

**Ministry of Home Affairs, Transportation
and Communication**

**Department of Social Development and
Welfare**



**SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN REVIEW 2022
dated March 2023**

THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE
YEAR 2022 IN REVIEW

OVERVIEW

This report captures and highlights some of the tremendous work and activities that the Department has accomplished during the calendar year 2022. The Department had four (4) Key Performance Strategies to achieve this year which we did. The Department comprises of 37 established staff and 2 Waged staff.

Executive Managerial	2
Client Intake Officers	2
Senior Social Workers	3
Social Workers	13
1 Psychiatric Social Worker	1
1 Asst Social Worker	1
Administrative Support	4

Safe House Team

Managers	2
Caregivers	5
Wardens	3
Security	2
Driver/Cleaner	1 (not in place)

MANAGERS MEETING

Managers meetings are held regularly, ideally on a monthly basis. Senior Social Workers from around the islands meet in Provo with the HOD's to deliberate on matters concerning the operations of the Department. General Staff meetings are held quarterly. In 2022, Managers meetings were held six (6) times as follows:

March 21, 2022

June 1, 2022

September 7, 2022

October 12, 2022

December 7, 2022

PROGRAMME AND PERFORMANCE BUDGET 2022-2023:

- **Let's get social** - 4-5 radio shows with host Leo Lightbourne and Senior Managers of Social Development on everything Social Development. (list topics covered)
- **Parenting sessions** in Provo and Grand Turk facilitated by resource persons and team members
- **Mind, Body and Soul programme** for the elderly: trained Caregivers on South Caicos, Provo, North and Middle Caicos on caring for elderly home help clients. Grand Turk hosted Spa and pampering Day and adopt an elderly person
- **Permanency policy** – reunification or adoption of children in care

We will go in depth about them later in the report.

FINANCIAL BENEFIT APPLICATIONS 2022

Throughout the year, applicants apply for financial support through one of our programmes. The most popular programmes are listed below. This is one of our main mandates and services we provide to the community. We also offer burial assistance to clients who die that were on our programme as well as non-clients.

SEE A COMPARISON FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER FOR 2021 AND December 2022
FINANCIAL BENEFITS

LIST OF FINANCIAL PROGRAMME	NUMBER OF PERSONS In December 2021	LIST OF FINANCIAL PROGRAMME	NUMBER OF PERSONS In December 2022
Social Enhancement Aid (S.E.A)	144	Social Enhancement Aid (S.E.A)	212
Home Help	146	Home Help	169
Foster care	29	Foster care	34
Mentally challenged	3	Mentally challenged	3
Meals	2	Meals	2
Rent subsidized	16	Rent subsidized	12

IN HOUSE TRAINING

The Dept. host internal training, continuous education sessions on a regular basis for our team on areas to help build their capacity and strengthen their skillset. The Department facilitated a number of in house training sessions for our team members' in 2022.



BE KIND TO YOUR MIND

Be Kind to your Mind initiative came about as a result of the need to provide support and self-care to our team members. We organize activities for the 3rd Friday each month for our team to unwind and be kind to their emotional and mental health.

MENTOR ME PROGRAMME

The Department launched a mentorship programme called "Mentor Me" in three schools across the TCI with the support of the Criminal Justice Stakeholders' Group. The mentorship programme has been rolled out in the Enid Capron Primary School, the Louise Garland Thomas (Long Bay) High School and the HJ Robinson High School.

The schedule below shows the sessions that were held in 2022.

ENID CAPRON

- 1/ Magistrate Selver Gardiner
- 2/ Chief Magistrate Hatmin
- 3/ DPP & Simons J (at the same time time)
- 4/ Hon Rachel Taylor

***LONG BAY HIGH SCHOOL ***

- 1/ Smith KC
- 2/ Hon Rachel Taylor
- 3/ Selvyn Hawkins

***H.J. ROBINSON HIGH SCHOOL ***

- 1/ Deputy DPP Angela Brooks
- 2/ Principal Crown Counsel Handfield Gardiner
- 3/ Senior Crown Counsel Libby Charlton de Rotte
- 4/ Resident Magistrate Keri-Ann Kemble

