



THE OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE



Delaware

Tania M. Culley, Esquire
Child Advocate

ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2005 (July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005)



OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE

900 King Street • Suite 210 • Wilmington, Delaware 19801 • Voice 302.255.1730 • Fax 302.577.6831
9 E. Loockerman Street • Suite 302 • Dover, Delaware 19901 • Voice 302.739.7150 • Fax 302.739.7153
<http://courts.delaware.gov/childadvocate>

Mission

The Office of the Child Advocate shall safeguard the welfare of Delaware's children through educational advocacy, system reform, public awareness, training, and legal representation of children as set forth in 29 Del. C., Ch. 90A.

Goals

- * Ensure that every child's voice is heard in every court proceeding, which affects his or her life;
- * Ensure that every player in the child protection system has the necessary education and training to put a child's safety and well-being above all else: children are not personal property ... they are human beings;
- * Ensure that Delaware's child welfare laws reflect the needs of our children and are a model for the nation.

Duties

- * Effectuate the purposes of the Child Protection Accountability Commission ("Commission" or CPAC")
- * Take all possible actions, including programs of public education and legislative advocacy, to ensure the legal, civil and special rights of children;
- * Revise, periodically, all relevant policies and procedures with a view toward the rights of children;
- * Refer any person making a complaint or report required by Chapter 9 of Title 16 of the Delaware Code to the Division of Family Services, and, if warranted, to an appropriate police agency. If a complaint or report includes an allegation of misconduct against a Department of Services for Children, Youth & Their Families employee, the complaint or report must also be referred to the Secretary of the Department;
- * Recommend changes in the procedures for investigating and overseeing the welfare of children;
- * Make the public aware of the services of the Office of the Child Advocate and the Child Protection Accountability Commission, their purposes, and how they can be contacted;
- * Apply for and accept grants, gifts and bequests of funds from other state, federal and interstate agencies, as well as from private firms, individuals and foundations for the purpose of carrying out the Child Protection Accountability Commission's lawful responsibilities. The funds must be deposited with the State Treasurer in a restricted receipt account established to permit funds to be expended in accordance with the provision of the grant, gift or bequest;

Duties (cont.)

- * Examine policies and procedures and evaluate the effectiveness of the child protection system, specifically the respective roles of the Division of Family Services, the Attorney General's Office, the courts, the medical community and law enforcement agencies;
- * Review and make recommendations concerning investigative procedures and emergency responses of the child welfare system;
- * Develop and provide quality training to Division of Family Services' staff, Deputy Attorneys General, law enforcement officers, the medical community, Family Court personnel, educators, day care providers, and others on the various standards, criteria and investigative technology used in child welfare cases;
- * Submit an annual report analyzing the work of the Office of the Child Advocate that shall be included in the Child Protection Accountability Commission's annual report; and
- * Take whatever other actions are necessary to help the Commission accomplish its goals.

Locations

New Castle County

900 King Street
Suite 210
Wilmington, DE 19801
Ph: (302) 255-1730
Fax: (302) 577-6831

Kent/Sussex Counties

9 E. Loockerman Street
Treadway Towers, Suite 302
Dover, DE 19901
Ph: (302) 739-7150
Fax: (302) 739-7153

Staff

Child Advocate
Deputy Child Advocates

Program Administrator
Office Manager
Family Crisis Therapists

Tania M. Culley, Esquire
Angela M. Fowler, Esquire
Lorin M. Hochman, Esquire
Mary Catherine (M.C.) Landis, Esquire
Anne Pedrick, MSCC
Wendy Gerlach
Celeste Bishop
Jennifer Falkowski

Volunteers, Interns & Law Clerks

Lauren Schmidt
Dena Kuntz
Lacey Ryan-Millar
Mignon Verdell
Allison Bayley
Shaunti Elrod

Jennifer Gerhard
Kimberly Hoskins
David Hall
Lanette Heffner
Geoffrey Cebula
Tom Decesar

Shannon Chant
Stacey Callaway
Mattie Picard
Kimberly Albert
Michelle Olenick
Elizabeth Treisner

