

**Mercyhurst College
Center for Child & Family Policy**



**Annual Report
1998 - 1999**

The Mercyhurst College Center for Child and Family Policy is a division of the Mercyhurst College Civic Institute.

Center for Child and Family Policy

1998 - 1999

Background:

In response to local concerns regarding problems and consequences of child poverty, abuse and neglect, family disorganization, school dropout, delinquency and youth violence, the Center for Child and Family Policy was established at Mercyhurst College on August 14, 1995, by President William P. Garvey, Ph.D. As an initiative developed to study child, youth and family issues, the Center is a college-community collaboration which provides an important context to examine and evaluate policies and legislative developments. The Center is a non-profit, non-partisan division of the College and is underwritten by federal and state grants with additional support from local, public and private sponsors.

I. Mission

The mission of the Mercyhurst College Center for Child and Family Policy is to improve the well-being of Erie County children and families by providing decision support services to public, private or grass-roots community leaders.

This mission is accomplished by:

- Systematically reviewing and analyzing local, state and federal policies affecting the well-being of Erie County children and families.
- Promoting collaborative planning of community issues.
- Establishing a research center to promote the study of child and family issues.
- Reviewing outcomes for children and family support services.
- Developing an information and research link with diverse academic disciplines and utilizing faculty resources to accomplish inter-disciplinary study of contemporary policy issues.

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Mercyhurst College
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II. Director=s Report:

Upon release of this Annual Report, the Mercyhurst College Center for Child & Family Policy will have just completed its fourth year and I will have completed my second year as director of the Center. The Center is a college-community collaboration on behalf of children and families.

The Center=s presence at Mercyhurst College strengthens the Center and the Center promotes the College=s mission and the mission of the Sisters of Mercy.

It is fair to conclude that the Center is making its presence felt and contributing significantly to the community=s child and family policy and program discourse. Some projects the Center has been involved with this year include: an effort to integrate Erie=s incorrigibility initiatives, a comprehensive neighborhood project in collaboration with The Erie Community Foundation, a juvenile detention census management project, and a grass roots leadership project in conjunction with the Neighborhood Watch Council and the McAuley Institute. In addition, the Center has provided technical assistance in the preparation of the following grants: the Nurse Home Visitation program, the PATHS program, the Automobile Theft Prevention Authority and the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant. The Center is providing community forums for The Erie Community Foundation.

Center staff are interviewed frequently by local media concerning child and family social issues. The Center continues to publish special reports and fact sheets describing the nature and extent of serious social problems such as juvenile crime and violence, and teenage pregnancy and births. The Center is committed to furthering results-based management of child and family programs and is directly involved with defining and measuring outcomes for children and youth programs.

This year will see another major change in the history of the Center for Child and Family Policy. It has become a Center within Mercyhurst=s evolving Civic Institute. Its efforts to improve the community will be supplemented by Centers for a Healthy Community and for Justice Research & Policy. The success of the Center for Child and Family Policy helped stimulate this expansion of Mercyhurst=s efforts to assist the Erie community.

In its efforts to improve child and family well-being, the Center has forged significant relationships with a wide variety of community partners including: Erie County Department of Human Services, The Erie Community Foundation, the School District of the City of Erie, the United Way of Erie County, the McAuley Institute, Hamot Health Systems, GECAC, the Erie Police Department, the Erie County Court of Common Pleas, the juvenile and adult probation departments, the Neighborhood Watch Council, GTE and other organizations committed to community improvement. We gratefully acknowledge their help and support during 1998-99. Whatever successes the Center has had would have been impossible without their participation.

III. Organizational Structure and Staffing

The present staffing composition of CCFP consists of a director, a senior research analyst, two research policy analysts, a secretary, and graduate assistant. Its interdisciplinary staff have extensive experience in health and human services management, research methods and program evaluation, data analysis, grant writing, strategic planning, and community relations.

