



Public Children Services Association of Ohio

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MEMORANDUM

TO: THE PCSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS
FROM: THE PCSAO SAFETY COMMITTEE
SUBJECT: **2002 WORKER SAFETY INCIDENT AGGREGATE REPORT**
DATE: FEBRUARY 14, 2003

The Safety Committee is excited to be providing you with Ohio's ***FIRST ANNUAL AGGREGATE DATA REPORT ON WORKERS SAFETY INFRACTIONS***. While we are not excited about the fact that workers are at-risk, but we are excited about our effort to responsibly address worker safety collectively! The process we have set up, as agreed upon by the membership, is a pro-active attempt to take steps to get a handle on the type, level of, and severity of worker safety infractions across our state. As a result of this data, it is our hope that we address safety concerns locally while keeping an eye on system-wide patterns so we may collectively take steps to address these as a united body of concerned child welfare professionals.

We are attaching the First Annual Aggregate Data Report on WORKER SAFETY INFRACTIONS. We hope this information is helpful.

You will see in the Report Summary that many, but not all of our counties are submitting reports whether incidents have occurred or not. If a county chooses not to respond, the Committee has no way of knowing if it was because there was no incident or there was an incident but the county chose not to submit the form. **We need ALL counties to stand up and be counted!** Submitting the form regardless of whether an incident occurred assists the Committee in reporting accurate information to the PCSAO membership.

It is our hope that each of our 88 counties submit the form to PCSAO on a quarterly basis throughout 2003. Stacey A. Saunders provides reminders to the local agency Safety Contact each quarter. ***If you would like to view the Safety Contact list PCSAO has created for contacting counties on the data submission process and quarterly reminders, please let us know.***

The PCSAO membership, Safety Committee, and PCSAO staff appreciate your participation in this important and worthwhile data collection activity.

Thank you. Take care and stay safe.

CC: Crystal Allen, Executive Director

Attachments



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Public Children Services Association of Ohio CHILD WELFARE WORKER SAFETY - CRITICAL INCIDENT REPORTING

62 OF OUR 88 COUNTIES REPORTED IN 2002
(At Least One out of Four Quarters)

SMALL	MEDIUM SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE	METRO	MAJOR
Adams	Auglaize	Athens	Allen	Lorain	Cuyahoga
Carroll	Fulton	Belmont	Clark	Lucas	Franklin
Champaign	Guernsey	Erie	Columbiana	Montgomery	Hamilton
Coshocton	Highland	Jefferson	Delaware	Stark	
Defiance	Logan	Huron	Fairfield	Summit	
Fayette	Madison	Knox	Greene	Trumbull	
Gallia	Mercer	Marion	Medina		
Hardin	Ottawa	Muskingum	Richland		
Henry		Pickaway	Warren		
Hocking		Ross	Wayne		
Holmes		Sandusky	Wood		
Meigs		Scioto			
Monroe		Tuscarawas			
Morgan		Washington			
Morrow					
Perry					
Putnam					
Van Wert					
Williams					
Wyandot					
20 out of 26 Small Counties	8 out of 14 Med.-Sm Counties	14 out of 21 Medium Counties	11 out of 15 Large Counties	6 out of 9 Metro Counties	3 out of 3 Major Metro

**NARRATIVE SUMMARY
WORKER SAFETY INCIDENT REPORT
JANUARY 2002 - DECEMBER 2002**

The following is a narrative summary describing specific elements from the data collection sheet. The Worker Safety Committee asked that we provide this information to give the reader insight into the types of worker safety infractions that occurred around the state in 2002.

PATTERNS OF WORKER SAFETY INFRACTIONS

1. Incidents occurred in all CPOE county cohort groups.
2. Verbal and written threats were the preferred mode of striking out.
3. Clients were predominantly the aggressors.
4. The top three locations where incidents occurred include (1) agency grounds; (2) client homes; and through (3) phone/email.
5. The predominant incident triggers were due to (1) removals; (2) custody discussions; and (3)C/AN investigations.