Islanda Finamore
Laura Westfall
Jaime Hastings
Mary Kaye Jacono

Website: <http://courts.delaware.gov/childadvocate>

Fiscal Year 2005

OCA Pro Bono Honor Roll

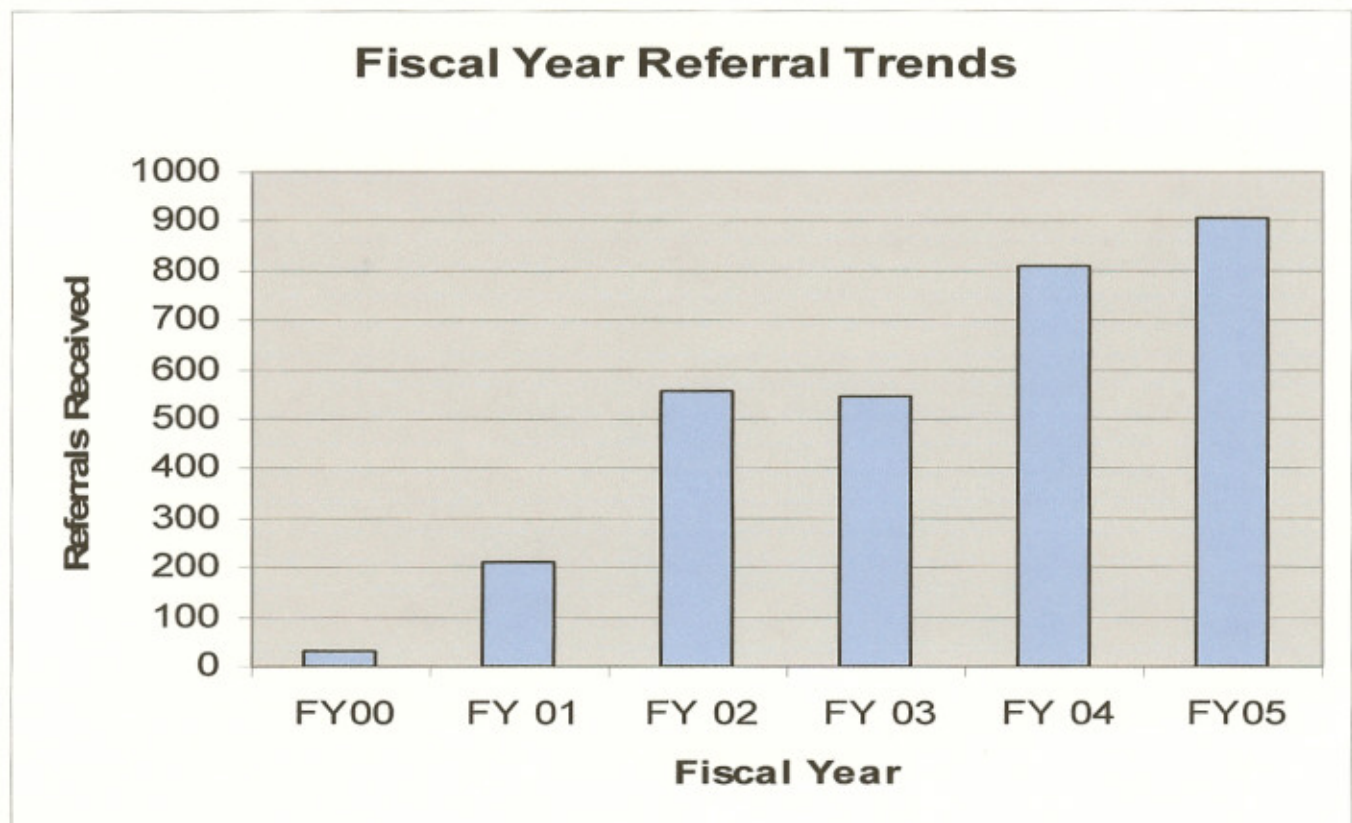
Derek Abbott	Donna Culver	Jason Harbour	Charles McDowell	Tamara Sampson
Michael Abram	Edward Curley	Edwin Harron	Bernard McFadden	Yvonne Saville
Jon Abramczyk	Brock Czeschin	Jennifer Hartnett	James McGiffin	Michael Scali
Roger Akin	James Dalle Pазze	Theresa Hayes	Thomas McGonigle	Christine Schiltz
Debra Aldrich	Bart Dalton	Catherine Hickey	Michael McGreorty	Todd Charles Schiltz
Becky Allen	John Daniello	Timothy Hitchings	Matthew McGuire	Jack Schreppler
Michael Allen	George Danneman	Thomas Hodukavich	Megan McIntyre	Pamela Scott
Thomas J. Allingham II	Alicia Kelly Davis	Stephan Holfeld	Mary Anne McLane	Suzanne Seubert
Susan Ament	Sandra Dean	Jeremy Homer	John McLaughlin, Jr.	David Shamers
Melony Anderson	Kim DeBonte	Vivian Houghton	James McMillan	Thomas Shellenberger
John Andrade	Daniel DeFranceschi	Timothy Houseal	Carolyn McNeice	Michele Sherretta
Michael Arrington	Christine Demsey	Eric Howard	Bruce McNew	Christopher Simon
Daniel Astin	David Denham	Janine Howard	Sherry McReynolds	Cheryl Siskin
Christine Azar	Margaret DiBianca	Kevin Howard	Joseph Melican	Nicholas Skiles
James Bailey	Sarah DiLuzio	Amy Hudson	Luke Mette	David Snyder
John Balaguer	Jill DiSciullo	David Hurst	Ellen Meyer	Francine Solomon
Samantha Balick	Melissa DiVincenzo	Jennifer Hurvitz	Dawn Miello	Leslie Spoltore
Joseph Barry	William Doerler	David Hutt	Stephen Milewski	Lisa Stark
Sean Beach	Sean Dolan	Frederick Iobst	Alisa Moen	Curtis Staropoli
Michael Bednash	John Dorsey	Alfred Isaacs	Norman Monhait	Tasha Stevens
Gerald Berkowitz	Shawn Dougherty	Michael Isaacs	Paulette Moore	Jonathan Strauss
Rebecca Beste	W. Harding Drane, Jr.	Tanya Jefferis	Sharon Morgan	Catherine Strickler
Robert Beste	James Drmec	Cathy Jenkins	Richard Morse	William Sudell, Jr.
Katherine Betterly	Kelly Dunn-Gelof	David Jenkins	Regina Mullen	John Sullivan, Jr.
Antonia Bevis	Bradley Eaby	Kathleen Jennings	Francis Murphy	Karen Sullivan
Elizabeth Beyer	Scott Earle	Clay Jester	D. Fon Muttamara-Walker	Paul Sunshine
Shakuntla Bhaya	Edward (Mike) Eaton	Ann Marie Johnson	Frank Nardo	Larry Tarabicos
Ian Connor Bifferato	Craig Eliassen	Dawn Jones	Jennifer Naylor	Carol Evon Taylor
Vincent Bifferato, Jr.	Margaret England	Judy Jones	Katherine Neikirk	Gregory Taylor
Mary Boudart	Kenneth Enos	Richard I.G. Jones, Jr.	Hon. Michael Newell	James D. Taylor, Jr.
Curtis Bounds	Elwood Eveland	Elizabeth Julian	Seth Niederman	John H. Taylor, III
Jennifer Brady	Sherry Fallon	Brian Kasprzak	Jennifer Noel	Michael Teichman
John F. Brady	Cynthia Faraone	Eileen Kelly	Mary Ellen Noreika	David Teklits
Jennifer Brierley	Dennis Ferri	Michael Kelly	Kevin O'Brien	Harlan Tenenbaum
H. Cabbage Brown	James Flynn	Lucy Kendrick-Smith	Tyler O'Connell	Allen Terrell
