

ANNUAL REPORT

MADISON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

January 1, 1952-December 31, 1952

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Gentlemen:

In submitting my first annual report as Commissioner of Public Welfare for Madison County I wish to give you a breakdown of the caseload in the Public Assistance Division of this department throughout the year as well as the usual statistical report as prepared by the accounting division.

Below is a comparison of the monthly caseloads in 1951 and 1952:

	1951					1952						
	OAA	AB	AD	ADC	HR	TOTAL	OAA	AB	AD	ADC	HR	TOTAL
Jan. 31-	433	20	46	116	103	718	444	17	85	131	91	768
Feb. 28	435	19	46	119	105	724	441	17	85	135	80	758
Mar. 31	431	20	52	121	104	728	445	17	84	136	88	770
Apr. 30	430	21	55	115	81	702	435	17	88	128	69	737
May 31	422	21	56	117	68	684	428	18	92	124	54	716
June 30	429	21	60	116	59	685	420	18	98	121	47	704
July 31	424	20	65	109	57	675	410	18	90	117	42	677
Aug. 31	428	20	62	105	52	667	407	17	95	106	37	662
Sept. 30	439	20	62	104	47	672	403	17	93	97	33	643
Oct. 31	437	20	64	110	54	685	394	17	91	97	35	642
Nov. 30	439	19	68	117	68	711	398	17	88	98	33	634
Dec. 31	440	17	78	123	84	742	399	17	97	104	35	652

It will be noted that the case load continued a steady climb upward from August, 1951, through March, 1952, at which time a steady decline began which continued throughout the year, with the result that there were 90 less cases on the rolls as of December 31, 1952, as compared with December 31, 1951. Inasmuch as the major reduction occurred in Old Age Assistance and Aid for Dependent Children it is evident that the determined drive on Legally Responsible Relatives of Old Age recipients and the forcing of fathers of Aid for Dependent Children to contribute to their support through Children's Court action by this department since the first of the year has produced desirable results. This action will continue until the rolls are reduced to a minimum.

The elimination of so-called "chisellers" will continue also whenever we obtain information sufficient to bring them to court. Although, I wish to state at this time that a careful analysis of the rolls shows that at least 95% of the present recipients of Public Assistance are not of the chiselling type. When one considers that, of 652 recipients December 31, 617 received either, Old Age Assistance, Aid for the Blind, Aid for Disabled or Aid to Dependent Children the only employables are the 35 cases on Home Relief. These are required to register with the Employment Office before being eligible for Assistance and must accept a position if one is available.

General Administration

In the past year the costs of administration of the Department have increased due to our moving to larger and more adequate quarters and the purchase of badly-needed equipment. With the removal to our new quarters on July 28th the efficiency of the office has increased and the morale is excellent. I am pleased to report that the continual staff turnover which occurred so often in the past is now nearly non-existent and with our caseload drop we are able to operate with one less caseworker and I anticipate that we will be able to dispense with the services of another one shortly after the first of the new year. In all fairness, I wish at this time to pay tribute to my entire staff for their loyalty to me and to their job in the past year. Too often a person assuming political office accepts credit for attempting to do a job without considering the fact that that job could not be accomplished without the full cooperation of a good staff. I feel that our department has made great strides in the reduction of the Welfare Rolls this past year, and I give full credit to my staff for the work they have done.

Cost of Public Assistance

In spite of a general reduction of our caseload you are all aware of the fact that the cost of Welfare increased this past year. This is due to several factors, the most important of which are:

Increase of \$30.00 per ^{mo.} per patient in nursing and convalescent homes. This was made necessary by additional expenditures by the operators of nursing homes required by the State in order to obtain State approval. In addition, nursing home rates had not been increased in several years, while the cost of operating said homes has steadily risen.

Hospital rates were increased \$1.75 per day per patient to meet the increased cost of operation.

Authorization was given by the Board of Supervisors in 1951 to increase the rate of pay in Foster Care homes \$10.00 per month per child but this increase was inadvertently left out of the budget. State Standards effective January 1, 1952, increased the cost per case with no provision for this increase in the budget.

One other factor influenced the rise in welfare costs which must definitely be considered. That was the cost of living index. As you know, the cost of living index reached an all-time high in 1952, and the general cost of welfare increased proportionately with the cost of living.

As a result of these factors transfers were necessary during the latter part of the year to offset the budget deficit. These transfers, incidentally, totalled nearly the amount cut from the budget during the Annual Session of the Board of Supervisors, at which time I was a member of the Board and accept my share of the responsibility.