* **Thomas Gamble, Ph.D.**, is Director of the Civic Institute, the Center for Child and Family Policy, and associate professor of criminal justice and psychology at Mercyhurst. Prior to joining the faculty at Mercyhurst, Dr. Gamble served as Executive Director of Children & Youth Services, and Director of Erie County's juvenile detention and emergency shelter facilities. He has served on many state-wide committees including co-chairing the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Risk Assessment Research Committee and the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Results-Based Information System Committee.

In addition to the Ph.D. in Psychology from Syracuse University, Dr. Gamble is a graduate of the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse. Following graduate studies at Syracuse he was awarded a post-doctoral fellowship in the child psychology program in the Psychology Department at Yale University. Dr. Gamble is also a graduate of the Post-Doctoral Program associated with Yale University's Bush Center for Child Development and Social Policy.

* **Peter Benekos, Ph.D.**, is a professor of criminal justice, the Chair of Mercyhurst College's Social Science Division and serves as the Director of the Center for Justice Research & Policy within the Civic Institute. Dr. Benekos is the former Director of Mercyhurst College's Graduate Program in the Administration of Justice and has over eighteen years of undergraduate and graduate teaching experience. He is a prominent speaker and consultant on criminal justice and family-related issues and has authored several books and articles.

* **Amy Danzer**, Research Policy Analyst, received her Masters Degree in Psychology from Princeton University and recently joined the Center after working in the local Health Care for the Homeless program. Her areas of expertise include: policy analysis, grant writing, proposal design, as well as resource identification, neighborhood revitalization and early childhood programming.

* **Sherrie Sonnenberg**, Research Policy Analyst, has three years of experience working in the field of juvenile justice and possesses a Masters degree in Administration of Justice. Her areas of expertise include: juvenile delinquency, criminal justice, research methodology, data collection, grant management and program evaluation.

* **Richele Rohrer**, Secretary, has three years experience working in an administrative support capacity and holds a Bachelors Degree in Marketing. Her role includes production of newsletters, database management, preparation of grant applications and quarterly reports, and assisting in the coordination of the Council's activities.

- **Lisa Roberts**, Graduate Assistant, has been with the Center for one year. She possesses a Bachelor's Degree from Mercyhurst College in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Juvenile Justice and Corrections. She is currently a second year graduate student in the Administration of Justice Program. While at the Center, Lisa has worked on the Erie County Drug Court project and the Juvenile Detention Census Management Project.
- **Sr. Maura Smith**, RSM, ED.D., has been affiliated with the Center for two years. She has many years of experience in education as a teacher and administrator from early childhood through the college level. Most recently she completed two years of study at McAuley Institute of Silver Springs, Maryland where she gained experience in neighborhood planning and revitalization; affordable housing programs; building healthier communities; and public policy issues involving housing, welfare reform and higher education as it relates to welfare reform and poverty.

IV. Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation

- ***Juvenile Detention Census Management Project***
The Center developed a pilot ALevel of Security Screening Instrument to help make decisions about which youth admitted to detention are eligible for transfer to shelter services. The Center designed the Mercyhurst Level of Security Screening Instrument (MLSSI) which attempts to assure that those youth transferred pose less risk to community safety, less risk of absconding, and less risk of harming themselves or reoffending than do ineligible youth. The Center is responsible for completing the screening form on each youth admitted to secure detention as well as preparing monthly Census Management Reports for the Department of Human Services.
- ***Tracking of Juvenile Placement Fund Expenses***
The Center is continuing its work with the Juvenile Placement Fund Task Force to monitor progress toward realizing cost savings for Erie County in regard to juveniles in out-of-home residential placement. This on-going analysis helps policy makers to adjust programs and services according to outcomes and provides a proactive approach to difficult decision making.
- ***Prepared Nurse Home Visiting/PATHS Project Grant***
On behalf of the Erie County Policy and Planning Council, the Center assisted the Erie County Health Department in submitting a grant application in the amount of \$294,690 to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. This application provides for the implementation of a Nurse Home Visiting Program and the PATHS Program. Nurse Home Visitation is a program that sends nurses into the homes of at-risk pregnant women bearing their first child to ensure the health of the mother and child. To address the needs of young school aged children, we also proposed to implement the PATHS Project to assist children to evaluate their options and pursue the path containing fewer higher-risk behaviors.

