



Executive Director
Andrew J. Devany

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CONNECTIONS
Quarterly Newsletter
June 2022

**From the Desk of Our
Executive Director**



40 Years at OHCAC

Tracey Rector just reminded me that it is time to write my contribution to the OHCAC quarterly newsletter for our summer installment. Coincidentally, I have just finished my 40th year as the OHCAC Executive Director. Now... I haven't been writing these articles for 40 years, but I thought to myself, "what has changed over that time?"

We didn't have any computers or cell phones back then so our communication was quite a bit slower than it is now. OHCAC only operated in Marion and Crawford Counties and had a couple of old houses that served as our community centers. Believe it or not, our Administration building was the same one that we occupy today, but it did not have any parking area to speak of and we would soon have to vacate the location because we could not afford it any longer. The only remaining staff from that era were Linda Hartle, who had recently returned from maternity leave, and Barb Beal, who was a Home Base Teacher working out of her car and the previously mentioned old house in Galion.

Head Start had 144 participants, all within our newly expanded Home Base program. There were no Head Start Centers. Our Weatherization program was being put up for bids by the State, and we were grappling with multiple law suits. The Agency had been without an Executive Director for six months while the Board considered a merger with a neighboring Community Action Agency that they had also entered into a management contract with to oversee our operations during that time. Staff were repeatedly being asked to apply for their existing positions and for reorganized positions, and because of this many were seeking other employment in a very tight job market. The merger was never fully consummated, and it had not been sanctioned with our funding sources.

The Board was not sure if the Agency would be around for another year so they were only offering a six-month contract to the new Executive Director. I, as the newly selected Executive Director, accepted the offer and was hired on the spot so that I could represent the Agency in Columbus the next morning at the Weatherization bidding meeting for the Agency's former service area. What happened? OHCAC successfully won the bid, becoming the only CAA to reacquire a program that it had lost.

As the new Executive Director, I was pleasantly surprised to find that I was walking into a job that had exactly what we have today: a steadfast and concerned Board of Directors and a caring, hardworking, determined staff who were committed to assisting those in need, operating programs according to the stated program guidelines, and willing to go the extra mile to get the job done. This is the same dedication and caring that I have seen for the past 40 years from the Board and staff of the now Ohio Heartland Community Action Commission. This is why we overcame the challenges that we faced 40 years ago and why we continue to overcome the challenges that we face today.

At OHCAC we are always changing. We see new clients. We operate new and changing programs. We have new employees, new opportunities and new facilities. But, by the grace of God we have always had the will, the desire, and the forbearance to help those in need in the communities we serve.

OHCAC Services Offered

**Ann and Jaime
Administration - Receptionists
740-387-1039 x-1100**

Agency Directors

- Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)
- AEP Neighbor to Neighbor Program
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)
- Food Pantry (Galion)
- Personal Needs Pantries (Marion, Morrow)
- Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP)
- WARM CHOICE Program
- Electric Partnership Program (EPP)
- Community Connections Program
- Emergency Food and Shelter Program (ESFP)
- Community Service Block Grant (CSBG)
- Rapid Rehousing and Homeless Prevention (Marion and Crawford)
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- Clothing Outlet in Crawford County (also available to Marion and Morrow County residents)
- LIHWAP (Water) Program
- Prescription Assistance Program
- Senior Commodity Boxes (Galion)
- Payee Program (Marion)
- Water Assistance
- Emergency Senior Funding Grant (Marion)
- Work boots (Crawford)
- Gas to work assistance
- Early Head Start and Head Start in Marion, Morrow, Crawford and Richland Counties
- Columbia Gas Fuel Funds
- First Energy Fuel Funds
- Resource and Referral
- Assistance obtaining state identifications and birth certificates to gain employment.
- Medication Lock Boxes (Morrow)
- Summer Reading Program (Marion)
- School Supplies (Crawford)
- Backpack Program (Crawford)