Elizabeth Brown	Matthew Fogg	Felice Kerr	Elizabeth Olsen	Anthony Testa, Jr.
Paul Brown	Tiffany Fonseca	Eleanor Kiesel	Deirdre O'Shea	Catherine Thompson
Gary Bryde	Edward Fornias, III	Shelley Kinsella	Susan Over	John Thompson
Thomas Burkhart	James Freebery	Gretchen Knight	James Parrett, Jr.	Melanie Thompson
Warren Burt	Barbara Gadbois	Steven Kortanek	Eliza Patten	Erika Tross
Nicholas Caggiano	David Gagne	Edward Kosmowski	Adam Perza	Rebecca Tulloch
Timothy Cairns	Patricia Gallagher	Marie LaBruyere	Victoria Petrone	Patricia Uhlenbrock
Peter Calder	Deborah Galonsky	Kimberly Ladig	Dennis Phifer	Andrea Unterberger
Christie Day Cannon	Geoffrey Gamble	Peter Ladig	Lorriane Phillips	Robert Valihura
Deborah Carey	Patricia Garthwaite	Mary Catherine Landis	Francis Pileggi	Jan van Amerongen
Melissa Cargino	Kimberly Gattuso	Gregory Ladner	Kathryn Pincus	Kathryn van Amerongen
Linda Carmichael	Frances Gauthier	William Lafferty	Anne Podczasy	Patrick Vanderslice
Denis Casey	Thomas Gay	Kathryn Laffey	Ronald Poliquin	Karen Vicks
Megan Ward Cascio	Kathleen Geiger	Kimberly Lawson	Tiffany Poole	Michael Vild
Eileen Caulfield	Glynis Gibson	Jonathan Layton	Susan Poppiti	Nicole Walker
Teresa Cheek	Paul Golian	Lewis Lazarus	Vincent Poppiti	Natalie Watson
William Chipman	William Gonser, Jr.	Jane Leamy	Thomas Preston	Robert Weber
Joseph Cicero	Alison Goodman	Patrick Leatham	Amy Quinlan	Michael Weidinger
Martha Claverie	Lisa Goodman	Timothy Lengkeek	Andrew Rahaim	David Weidman
Miranda Clifton	Todd Goodman	Norman Levine	Vincent Ramunno, Jr.	Margaret Whiteman
C. Malcolm Cochran, IV	Susan Gordon	Neal Levitsky	Jennifer Barber Ranji	Patricia Widdoss
Cynthia L. Collins	Brian Gottesman	Roger Levy	Vivian Rapposelli	William Wilgus
Cynthia S. Collins	Charles Gray	Elizabeth Lewis	B. Wilson Redfeam	Charles Williams
P. Clarkson Collins	James Green	Andrew Lippstone	Seth Reidenberg	Gregory B. Williams
Bernard Conaway	Kelly Green	Susan List	Anne Reigle	Evan Olin Williford
John James Conly	Joseph Green	Zhun Lu	Richard Renck	Elizabeth Winslow
Art Connolly, Jr.	Thomas Grimm	Stanley Macel	Sheldon Rennie	J. Dallas Winslow
Alan Cooper	Kevin Gross	Titania Mack	Joseph Rhoades	Julie Windhorn
Margaret Cooper	Jerome Grossman	Thomas Macauley	Helen Richards	Wendy Wojewodzki
Jason Cornell	Mark Gundersen	Lauren Maguire	Courtney Riordan	Natalie Wolf
Michael Corrigan	Kathleen Hadley	Megan Mahle	Michael Ripple	Etta Wolfe
Noriss Cosgrove	Shauna Hagan	Maria Marcantoni	David Ripsom	Christian Wright
Victoria Counihan	Gerald Hager	Elizabeth Marchioni	Michael Robinson	Davis Wright
Scott Cousins	Kara Hammond	Thomas Marconi	Elizabeth Rodriguez	Danielle Yearick
Lydia Cox	Raymond Hancock	Erin Mariani	Bruce Rogers	Laura Yiengst
Jaclyn Cramer	Patricia Hannigan	Michelle Marino	Susan Rowley	Jennifer Zelvin
Curtis Crowther	Jeanne Hanson	David McBride	Helena Rychlicki	Virginia Zrake
David Cully	Thomas Hanson	Garvan McDaniel	Anthony Saccullo	Lisa Zwally

