I. Chief Executive Officer Update:

- Agency Finances are good. We have no issues with making payments to vendors on time, and cash flow is not limited due to access to funds. Payments from OCS that were held up last month for CSBG and LIHEAP have been received.

- OOI administrative staff participated in a fabulous “Murder Mystery Lunch” Team Building Day in July at the historic Twelve Oaks Estates. To begin the day, staff were broken up in teams and compiled a list of facts from one member (chosen by the group); the facts were brought back to the large group to see if they could figure out “whodunit” for each group—several of our staff have unique pasts, to say the least! 😊

After the orientation session, staff were assigned parts in the Murder Mystery play, and got to interact in a different context than their usual role at the agency. The result was a fun and interactive way to sharpen communication skills through acting out the story.
A Commitment to Excellence: August 1, 2018, all OOI staff attended the annual Commitment to Excellence event at the NorthArk South Campus. Mr. Dedric Davis provided a motivating speech to the staff about understanding how important you are to a child and going that extra mile for your class.

Dan McDonie from Mutual of America came and shared a comical story that lightened the mood before discussing the Retirement Benefits available to OOI employees. He then gave each person an opportunity to discuss their retirement contributions directly with him.
Derek Krogh from Lakeshore provided an excellent STEM and STEAM presentation and followed up with having all staff split into groups and build something with only cardboard, markers, paper and tape. (Derek, Ryan and Toby take a ride in the “Learning Train”… 😊.)
Candace Weaver, Early Head Start Center Supervisor at Clinton, was selected as the winner of the first *OOI Child Development Ambassador Award*! CONGRATS!
It was a full day of learning, discussion, questions and answers… overall it was a very successful event!

II. Child Development (ABC Pre-K, Head Start, & Early Head Start):

A. Arkansas Better Chance Pre-K Program:

- The OOI Arkansas Better Chance Pre-K Class in Harrison is now located at the First Presbyterian Church. We are EXTREMELY grateful to FPC and Pastor D.C. Adams for their support of our Early Childhood Program! Classes will resume in mid-August, and we already have a full class.

B. Head Start & Early Head Start:

- All OOI Child Development Centers will be closed until mid-August. A center-specific calendar is available to parents and staff.
- In addition to the Commitment to Excellence Day of training, additional professional development opportunities were provided; including Component Training was presented to all Child Development staff on August 6th and 7th. Each Coordinator prepared a presentation and educated the staff on what was expected in the coming school year.
- All Coordinators have been working hard to prepare for the new school year; from Pre-Service and Component Training to the PIR Report and complete playground remodels…

III. Community Services

Rebecca Hanlin; Community Services Manager

C. Meet our newest team members in the Community Services Department!

Pam Baker, Office Assistant. After graduating high school, I moved to Boone County, where I have lived and worked for the past 38 years. I was employed at Mass Merchandisers, McKesson, Millbrook as well as UNFI, until their closure. When that career ended I was introduced to the AmeriCorps VISTA program. I enjoyed serving the community as an advocate in a variety of capacities, empowering those with limited incomes to improve the quality of their lives. A notable motto of AmeriCorps is to "fight poverty with passion" and I find OOI to be a model organization displaying that motto as well.

My husband Bill and I have recently celebrated our 30th anniversary. We enjoy spending time together on our property in Everton. we camp, are avid motorcyclists and travel to attend Blues music festivals in Arkansas as well as surrounding states.
Crystal Rogers, Community Services Supervisor. Crystal Rogers started in Community Services on July 16 as the new Community Services Supervisor. Prior to joining the team, she worked for Walmart, Inc., in the home office for 20 1/2 years. She spent 19 years in Ladies Wear in various positions including replenishment, and then on the central replenishment team supporting total store issues.

A little about Crystal:
I'm excited to join the OOI Team! I am a native of Lead Hill, so I'm thrilled with the opportunity to move home and be closer to family. I have a Bachelor of Arts degree with a focus on Journalism from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. I love to write, am an avid reader and enjoy painting in my spare time. I also love horses, and enjoy going to horse shows.

D. Here we grow again!!! As mentioned last month, we have taken on another program; Healthy Families America (Arkansas). Here is info on the staff of this dynamic program:

Melissa Smyth, HFA Program Coordinator for Healthy Families Arkansas- Ozark Mountains has been with the program for the past 4 years. Prior to that, she worked for the Department of Human Services for 10 years.

What she likes most about her job is supporting new parents and seeing them grow with their child.

Melissa lives in Marshall with her 15-year-old daughter Rayya. She loves watching her daughter play volleyball and show Hereford cattle. They both enjoy helping out on their family’s cattle farm, watching movies, and singing along to songs on the radio.