CHILD WELFARE

The report of this division by Mrs. Francelia Heinley, Senior Case Worker, is appended hereto and made a part of my report. This is a separate division on which we receive no state or federal reimbursement. I think it worthy of note that recoveries in this division from court orders and agreements exceeded those in 1951 by over \$4,000.00. I wish to commend Mrs. Heinley and her staff for the excellent work accomplished in 1952.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHILD WELFARE DEPARTMENT

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors:

As in the past, and since you are perhaps familiar with this type of reporting from our Department, we are beginning by listing the referrals which have been received during the fiscal year ending December 31, 1952. Referrals are listed according to source.

REFERRALS

January 1, 1952, to December 31, 1952

By Whom Referred:

Parent or Family	26
Private Citizens	11
Children's Court	55
Public Assistance Department	21
Out of County Agencies	33
Schools	18
Child Guidance Clinic	1
State Police	4
Doctors	13
Other Community Organizations	5

Total Children Referred 187

There were a total of 43 children fewer referred in 1952 than in 1951, but the number of families referred was only six less than 1951. 187 children, in other words, were referred from 106 different families. There was during the past year an increase in the number of children referred to our Department for service from the schools in the county and from the doctors, while there was not too much difference in the number of referrals from other sources.

CHILDREN UNDER SUPERVISION

	December 31, 1951	December 31, 1952
Boarding Homes	122	121
Free Categories	16	13
Out of County	4	6
With Parents	20	16
With Relatives	4	5
Other	10	6
Total	<u>176</u>	<u>167</u>

There is therefore a decline in the total case load of nine children over the total case load on December 31, 1951. It is to be hoped that this is a trend which will continue throughout the year but, since there are many factors which must be taken into consideration, there is no way to determine definitely what will happen during coming months.

Of the 187 children who were referred during the year, plus 14 whose cases were pending on January 1, 1952, 32 were accepted for foster care, 8 were accepted for other types of care or supervision, and 141 children were given service of various types during the year without being added to the case load. There were 14 children whose cases were pending on December 31, 1952. We would again like

to bring to your attention the fact that this temporary service mentioned above, in which children are given service without being added to the case load, requires a great deal of work and time. In many cases this type of referral is taken care of within the month on which it is referred. Included in this category are such services as investigations and reports for Children's Court, private adoption investigations, and services for agencies outside the county, and there are many cases in which, after some study and investigation, the original request can be withdrawn as a referral source after consultative and advisory service is given to the family or denied on the grounds that the original complaint is unfounded. We are also gratified to note that the number of children who are accepted for foster care is continuing to decline.

DISCHARGES

To Parents or Relatives	25
Own Responsibility	8
State Schools for Mental Defectives	5
Adopted	5
Other	5
Died	1
Total	49

This total number of discharges is 13 less than the number of children discharged the previous year, but fewer children were accepted for care during the year so that the case load has declined. We are continuing to try to keep as many children in their own homes as possible and to remove them to foster homes only when there seems to be no other solution.

At the present time there are several children in foster care whom we hope can be returned to their own homes during the coming year. We feel that an important part of our job is to try to help the parents to re-establish and rehabilitate the home so that it will be a fit and proper place for the children. We are also continuing to work toward the best possible long term care for those children whose homes we feel can never be re-established for them. As in previous years we would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks and appreciation for the help and cooperation which the foster parents have given us in trying to provide adequate care for children.

We feel that our report would not be complete without some mention of the fact that collections from parents of children in foster care have increased appreciably during the past year. During the fiscal year of 1951 collections amounted to slightly over 10.4% of the expenditures of the Children's Division and in 1952 collections were 15.8% of the total expenditures. These collections are made as a result of voluntary agreements with parents of children who are placed outside their own homes, court orders of Madison County Children's Court with payment made through the Probation Office, and OASI and State Insurance Benefits in some cases in which one of the parents is dead.