Where We are Making a Difference for Delaware's Children

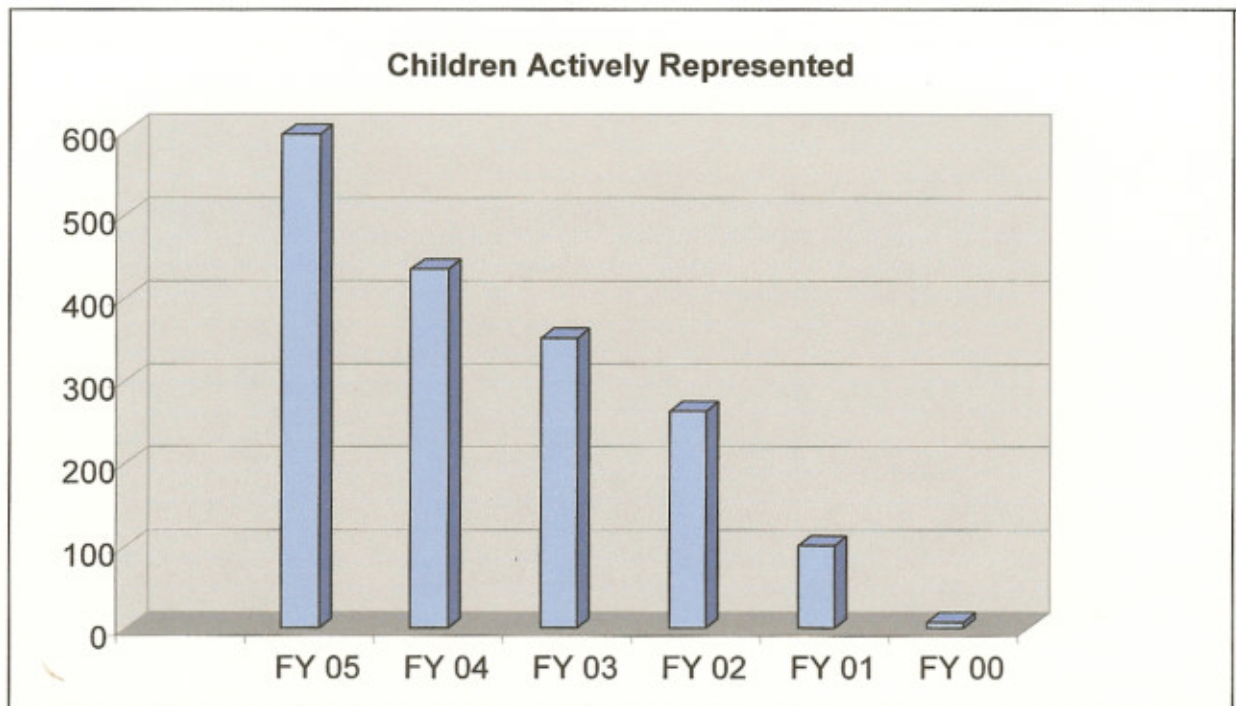
Legal Representation of Children

Referral Trends

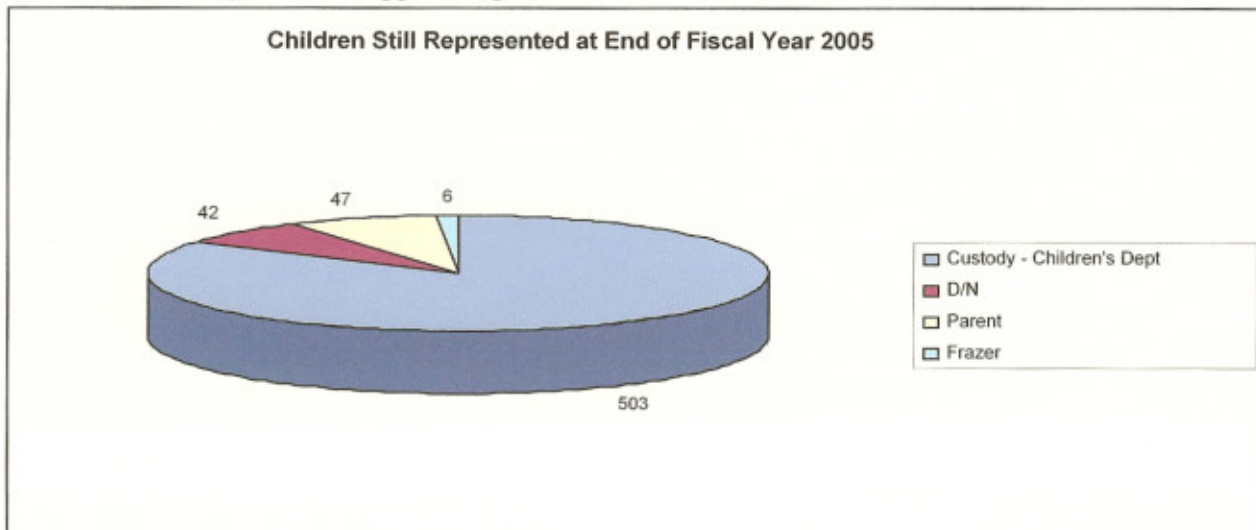
The Office of the Child Advocate ("OCA" or the "Office") takes its responsibility to represent children seriously. The office continually reviews and adjusts internal policies and procedures to meet new challenges. Since beginning operation in February of 2000, OCA has experienced tremendous growth. Each year, the number of referrals to the Office increases. During Fiscal Year 2005 ("FY05"), OCA received referrals on 908 children. Nine hundred of those referrals were deemed appropriate in that they involved a dependent, abused or neglected child or a child at risk thereof and there was no current representation of that child's best interests. The OCA Program Administrator spent 493 hours reviewing those referrals, and was supported by OCA's two part-time Family Crisis Therapists.