Brandi Grillot, HFA Family Support Worker.

Brandi is a resident of Shirley, AR., where she has spent the majority of her life and where she now raises her 14-year-old daughter Sidney and her 2-year-old son Easton.

This year marks 15 years since she began her career working with children and families. “I am excited to be a part of Ozark Opportunities and to be able to continue to serve the families in my community”.

When not working, Brandi enjoys watching Sidney play sports, trail riding on ATV’s, camping at the lake and working on home improvement projects with her husband.
Alex Churches, HFA Family Support Worker began her career two years ago with the Healthy Families Arkansas-Ozark Mountains program. She has resided in Clinton, AR her entire life, and graduated from college in 2015 from Univ. of Ar. Community College.

Alex has a four-year-old daughter named Evelyn. Alex and Evelyn enjoy all outdoor activities and doing things with their family. On the weekends, she enjoys swimming, going to the movies, and front porch sitting.

She enjoys her job and likes finding new ways to be a resource to her families. She enjoys working with families in need and is hopeful in making a difference.

E. Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program:
- Both Programs will operate until September 30, 2018 or until funds are depleted.
- First transfer of funds received from State on July 31, 2018; released payments through week ending July 27, 2018.
- The following charts express Non-Emergency and Emergency Assistance disbursed through Friday, August 3, 2018.

### Non-Emergency Assistance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Counties</th>
<th>Received</th>
<th>Approved</th>
<th>$</th>
<th>Pending</th>
<th>Denied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baxter</td>
<td>562</td>
<td>504</td>
<td>$58,241.00</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boone</td>
<td>549</td>
<td>511</td>
<td>$59,699.00</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marion</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>$27,969.00</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newton</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>$19,216.00</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Searcy</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>$22,490.00</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Van Buren</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>$30,299.00</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2031</td>
<td>1874</td>
<td>$217,914.00</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Emergency Assistance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Counties</th>
<th>Received</th>
<th>Approved</th>
<th>$</th>
<th>Pending</th>
<th>Denied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baxter</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>$4,123.73</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boone</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>$5,202.70</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marion</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>$3,172.74</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newton</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>$1,310.54</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Searcy</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>$558.11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Van Buren</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>$1,140.24</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>$15,508.06</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
F. Community Services Block Grant (CSBG):
- 2018 CSBG Discretionary Grant Application was delivered in person to the State June 8, 2018. The grant period will be from July 1, 2018 – August 31, 2019. We requested at total of $27,000 for four projects; Micro-shelters project, Reality Enrichment And Life Lessons, Getting Ahead and technology. **Update:** We have received preliminary award of $9,000; additional details will be shared soon.
- The third quarter agency wide outcome report was submitted to the State July 30, 2018, by the deadline. (After submission OOI received notification that the deadline had been extended to August 10, 2018.)

G. Vehicle Repair Loan Program:
- Current balance is now $5,109.59. Current outstanding funds are $1,238.99.
- $500 maximum loan amount. Loan must be repaid within one year.
- Income eligibility is 200% federal poverty level. From start of program we’ve had 10 individuals receive a loan, three are paid in full; four are in the repayment process; three are delinquent.

H. HOPE Revolving Loan Fund:
*Ozark Opportunities, Inc.* administers an interest-free micro loan program through the Housing Opportunities Partnership Exchange (HOPE 501(c)3) that is intended to assist homeless individuals/families with the upfront costs such as rent deposits, rent payments and/or utility deposits when establishing a home.
- Activity from July 12 through August 12th includes:
  - One client repayment installment was processed, totaling $80.50.
  - Revolving loan account current balance is **$0**; as the last loan has been made until enough payments are made to replenish the account enough to help another family.
- To date (during Calendar Year 2018) ten (10) households comprised of 32 total individuals have been assisted with establishing a home through this micro-loan program.

I. Family Development & Empowerment:
As of July 30, 2018 we have 78 families enrolled SUCCESS. (Baxter: 8; Boone: 48; Marion: 7; Newton: 5, Searcy: 8; Van Buren: 2). We have had four exit from the program due to lack of participation.

Augusts Seminars are over *Renters Rights and Responsibilities*:
- August 9th at 5:30 pm in Mountain Home; Outreach Office, 1318 Bradley Drive, Suite 16.
- August 16th at 5:30 pm in Marshall Outreach Office, 110 Ruff Street.
- August 23th at 5:30 pm in Harrison; Community Services Training Center, 1856 Church Park Drive, Suite B.
- August 25th at 10:00 am in Harrison; Community Services Training Center, 1856 Church Park Drive, Suite B.
September Seminars will be on Energy Conservation for Winter:

- September 4th at 5:30 pm in Harrison; Community Services Training Center, 1856 Church Park Drive, Suite B.
- September 5th at 5:30 pm in Yellville; Outreach Office, 300 W 11th Street.
- September 6th at 5:30 pm in Marshall; Outreach Office, 110 Ruff Street.