- ***Prepared Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant***
 On behalf of the Erie County Department of Human Services, the Center prepared and in April 1999, received notification of funding from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency in the amount of \$187,000 for a Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant. Erie County=s juvenile crime reduction plan will address (1) the increase in Afailure to comply≡ cases being handled by the juvenile probation department,
 (2) an attempt to increase the juvenile probation court hearings, and (3) the increase in juvenile crime within particular neighborhoods.
- ***Quarterly Report of Juvenile Placement Trends and Practices***
 The Center prepared a Report of Juvenile Placement Trends and Practices for the Juvenile Placement Fund Task Force in response to a serious financial challenge in caring for dependent (abused or neglected) and delinquent children and youth. The Center conducted a research project to analyze the use of the Juvenile Placement Fund over time. The Center, working with the Juvenile Placement Fund Task Force and the President Judge, provided information to establish the Resource and Care Management Project (RCMP). The aim is to realize cost savings for the County while maintaining high quality services to dependent and delinquent children and youth. Evidence to date is that RCMP has been extremely successful.
- ***Intermediate Punishment Evaluation***
 The Center was awarded a grant in the amount of \$38,480 from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency to study Erie County Intermediate Punishment Programs. These programs provide an alternative to incarceration, while maintaining family stability and holding offenders accountable to their family and the community. The focus of the study was to examine program completion, cost effectiveness, and the utilization of jail cells. Three Mercyhurst College graduates, Maria Garase, Carol Gullifer and Tara Puhlman assisted in the data entry phase of the research.
- ***Initial Evaluation of Collaborative Intensive Community Treatment Program***
 The Center=s graduate assistant evaluated the Collaborative Intensive Community Treatment Program (CICTP). CICTP is a private, nonprofit, treatment program for adjudicated dependent and delinquent youth in Erie County. The program is designed to address the increase in juvenile residential placements in Erie County and the escalating costs associated with them. This evaluation measured recidivism, behavioral performance and cost effectiveness. The report was released in June 1998.
- ***Communities That Care Evaluation (Delinquency Prevention Program(s))***
 The Center is continuing its third-year project of monitoring attendance, behavior and academic performance of children participating in the Communities That Care (CTC) delinquency prevention program at Edison Elementary School. Evaluation results have proved CTC=s success in preventing the onset and continuance of juvenile delinquency.

V. Publications

Published "*Directions: Understanding Child and Family Well-Being in Erie County, PA, 1998*"

This 100 page tabulation and analysis of 16 child and family well-being indicators is the most comprehensive compilation of information about children and families available for Erie County. It analyzes the county, the city, the municipalities, and provides comparisons to state and similar county rates. Directions was released in September 1998.

Annual Report of the Office of Drug and Alcohol Abuse

The Center analyzed data, graphed trends, wrote portions and organized the Annual Report for the Erie County Office of Drug and Alcohol Abuse for publication in both 1998 and 1999.

Institute Special Report

A Juvenile Offenders & Crime \cong , February, 1999

A Births to Single Women \cong , September, 1998

A Erie County \cong s Communities That Care Initiative \cong , August, 1998

A Juvenile Crime and Violence \cong , March, 1998

A Adolescent Pregnancy & Births to Teens in Erie County, PA: The Facts, 1998

A Teen Pregnancy and Adolescent Childbearing \cong , February, 1998

A Youth and Crime in Erie County \cong , Winter, 1997

The Facts, February, 1997

A Adolescent Pregnancy and Births to Single Teens in Erie County \cong

Institute Insight, Summer, 1997

A free newsletter discussing policies and programs impacting children and families.