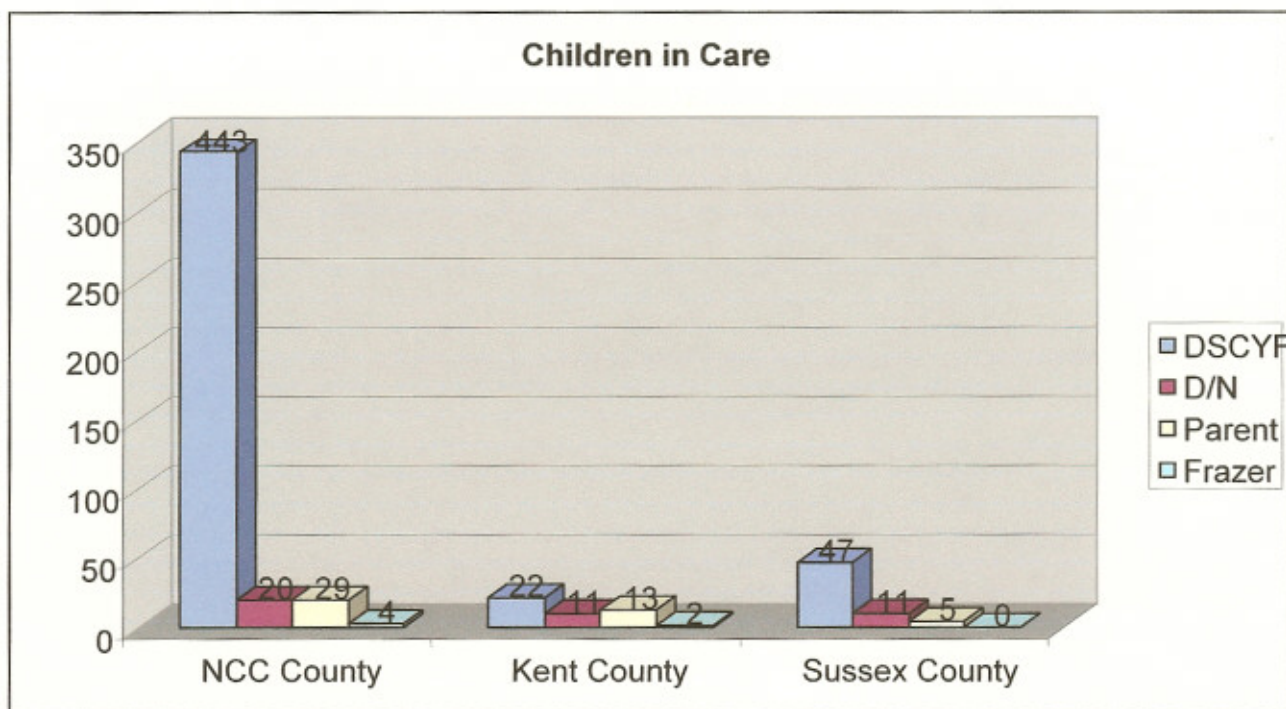
Of the 908 referrals received and reviewed, OCA appointed an attorney to 435 new children. The majority of these new appointments went to children within the foster care system – 374 children under the care and custody of the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families (“the Children’s Department” or “DSCYF”). This number does not include open cases carried through from previous years and therefore is not a complete reflection of the volume of cases active at OCA. At the end of Fiscal Year 2005, OCA was actively representing 598 children, a 31% increase over Fiscal Year 2004. During the course of the year, OCA represented a total of 893 children, a 27% increase over Fiscal Year 2004.



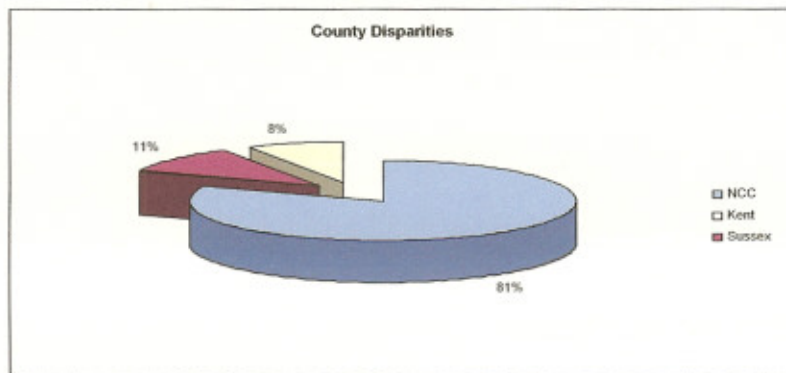
Of the 598 children whose files were still open on June 30, 2005, 503 of those children were in the custody of the Children’s Department. Forty-two children were the subject of dependency/neglect proceedings within the Family Court that did not directly involve DSCYF. Forty-seven children who were the subject of parent custody disputes were also represented through OCA. Finally, OCA assisted the Family Court in appointing Frazer counsel for 6 children.



Looking at these numbers by county, the largest concentration of OCA cases continue to be in New Castle County. Four hundred eighty-seven children in New Castle County were represented as of June 30, 2005, compared to 48 in Kent County and 63 in Sussex County. Of those 487 New Castle County children, 443 were in DSCYF custody, 20 were subject to dependency/neglect matters, 29 were the subject of parent custody disputes and 4 were in need of Frazer appointments. In Kent County, 22 children in DSCYF custody were represented, 11 in dependency/ neglect matters, 13 in parent custody matters and 2 needed Frazer appointments. In Sussex County, OCA represented 47 children in DSCYF custody, 11 were the subject of dependency/neglect petitions, and 5 who were involved in parent custody disputes.



Therefore, in considering OCA's Fiscal Year '05 caseload, 81% of its cases were in New Castle County, 11% in Sussex County and 8% in Kent County. These numbers have changed little since Fiscal Year 2004. Of the 111 downstate cases, OCA was handling 31% of those cases in-house. Compare this percentage with New Castle County where only 6% of the cases are handled in-house. These numbers in and of themselves indicate there are simply not enough volunteer resources to serve the children downstate. However, OCA was extremely fortunate to receive funding in the Fiscal Year 2006 budget to hire a Sussex County Deputy Child Advocate to increase representation of foster children downstate. OCA staff devoted 3,463 hours in representing children statewide in-house, and another 820 hours supporting volunteer attorneys.



In Fiscal Year '05, there were 465 cases to which OCA did not assign representation and subsequently closed during the disposition phase. This number includes 93 cases that OCA knew existed that were addressed by the Court Appointed Special Advocate ("CASA") program. The number also includes 248 referrals that had no pending litigation, were resolved in

court during the OCA disposition phase, or that had no apparent dependency, neglect or abuse issues. Forty-three cases were closed due to low resources and several other cases were still pending disposition by OCA as of June 30, 2005. On that date, an additional 70 children remained on the OCA waiting list.

Legislative Advocacy

In compliance with its statutory duties, OCA both drafts legislation and advocates for its passage. Legislative initiatives come from the Child Protection Accountability Commission ("CPAC" or "Commission", various child welfare committees and from discussions with child welfare partners. Often, OCA is the legislative designee. In Fiscal Year 2005, OCA spent 46 hours reviewing legislation, as well as drafting various legislative bills that benefit Delaware's children.