Joe Devany
Executive Director
740-387-1039 Ext. 1118

Joseph Main
Deputy Director / Energy
Coordinator
740-387-1039 Ext. 1121

Jim Lavelle
Chief Fiscal Officer
740-387-1039 Ext. 1117

David Wirick
IT Manager
740-387-1039 Ext. 1108

Debbie Schuster
Head Start Director
740-387-1039 Ext. 1109

Robert Foreman
HEAP Director
Energy Programs
740-387-9703 Ext. 1201

Tracey Rector
Marion Co. Director
740-383-2154 Ext. 1313

Sara Herrera
Morrow Co. Director
419-946-2009 Ext. 1905

Tammy Crabtree
Crawford Co. Director
419-468-5121 Ext. 1619



Head Start / Early Head Start

Debbie Schuster, Director

740-387-1039 x-1109



Purchasing the Jan Hulse Early Childhood Center (formerly the MARCA school)



Conference room at the Jan Hulse Early Childhood Center

BOARD MEMBERS

Marion County

Paula Burnside
Kerr Murray
Staci Thomas
Danica Dodson
Sherry Russell
Stephanie Shaffer
Robert Conception
Laura Detweiler

Crawford County

Richard Genzman,
Board President
Larry Schmidt
Thomas O'Leary
Joe Stafford
Tina Bloomfield
Douglas Court
Darrin Harvey

Morrow County

Kelli Cooperider
Tracy Blackburn
Kelsey Lewis
Darci Hendrickson

Richland County

Theresa Alt
Tamea Jobe
Fred Boll

I am so thankful to our staff, Governing Board, Policy Council and Executive Director for their dedication to the children and families that we serve. Having been through a Corrective Action planning period and the federal review within a few months was very stressful, but I believe that our program will be stronger and offer higher quality services to the children because of the enhancements we have made recently. We have created a Staff Wellness Committee and we have already followed some of the suggestions put forth by the staff. We are committed to offering excellent educational, social service, intervention, transition and health assistance to every individual that we come in contact with throughout our next program year.

The Corrective Action Plan was submitted on April 19, 2022 due to the incident that occurred at the Haxton Center in January. Our Follow-up Review was held on 4-21-2022 and on May 27, 2022 we received a Program Performance Summary Report from the Office of Head Start that stated that our area of deficiency was corrected. The report stated that "the recipient (OHCAC Head Start) ensured all staff did not maltreat or endanger the health and safety of children, including, at a minimum, using corporal punishment or physically abusing a child. The program revised procedures, provided staff training and enhanced monitoring." The Office of Head Start (OHS) conducted a Focus Area 2 (FA2) monitoring review of OHCAC Head Start (05CH010615) during the week of 04/25/2022. The Office of Head Start (OHS) would like to thank our governing body, policy council, parents and staff for their engagement in the review process. Based on the information gathered during this review, they found our program meets the requirements of all applicable Head Start Program Performance Standards, laws, regulations and policy regulations.

The Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) and Quality Improvement (QI) supplemental grant application was submitted to the Office of Head Start on May 27th and should be approved soon. All staff will receive a 3.1% pay increase as of July 1, 2022 and the 3.1% pay increase will be added to all salary charts.

REGISTRATION OVERVIEW May 27, 2022	
# NEEDED	COMPLETE REGISTRATIONS
HS = 475	325
EHS = 112	73 + 58 Returning = 131
TOTAL = 587	456



Home Energy Assistance Program

Robert Foreman, Director
740-387-1039 x 1201

BIRTHDAYS

July

Happy Summer from the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) department.

The following is an overview of the 2022 Winter Crisis Program (2022WCP) and other energy programs offered November 1, 2021 – April 15, 2022.

Crawford County completed 682 households, Marion County completed 844 households and Morrow County completed 474 households for a combined total of 2,000 households served through the 2021-2022 Winter Crisis Program.

Included in this total was a combined 35 furnace repairs.

We expended \$745,848 in total benefits through the 2022WCP.

In addition to the 2022WCP, staff completed 5,143 Regular HEAP applications, which includes mailed-in and Queue (Online applications); and 4,486 PIPP + applications.

We had 3 additional energy programs: 191 applications completed through the First Energy Fuel Funds, 207 applications completed through the Columbia Gas Fuel Funds and 12 applications completed through the AEP Neighbor 2 Neighbor Fuel Funds.

The **2022 Summer Crisis Program (2022SCP)** will be open from **July 1 - September 30, 2022**.