Institute Annual Report, 1996-1997, 1997-1998

VI. Community Planning / Community Education

• ***Grass Roots Leadership Training Class***

In conjunction with Corrine Egan, the Center coordinates and conducts an eight to twelve week leadership training course. The participants in these training sessions are community grassroots leaders who want to become more effective in their volunteer and civic roles. As of September 1998, six classes of 49 participants have graduated from the

course.

- ***Centennial Celebration of the Juvenile Court***
June 8, 1999

The Center invited a panel of national and state experts to Erie to speak on behalf of the centennial celebration of the Juvenile Court. The speakers along with their presentation titles are as follows: Dr. Howard Snyder, National Center of Juvenile Justice, *Exploring the Meaning of State & National Juvenile Arrest Trends*; Dr. Jeffrey Butts, The Urban Institute, *The History and Future of the Juvenile Court*; Mr. James Anderson, Juvenile Court Judges Commission (JCJC), *The Role of JCJC in the Development of Juvenile Justice Policy in Pennsylvania and its Vision for the Future*; and Mr. Clay Yeager, Governor's Community Partnership for Safe Children, *The Role of the Governor's Partnership in the Development of Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Policy and its Vision for the Future*.

In addition to a national and state perspective, we also invited key leaders from Erie County to speak on behalf of the local perspective. Among those who participated in the presentation were; The Honorable Ernest DiSantis, Erie County

Family

Court, *The Present and Future of the Erie County Juvenile Court*; Dr. Robert Oliver, Erie School District, *The Significance of Collaboration and Local Community-Based Initiatives for Preventing and Responding to Delinquency*; Mr. Thomas Antolik and Mr. Robert Blakely, Erie County Juvenile Probation Department, *The Changes in the Juvenile Court and the Probation Department's Response*.

- ***United States Department of Justice Teleconferences***

The Center sponsored and organized several national satellite videoconferences presented by the United States Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Delinquency Prevention. They included *Juvenile Offenders and Drug Treatment: Promising Approaches*, *Mentoring for Youth in Schools and Communities*, *Juveniles and the Criminal Justice System*, *Integrating the Professionals in Child Maltreatment Cases*, *Using Research to Improve Drug Abuse Treatment*, *School Violence Prevention*, and *What About Girls? Females and the Juvenile Justice System*.

Harvard School of Public Health and the Prevention Institute

The Center is working with GECAC Drug and Alcohol to present and foster discussion on a series of six Violence Prevention Videoconferences presented by the Harvard

School

of Public Health and the Prevention Institute. The first teleconference was entitled *Organizing for Change*, and the second videoconference was entitled, *Safe Schools, Safe Communities*. There will be additional programs in late 1999 and 2000.

- ***A Sustainable Community Development in an Urban Context Conference***
May 14-15, 1999

The McAuley Institute, a Washington, D.C. housing organization, along with the Center, hosted a two-day conference for about 50 local planners, governmental leaders, social

service agencies and residents. Topics included the history of urban development, successful ways to plan growth and revitalization of deteriorating areas and discussions to set priorities in creating urban revitalization with the City of Erie.

! ***ATeen Pregnancy*** \cong
December 2, 1998

The Center co-sponsored a community forum on teen pregnancy along with The Erie Community Foundation. The purpose of the forum was to help individual donors and corporate grant makers make more informed decisions on the issue of teen pregnancy. Facts on statistical trends in teen pregnancy at the national, state, and local level were presented.

! ***AAdolescents*** \cong
September 2, 1998

The Center in conjunction with The Erie Community Foundation, sponsored a community forum on the issue of adolescents. More specifically, it answered the following questions: What is the nature and scope of the delinquency problem in Erie?; What nonprofit programs effectively curb delinquency?; What are the current and long-term costs of delinquency?; and Where are the roles of family, school, church, neighborhoods, and non-profits?

! ***AChild Care*** \cong
June 3, 1998

The Center and The Erie Community Foundation sponsored a forum on child care in Erie County. The discussion focused on the availability of day care; the relationship between day care and welfare reform; and the relationship between the quality of day care and child development.