Training and Education

Pro Bono Recruitment, Training and Recognition:

During Fiscal Year 2005, OCA continued its *pro bono* recruiting efforts through its semi-annual mailings to every member of the Delaware Bar. OCA staff also appeared at various Bar functions in an effort to recruit new volunteers. In Fiscal Year 05, OCA held 11 Nuts and Bolts trainings throughout the state to prepare our volunteer attorneys to represent Delaware's children. These trainings are two hours long and cover such topics as the child welfare system, the court process, the internal workings of OCA and ethical issues relating to the representation of children. OCA spent 131 hours coordinating and conducting these trainings. With the ongoing support of a number of law firms throughout the state, OCA has been able to continue to attract attorneys to represent abused, neglected and dependent children. As of June 30, 2005, OCA had 364 volunteer attorneys on its roster.

The Nuts & Bolts trainings conducted during FY05 included:

September 22, 2004	hosted by Richards, Layton and Finger (Wilmington)
October 14, 2004	hosted by the Office of the Child Advocate (Wilmington)
October 28, 2004	hosted by Young, Conaway, Stargatt & Taylor LLP (Wilmington)
November 4, 2004	hosted by Parkowski, Guerke & Swayze PA (Dover)
November 19, 2004	hosted by the Law Office of Edward Gill PA (Georgetown)
December 6, 2004	hosted by Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell (Wilmington)
February 25, 2005	hosted by Morris, James, Hitchens & Williams LLP (Wilmington)
March 15, 2005	hosted by Tunnell & Raysor (Georgetown)
April 21, 2005	hosted by Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell (Wilmington)
May 3, 2005	hosted by Morris, James, Hitchens & Williams LLP (Wilmington)
May 27, 2005	hosted by Young, Conaway, Stargatt & Taylor LLP (Wilmington)

In addition to these Nuts and Bolts trainings, OCA continued and expanded its offering of Brown Bag Lunch Trainings for our volunteers. Bringing in experts from a variety of fields, OCA has developed a training curriculum to continue educating our volunteer attorneys on areas of interest and specialization. OCA's agency and community partners have been instrumental in making this training program a success by providing regular speakers to educate volunteers about the larger child welfare system. The volunteer attorneys receive one hour of Continuing Legal Education credit for each

training they attend. The trainings were held in the OCA Wilmington Office with video conferencing to the Stockley State Service Center as needed for downstate attorneys.

Below is a list of the Brown Bag Trainings held in Fiscal Year 2005:

- September 22, 2004: Representing Your Teenaged Client in Foster Care
- October 7, 2004: Physical and Sexual Abuse of Children – The Medical Expert
- October 13, 2004: Accessing Mental Health Services for Your Client
- October 27, 2004: Understanding the DFS System
- November 18, 2004: Legal Alternatives for Permanency
- December 7, 2004: The Juvenile Justice System – From Arrest to Adjudication
- December 15, 2004: Placement Alternatives for Our Difficult Youth
- December 21, 2004: Attachment Issues in Foster Children: A National Expert
- February 9, 2005: Sexual Abuse – Signs and Symptoms of Sexual Abuse in Kids: What to Look For
- March 9, 2005: Physical Abuse of Children – What to Know and What to Look For
- April 6, 2005: Accessing Mental Health Services for Your Client
- April 26, 2005: Understanding the DFS System
- May 11, 2005: Talking to Your Child Client – How to Have an Age Appropriate Conversation with Your Child Client
- May 24, 2005: Representing Your Teenaged Client in Foster Care

Training Events:

Pursuant to 29 Del. C. § 9005A(9), OCA is mandated to provide and participate in training of the child welfare community. In furtherance of its mandate, in addition to the 131 hours spent training volunteers attorneys, OCA spent 345 more hours in Fiscal Year 05 participating in and/or conducting training and/or educational forums.

National Symposium on Child Fatalities 2004—A Decade of Experience—A Future of Promise

Symposium on Child Fatalities Annual Conference. Anne Pedrick attended the conference which was held August 1-3, 2004 in St. Louis, Missouri. The conference focused on the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration and coordination at the local, state, and national levels, and included a discussion of best practices and how to utilize data collection to prevent future deaths. Additionally, various state and local models across the country were showcased. Delaware was highlighted because unlike other states, Delaware reviews all child deaths, not only those related to abuse or neglect. Delaware was also noted for SenateBill 279 which provided for three full time staff to run the Child Death, Near Death and Stillbirth Commission. Following her return, Ms. Pedrick distributed notes and power point presentations from this conference at the Child Death, Near Death and Stillbirth Commission quarterly meeting.

Delaware Children's Department Providers Summit

On August 2, 2004, members of the OCA team attended this summit, listening to Children's Department leaders describe the successes and challenges Delaware's children face. Workshops were provided which allowed information exchange, collaboration and provider input.

National Association of Counsel for Children Annual Conference

From August 6-8, 2004, M.C. Landis and Angela Fowler participated in the National Association of Counsel for Children Annual Conference held in Las Vegas, Nevada. This was a multidisciplinary conference bringing together attorneys for children, parents and state agencies with presenters who work as attorneys and clinicians in the field. Training was offered in areas including educational advocacy, court improvement for child welfare, domestic violence, the psychology of child abuse and a variety of other related topics.

Women's Leadership Development Program—Institute for Public Administration

Tania Culley, Angela Fowler and Anne Pedrick had the opportunity to start this development series on September 29, 2004 in New Castle, Delaware. Phase I addressed the special role of women in public service. Instruction was provided on leadership and management styles as well as the differences that influence the workplace.

Anne Pedrick and Angela Fowler attended Phase II, an in-depth two day conference, May 11-12, 2005 in Lewes, Delaware. During Phase II, participants had the opportunity to use the Myers-Briggs self assessment to understand how personalities affect leadership and communication with others.

