



Vision

We envision a community where people independently support themselves and their families, and where individuals are safe from abuse and neglect.

Mission

We will assist people in economic need, protect children and vulnerable adults, and promote the safety and well-being of the citizens of Talbot County.

Administrative Staff

April A. Sharp, LCSW-C
Director

Susan Moore, LCSW-C
Assistant Director, Adult Services, Foster Care and Income Support

Diane Shaffer, LCSW-C
Assistant Director, Child Welfare and Workforce Support

Simon Bredenberg
Assistant Director, Administration and Child Support

Board of Directors:

Carrie Gould-Kabler, Chair

Connie Lauffer, Vice Chair

Corey Pack, County Council

Natalie Brooks

Laura Heikes

Rafika Mansour

Bernice Orellana

Daphan Smith

Kate Stinton

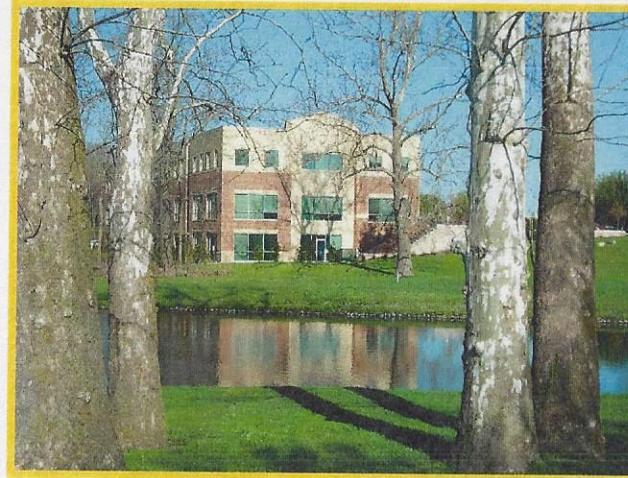


NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE



CREDIBILITY • INTEGRITY • ACHIEVEMENT

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2014



April A. Sharp, Director

To Our Partners and Friends:

Achieving reaccreditation from the Council on Accreditation for Children and Family Services impacted every aspect of our agency's operations and programs. The Council's seal of approval means that Talbot County Department of Social Services meets the national best practice standards for areas including Program Operations, Financial Operations, Quality Improvement, Administration, and Risk Management.

As with every year, 2014 brought us new opportunities to serve the public. In the spring, we implemented Alternative Response. Alternative Response is a new approach for managing low risk reports of child abuse and neglect that will result in safer kids, stronger families and significantly fewer recurrences of maltreatment. It uses a family "strength-based approach" for responding to a credible report that a child has been abused or neglected. Under Alternative Response, the definitions of abuse and neglect are unchanged. For cases on the Alternative Response track, the Department will work collaboratively with the family to assess their needs and provide services without the threat of a formal finding of abuse or neglect.

Our department is a partner to the lead of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Increased numbers of Talbot citizens have access to health care with the expanded eligibility of Maryland's public health insurance.

With your continued support we will continue to reach out to the needs of those in economic need and provide safety for children and vulnerable adults.

Yours in service,

April A. Sharp, LCSW-C
Director

Talbot County

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Lawrence J. Hogan Jr., Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Sam Malhotra, Secretary

Program Outcomes

Fiscal Report

Agency Accomplishments

Services

Child Protective Services

Provides professional services by completing all assigned Investigations and Alternative Responses within the mandated time frames in an effort to protect children from abuse and neglect. CPS met Place Matters goals in CPS cases open less than 60 days for Investigative and Alternative Response Cases in FY14.

- 39 Physical Abuse Investigations
- 59 Neglect Investigations
- 26 Sexual Abuse Investigations
- 25 Alternative Responses provided (began 4/1/2014)
- 99 Investigative Responses provided

Foster Care/Adoption

Provides safe, stable and temporary out of home placement for children who can no longer remain in their own homes. Seeks permanency for children through Adoption, relative placement, reunification and APPLA. Foster Care met Place Matters goals in % of children in group homes, Children exiting to Guardianship and placement stability in FY 14.

- 26 average children in Foster Care
- 68% of children placed in Talbot or adjacent counties (Dorchester/Caroline)
- 6 children reunified (50% of those reunified within 12 months)
- 2 Finalized Adoptions
- 1 child left care to Guardianship
- 9% of Children in Group Homes
- 100% of Placement Stability
- 15 Licensed Foster Homes and 4 Kinship Care Providers

In-Home Family Services

Provides short-term, voluntary services to families at risk for maltreatment or out of home placement in an effort to secure safety of children and promote stability within families.

- 20 families with 40 children served by Consolidated Services
- 13 families with 38 children served by Family Preservation Services
- 25 Family Involvement Meetings held

Adult Services

Assists vulnerable adults unable to provide for their basic needs and provides voluntary services to adults to maintain safety, stability and self-sufficiency.