! ***ANurturing Neurons Colloquium*** \cong
April 24, 1998

The Center in conjunction with the University of Pittsburgh Institute of Politics and The Erie Community Foundation, sponsored a colloquy on the policy and program implications of infant brain research. Recent infant brain research indicates that the nature and quality of the prenatal and postnatal environment have important implications for brain development and for the future life chances of children. Children who are provided with cognitive, linguistic and social stimulation, who are properly nourished and who receive medical care, will experience optimal conditions for brain development which will have an effect on their ability to learn quickly and efficiently. This conference explored the social policy and social program implications of such research with an eye to trying to assure that children in Erie County benefit from this research.

The panelists included; Dr. Heidi Feldman, Program Director from the University of Pittsburgh, University of Community Leaders and Individuals with Disabilities, Dr. Robert McCall, Co-Director, Office of Child Development, and Mr. Robert Nelkin, Starting Points, Office of Child Development. In addition, three local panelists, The Honorable Jane Earll, Senate of Pennsylvania, 49th District, The

Honorable Judith M. Lynch, Erie County Executive and Mr. R. Benjamin Wiley, CEO, GECAC spoke at the session.

! ***ASocial Structure, Race and the Transformation of the Juvenile Court***
March 16, 1998

The Center sponsored a lecture with Barry Feld, PhD, JD, Centennial Professor of Law at the University of Minnesota. The objectives of the session were to examine the social structural forces and racial changes affecting the juvenile justice administration, examine Dr. Feld's view of the transformation of the juvenile court from a nominally rehabilitative welfare agency into a scaled-down second-class criminal court for young offenders, and consider the future role of the juvenile justice system and the implications of abolishing the juvenile court.

! ***AUnderstanding Homelessness in Erie County***
March 4, 1998

The Center and The Erie Community Foundation sponsored a forum entitled AUnderstanding Homelessness in Erie County to help individual donors and corporate grantmakers make more informed decisions on the issue. Michael Batchelor, president of the Foundation, and Dr. Thomas Gamble welcomed participants and introduced the speakers. Amy Cuzzola-Kern, presented facts on defining homelessness, identifying service providers and understanding funding sources. At the conclusion of the presentation, there was a panel discussion in which Dr. Randall Clemons, associate professor of political science at Mercyhurst, served as moderator.

! ***Family Violence and Corporal Punishment: The Effects on Children and Families***
December 11, 1997

The Center sponsored a lecture on intra-familial violence. Guest speaker Dr. Murray Strauss, Professor of Sociology at the University of New Hampshire and Co-Director of the Family Research Laboratory, provided the most recent findings on the effects of family violence and corporal punishment on children and families and the long term effects of the use of corporal punishment on deviance and crime.

! ***AAllegheny County's Early Childhood Initiative***
December 10, 1997

The Center in conjunction with the Institute of Politics at the University of Pittsburgh and the Erie Community Foundation sponsored a colloquy on building effective public-private partnerships to serve children. This was the first time that these three institutions collaborated to bring the community this type of program.

A panel from Allegheny County, including Margaret Petruska of the Heinz Endowment, Christina Groark of the Office of Child Development at the University of Pittsburgh, Karen Shapira from the United Way of Allegheny County and Martha Isler from the Allegheny County Early Childhood Initiative discussed the process used to create a \$59 million initiative to develop high-quality child care centers.

! ***ACommunity Action Plan***

Developed Erie County Policy and Planning Council *ACommunity Action Plan* designed

to inform the Council of the well-being issues related to teen pregnancy, the problems associated with it, available community resources and present recommendations to the community on the issue.

