



**Executive Director
Andrew J. Devany**

Connections March 2017

From the Desk of Our Executive Director

Andrew J. Devany

The past three months have seen OHCAC staff working diligently in many areas serving families and customers in our four-county service area. After our early onslaught of HEAP applications we have settled into the daily routine of working with clients to assist with Regular HEAP applications, PIPP re-verifications and Emergency HEAP applications. With the amazingly warm weather to start 2017 we have been able to serve all customers, scheduled as well as walk-ins, relatively efficiently in Marion, Crawford and Morrow Counties.

The good weather has also allowed us to have a minimum number of inclement weather days in our various Head Start Centers. We do have our normal unexpected building challenges with unanticipated mechanical failures, but staff have been quick to respond and switch to *Plan B* to keep things running as smoothly as possible until the mechanical difficulty can be repaired. We are also looking forward to implementing our Head Start Duration Grant, which will enable us to extend full day Head Start services in some of our centers beginning in August of 2017.

This year we have faced many challenges with our weatherization programs as a result of a late start in Morrow County and some staff injuries. However, we are optimistic that we will be able to achieve all goals for the numerous energy conservation programs that we operate in 2017. Aside from the traditional Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP), we operate the Electric Partnership Program (EPP) for the state of Ohio that allows us to work with customers to replace inefficient refrigerators and freezers, the Community Connections and American Electric Power programs that permit us to do home energy audits for clients of Ohio Edison and American Electric Power, and the Warm Choice program that permits us to work directly with Columbia Gas Customers. The beauty of having access to all of these energy programs is that we are able to combine them (or *piggyback* them, as we like to say) to better assist the customer and address a multitude of home energy needs.

Finally, I would like to mention that our HEAP Program Director, Bob Foreman, is working on a state team with other experienced HEAP Directors to assist the state in developing a user-friendly online regular HEAP application to cut down on the enormous amount of paperwork that the state handles annually in processing HEAP applications. The state intends to roll out this new product in time for the 2017/2018 HEAP season and it is quite possible that OHCAC will be chosen as a test site for this new application procedure.

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Mission Statement (Revised May 2015)

The Ohio Heartland Community Action Commission (OHCAC) will foster and promote planning services and developmental efforts for the mobilization and utilization of resources, public and private, for coordinated attack upon conditions of poverty affecting the inhabitants of the area.

OHCAC will continuously support economic self-sufficiency. It will encourage the provisions of services, and other activities toward developing employment and economic opportunities, improving human performance, individual and group motivation, productivity, housing and bettering conditions under which people live, learn, and work.

OHCAC will solicit, contract for, receive, administer, and disburse any funds, grants, bequests, devises, and other resources for the execution and implementation of specific or general programs in carrying out its purposes.

Marian Clark Center

**Tracey Rector, Center Director
740-383-2154 x-832**

Collaborations in the community are key to successful programs.

A grant through Marion County Council on Aging, the Senior Nutrition Program gave blizzard boxes to 85 homebound seniors in the event we are unable to deliver to them on a regularly scheduled day. With the mild winter thus far, we have been fortunate and we have not had a need to cancel. We could not carry out this program without the collaboration with Ohio Health/Marion General Hospital for preparing the daily meals.

The United Community Rx Program receives grants from the Marion Community Foundation, United Way of Marion, OSUM-Pay it Forward, and Marion County Council on Aging as well. We are able to find the most cost-effective long term and short term prescriptions for individuals without health insurance.

The Personal Needs Pantry has had generous donations from Lee Street Presbyterian Church and Fite Memorial Baptist Church. The items donated by the congregations range from toothpaste and tooth brushes to toilet paper, paper towels, deodorant and shampoo, just to name a sample of things.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) is a collaboration with volunteers from Silver Line by Anderson Windows and the public as well as the IRS.

Together we can make a difference!