RECOMMENDATIONS/CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE AGENCY SAFETY COMMITTEE

1. Review the level of building safety, and safety procedures for the agency and when conducting in-home visits to address point #4 above (the highest percentage of infractions occurred on agency grounds, secondarily client homes and thirdly through phone/e-mail). Consider whether or not revisions to the policy and procedures are needed.
1. Review agency policy and procedures regarding how to manage written and verbal threats. Consider whether or not revisions to the policy and procedures are needed.

INCIDENT DISPOSITION

With regard to physical assaults, staff reported:

- Dog bites (especially bit bulls) occurred often;
- In one instance a worker was struck on the back of her head with a piece of asphalt;
- Workers experienced being kicked, punched, and shoved by clients both at the agency and during home visits.

With regard to verbal aggression, staff reported:

- They were threatened with death, poison, bodily harm;
- There was regular use of vulgarity;
- They were threatened that their home, car, personal belongings would be blown up and destroyed;
- There were many instances in which clients and client paramours threatened to blow up the agency and/or other public buildings (such as the court house).

INCIDENT DISPOSITION

With regard to personal/agency property damage, staff reported:

- Staff had their car tires slashed, car windows broken;
- In one instance a worker's car was damaged with a paint ball gun (marred and dented as a result of the gun blast).

POST INCIDENT RESPONSE

With regard to Medical Attention sought by staff:

- Staff sought medical attention in 13 instances. Attention was sought through the ER room, the worker's doctor or an Emergency Ambulance. In these instances, staff were treated and released the same day.

Public Children Services Association of Ohio
CHILD WELFARE WORKER SAFETY - CRITICAL INCIDENT FORM

Agency Statewide Data, PCSAO Summary

Number of Agencies that Reported 62

Agencies that Reported Incidents 42

Agencies that Reported No Incidents 20
 (unduplicated count)

Date of Report: 2002- Aggregate Data

Incident Description (check all that apply)

Incident "Trigger"

180 Verbal Aggression (w/ sense of danger)
129 Verbal / Written Threats of Harm
15 Personal / Agency Property_Damage
4 Sexual Harassment
7 Stalked
32 Physical Assaults
6 Slip and Fall
31 Other (10 bomb threats, 1 car accident,
 1 drug possession)

42 Visit as part of C/AN investigation
125 Removal of Children
25 Routine Home Visit
60 Custody Discussion, Pending Action
28 Visitation (during weekly visit)
38 Other

Alleged Offender

Post Incident Responses (all that apply)

258 Client - Adults
30 Client - Child
14 Family Members
2 Dog bite
6 Worker (Accident)
32 Other

15 Victim Received Medical Attention
90 Law Enforcement Contacted (agency
 and victim's home jurisdictions)
309 Incident Reported to Agency
15 Employee Assistance Offered/Provided
12 Warning Letter Issued
16 Incoming Phone Calls to Victim Taped
8 Offender Picture Posted w/in_Agency
 for Security Purposes
55 Law Enforcement Intervention
31 Charges Filed Against Alleged Offender
15 Offender Arrested
29 Other

Location of Incident

65 Client Home
169 Agency
50 Phone / Email
11 Court
44 Other

Agencies Reporting a Worker Safety Incident Occurred During 2002

SMALL

-Adams
 -Champaign
 -Coshocton
 -Fayette
 -Gallia
 -Hocking
 -Holmes
 -Morrow
 -Perry
 -Putnam
 -Williams
 -Wyandot

MEDIUM-

SMALL
 -Fulton
 -Guernsey
 -Highland

MEDIUM

-Athens
 -Belmont
 -Jefferson
 -Marion
 -Ross
 -Sandusky
 -Scioto
 -Tuscarawas
 -Washington

LARGE

-Allen
 -Columbiana
 -Delaware
 -Fairfield
 -Greene
 -Morrow
 -Richland
 -Warren
 -Wayne

METROS

-Lorain
 -Lucas
 -Montgomery
 -Stark
 -Summit
 -Trumbull

MAJOR

METROS
 -Cuyahoga
 -Franklin
 -Hamilton