ADOPTION COMMITTEE

The Department is mandated by the Adoptions Ordinance 2020 which states that an Adoption Committee is required to deliberate on adoption applications reviewed by the Department and make decisions to ensure transparency and legitimacy of applicant and more importantly to safeguard our children from abuse and exploitation. The following Adoption Committee Meetings were held in 2022:

11 March 2022

7 July 2022

26 October 2022 Extraordinary meeting

5 December 2022

There were six (6) adoption orders granted by Court in 2022. They are as follows:

Case #20	adoption granted	7 July 2022
Case #35	adoption granted	11 August 2022
Case # 42	adoption granted	11 August 2022
Case # 44	adoption granted	8 November 2022
Case # 45	adoption granted	29 November 2022
Case # 46	adoption granted	8 November 2022

TCI CHILD SAFEGUARDING BOARD

The TCI Child Safeguarding Board is responsible for ensuring that all children in the TCI are safeguarded, that the laws are upheld, to implement training and reviews of serious cases as necessary. The board met four (4) times during the year 2022.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2022

February 2022: **Reopened Safe House, formerly known as Juvenile Center – Grand Turk.** The purpose and scope of the Safe House is to provide care and protection children who have been removed from their family homes for the reasons listed above and are legally placed in the Department’s care. The Safe House is set up with a warm, homely feeling and each section of the House is designed and decorated to help make the living experience worthwhile and enjoyable. Five girls wards when it reopened.

March 31 2022: **Social Work Month**

The entire team from our four locations all met together in Providenciales for a weekend mix and mingle retreat.

The activities are as follows:

Friday 25 March: Health and Wellness session in the form of Yoga and fitness.

Saturday 26 March: Team building fun day on North Caicos

Sunday 27 March: Sunset cruise. We went to church on our various Islands throughout this month as a team.

Career Day: On the 10 March 2022 we participated in **Career Day** at Ona Ginton Primary School

The Lady in Me – Vision Board Workshop South Caicos

The programme reached 21 female students from forms 1 and 2 at the Marjorie Basden High school and sought to create a space where these young ladies can interact with, learn from the experience of older women and be inspired and empowered to greatness.

April 2022: April – Child Abuse Prevention activities – The Department hosted an Art Competition at the Ethel Ingham Conference Room, Provo where several Primary and Secondary schools participated. Around the islands, Pray Visual were held.

The Lady in Me Workshop on Provo hosted by the MASH team. Ten to 15 girls were in attendance. Inspirational speakers were on the agenda along with other positive activities.

May 2022: **Career Day at Secondary Schools.** The department had a booth of pamphlets, brochures, handouts of our role, duties and how to become Social Worker.

Louise Garland Thomas High

Helena J Robinson High

June 2022: **Talk Show “Let’s Get Social”**

Let’s get social - 4-5 radio shows with host Leo Lightbourne and Senior Managers of Social Development on everything Social Development. Below are the list of topics covered on Radio Turks and Caicos along with the lead Managers.

Social Protection (Financial Benefits) - Director Tiffany Thomas-Browne

Child Protection Safeguarding - SSW Kelvina Capron

Adoption and Psychiatric Services - SSW Danieque Beckford & Praveen Chassang, Psychiatric Social Worker

Foster Care Programme - SSW Vinnette Beckford

August 2022: PSA on Summer Safety Tips. UNICEF Supported initiative where four (4) videos and two flyers were completed to sensitize parents on child safeguarding during the summer break while children are at home.

September 2022: **Foster Care Appreciation Banquet**

The Ministry of Home Affairs, Transportation and Communications/ Department of Social Development and Welfare hosted an appreciation banquet at Beaches Resort Turks and Caicos Providenciales, in honor of our 20 foster care parents in Provo, this past Saturday 10 September 2022 under the theme "A night with the stars."

This banquet was organized to show appreciation and love to the unsung heroes of the Turks and Caicos Islands who generously partner with Social Development in safeguarding children who are in need of care and protection.

October 2022: **Mind, Body and Soul Programme for the Elderly, Key Performance indicator.** Thirty-four (34) Caregivers received a full day of intensive

training, and certificates were presented to all Caregivers. The Department intends to facilitate follow up and additional sessions to ensure that all Caregivers/Home Helpers receive the quality training which would help to improve and strengthen their capacity in working effectively with the elderly, many of whom are bed ridden, incapacitated, old age, disabled, mentally challenged and overall vulnerable population.