Agency Directors

Joe Devany
Executive Director
740-387-1039 Ext. 025

Karen Wise
Deputy Director /
Energy Coordinator
740-387-1039 Ext. 779

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HEAP Director
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Tracey Rector
Marian Clark Director
740-383-2154 Ext. 832

Morrow Co. Director
419-946-2009 Ext. 832

Tammy Crabtree
Crawford Co. Director
419-468-5121 Ext. 163

Home Energy Assistance Program

Robert Foreman, Director
740-387-1039 x-028

BOARD MEMBERS

Greetings from the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Department!

The 2017 Winter Crisis Program (2017WCP) will be ending on March 31 with finishing any pending/incomplete applications by April 15. At the time of this printing, staff have assisted over 2,000 households in WCP and processed 2,035 PIPP Plus applications and over 1,900 State HEAP applications. While the weather has been warmer, the staff have remained very busy during our WCP season.

If you know someone who is in need of utility assistance, please refer them to our HEAP department by calling the automated appointment hotline at 1.866.861.6421 or call one of our local CAC offices and one of our friendly staff will be happy to assist them with one of our utility programs.

For *City of Galion Utility* customers only... The Crawford Center will be distributing four Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFL's) again this year through **Efficiency \$mart**... there are no guidelines except that you must be a City of Galion Utility customer and you **must show your electric bill at the time** to receive the four CFL's and energy saving tips/rebates. Contact the Crawford Office for more details.

Please continue to utilize our website at www.ohcac.org. The HEAP department has a drop down menu with all the up-to-date information and applications needed for your appointment.

Thank you,

Bob Foreman
HEAP Director
Serving all of Marion, Crawford & Morrow Counties



Marion County

Sue Yazel
Kerr Murray
Staci Thomas
Jan Hulse
Latoya Toland
Nina Bristel
Carrie Guyton
Bonnie Metzler

Crawford County

Sue Headley
Jenny Vermillion
Thomas O'Leary
Darlene Clevenger
Rick Maddox
Jacquelyn Hoker
Douglas Court
Richard Genzman,
Board President

Morrow County

Fawn Mollenkopf
Randi McQuiston
Kelsey Lewis
Andrew Wick
Deborah Bowsher

Richland County

Theresa Alt
Kim Meadows
Maureen Kuiper



Tips from the Safety Committee

Know what steps you can take to stay safe if dangerous weather is predicted

TORNADOES: Spring can be the peak season for tornado activity. Tornadoes occur mostly on warm spring days between 3:00 and 9:00 p.m. However, tornadoes can occur anywhere, at any time of the year, at any time of the day. The Red Cross has safety steps people should take now to be ready if a tornado warning is issued for someone’s neighborhood:

- Download the free Red Cross tornado app for mobile devices. The tornado app puts everything you need to know to stay safe in a tornado at your fingertips. The app can be downloaded from the iTunes or Google Play stores by searching for American Red Cross.
- Know your community’s warning system.
- Pick a safe room in your home where family members can gather if a tornado is headed your way. This should be a basement, storm cellar or interior room on the lowest floor with no windows.
- Prepare for strong winds by removing diseased and damaged limbs from trees.
- Move or secure lawn furniture, trash cans, hanging plants or anything else that can be picked up by the wind and become a projectile.
- Know the tornado danger signs – dark, often greenish clouds, a wall cloud, cloud of debris, large hail, a funnel cloud or a roaring noise.

THUNDERSTORMS: Thunderstorms are most likely to happen in the spring and summer, during the afternoon and evening. However, like tornadoes, they can happen anywhere, at any hour of the day. Every thunderstorm produces lightning, which kills more people every year than tornadoes or hurricanes. The Red Cross has steps you can take if a thunderstorm is predicted for your area.

- If thunder roars, go indoors. If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be in danger from lightning.
- Watch for storm signs like darkening skies, flashes of lightning or increasing winds.
- Postpone any outdoor activities. Many people who are struck by lightning are not where it is raining.
- Take shelter in a substantial building or a vehicle with the windows closed. Shutter windows and close outside doors securely. Stay away from windows.
- Do not take a bath, shower or use plumbing.