- 95 Adult Protective Services Investigations
- 95 APS Assessments
- 359 SSTA and Senior Care Cases
- 6 Project Home Providers
- 321 IHAS Customers
- 99% adults with no recurrence of abuse
- 92% adults remaining in the community

Family Investment

Provides assistance to eligible residents in the areas of food, cash, medical care, childcare, emergencies and employment assistance with the goal of helping residents to become self-sufficient.

- 70 average TCA cases open monthly
- 26 full time job placements \$10 and up (State Goal 9)
- 35% average Work Participation rate
- 65 total Job Placements (State Goal 26)
- 99% of TCA applications processed timely
- 17 average TDAP participants monthly

- 99% of expedited and regular Food Stamp applications processed timely
- 2,850 average MA cases
- 4,494 average Food Stamp participants
- 8 average Public Assistance to Adults cases monthly

Child Support

Strives to establish paternity, support orders, collect support for custodial parents and provide non-custodial parents with supports to overcome employment barriers.

Child Support received Gold Certificate Honors from DHR for FY2014.

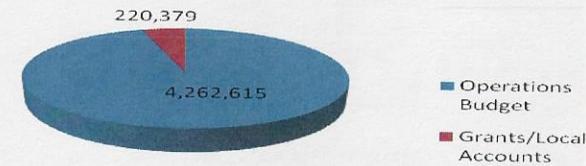
- 107.19% of Paternity Establishment
- 92.34% of cases with Support Orders established
- 69.19% of Child Support Collected
- 75.05% of Collections on Arrears
- \$2,440,998 Current Child Support collected
- 58 parents served through Non- Custodial Parent Employment Program (NPEP)
- 100% of participants obtained employment during their time with NPEP

Local General Administration

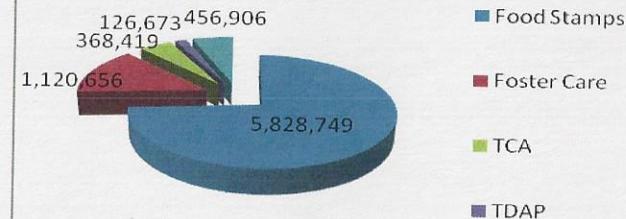
Provides essential support to all the agency's staff members and has direct responsibility for all finances, budgeting, building maintenance, fleet operations, security, inventory, procurement and information technology.

- 69 Staff Positions (63 Merit, 4 Contractual, 2 outside Agency)
- 3,872 hours of staff training
- 200 pieces of IT equipment functioning with regular maintenance
- Bacti Barrier implemented for staff and customer wellness

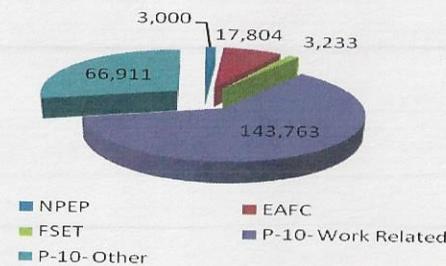
Operating Costs FY14



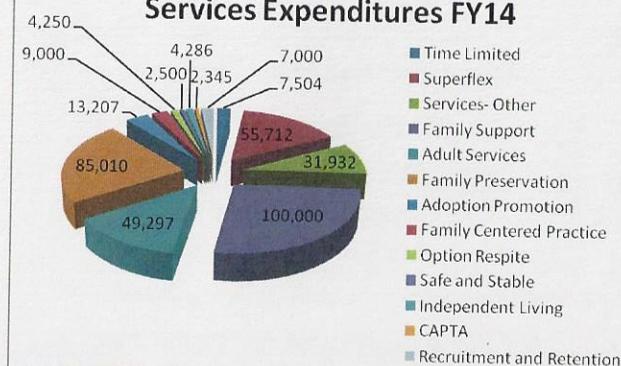
State Expenditures FY14



FIA Expenditures FY14



Services Expenditures FY14



Pictured above is Corey Pack, Talbot County Council and TCDSS Board Member, Laura Heikes, TCDSS Board Member, April Sharp, TCDSS Director and TCDSS Management Team. The Talbot County Council recognized TCDSS for their recent reaccreditation by COA at the October County Council meeting.

- Talbot County DSS achieved reaccreditation by the National Council of Accreditation in FY 2014.
- The Nurturing Program was held twice during FY14 servicing a total of 35 parents and 30 children.
- Option Respite served 89 children with a total of 619 nights of respite.
- Talbot County Child Advocacy Center saw 66 children, completed 56 forensic interviews and 28 medical exams. TCCAC has been utilized more frequently this year by outside agencies such as the FBI, Homeland Security and other LDSS's.
- TCDSS's rollout of Adult Services Policy and Practice initiative family centered and community based plan is unique with its implementation of a "Breakfast Bites Learning Series". Invitations to the series are provided to key stakeholders in the aging and vulnerable adult community.
- RB21/THRIVE@25 Teams continue their work to improve resources for youth aging out of foster care. Partnerships have been formed with Big Brother and Big Sisters, local housing resources, The Board of Childcare and many other local resources. Recommendations from each committee have been submitted in Results Based Accountability format for inclusion in the Thrive @25 implementation grant proposal. Application for the second phase of the grant will begin in June 2015.