Finding Words: Interviewing Children and Preparing for Court

Anne Pedrick attended this training presented by APRI and the National Child Protection Training Center in Winona, Minnesota from November 15-19, 2004. This comprehensive training prepares frontline child protection service workers, police officers, forensic interviewers and attorneys for how to properly interview and prepare a case of abuse for court. After an *intense* week of instruction, research in the evenings, and role playing with children and adult actors, participants had to pass an exam to become certified. Finding Words will be coming to Delaware in 2006 for three separate weeks. After the initial week, the "Delaware trainers" will replicate this training for the other two weeks. It is anticipated that the training will be continued on an annual basis. Anne Pedrick will be one of the faculty members and is actively working with the Children's Advocacy Center, Division of Family Services, Department of Justice, New Castle County Police, and State Police on the implementation of this training. OCA will be a partner in this benchmark training for Delaware.

Child Welfare League of America Annual Conference: Growing Girls for Greatness

From January 4-7, 2005, Angela Fowler, through the Criminal Justice Council, traveled to Scottsdale, Arizona and attended the annual Child Welfare League of America Conference, Growing Girls for Greatness. The focus of the seminars was the development of gender responsive programming for at risk girls with Denise Bray of the Florida PACE Program heading up three full days of gender responsive training for both hands on providers and policy makers.

The Abuse Intervention Committee's Training Consortium's Training on Shaken Baby Syndrome: Medical and Investigative Aspects by Dr. Allan DeJong

On March 31, 2005, Tania Culley, Angela Fowler, Lorin Hochman, and Anne Pedrick attended this presentation at the A.I. DuPont Hospital for Children sponsored by The Abuse Intervention Committee's Training Consortium and prepared by Prevent Child Abuse Delaware. Dr. Allan DeJong of A.I. duPont Hospital for Children presented the seminar which targeted professionals involved in the investigation of child abuse cases and provided a historical perspective of shaken baby syndrome

with a focus on symptoms and injuries. Dr. DeJong discussed detection and treatment of shaken baby injuries as well as identification of perpetrators and explanations for why parents shake their babies.

Domestic Violence Symposium: Battered Again? Re-victimizing Victims of Domestic Violence

On April 1, 2005, Tania Culley participated in a panel discussion on The Impact of Civil Law – Removal of Children and the Failure to Protect at Widener University School of Law. The lively panel discussion focused on the disparate positions on protecting children from domestic violence where the victimized parent cannot versus re-victimizing the victim by removing the children from his or her legal custody.

Women and the Law Section Retreat: Legal Challenges Facing Incarcerated Women and Girls in Delaware

From April 8-9, 2005, Tania Culley, Angela Fowler, and Lorin Hochman attended the 13th annual Women and the Law Section Retreat at Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. The retreat focused on the specific challenges women and girls face both when they are incarcerated and when they are released from incarceration in terms of services available to them and how to assimilate back into the community upon their release from incarceration.

Forth National Citizens Review Panel Conference

In April of 2004, the Child Protection Accountability Commission was designated to be Delaware's Citizen Review Panel as stated under the Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act ("CAPTA") guidelines. Since OCA provides staffing to CPAC, Anne Pedrick attended this year's annual conference, held in Nags Head, North Carolina from May 25-27, 2005. The conference focused on the realities and triumphs that citizen review panels face as they carry out their federal mandate (Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003, Public Law 108-36). Workshops included: Enhancing Legal Responses to Child Welfare-Related Concerns, Legal Issues around Child Advocacy, and Citizen Review Panels as change agents. The opening conference session was conducted by Richard Rose, of the United States Attorney's Office, Rhode Island District. Anne Pedrick held a round table for discussion of Citizen Review Panels in Delaware. Information from this conference will be used to further carry out the statutory mandate for CPAC as the Citizen Review Panel.

One Child, Many Hands: A Multidisciplinary Conference on Child Welfare

From June 2-3, 2005, Tania Culley, Angela Fowler, and Lorin Hochman attended One Child, Many Hands: A Multidisciplinary Conference on Child Welfare put on by the Field Center for Children's Policy Practice and Research at the University of Pennsylvania. This excellent two day conference brought together professionals from a variety of disciplines and included discussions about, among other things, domestic violence, permanency, advocacy, adoption, children's development, neglect, and the legal system.

An Overview of OCA for Child Mental Health

On June 27, 2005, OCA in collaboration with the Division of Child Mental Health ("CMH") and the Department of Justice ("DOJ") presented an overview of OCA in Dover, Delaware. This was a highly anticipated training and had been in development for over a year. The panel was comprised of Tania Culley (Child Advocate), M.C. Landis (as previous Deputy Child Advocate, and now current *pro bono* attorney), Anne Pedrick (Program Administrator for OCA) and Jim Maxwell (Department of Justice).

This training and discussion helped participants understand the roles, rights and responsibilities of OCA, CMH, and the DOJ.

Division of Family Services Core Legal Training

Anne Pedrick continues to train new Division of Family Services workers on "Understanding OCA." During the training, workers are given an "educational" quiz which gives them insight into and history of the development of OCA. After discussing the state statute and responsibilities, discussion moves to OCA's record review. Most importantly, multi-disciplinary communication and collaboration are promoted as we partner with the Division of Family Services.

Division of Family Services Refresher Training #3

Anne Pedrick had the privilege of being able to participate in the 3rd annual refresher training for experienced workers which focused on "Evidence Based Decision Making." The training stressed the importance of historical information in decision making and planning.

Committee and Taskforce Participation:

Representatives of OCA are members of and/or participate on the following boards, organizations, commissions, committees, task forces, councils and subcommittees. OCA spent 290 hours in FY05 attending meetings pertaining to children. Those hours do not include participation in activities directly related to the Child Protection Accountability Commission ("CPAC"). OCA spent 620 hours staffing CPAC. OCA spent an additional 334 hours participating in activities which encompassed the Child Death, Near Death and Stillbirth Commission. Additionally, OCA spent 718 hours effectuating the inner workings of the Office.

