMS)*
- *Montgomery County Collaboration Council*
- *Montgomery County Government (DHHS, Housing, Police, Human Resources and County Attorneys)*
- *Montgomery County Public School*
- *Montgomery County Child Care*
- *National Center for Children & Families (NCCF)*
- *Operation Runaway*
- *Primary Care Coalition (PCC)*
- *Reginald Lourie Center*
- *Trawick Foundation*
- *The Tree House, Child Assessment Center (CAC)*
- *University of Maryland School of Social Work*
- *Wells Robertson House (NET Program)*
- *Workforce Solutions*
- *YMCA – Metropolitan YMCA*

Montgomery County Child Welfare Services Executive Staff

Agnes F. Leshner, MA

Child Welfare Services Director

Kim Watkins, Office Services Coordinator

Sheila Dennis, LCSW-C

Assessment Section Administrator

Marisa Lim, Office Services Coordinator

Lisa Merkin, LCSW-C

Continuing Section Administrator

Jessica Santos, Office Services Coordinator

Angela English, LCSW-C

Out of Home Services Administrator

Patty Carson, Office Services Coordinator

Pat Davis Spann, LGSW

Resource Section Administrator

Phyllis Reed, Office Services Coordinator

Montgomery County Child Welfare Services has four offices. The main office is in Rockville and there are three other regional offices. These offices are co-located with other Montgomery County Government programs.

Headquarters (Main Office)

*1301 Piccard Drive,
Rockville, MD 20850
Phone: 240-777-3500
TTY: 240-777-3556*

Juvenile Assessment Center

*7300 Calhoun Place, Suite 400
Rockville, MD 20855
Phone: 240-777-4435 / 3391
TTY: 240-777-3560*

Germantown Regional Services Center

*12900 Middlebrook Road, 2nd Floor
Germantown, MD 20874
Phone: 240-777-1742
TTY: 240-777-8002*

Silver Spring Regional Services Center

*8630 Fenton Street, 10th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Phone: 240-777-1438
TTY: 240-777-4320*