The 2022SCP will provide eligible households with a **one-time benefit** to assist with electric utility bills, possible central air conditioning repairs, possible air conditioning unit and/or fan purchases. Household income must be at or below 175% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

The maximum benefit amounts for the 2022SCP are: **Up to \$500** for clients of regulated utilities and **Up to \$800** for clients of unregulated utilities (municipal utilities or cooperatives). Possible air conditioning units and/or fans may only be provided to eligible clients who have not received an air conditioning unit or fan in **2019, 2020 and 2021**.

Call the automated appointment hotline at ***419-718-0047*** to make your 2022 Summer Crisis Program/HEAP/PIPP + appointments **or** go to **schedule online** at app.capappointments.com using Google Chrome.

For more information on the 2022SCP, call your local county CAC.

Sommer Ziegler	2
Melissa Peters	2
Dona Kochman	3
Julie Turner	3
Kelly Bautista	5
Jamie Wilson	8
Rachelle Emory	8
Angela Paul	10
Addison Stoneburner	11
Ashley Gullett	13
Dennis Hardie	13
Kaitlynn Crowl	14
Deborah Herdman	14
Susan Booker	16
Patty Brown	18
Amy McClain	18
Angela Neely	18
Heather Thomspson	23
Vickie Cerny	26
Marie Carns	26
Shannon Ayers	27



Crawford "Egner" Center
Tammy Crabtree, Center Director
419-468-5121 x-1619

The Crawford Office would like to welcome our newest staff member, Angela Neely. Angela will be a full time HEAP Intake Worker. We are very excited to have Angela on board as part of the Crawford team.

Our Food Pantry was the recipient of the food gathered from our Galion Post Office Food Drive in May. We received 2,000 pounds of food. That's a **lot** of food!!! Thank you to everyone that helped in the Food Drive.

We will be offering the Back-Pack Program during the Summer Feeding Program with the Galion City Schools. We provide each child that participates with a bag of food for the weekend. This program will run from June 6 – July 21, 2022.

Crawford County can assist with rent, utilities, car repair, and prescription assistance, and more.

Call for details about our various programs.

Morrow Neighborhood Center
Sara Herrera, Center Director
419-946-2009 x-1905

Everyone at the Morrow County Center is excited to welcome the summer season and let go of the trials of the past year. Winter Crisis Program was a great success and 2022 regular HEAP programs are winding down. Summer Crisis program will be kicking off in July and intake staff are eager to assist Morrow County with their cooling needs.

The OHFA and CAA-HRG programs are in full effect. All staff members have been doing great at coming together to assist our clients in ways that we have not been able to in the past. Internet service, water and trash bills, rent, property taxes and utility assistance are all available.

The personal needs pantry is open and serves area residents with toiletries and household items. Individuals can call the Morrow Center on Wednesdays to request assistance. Prescription assistance and medication lockboxes are also available.

Morrow County Center would like to extend a warm welcome to HEAP Intake Worker Megan Church and CSBG Intake Worker Christel Stone.

BIRTHDAYS

August

Tiffany Antrim	1
Stacie Stout	3
Linda Hartle	7
Tracey Rector	8
Sara White	9
Peggy Gwinner	11
Laura McClure	12
Patricia Rigby	17
Debra Varner	20
Kaitlyn Tanner	20
Bethany Dorsey	21
Kim Mahler	22
James Thurston	22
Janice Blozy	24
Nicholas Scheff	26
Renea Brown	28
Katelynn Hemminger	31



Home Weatherization Assistance Program

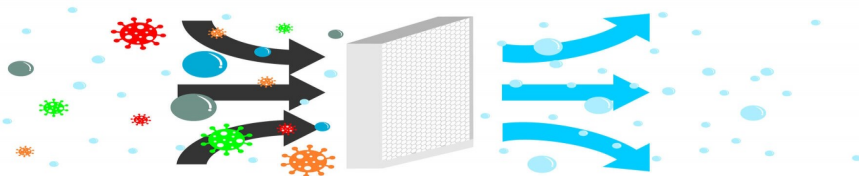
Joseph Main
Deputy Director/Energy Coordinator
740-387-1039 x-1121

We are at the end of the Grant year for Weatherization, EPP, and Community Connections. We met our goals for Community Connections, and we are currently on track to meet our goals for the HWAP program. We welcomed in a new Energy Office Clerk, Nicole Soice. We hired sub-contractors for EPP. We look forward to Transitioning into the new Grant year!

