



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

October 20, 2014

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin St. – 4th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear Honorable Members:

RE: Comm. 12E-34 Compliance Report

In accordance with Comm. 12E-34, please find an update of Child Protective caseloads for the month of September. I plan to appear at the Legislature to discuss this report on Thursday, October 23.

	September	Change since August
Caseload size at the last day of the Month	4414	101
Number of CPS workers assigned at least five case last day of month	145	32
Average number of cases per worker	30	(14)
Cases Closed in Month	724	(18)
Intake during Month	876	173
Overdue Investigations at the last day of month	3066	(72)
Timely Determinations during month	192	72

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Carol Dankert-Maurer
Social Services Commissioner

By: Brian C. Bray
Special Assistant to the Commissioner

CDM/bb
Attachments
cc: Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz

IMPACT OF NEW CPS POSITIONS ON 2015 COUNTY BUDGET

LEGISLATURE APPROVED POSITION ADDITIONS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NO.</u>	<u>JOB TITLE</u>	<u>JG</u>	<u>SALARY</u>
9/26/2013	6	Social Caseworker I	8	\$252,081
9/26/2013	1	Child Protection Coordinator	12	\$64,039
3/27/2014	5	Child Protective Worker (PT)	8	\$103,026
3/27/2014	1	Child Protective Worker Sp Spk (PT)	8	\$21,239
6/19/2014	18	Child Protective Workers	8	\$693,832
6/19/2014	3	Child Protective Team Leaders	11	\$176,894
6/19/2014	1	Child Protection Coordinator	12	\$64,039
6/19/2014	3	Social Services Team Worker	5	\$102,308
6/19/2014	6	Protective Services Investigator - PT	12	\$141,552
6/19/2014	3	Protective Services Investigator - RPT	12	\$104,304
6/19/2014	3	Sr Protective Services Investigator - RPT	14	\$127,608

POSITIONS TRANSFERRED FROM OTHER PROGRAM AREAS

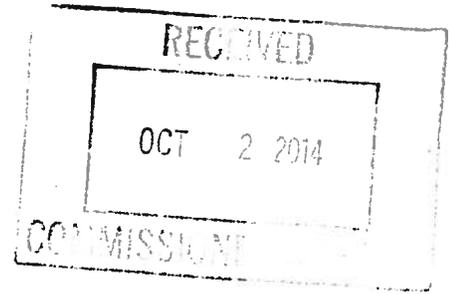
11/25/2013	1	Child Protective Team Leader <i>Converted from Social Case Supervisor-Unit</i>	11	\$58,964.64
12/30/2013	1	Child Protective Team Leader <i>Converted from Systems Support Specialist</i>	11	\$58,964.64
1/16/2014	6	Child Protective Worker <i>Converted from 6 Senior Social Welfare Examiners</i>	8	\$231,277.33
1/27/2014	6	Child Protective Worker <i>Converted from 4 Sr. Social Welfare Examiners and 2 Child Support Investigators</i>	8	\$231,277.33

SALARY	\$2,431,405
FRINGE	<u>\$1,255,156</u>
TOTAL	\$3,686,561

LOCAL SHARE	\$1,732,684
OCFS GRANT	<u>-\$290,000</u>
2015 EC COST	\$1,442,684



September 30, 2014



Ms. Carol Dankert-Maurer
Commissioner
Erie County Department of Social Services
95 Franklin Street
Buffalo, NY 14202

New York State
Office of
Children &
Family
Services

<http://ocfs.ny.gov>

Dear Commissioner Dankert-Maurer:

This letter is to inform you that an additional \$90,000 in CPS Enhancement funds has been made available and is being offered to Erie County. As with the original \$200,000 provided to Erie County, these funds can only be used to hire additional caseworkers and/or supervisors (salary and fringe benefits) in SFY 2014-2015, and must be claimed for by March 31, 2015.

Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

Sheila J. Poole
Acting Commissioner

In order to receive the additional funds, you must complete the Attachment B, "Certification Re: Non-supplantation and Plan" (attached) and return it to Dana Whitcomb, Regional Office Director, by October 10, 2014. Should you have any questions, please contact Dana at (716) 847-3145.