1952 has brought changes in both personnel and location of the office. In July, 1952 the entire Welfare Department moved to its new location in Hamilton, New York and so far as the Children's Division is concerned we find that much time is saved by being in the same building with the Commissioner, and the Public Assistance, Accounting and Medical Departments. On September 1, 1952, Miss Marion Phelps, who has been with the Children's Division since June 1947, left to accept a position as psychiatric social worker with the State Department of Mental Hygiene. On September 15 Miss Berta Brewster transferred from the Public Assistance Department to the Children's Division. Therefore we do have a complete staff as of the closing

of the year.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Welfare Committee and the entire Board of Supervisors for their interest in and support of our program. We thank the Children's Court, Probation Department, County Attorney, Sheriff's Department, Police Departments in various localities of the county, Public Health Nurses, schools and all other community agencies for their cooperation and support. We in turn want to assure the board and the agencies mentioned above of our determination to continue to give the best possible service to all children who are referred to us.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances D. Heintley

Senior Children's Worker

ANNUAL REPORT

Statistics
1952

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

150 - 100 Personal Services 65,444.95

Less Reimbursement - Salaries

State - 31,465.58

Federal - 21,414.06

52,879.64

Net Cost of Staff 12,565.31

2/3 Commissioner's Salary 2,333.36

Office Expense

Appropriation

Expense

Equipment 1061.55

Supplies and Services 2623.85

Other Expenses 14468.87

18154.27

Less:

Federal Aid - Office Expenses 6443.94

11,710.33

Net Office Expense

2,707.40

Outstanding Encumbrances

Local Net Total Administrative Cost -

29,316.40

HOME RELIEF

Disbursements

Cash Grants 37,304.34

Physicians' Services 6,318.62

Drugs 1,451.40

Other 3,693.43

48,767.79

Credits:

State Reimbursement 41,647.31

43,468.41

Repayments & Recoveries 1,821.10

Net Local Cost

5,299.38

ANNUAL REPORT

Statistics, Continued
1952

OLD AGE ASSISTANCE

Disbursements:

Cash Grants	212,378.58
Hospital Care	22,774.55
Physicians' Fees	36,056.92
Prescriptions	11,923.21
Other	8,506.43
	<u>291,639.69</u>

Credits:

Federal Reimbursement	128,012.51
State "	97,827.47
Repayments & Recoveries	10,130.39
	<u>235,970.37</u>

Net Local Cost

55,669.32

aid to dependent children

Disbursements:

Cash Grants	150,826.33
Hospital Care	5,964.69
Doctors' Services	14,493.43
Prescriptions	3,094.01
Other	4,103.32
	<u>178,481.78</u>

Credits:

State Reimbursement	59,938.36
Federal "	77,646.75
Repayments & Recoveries	8,868.43
	<u>146,453.54</u>

Net Local Cost

32,028.24

ANNUAL REPORT

Statistics Continued
1952

aid to the disabled

Disbursements:

Cash Grants	41,717.76
Hospital Charges	3,788.15
Doctors' Services	7,470.86
Prescriptions	4,643.81
Other	514.98
	58,143.56

Credits:

State Aid	19,701.38
Federal "	24,752.99
Repayments and Recoveries	325.96
	44,780.33
Net Local Cost	13,363.23

assistance to the blind

Expenditures:

Cash Grants	7,837.75
Hospital and Doctors' Serv.	1,430.68
Prescriptions	227.57
Other Special Assistance	439.87
	9,935.87

Credits:

State Aid	3,053.18
Federal "	5,166.48
Repayments & Recoveries	32.51
	8,252.17
Net Local Cost	1,683.70

ANNUAL REPORT

Statistics, Continued
1952

FOSTER CARE

Expenditures:

Board	65,554.53
Clothing	6,365.80
Supplies	798.63
Doctors' Services	1,814.30
Medicine	536.88
Optical Care	309.20
Hospital Care	1,507.14
Dental Care	1,160.00
Miscellaneous	91.01

78,137.49

Credits:

Reimbursement, State Charge	
Cases	2,066.99
Repayments	14,677.58
Peterboro Home Fund & Rig- gall Fund Interest	834.86

17,579.43

Local Net Cost

60,558.06

HOSPITAL ONLY

Expenditures:

Hospital Charges	44,753.40
Doctors' Charges	9,378.02
Transportation	307.00

54,438.42

Credits:

Repayments and Recoveries	4,600.82
Reimbursement-State Chg.	591.50
Cases	

5,192.32
49,246.10

Net Local Cost

ANNUAL REPORT

Statistics, Continued
1952

BURIALS

Disbursements;	\$9,923.83
Credits:	
Repayments and Recoveries	3,335.28
Net Cost	<u>6,588.55</u>

County Home

Supervision of the County Home has been handled by Mrs. Liddle, as Matron. Several changes in the staff occurred the past year, but we now have a full staff which is efficient and capable.

Major accomplishments at the Home were:

Transfer of the drug and medicine room from small, dark quarters where there was no daylight, to a well-lighted room with lavatory where the doctor may conduct examinations more efficiently.