Abuse Intervention Committee

- *Finding Words Subcommittee*
- *Memorandum of Understanding between Division of Family Services, Department of Justice and Police Agencies Subcommittee*
- *Strategic Planning Subcommittee*
- *Training Consortium*

American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law

Child Death, Near Death and Stillbirth Commission

- *Annual Report Subcommittee*
- *Kent/Sussex Review Panel*
- *New Castle County Review Panel*
- *Process Subcommittee*
- *Suicide Subcommittee*

Child Protection Accountability Commission

- *ASFA Timelines Subcommittee*
- *Educational Needs of Foster Children Subcommittee*
- *Extended Jurisdiction Subcommittee*
- *Legislative Subcommittee*
 - *Legislative Workgroup*
 - *Custody Subgroup*
 - *Definitions Subgroup*
- *Mental Health Subcommittee*
- *Near Death Subcommittee*

Children's Advocacy Center (non-voting Board member)
Court Improvement Project Meetings (New Castle, Kent, Sussex)
Delaware Early Care and Education Council
Delaware Girls' Initiative

- *Executive Committee*

Delaware State Bar Association Family Law Section
Delaware State Bar Association LIP Committee
Delaware State Bar Association Women and the Law Section

- *Child Care Subcommittee*
- *Female Incarceration Subcommittee*
- *Retreat CLE Subcommittee*

Department of Services for Children Youth and Their Families Runaway Youth Workgroup
Division of Family Services' Advisory and Advocacy Council

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (subcommittees listed below only)

- *Children and DV Workgroup*

Domestic Violence Taskforce

Foster Care Reform Forum

Grassroots Citizens for Children (non-voting Board member)

Independent Living Advisory Board

- *Housing Subcommittee*

Interagency Committee on Adoption

- *Best Interests Subcommittee*

Melson Arsht Inn of Court

National Association of Counsel for Children

National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges

Office of Childcare Licensing Rule Revision Taskforce for Child Placing Agencies

Pro Bono Inn of Court

Terry Carey Inn of Court

Community Involvement, Outreach and Publicity

In FY05, OCA spent 128 hours increasing awareness of the Office and its services. The following is a list of community activities in which OCA participated:

July 13, 2004	Child Placement Review Board Luncheon (25 th Anniversary) - Attendance
September 13, 2004	Children's Department Endowment Dinner - Attendance
Fall 2004	University of Delaware Internship Expo – Attendance/Recruitment
September 23, 2004	6 th Annual Governor's Awards for Early Care and Education - Attendance
October 20, 2004	Grassroots Citizens for Children - Capitol Steps
November 17, 2004	Pro Bono Inn of Court – OCA Presentation
December 2, 2004	Family Law Commission - OCA Presentation
December 2, 2004	Widener School of Law Family Law Class – OCA Presentation
December 9, 2004	Christiana Rotary Club – OCA Presentation
January 25, 2005	Delaware State Bar Night – Attendance/Pro Bono Recognition
February 2005	Domestic Violence Taskforce – OCA Presentation
March 17, 2005	Children's Advocacy Center Open House (Dover) - Attendance
June 9, 2005	DSBA Bench and Bar Conference – Attendance/Recruitment

Website

The website covers information on how to make a referral to OCA and how those referrals are processed; who the OCA staff are; significant court cases or legislation affecting children; monthly statistical updates on our representation of children; upcoming local and national trainings; and offers the Pro Bono Training Manual for download. There is also a page regarding the Child Protection Accountability Commission with meeting dates and times, minutes, and reports such as the "Near Death Review of John Davis, Jr." The OCA website is <http://courts.delaware.gov/chiladvocate>.

Publicity and Media

December 6, 2004	2004 Liberty Award for Outstanding Citizenship – Widener University School of Law Awarded to Tania M. Culley, Esquire
March 2005	Delaware Today article – <u>A Voice for Kids</u> spotlighting Tania M. Culley, Esquire – Child Advocate
June 9, 2005	2005 New Lawyers Distinguished Service Award – Delaware State Bar Association Awarded to Tania M. Culley, Esquire

Grants and Bequests

The Office of the Child Advocate has a legal mandate to "apply for and accept grants, gifts, and bequests of funds from other states, federal, and interstate agencies, as well as from private firms, individuals, and foundations, for the purpose of carrying out the Child Protection Accountability Commission's lawful responsibilities". 29 Del. C. § 9005A(6). OCA spent 9 hours on grant research in Fiscal Year 05. The Office of the Child Advocate continues to research and seek out grants to help it and Child Protection Accountability Commission accomplish their missions.

DFS Policy and Procedure/Multi-Disciplinary Collaboration

OCA is mandated, pursuant to 29 Del. C. § 9005A(2), to periodically review and revise all relevant child welfare policies and procedures with a view toward expanding the rights of children. The Office of the Child Advocate is also to recommend changes in procedures for investigating and overseeing the welfare of our children. 29 Del. C. § 9005A(4). In Fiscal Year 2005, OCA spent 290 hours in meetings and 198 hours working on policy issues with various child welfare partners. OCA spent an additional 620 hours staffing the Child Protection Accountability Commission which focuses on the effectiveness of the entire child protection system.

Partnership Meetings: Quarterly, DFS and OCA meet to improve multi-disciplinary collaboration. Topics in those meetings have included caseloads, improved coordination between OCA and DFS, case concerns, training and system successes and challenges. Another partnership meeting between OCA, DFS, and the Children's Advocacy Center also occurred to focus on hotline reports and community concerns regarding reporting.

OCA, DFS and a Deputy Attorney General from the Department of Justice met to discuss communication issues and partnership between the Division of Family Services workers and the *pro bono* attorneys who represent children for OCA. This was a successful meeting to address

communication barriers and to develop a procedure for OCA to share concerns with Division of Family Services and the Department of Justice.

OCA and the Children's Department are collaborating on a draft Interagency Agreement that will outline how the agencies can work better together. Both agencies look forward to the completion of this agreement.