The Energy Office would like to remind everyone to stay cool.

Install a programmable thermostat. These nifty devices allow you to set automatic temperature controls for maximum comfort and [energy efficiency alternatives to air conditioning](#) during hot summer months. Keep temperatures higher when your family isn't home to keep costs low.

Replace your air filter. Your HVAC system's air filter gets a lot more use during the summer. Check it every thirty days throughout the summer; replace it when necessary.



Practice smart landscaping. Now is one of the best times to utilize those green thumbs. Strategically planting shrubs and leafy trees near your home's windows is an excellent way to prevent those same windows from transferring excess heat into your home.

Install exterior window coverings. If you aren't able to use nature to your advantage, another great way to protect windows is by adding awnings or screen shades to shade their exterior side.

Use smart door techniques. Mom had it right when she was yelling about letting all the cold air out. When the air conditioner is on and running, every opened door and [window leaks out valuable energy](#). [Keep unnecessary trips to and from the house at a low to keep your energy bill similarly low.](#)

Clean your refrigerator coils. Refrigerators can cause surprisingly high energy usage, especially when they're not operating efficiently. To get the best possible performance from your unit, dust it off and clean up those condensing coils.



Safety Committee Members

740-387-1039

Bev Kuenzli	Ext. 1104
Bob Foreman	Ext. 1201
Debbie Shuster	Ext. 1109
Paula Langenderfer	Ext. 1130
Tammy Crabtree	Ext. 1619
Tracey Rector	Ext. 1313
Sara Herrera	Ext. 1905
Joseph Main	Ext. 1121

BIRTHDAYS

September

Pasheauna Smith	1
Monica Creamer	5
Rachel Skaggs	7
Laura White	9
Saundra Stover	12
Watt Selmon	15
Jenny Myers	15
Rachel Elliott	16
Brian Henderson	17
Mckenzi Bradshaw	19
Maria Black	20
S. Phil Adams	24
Nicole Davis	28



Marian Clark Center
Tracey Rector, Center Director
740-383-2154 ext. 1313

We are excited to be offering Mobile Vaccine Clinics once a month through the summer, but maybe even longer. The first one was well attended and this encouraged us that there is still an interest in the community. Our next one is June 15, 10:00-2:00 in the parking lot of our office, 1183 Bellefontaine Ave., Marion. Please bring your Photo ID and vaccination card if you have started the process. The Mobile Vaccine Clinic offers Pfizer, Moderna, Pfizer PEDI, first and second boosters. Oh, did I mention it's free?

We continue to offer all of our programs. We are seeing clients in person or still allowing for over the phone interviews if you are more comfortable. We need all documentation before your appointment time no matter how you have your appointment. You may email, fax or drop off your information at our office.

A smile is a curve that sets everything straight ~ Phyllis Diller

**I GOT
MY COVID-19
VACCINE !**



OHCAC Mission Statement

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.

Fiscal Factoids

Anita Major, Fiscal Office Manager
740-387-1039 x-1103



Please congratulate Sara White. Sara has been promoted to General Maintenance Technician. She will continue to run the interoffice mail and clean some of our buildings with help from Richard Murphy. Also, a great big thank you to Teddy Sherman for agreeing to help the maintenance department through the Summer.

As always, please review your pay stubs and contact me with any questions you may have.

Bits from Benefits

Bev Kuenzli, Benefits/Assist. Office Manager
740-387-1039 x-1104

Just a reminder that the OHCAC Annual Orientation/In-Service day will be held August 3, 2022 **IN PERSON!!!**

We're very excited to be able to gather together face-to-face again! It will be held at Dayspring Wesleyan Church: 2431 Marion-Mt Gilead Rd., Marion, Ohio 43302. Registration will begin at 8:00 AM and the Orientation will begin promptly at 9:00 AM.

If you choose, please sign up for the catered lunch that will be provided by the Agency this year! This is an open lunch and you still have the option of brown bagging or going to your favorite restaurant.



I'm looking forward to a fun-filled day!



Have a safe and enjoyable summer. Don't forget the sunscreen and bug spray on your outings. Drink plenty of water and stay hydrated.

See you all on August 3rd!

Benefits Bev