Conversion of the former drug room into a central supply station for the storage of all supplies used daily at the home. Previously these supplies had been stored in various rooms in the building. Complete remodeling of our personal living quarters, which were found to be in a bad state of repair on January 1, 1952, by members of the Board of Supervisors. These repairs were authorized by the Building Committee and Mrs. Liddle and I are extremely grateful for the consideration given us.

Repair of several leaks in the roof of the home, which had been in existence for quite some time.

Removal of a serious collection of scale in the main boiler, which had become so bad over a period of years, that the State boiler inspector insisted that this work be done.

Replacement of several leaky faucets, thus eliminating unnecessary waste of water.

Repair of a serious leak in the fuel line, which together with the above stated repairs to the boiler, has resulted in a considerable saving in the fuel oil.

Installation of Television sets in the Men's and Women's sitting rooms, one set having been donated by the Madison County Grange.

Complete cleanup of the attic, condition of which had been criticized by the State in its 1951 report to the Board of Supervisors.

It is pleasing to note that with the above necessary expenditures and with no provision for them in the budget, the total cost of operation of the Home in 1952 was less than in 1951.

I wish to make one observation regarding the County Home which I believe should be brought to the attention of the Board and to the taxpayers in general:

Due to the Old Age Assistance program providing care for elderly people in their own places of residence, the population of the County Home has continued to decline. With this decline the cost of operation of the Home when figured per resident per day will gradually increase. In other words, even though the Home and Farm budget should remain the same each year the taxpayers are paying more per resident as the resident population declines.

Therefore, I desire to make the following recommendation to the members of the Board of Supervisors:

That a special committee of interested persons be appointed, and I can think of no better committee than the special investigating committee appointed sometime ago; this committee to meet with me and study the possibility of converting the County Home into a nursing home and infirmary, on which we would seek to receive State and Federal reimbursement on the cost of operation.

This condition exists in many counties of the State and one or two have found it necessary to close their county homes entirely. This I would not favor as we would probably suffer a considerable loss in disposing of the property.

I make this recommendation only after careful thought and discussion with other Commissioners from various counties in the State. We have one of the finest county homes in the State, and with so many beds empty it seems that the time has come for a complete study of the situation.

I do not believe in the County competing with private enterprise, namely, private nursing homes; neither do I believe it is sound economy to maintain a half-empty building while paying for nursing home care elsewhere.

I sincerely hope that this may be referred to the proper committee for further study.

ANNUAL REPORT
MADISON COUNTY HOME
Jan. 1, 1952-Dec. 31, 1952

DISBURSEMENTS:

Salaries, wages and professional fees	\$16,482.61
Office expense	205.00
Travel and transportation	42.83
Fuel, light & power	7,343.28
Repairs to building & equipment	2,415.25
Supplies & minor equipment	1,691.97
Food	6,731.59
Clothing	396.42
Other (Movies, Extermination, Express, Adv.)	482.15
New furniture, furnishings & equipment	491.93
	<hr/>
	\$36,283.03

REVENUES:

Board from residents	\$1,265.90	1,265.90
	<hr/>	
Net Operating costs to County		35,017.13
	<hr/>	
Value of produce consumed at County Home	5,478.39	5,478.39
	<hr/>	
Total net cost, including value of farm produce consumed, less board from residents		40,495.52
	<hr/>	
Total Residents Jan. 1, 1952	51	
Total new admissions	10	
Total re-admissions	3	
	<hr/>	
Total discharges & deaths	23	
Total residents Dec. 31, 1952	41	

Total Numbers of days board & care
including transients - 14,860

Rate per resident per day - \$2.725

County Farm

A change in staff on the farm was made necessary with Mr. Clarence Edding being promoted to Farm Manager.

Major Accomplishments on the farm were:

Cash income exceeded that of previous years.

The old laundry, which had been empty for several years, except for an accumulation of junk, was converted to a machinery building at a nominal cost, replacing that building which was destroyed by fire in December, 1951.

New Machinery was purchased to replace that destroyed in the fire.

With these additional expenditures, the cost of operation of the farm only increased approximately \$4,000 over the year, 1951, and these additional costs were covered by insurance which was paid the county on the building and contents destroyed by the fire.

All repairs to the county home and farm buildings have been made with the cooperation and approval of the Building and Farm Committees of the Board of Supervisors, and we greatly appreciate their complete understanding of our problems and the cooperation which we have received from them.