! ***National Conference***

AResponding to Juvenile Crime in Pennsylvania
November 20, 1997

Dr. Peter Benekos, Amy Cuzzola-Kern and Sherrie Sonnenberg attended and presented papers at the American Society of Criminology's 49th Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA., November 19-22, 1997. Their papers entitled *ATrends in Youth Crime: Erie County, PA*, *AExplaining the Increase in Juvenile Delinquency Residential Placements: A Study of Erie County, PA*, and *AResponding to the Costs of Youth Placement: A Study of Community Intervention as an Alternative to Placement*, reported research findings on juvenile crime and juvenile justice in Erie County and Pennsylvania.

VII. Technical Assistance

CURRENT PROJECTS:

• ***Erie County Policy & Planning Council for Children and Families***

The Center provides staff support to the Erie County Policy and Planning Council for Children and Families. The Council represents 60 community human service leaders, community representatives, non-profit organizations, government agencies, consumers of service and educators. The purpose of the Council is to provide a setting in which concerned agency representatives serving children and families seek to improve outcomes for children and families through adopting a more holistic and less fragmented approach to service provision and serve as a mechanism to stimulate research, discussion, evaluation and implementation of policy and programs to strengthen children and families in Erie County.

• ***Drug Court Feasibility Study for the Erie County Drug Court Steering Committee***

The Center is conducting a study for the Erie County Court to assess the feasibility of establishing a Drug Court. The project is funded by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, and the Center is currently evaluating probation and jail records for juvenile and adult offenders to determine the needs and eligibility for developing a specialized Drug Court in Erie County.

• ***Grant Writing Workshops for The Erie Community Foundation***

The Center, at the request of The Erie Community Foundation, sponsored a series of Quarterly Grant Writing Workshops for those looking for grant funding. The workshops cover the essentials of basic grant writing, sources for finding appropriate grant sources as well as information specifically about the grant process through The Erie Community Foundation.

- ***Incorrigibility Work Group within the Erie County Policy & Planning Council***
The Center provides staff support to the Incorporrigibility Work Group. The term Incorporrigibility≅ refers to youth who are out of the reasonable control of parents, teachers and other legitimate authorities, but not yet delinquent. It is very likely that an effective service system for such children would pay significant benefits in reduced financial and human costs associated with intervening only after delinquency occurs. The mission of the Incorporrigibility Work Group is to work toward the development of a system of services to incorrigible youth in Erie County that is accessible, coordinated, effective, accountable and minimizes the need for juvenile probation or child welfare involvement with affected children and families while identifying children and families who truly need such services.

- ***Neighborhood Revitalization Project with The Erie Community Foundation***
The Center is providing staff support to a broad community group investigating how best to respond to the high concentration of social problems present in several Erie neighborhoods. Due to the alarming statistics presented in Directions, The Erie Community Foundation granted an award of \$250,000 over three years to revitalize one of the most needy neighborhoods in the City of Erie. Using national and local resources and expertise (most notably that of the residents of the area), this program will assess the assets and needs of the chosen neighborhood and provide funding for the implementation of programs tailored to the strengths and needs of the people in the neighborhood. If this is successful, the program will be implemented in other neighborhoods showing poor child and family well-being indicators.

- ***SPSS Technical Assistance to Erie County Adult Probation***
The Center provided technical assistance to the Erie County Adult Probation Department in developing a data collection instrument and providing technical assistance in setting up and analyzing data in SPSS, a statistical analysis software package. The Probation Department is interested in assessing the utilization of the Erie County Intermediate Punishment Programs.

- ! ***Center for Child and Family Policy Library***
The Center has established a research library for Mercyhurst College students and the Erie community to promote the study of child and family issues. Resources include various publications/articles on issues such as poverty, crime, juvenile justice, health, education, program evaluation, and county profiles.

COMPLETED PROJECTS:

- ***Continuum of Care Submission***
The Center was instrumental in obtaining a total of \$1,580,000 in grants for three area

social service agencies. The Institute provided technical assistance to the Erie County Department of Human Services and the City of Erie Department of Economic and Community Development to prepare this year=s Continuum of Care submission to the U.S. Housing and Urban Development. The \$1.5 million awarded Erie County will be used to assist homeless persons in finding permanent housing and support services.

