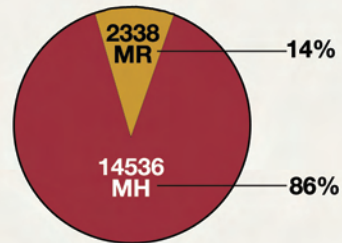


## Mental Retardation Accomplishments (continued)

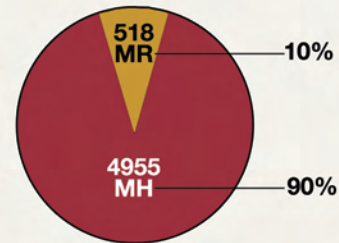
structuring and advancing the number of individuals who have formal communication systems, among individuals who do not communicate verbally.

- ◆ A nutrition and healthy lifestyle objective was continued. It included education on portion control, and healthy cooking to individuals and direct care staff, as well as, an exercise class for individuals receiving mental retardation services.
- ◆ An objective directed at reducing the number of physical restraints that occur among individuals receiving mental retardation services was added in order to implement best practices through positive approaches.
- ◆ Continued as the Lead County for an 8 County Health Care Quality Unit eliminating duplication of health care resources by merging residential medical core team services.

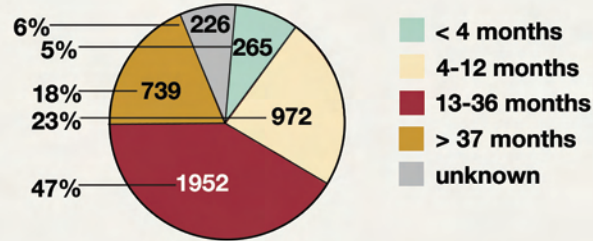
## 2005-2006 Highlights



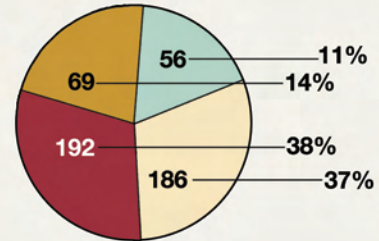
Total Number of Persons: 16,874



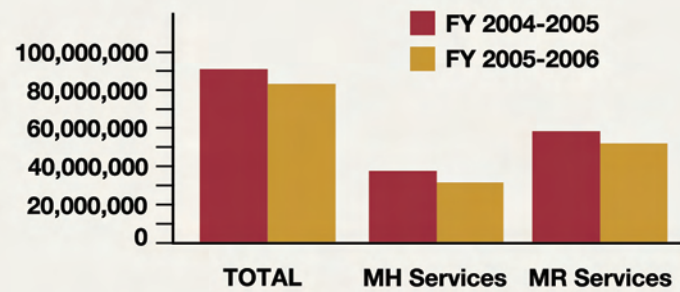
Total Number of Admissions: 5,473



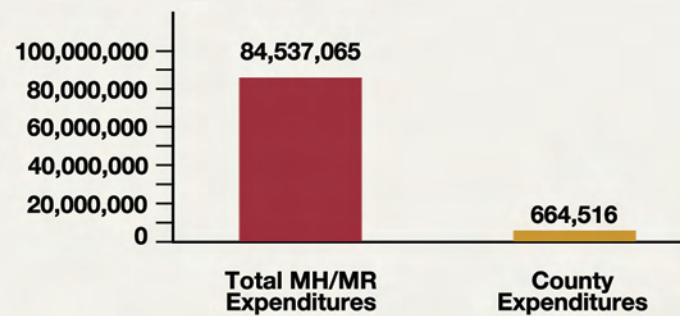
Total Number Discharged: 4,154



Total Number Discharged: 503



• Expenditures for service in the Joinder in fiscal year 2005-2006 totaled \$84,537,065. Mental Health Services expended \$33,394,074 which accounted for 39.5% of the expenditures and MR Services expended \$51,142,991 or 60.5% of the total.



The Lackawanna-Susquehanna-Wayne Counties  
Mental Health / Mental Retardation Program  
135 Jefferson Avenue, 3rd Floor  
Scranton, PA 18503

Copies of the full  
Administrator's Annual  
Report  
are available at the  
County Administrator's Office

### MH/MR Presents John J. Baldi Award

Left to right  
Annual John J. Baldi  
Award of Excellence

1st Row  
Susquehanna County  
Commissioner MaryAnn  
Warren, Lackawanna-  
Susquehanna MH/MR  
Advisory Board Vice-  
chairperson,  
Sue Adamec,  
Presenter Mike Baldi,  
Lackawanna-  
Susquehanna MH/MR  
Administrator,  
Stephen Arnone

2nd Row  
Lackawanna County  
Commissioner A. J.  
Munchak, Lackawanna-  
Susquehanna MH/MR  
Advisory Board Member,  
Thomas Comerford,  
Lackawanna-  
Susquehanna MH/MR  
Advisory Board  
Chairperson, Martin  
McGurrin.

2005 - 2006



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[www.ismhmr.org](http://www.ismhmr.org)

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Annual Report of the Lackawanna-Susquehanna-Wayne Counties  
Mental Health / Mental Retardation Program



## Message from the Chairman of the Board and Administrator

It is with great deal of pride and passion that we present our Annual Report, "Making a Difference," which includes highlights from our 25th Annual Administrators Report. It reflects the major accomplishments that we as a cohesive and responsive social service community have achieved.