FLOODING: Spring can be a time of year for flooding. Communities in the Midwest and south have already seen floodwaters inundate neighborhoods. Snow melt and heavy spring rains fill rivers and streams and flooding can occur. Flash floods occur suddenly when water rises rapidly along a stream or low-lying area. People should be prepared to evacuate at a moment’s notice and head for higher ground when a flood or flash flood warning is issued. Other safety steps include:

- Stay away from floodwaters. If you come upon a flowing stream where water is above your ankles, stop, turn around and go another way. Six inches of swiftly moving water can sweep you off of your feet.
- If you come upon a flooded road while driving, turn around and go another way. If you are caught on a flooded road and waters are rising rapidly around you, get out of the car quickly and move to higher ground. Most cars can be swept away by less than two feet of moving water.
- Keep children out of the water. They are curious and often lack judgment about running water or contaminated water.

Safety Committee Members

Bev Kuenzli	Ext. 778
Bob Foreman	Ext. 028
Cheryl Vance Veeley	Ext. 259
Debbie Shuster	Ext. 810
Paula Langenderfer	Ext. 777
Tammy Crabtree	Ext. 163
Tracey Rector	Ext. 832

BIRTHDAYS

April

Kayla Crawl	2
Jessica Elswick	2
Chasity Channell	5
Fred Williams	5
Robert Foreman	7
David Wirick	8
Kandace Berry	11
Karrie Starr	11
Misty Nolen	14
Scott Payne	15
Nikkie Hamm	16
Lisa Nilsen	18
Shelly Mabrey	20
Lacy Levings	21
Hattie Harris	22
Karen Snyder	22
Lori Bostic	23
Karmann Rose	24
Hannah Adamson	27

Head Start
Debbie Shuster, Director
740-387-1039 x 810

BIRTHDAYS

May

- We were at full enrollment for the month of February. 715
- We have some classrooms where we can only place children that turned “4” by August 1, 2016. Several are available in Galion and Marion.
- We are also beginning Registrations and Re-registrations at this time for the 2017-2018 program year.

We currently have 182 children on our waitlist; the majority of the children on the waitlist for Head Start are three years old. The breakdown of the waitlist is listed below.

CENTER	HEAD START	EARLY HEAD START
Sam Center	21	
MARCA	10	
North Main	4	
Marion – Over-Income	3	
Marion Clark EHS		23
Cardington	4	
Mt. Gilead	12	
Morrow EHS		1
Galion	10	
Shelby	6	
Bucyrus	22	
Bucyrus EHS		8
Grace	50	
Grace EHS		8
TOTALS	142	40

Ashley Glass	1
Joyce Branam	2
Sheila Nickum	6
Sherry Mabe	7
Megan Bard	8
Kaitrina Foltz	9
Jennifer Deas	10
Tammy Crabtree	12
Paula Langenderfer	14
Kimberly Ball	20
Shannon Lear	20
Susan Schuler	20
Melissa Hines	23
Wendy Sanford	23
Heather Myers	26
Karla Granlee	28
Samantha Hefner	31

- In-Home Trainings completed with Families (Conscious Discipline, Fire Safety, Poison Safety, Wellness, Lice, Attendance, Potty Training) = 524
- Home Visits completed by Family Advocates = 1,962

Human Resources

Bev Kuenzli

740-387-1039 x 778

BIRTHDAYS

June

JUST A FRIENDLY REMINDER TO EMPLOYEES WHO ARE ENROLLED IN THE INSURANCES

You can register online for all insurances. This is a very handy way to check your coverages, Explanation of Benefits (EOB), researching doctors in the network, checking on prescriptions and cost of prescriptions and many other informational items. You can also order ID cards for UHC and print a copy of your ID card for Assurant Dental. The websites are all easily navigable and they are:

www.myuhc.com

www.vsp.com

www.assurant.com

Another valuable website for possible cheaper costs for prescriptions and you don't need to be on our insurance is www.onerx.com.

Don't forget!!! August 2, 2017 is OHCAC's Annual Orientation/In Service Day. Attendance is mandatory for all employees. Do not plan personal or annual leave days! More information will be sent out later.

Remember that March 12, 2017 we'll be Springing Forward when Daylight Savings begins for the year!!

Thank you and Happy Spring!