- ***Erie County Network for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention***

The Center provided staff support for the development of the ECNAPP project (Erie County Network for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention). ECNAPP is a network of policy makers, service providers, governmental agencies, concerned community groups, as well as citizens and teenagers that will coordinate, strengthen and enhance teen pregnancy prevention services in Erie County. The Center prepared a grant proposal for the 1998 Joint Corporators Project from St. Vincent=s and Hamot Medical Center and was approved for funding at \$80,000. The Center also prepared and distributed the ECNAPP request for proposal (RFP). The RFP was distributed to community agencies interested in serving as the host agency.

VIII. Research Advisory Committee

The Center has convened a Research Advisory Committee to provide access to an interdisciplinary group of scholars who will assist in evaluating and expanding the research agenda for the Center. The members have been asked to provide input and make suggestions regarding:

- ! Research issues, ideas and topics concerning children, youth, and families;
- ! Ideas and information on funding sources, including requests for proposals and funding studies;
- ! Substantive knowledge in one=s discipline and technical research skills;
- ! Identifying students/graduates who are interested in and capable of participating in or conducting Center research projects.

IX. The Emerging Mercyhurst College Civic Institute

- ! The Center for Child and Family Policy, is currently a division of the Civic Institute. The Mercyhurst Civic Institute is a college-community partnership dedicated to the social, health, educational, and civic well being of the Erie region. Its purposes include; (1) facilitate citizen participation in decision-making, (2) provide high quality objective information to inform local decision-making, (3) convene community forums that encourage reasoned reflection and free and open discussion of regional issues, and (4) foster human networks that enhance communication, link resources, strengthen community participation and build social capital. The Civic Center will have two additional Centers in addition to the (1) Center for Child and Family Policy; (2) the Center for Justice Research and Policy and (3) the Center for a Healthy Community.

- ! The mission of the Mercyhurst College Center for Justice Research and Policy is to help ensure a safer community by improving the effectiveness of the local criminal justice system. The mission is accomplished by: (1) Disseminating timely and useful information to policymakers, administrators and practitioners, (2) Assessing the outcome of programs and strategies thereby acting as the research and development arm of the local criminal justice system, (3) Fostering criminal justice partnerships inside and outside the system by interdepartmental collaborations and the involvement of interested citizens, (4) Facilitating a more integrated and comprehensive response to crime and other justice challenges, (5) Developing more evidence based decision making - not just being tough on crime but being smart as well, (6) sponsoring seminars, public forums and other informational platforms to examine salient criminal justice issues.

- ! The mission of the Center for a Healthy Community is the advancement of sustainable, citizen-lead, community health improvement processes through discovery, feedback and relationship-building.

X. Finance Statement

The Center for Child and Family Policy has completed its third year of operation. For Fiscal Year 1997-98, the Center for Child and Family Policy received \$294,155 in revenue and incurred expenses of \$294,155. During this Fiscal Year, the Center broadened its funding base by receiving a grant from The Erie Community Foundation and private donors.*

Budgeted revenues and expenses by category and percentage for fiscal year 1995/96, 1996/97, 1997/98 are shown below as compared to 1998/99.

Expenses:	1995-1996	1996-1997	1997-1998	1998-1999
Personnel	57%	56%	61%	52%
Operations	19%	22%	24%	25%
Contractuals/ Consulting	20%	15%	13%	16%
Training / Development	2%	6%	2%	6%
Fees/Subscriptions	2%	1%	2%	1%
Income Sources:				
State Grants (Public)	65%	66%	67%	61%
Local Grants (Public and Private)	21%	18%	21%	28%
Inkind Support	14%	16%	12%	11%
Total:	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Unaudited estimates for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 1999.

Funding for the Mercyhurst Center for Child and Family Policy comes from a variety of public and private sources including the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, The Erie Community Foundation, the Erie County Department of Human Services, Private Donors and Mercyhurst College.