Capital View Office Park
52 Washington Street
Rensselaer, NY
12144-2834

Sincerely,

Laura M. Velez
Deputy Commissioner
Child Welfare & Community Services

Laura M. Velez

Att.
cc: Dana Whitcomb
Judith Shanley



An Equal Opportunity Employer

*c: [unclear]
: Brian*

SOCIAL SERVICES RE-ORGANIZATION

Individual Accomplishments

Marie Cannon (1st Deputy Commissioner)

- Facilitated the agreement between Office of Temporary Assistance (OTDA) and Erie County DSS to co-locate OTDA's Jobs Developers within the Employment Work Center. The expected outcome is the strengthening of the collaborative relationship, enhanced communication and increased outcomes for ECDSS' clients. The collaboration has a specific focus on Safety Net applicants and recipients. The goal is to increase the number of Safety Net Clients receiving intensive case management services that will lead to employment.
- Facilitated the partnership with UB/Educational Opportunity Center to provide employment and training programs to SNAP eligible recipients using an integrated approach to deliver wrap-around services for adult students. The program design include pre-assessment, career planning, instructional support, educational skills, vocational training programs, work related activities, job preparation, placement and retention, and integration with community services. The priority populations will be Safety Net individuals with significant barriers to employment including ex-offenders, those with a history of substance abuse, housing displacements, individuals with limited English proficiency, and limited or no work experience.
- Facilitated the development of the succession planning framework to strategically address the issues of the impending vacancies due to retirement.
- Participated in the development of the Buffalo Public School Health Council. The goal of the council is to address the holistic needs of students in the BPS system by engaging the community partners to support the student and the family.
- Continue to navigate the significant and wide-ranging changes in public health insurance with the New York State Medicaid Redesign. Facilitated the takeover of Medicaid transportation with the Department of Health and the new Regional Mobility Manager. Developed strategies to ensure that more than 27,000 medical trips per month would continue without interruption during the transition.

Sharon Rochelle (2nd Deputy Commissioner)

- Facilitated the hiring and training of forty Child Protective Workers. This included negotiating with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services for a compressed version of CORE and Child Protective Services Response Training for new trainees. Transitioned the 6th floor of 478 Main Street from a Temporary Assistance Office to a training floor for all new CPS trainees. Participant in the planning Committee of the new CPS teams.
- Lead for the RFP for Chronic Neglect Study; in collaboration with the University of Buffalo Social Work Program. Assisted the researchers in gaining access of case information related to Erie County CPS cases of Chronic Neglect.

- Participant in the Erie County CPS and Erie County School initiative. This goal of this initiative is to form a partnership between School Districts and Erie County CPS. This would help to improve communication and services offered to children and families.
- Participant in a Human Resources Management committee to implement a succession planning program for EC DSS and a Critical Thinking program pilot for EC CPS staff. This is being directed through an outside consultant Performance Management Partners.
- Planning and implementation of co-location of two Domestic Violence Advocates in Child Protective Services. This is collaboration between ECDSS and Children & Family Services.
- Participant in interviews for the hiring of two Clinical Specialist positions for CPS and Children's Services.
- Meeting with Andrew Willis and Melanie Blow from the Stop Abuse Campaign; advocating for Sexual Abuse Education for Adults, Healthy Families New York Program and the Quincy Solution to end Domestic Violence.
- Participant on the planning committee for the new CPS Specialized teams.

Brian Bray (Special Assistant to the Department of Social Services Commissioner)

- Prepared three letters to the New York State Office of Children and Family Services: request for CPS Enhancement Grant funding; objecting to State Training School chargebacks; and request to temporarily waive rule limiting number of CPS investigations that can be consolidated.
 - \$290,000 was awarded to Erie County for CPS staff additions
 - Consolidation Waiver Request is under consideration by OCFS.
 - Have not received a reply to State Training School letter.
- Prepared a presentation to the New York State Association of Counties concerning Child Protective Services.
- Re-examined all data and reports within Child Protective Services, resulting in more accurate and timely information being used to make decisions.
- Assisted Medicaid Inspector General in accessing information to be used in a follow-up report on Medicaid usage in Erie County.
- Organized the Erie County Community Coordinating Council on Children and Families and arranged for its first meeting.
- Facilitated and/or participated in meetings with the City of Buffalo, Seneca Nation, Family Justice Center, Amherst Chamber of Commerce, Southtowns Coalition, Vive/Oishei, Stop Abuse Campaign, Buffalo City Mission and Child & Family Services of WNY – Advocacy Committee.
- Responded to numerous press inquiries related to Child Protective Services and other child welfare issues.
- Served as liaison to the Division of Information and Support Services for the Department of Social Services Technical Support Unit.
- Completed initial draft of the Health and Human Services Plan.
- Liaison with County Executive office and Legislature for various information and action requests.