Bev Kuenzli

Heidi Perry	1
Riley Vanderkooi	4
Natalie Basilone	7
Cierra Marvicsin	9
Jessica Aphorp	10
Teddy Sherman	11
Ciarra Zeger	15
Sharon Thomas	17
Beverly Kuenzli	19
Laura Hoffman	20
Jamie Baumberger	21
Alyssa Koehler	21
Tammie Quillman	21
Amy Davis	26
Lindsey Kirts	28
Kathleen Edler	30

Morrow Neighborhood Center

Ashley Glass, Office Manager

419-946-2009 x-661

The Personal Needs Pantry serves many families in Morrow County with costly necessities unavailable at food pantries. The Personal Needs Pantry provides items such as cleaning products, hygienic products, and diapers. Morrow County residents who are at 125% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, and provide additional information, can come as a walk-in every Wednesday from 1:00-3:30pm. This month, The Morrow County Hospital kindly donated over \$1000.00 worth of personal needs items with their "Share the Love" drive. The Personal Needs Pantry is available for Morrow County residents because of individual donations. Thank you all for your donations. (Pictured are Morrow County Hospital Staff dropping off donations)



Alicia Nelson of the Ohio Attorney General's Office, Morrow County Prosecutor Charles Howland, Steve Hedge of DMMHRS and Richard Steele of Maryhaven consider ways to discourage drug abuse at DAAP meeting.

Morrow Getting Ahead is wrapping up the first 8-week workshop based on Philip DeVol's Getting Ahead in a Just Getting by World. The individuals who participated in the workshop will start on transition classes in collaboration with other local agencies. September, MGA will start another 8-week workshop to empower residents in Morrow County to succeed individually, with family and in the community. Participants will assess their life regarding choices and resources and then with the support of the other participants, use creative and critical thinking to plan for their future. MGA is reaching out for referrals. Please send referrals to MorrowGettingAhead@gmail.com or contact Ashley Glass at 419-946-2009 ext. 661. **Follow Morrow Getting Ahead on Facebook!**



Drug and Alcohol Awareness and Prevention of Morrow County (DAAP) was awarded the #PUSH4prevention stipend, made possible with the support from Drug Free Action Alliance and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. The stipend is to enhance partnership with law enforcement while working on DAAP's goals and objectives.

According to the Morrow County CHIP assessment, 7% of youth in Morrow County took medications not prescribed to them. From the same source, 17% of adults, kept their unused medication, while 16% threw it away. DAAP's Facebook page provides links and information on proper disposal of medications as well as safe storage. DAAP has also purchased Deterra home deactivation kits for individuals without transportation, who need to dispose of medications.

In collaboration with Sheriff Hinton, DAAP will be hosting the Medication Take Back event held on April 29th, from 10am-2pm, at Mt. Gilead Kroger's. Please stop by to drop off any unused or expired medication.

Morrow Neighborhood Center

Ashley Glass, Office Manager
419-946-2009 x-661

When dropping off any unused or expired medication at one of the two medication disposal boxes, located at the Sheriff's Office or the Cardington Police station, you can enter to win a home medication lockbox.

In collaboration with the local school districts, DAAP's Public Awareness committee has made two videos regarding alcohol and substance abuse with the Ohio State Highway Patrol and the Sheriff's Office.

DAAP is working on many projects to bring awareness and education to Morrow County. Please refer to DAAP's Facebook page for the list of short and long-term goals.

Any questions, please contact Ashley Glass at ashleyg@ohcac.org or 419-946-2009 ext. 661.



Alicia Nelson of the Ohio Attorney General's Office, Morrow County Prosecutor Charles Howland, Steve Hedge of DMMHRS and Richard Steele of Maryhaven consider ways to discourage drug abuse at DAAP meeting.



Follow Drug and Alcohol Awareness and Prevention on Facebook!

Fatherhood

**Tracey Rector
740-383-2154 x 832**

The only thing constant in life is change, and that is where the Fatherhood program finds itself at the moment. The past several years have seen much change in this program as grants have come and gone. We are pleased to be collaborating with Heath Ring, employment specialist with Goodwill Industries. Together Heath and I will meet with fathers to work through their barriers to employment, help with job searches, create resumes and brush up on interview skills.