The following topic areas were covered by the presenters:

The Role and Responsibilities of Caregivers -

Director of Social Development – Tiffany Thomas-Browne

Diet and Nutrition:

Nutritionists - Lakeisha Gardiner-Wilson, TCIG

Maintaining a Clean Safe and Healthy Environment:

Nurse Manager – Jolly Kurien (TCI Hospital)

Basic First Aid:

CEO of the TCI Hospitals - Dr. Denise Braithwaite Tennant, TCI Hospitals

Knowing the signs of elderly abuse:

Social Workers (Brianna Forbes & Raquel Remy), TCIG

Self-Care for Caregivers:

Social Worker (Jenna Waite) and Deputy Director – Ashley Adams-Forbes, TCIG

12 October

In South Caicos - Training sessions were conducted for Caregivers/ Home helpers on caring for the elderly people they work with. Dr Barnes, Nurse Bascombe and Nurse Pierre all shared with the caregivers on proper nutrition and how they should interact with their clients. Fourteen (14) Caregivers were trained.

21 October 2022

In Grand Turk - Social Development partnered with Special Needs Unit to host a **Spa & Pampering day**, where our Social Workers did personal grooming to the elderly persons at the Wellness Center by combing their hair, provided manicures and tokens

29 October 2022

In Providenciales - Caregiver training session were held on caring for their clients (turning, preventing bed sores, medication management, personal grooming etc). A total of 20 Caregivers were projected to be trained. Ten in total were present.

11 November 2022

In North and Middle Caicos. Caregivers were trained by the team above and a Creole/French interpreter was present to translate in their native language. Ten Caregivers were trained in North and Middle Caicos.

Rap sessions at Clement Howell High conducted by our Social Workers and Probation Officers

You Matter Mentorship Programme at Clement Howell High, the Department partnered with Clement Howell High Guidance Counsellors re their You Matter Mentorship program. Their target group is from 15 to 18 years old (boys & girls). There are 16 mentees in total ranging from high to moderate risk (4th formers). The Boys groups is called One to One The Girls is called Heart to Heart.

Mentorship sessions were held at Louise Garland Thomas High facilitated by SW Andy Missick who worked with young boys once a week for two hours to help them address maladaptive behaviors and help to inspire them to become better individuals.

November 2022:

Universal Children's Day 20 November 2022

"A Better Future for Every Child", with a focus on the four umbrella principles of the convention on the rights of the child:

where teachers are expected to interchange their roles by dressing 'kiddie like/ playful/ whimsical, and hosting a free entertaining, hilarious, upbeat, colourful concert with 'out of this mind performances' by teachers and staff for their students.

- 1. Non-Discrimination***
- 2. Best Interest of the Child***
- 3. Right to life, survival & development and***
- 4. Respect for the Views of Children.***

December 2022:

1 December we participated in the **4th annual Health Expo** "Equalize Not All D's Are Visible, hosted by the Special Needs Unit

Christmas Treat for Foster Care Children

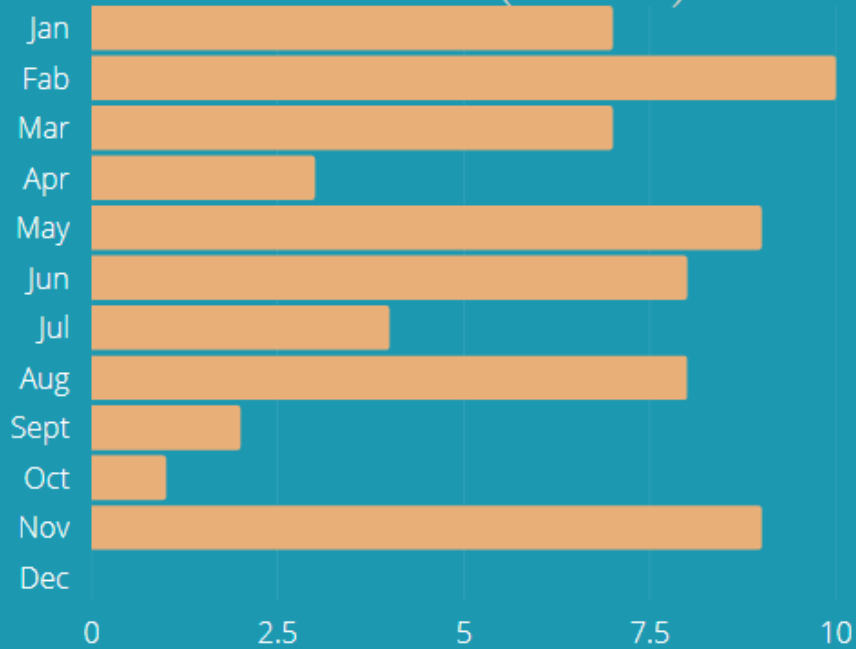
The Department purchased Christmas gifts for all our children on our foster care programme.