The most notable of these is the continuation of a high quality and volume of service to our constituents in times of trying economic challenges.

We must continue to stay

focused on the major system changes and challenges that are presented to us and draw upon our collective strength and resolve as we face another daunting year.

As always, we will continue our close collaborative process which will provide us with an improved service delivery system positioned to meet the ever changing needs of the mentally disabled persons we are here to serve. We trust you will support us in this important endeavor.



### MH/MR Presents John J. Baldi Award



From left to right:

Lackawanna County Commissioner A. J. Munchak, Susquehanna County Commissioner MaryAnn Warren, Presenter Mike Baldi, Presenter Diane Baldi, Lackawanna-Susquehanna MH/MR Advisory Board Chairperson, Martin McGurrin, Lackawanna-Susquehanna MH/MR Administrator, Stephen Arnone

## Our Accomplishments



Martin McGurrin  
Chairperson



Stephen Arnone  
Administrator

Each year, Administrative Office staff are requested to list the major accomplishments of the Program for the preceding year that have forwarded the goals and objectives within our Annual Program Plan and Budget request, which is submitted to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Some of this year's accomplishments are as follows:

- Continued the collaboration between the Luzerne-Wyoming MH/MR Program and Drug and Alcohol Program Single County Authorities from Luzerne-Wyoming Counties and Lackawanna-Susquehanna Counties Mental Health/Mental Retardation Program and Drug and Alcohol Program Single County Authorities in Lackawanna and Susquehanna Counties in the implementation of the HealthChoices Program in Northeastern Pennsylvania.
- Continued the Lackawanna-Susquehanna Counties Mental Health/Mental Retardation Program's effort to fully implement the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Transformation Project Initiative throughout the two (2) County Program area.
- Continued contractual agreement with a Managed Behavioral Health Care consultant to operationalize a systems improvement initiative targeted at improving MIS capabilities within our four county collaborative initiative.
- Continued a Human Resource Development Initiative, in partnership with the area Provider's Council, in an effort to enhance recruitment and retention of qualified workers.

### Mental Health Accomplishments

- Continued to monitor all children and adolescent community psychiatric inpatient hospitalizations and residential treatment facility placements through the Administrator's Office, in an effort to ensure that the least restrictive level of care is utilized based on medical necessity criteria.
- Continued administrative responsibility for the Susquehanna County Drug and Alcohol Program related to the day-to-day management of the County Office, and the review and enhancement of services and supports for persons with addictive diseases.
- Participated in numerous conferences/trainings related to children's mental health issues and cross-systems collaboration.
- Operationalized the Disaster Mental Health Response Team within the Joinder and participated in several trainings and ongoing meetings related to disaster response from a local, regional, state, and national perspective. As part of this initiative the

As part of this initiative the Lackawanna / Susquehanna County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Program secured a grant to support mental health outreach efforts in Susquehanna and Lackawanna Counties targeted at flood devastated areas.

- Inpatient Hospitalization Consumer/Family Satisfaction Team Project was facilitated by the Advocacy Alliance, in collaboration with the Lackawanna-Susquehanna Counties Mental Health/Mental Retardation Program, to solicit the needs of children, families and community agencies as they pertain to care provided to children and adolescents within acute care psychiatric inpatient facilities.
- Coordinated a seven (7) County Peer Specialist Initiative Grant that was awarded by the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services in April 2005, for implementation during 2006. This initiative concluded with a two (2) week Peer Specialist training program for twenty (20) individuals in recovery. Four (4) Peer Specialist were employed within the Joinder Program in Fiscal Year 2005-2006. In addition, the Lackawanna/Susquehanna County Mental Health / Mental Retardation Program Administrator's Office has hired a Recovery Consultant to work with the Program to promote a Recovery Based System of Care within the Joinder.
- Continued to develop the objectives of the local Quality Management Plan. Quality Management outcomes were embedded into services and supports. Outcomes included:
  - A decrease in the number of individuals who have been in the State Hospital longer than two (2) years from 61.4% in the previous fiscal year to 60% in the current year;
  - An increase in the number of individuals who are diverted from admission to a State Hospital from 21% in the previous year to 41.9% in the current year, and
  - A decrease in the percentage of children and adolescents who are readmitted to Community Inpatient Hospital within thirty (30) days of discharge from 9% to 6.3%.

### Mental Retardation Accomplishments

- Continued to incorporate the Office of Developmental Programs Management Information System (HCSIS) into services and supports by transitioning all Individual Service Plans to a Fiscal Year Model.
- Transitioned the Early Intervention Program to the Office of Child Development while continuing to increase the number of infant and toddlers served to over 600.
- Incorporated the Office of Developmental Program's service and unit definitions into the Consolidated and Person Family Directed Waiver Programs while continuing to maintain and expand services for over 400 people residing in the Lackawanna-Susquehanna Counties Mental Health/Mental Retardation Program area.
- Continued to develop the local Quality Management Plan and Council. Quality Management outcomes were embedded into services and supports.
  - Through a Quality Council initiative, increased the number of individuals who carry identification on a regular basis from 64.1% to 83% among those residing in a community residential setting.
  - Provided training for direct service providers on communication systems, aimed at

Continued on back ►