Heath and I meet with the Probation Officers of Marion County in April to inform them of the opportunities available to their clients. Our main goal is to get them working.

The biggest change in the Fatherhood program, some of the fathers will notice, is we will no longer be available to assist with custody, visitation or support issues.

OHCAC Services Offered

**Kandace Berry
Administration - Receptionist
740-387-1039 x-814**

- Head Start
- AEP Neighbor to Neighbor Program
- Food Pantries (Galion)
- Community Service Block Grant (CSBG)
- Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP)
- Community Connections Program
- Senior Nutrition Program Meals (Marion)
- Drug & Alcohol Awareness Program (Morrow)
- Fatherhood Program
- Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance
- Personal Needs Pantries (Marion, Morrow)
- Emergency Food and Shelter Program (ESFP)
- WARM CHOICE Program
- Electric Partnership Program (EPP)
- United Community Rx Program (Marion)
- Engage Program (Morrow)
- Clothing Outlet in Crawford County (also available to Marion and Morrow residents)

Home Weatherization Assistance

Karen Wise

Deputy Director/Energy Coordinator

The HWAP year is from July 1 through June 31. At this point 43 units are completed and 21 needed to meet program requirements, 64 units. Inspectors are busy checking units for Weatherization. Many times units are “walk-a-ways” until the owner takes care of work the agency cannot perform. The only utility funding available is EPP/AEP with a balance of 6,000.00 to spend by the end of June. A new contract from AEP is anticipated in the near future.

The hot water tank tips have been printed before, but below is an important reminder.

Hot Water Heater Tips

- Check the temperature and pressure relief valve on your hot water heater annually to be sure the valve is functioning. Consult the operating manual for the procedure. If the valve does not work have it replaced.

Important Safety Note: Hot water will drain from the line connected to the relief valve when you open it. Have a bucket handy to catch the water. According to the Uniform Plumbing Code, a pipe should be connected to the pressure relief valve, extending down along the side of the tank to within 6 inches of the floor. This extension pipe prevents the spraying of hot water when the valve is released or if a malfunction occurs.



- Every six months, open the drain valve near the hot water heater tank bottom and drain 1 or 2 gallons of water from the hot water heater into a bucket or through a garden hose to remove any sediment that may have accumulated in the tank bottom

Note: If this procedure is not done regularly, residual sediment particles may prevent the drain valve from reseating properly upon closing and the valve washer may have to be replaced.

- Inspect the exhaust stack on gas fired hot water heaters to ensure that all pipe connections are secure and free of rust, corrosion, and obstructions (annually). (Note: It is essential that fuel fired hot water heaters vent their gasses to the outside; escape of gasses inside the home could be lethal & pose a fire hazard.)
- If you have installed an insulation blanket around the tank of your hot water heater, about every three months you should check to ensure that the insulation stays in the proper position, noting particularly that it is not blocking the combustion air inlet or the exhaust vent of gas fired units.
- Check the temperature setting on the hot water heater. If it is above 120°F or 140°F, or if your dishwasher does not have its own heating element, you are wasting energy and increasing the risk of you or a family member being scalded by hot water.

Crawford "Egner" Center
Tammy Crabtree, Center Director
419-468-5121 x-163

The Winter Crisis Program will be wrapping up soon and we will be saying good-bye to Nina Johnson until October. Enjoy your time off Nina.

We run several programs at the Crawford Office. One of our busiest is our Clothing Outlet. We serve Crawford, Morrow, Marion, and Richland Counties. We offer "Free Day" the last Friday of every month. Clients have to be at or below 125% poverty ratio and complete an Emergency Application to be able to shop. Jan Blozy with the help of our #1 volunteer, Lisa Geyer, stay very busy keeping up with all the donations and the shoppers.

A BLAST FROM THE PAST!

As I was doing a bit of cleaning at the Crawford Office, I came across a few photo albums. I enjoyed the pictures and thought everyone else would enjoy them too. :)

Tammy Crabtree, Director
Crawford County



ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

372 East Center Street - back in the day