All seminars are free and open to the public and advertised on Facebook and OOI website.

✓ Success(!): Jane Smith came to OOI in 2017, searching for assistance in obtaining her residence. With Emergency Solutions Grant (rapid re-housing funds) she was able to move into her own apartment for the first time. She was then enrolled in the SUCCESS Program. Since that time, Jane has been able to furnish her apartment, obtain a car and motorcycle for her transportation needs, and began working with Northwest Arkansas Regional Housing Authority, through the Mutual Self-Help Housing program, to build her own home. OOI is excited to share that she signs the loan papers on August 15th with the building of her home beginning in September!

SUCCESS Annual Banquet is scheduled for Friday, September 21, 2018, 5:30 pm at 1614 Maplewood Road in Harrison (Mary Mother of God Catholic Church). We would LOVE to see our Board members there!

J. Healthy Families Arkansas:

- Healthy Families Arkansas – Ozark Mountains (HFA-Ozark Mountains) is a home visiting program that serves families with young children in Van Buren and Searcy Counties. Families are enrolled during pregnancy or before the child is 3 months old and can choose to remain in the program until the child turns 3 years old. HFA-Ozark Mountains is voluntary, so the families choose to enroll and continue with services.

- This program gives pregnant women and families, particularly those considered high risk, necessary resources and skills to raise children who are healthy and ready to learn. Through home visits, families receive individualized education on health and safety, child development, pregnancy, and parenting topics. The program also holds group meetings, provides connections to local resources, helps families set and work toward goals, and completes child development, domestic violence, and caregiver depression screenings.
HFA- Ozark Mountains aims to:
- Reduce child maltreatment
- Improve parent-child interactions and children’s social-emotional well-being
- Increase school readiness
- Promote child physical health and development
- Promote positive parenting
- Promote family self-sufficiency
- Increase access to primary care medical services and community services
- Decrease child injuries and emergency department use

July Activity:
- Began with new fiduciary agent – Ozark Opportunities, Inc – on July 1, 2018 (previously under Ozark Health, Inc.)
- The program has been in existence since 2007, but did not become funded through Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) grant and affiliated with Healthy Families America until 2012.
- Currently serving 23 families (18 in Van Buren County and 5 in Searcy County) and has the capacity to serve 30 families.
- Recruitment of new families was put on hold prior to and during transition. Recruitment has resumed and more family referrals are being received. The program’s goal is to be at 85% capacity (26 families) by September 30, 2018.
- Received 5 new family referrals from community partners.
- Enrolled 2 new families – 1 in Searcy County and 1 in Van Buren County.
- Completed 35 home visits.
- Conducted outreach with Searcy County School District- Alternative School and High School campuses.
- Checked 3 car seats for proper use and installation.

K. Community Engagement & Staff Development:
- Community Services leadership staff are continuing to work on a Best Practices Manual for all programs implemented within the Community Services Department.
- Comprehensive Community Assessment – The Core Group will continue to meet regularly until the February 2019 public hearing is held. This group is tasked with ensuring standards are met while proceeding through the comprehensive assessment process in preparation for program years 2020/2021.
- Crystal Rogers is now enrolled in Nationally Certified ROMA Implementer (“NCRI”) course, and will be completing the course over the next several months.
IV. Corporate Services (& Human Resources)

Jane Bueg, Chief Operating Officer

July 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hires</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Community Services</th>
<th>Administration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All Departures</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Community Services</th>
<th>Administration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other/Training

GoogleApps In-Kind report: $295.00 (Head Start) $165.00 (Early Head Start) $50.00 (ABC)

Contractor List Update

Leave Without Pay – payroll adjustments & final payroll: 8

COBRA notification: 1

Discontinue Benefits: 2

HS & EHS PIR

Unemployment Claims: 12

Income/Employment Verification – 2

Termination: 2

Background checks: 12

Dept. of Labor Survey for July (Van Buren County statistics)

Technology: HS & ABC classroom laptops – 21

Sex Offender Search: all staff on both Arkansas and National databases

Employment Status Change: 1

New e-mail account set up: 10

North Arkansas Human Resource Association meeting: 1

Tech Talk

CSBG 3rd Quarter Report

Training: Social Style and Emotional Quotient

New Employee Orientation: 10 new staff