Ritz Carlton Hotel hosted a **Thanksgiving Dinner** for children in Foster Care on Provo along with their foster care parents.

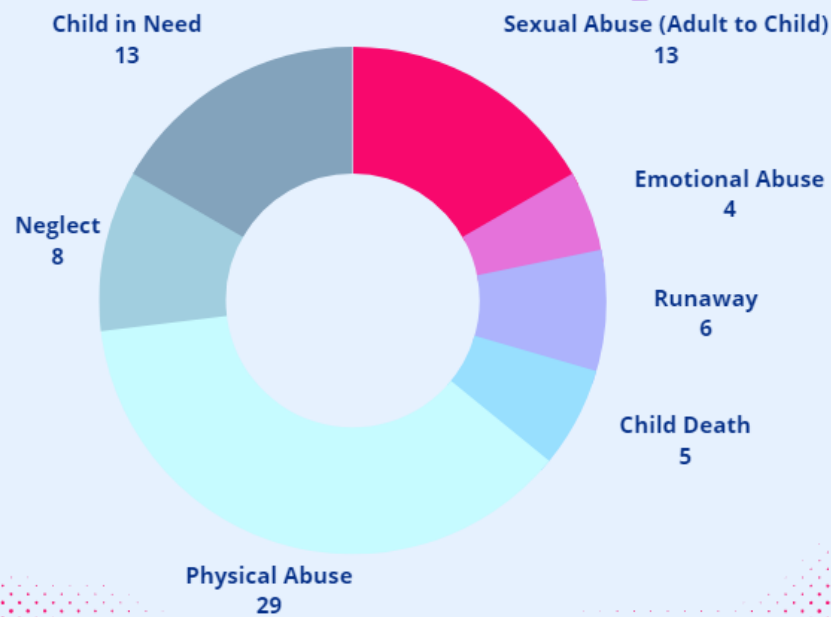
THE MULTI AGENCY SAFEGUARDING HUB

The Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub receives matter of child abuse and neglect by way of referrals utilizing our referral form. See below the child abuse matters that came into the MASH for 2022. The highest form of abuse received by 2022 by MASH was sexual abuse (adult to child) and Child in Need with 13 matters received in 2022 through the MASH. No of children came to the attention of MASH for various forms of child abuse was 68.

Number of Reported Cases of Child Abuse 2022 (MASH)



Types of Abuse Reported



Month 2022	No of abuse reported
January	7
February	10
March	7
April	3
May	9
June	8
July	4
August	8
September	2
October	1
November	9
December	9

Type of abuse	No. for year 2022
Sexual abuse (adult to child)	13
Emotional abuse	4
Runaway	6
Child Death	5
Physical abuse	29
Neglect	8
Child in Need	13

SAFE HOUSE/ JUVENILE CENTRE

The Safe House for children in need of care and protection on the Old Airport Road, Grand Turk reopened in February 2022. We were previously renting a house from a private owner for about one year. We decided to utilize the building designated for this purpose by conducting minor renovations, fixtures, design and decorate for five girls. This was a great success. Special thank you to the Admin support team along with social workers who made it possible and come together. The House Manager and Assistant House Managers were hired in 2022 which helped to provide greater oversight of the operations of the home. Training sessions were held with the team, they hosted a Fun Day and Island Tour for the wards as well as the girls from the home participated in many activities including Adopt a Grandparent initiative. The wards academic achievements have been highlighted and celebrated. The home launched their quarterly Newsletter in November 2022.

THANK YOU

Special thank you to team Dept. of Social Development for your hard work, commitment and determination throughout the year 2022. We are here to support you and we look forward to a productive and progressive new year.