ANNUAL REPORT
Jan. 1, 1952-Dec. 31, 1952

FARM INVENTORY

25 Milch Cows
12 yearlings
6 calves
2 Beef cattle

100 Hens
19 Pigs and Hogs
2 Horses

PRODUCE FOR LIVESTOCK CONSUMPTION

120 Tons Hay
100 Tons Silage
500 Bushels corn on cob
500 Bushels Oats and Barley
12 Tons Straw

PRODUCE FOR RESIDENT CONSUMPTION

Milk 40,213# @ \$4.69 (average)	\$1885.99
Eggs 1,155-1/3 doz. @ \$.59	681.65
Pork 3,010# @ \$.35	1053.50
Beef 3,727# @ .46	1714.42
Chickens 95# @ .30	28.50
Ducks 59# @ .35	20.65
Geese 14# @ .38	<u>5.32</u>
	\$5,390.03
4 Bushels Beets @ \$1.80	7.20
20 Bu. peas @ 1.28	25.60
2 Bushels beans @ 1.32	2.64
2 Bushels carrots @ 1.00	2.00
20 Bushels Sweet corn @ .88	17.60
15 Bushels tomatoes @ .80	12.00
2 Bushels cucumbers @ 1.92	3.84
15 lbs. lettuce @ .04	.60
25 lbs. swiss chard @ .02	.50
8 bushels cabbage @ 1.00	8.00
300 lbs. summer squash @ .01	3.00
200 lbs. winter squash @ .02	4.00
15 lbs. radishes @ .025	.38
1 bushel parships @ 1.00	<u>1.00</u>
	<u>88.36</u>
Total value of farm produce consumed at County Home	5,478.39

INVENTORY OF FARM MACHINERY

1 1½ ton International Truck	1 New Holland Hay Baler
1 disc	1 Side delivery rake
1 John Deere Manure Spreader	1 Corn planter - horse drawn
1 Mowing Machine	1 Grain drill - horse drawn
2 Farm wagons	1 Cultipacker
1 Wagon box	1 Hay and grain elevator (second-hand)
1 Manure sleigh	1 Corn sheller
1 Farmall M Tractor	1 Ensilage cutter
1 Plow - Mechanical lift	1 Hay loader
2 Snow plows - 1 old - 1 new	1 potato digger
1 Harrow - horse drawn	
1 Cultivator - horse drawn	
1 Cultivator - hydraulic	

ANNUAL REPORT

MADISON COUNTY FARM

Jan. 1, 1952-Dec. 31, 1952

DISBURSEMENTS:

Salaries, wages & professional fees	\$4,150.90
Live stock & farm equipment	6,061.57
Supplies & materials	4,723.31
Other (repairs, registration, breeding, adv.)	1,576.99
	<u>\$16,512.77</u>

REVENUES:

Milk checks	6,711.62
Eggs	27.58
Calves	243.81
Cows	1,505.68
Pigs	88.61
Miscellaneous (sale of hay, bull & hens)	661.24
Refund from sale of junk	132.50
	<u>9,371.04</u>
Value of Milk & produce consumed at Home	5,478.39
Total Revenues	<u>14,849.43</u>
Net farm operating cost to county including capital expenditures	1,663.34

Note: Capital expenditures include replacement of farm machinery destroyed in fire and conversion of laundry building to machinery building.

ANNUAL REPORT

Statistics, Continued
1952

SUMMARY
GROSS EXPENDITURES AND RECEIPTS

DISBURSEMENTS

General Administration	\$ 88,639.98
Old Age Assistance	291,639.69
Aid to Dependent Children	178,481.78
Aid to the Disabled	58,143.56
Assistance to the Blind	9,935.87
Home Relief	48,767.79
Foster Child Care	78,137.49
Hospital Only	54,438.42
Burials	9,923.83
County Home	36,283.03
County Home Farm	<u>16,512.77</u>
	\$870,904.21

CREDITS

General Administration	\$ 59,323.58
Old Age Assistance	235,970.37
Aid to Dependent Children	146,453.54
Aid to the Disabled	44,780.33
Assistance to the Blind	8,252.17
Home Relief	43,468.41
Foster Child Care	17,579.43
Hospital Only	5,192.32
Burials	3,335.28
County Home	1,265.90
County Home Farm	<u>9,371.04</u>
	\$574,992.37
Net Cost to County	\$295,911.84

In conclusion I wish to thank the members of the Welfare Committee for their advice and counsel and each and every member of the Board for their complete cooperation with my department.

Also, I wish to thank County Attorney Donald Cassidy, District Attorney Harold Simons, County Judge Clarence Conley and all other county, State, town, village and city departments who have cooperated with and assisted my department in 1952. It has been a privilege and pleasure to work with all of you.

Respectfully submitted,

William Liddle
Commissioner

WL:mlh