Analysis of Substantiated Misappropriation 2010

Misappropriation means depriving, defrauding, or otherwise obtaining the real or personal property of an individual by any means prohibited by the Ohio Revised Code, including Chapters 2911. and 2913 of the Revised Code.

There were a total of 932 cases substantiated in 2010. The chart below reflects the reporting and substantiation over a three year period.

	Number of Allegation	**Number Substantiated**
2010	1,331	932
2009	1,298	800
2008	1,170	751
2007	1,259	706

The percentage of cases substantiated was 70 percent which was increased from previous years by over 8%.

The categories for these responsible for misappropriation are broken out below:

	2010	**2009**	**2008**	**2007**
Staff	23%	25%	27%	29%
Family	4%	7%	7%	5%
Others	11%	15%	12%	12%
Unknown	50%	39%	42%	42%
Peer	11%	11%	7%	8%

Improvements have been noted with regard to employee as the PPI in misappropriation cases. Overall, statewide misappropriation allegations have increased yet employee as the PPI's have decreased by nearly 6% since 2007.

Law Enforcement was notified in all appropriate instances and conducted a formal investigation 42% of the time. They took a report for all of the remaining cases.

Items Misappropriated in 56% of the substantiated cases the item stolen was money. 30% of the cases involved property and 7% medication theft. Identity, credit/debt cards, and utilities represented about 2% each of the items stolen.

Location of Misappropriation 80% of the substantiated incidents occurred in the individual's home, 10% occurred while out in the community, and 6% occurred at work. This data is fairly consistent with the 2009 data.

Living Arrangement 59% of the individuals who had property or money stolen resided in their own home on a waiver 13% living in a licensed facility; and 27% living on their own with no waiver.

While there were numerous causes behind the misappropriations, a number of common threads occurred.

1. Frequent situations occurred when people the individuals trusted or relied upon made significant withdrawals from the individual's account. These situations involved family members representative payee managers and support staff.
2. Staff and family members with access to the individual's credit cards, bank cards, ran up large bills to purchase items or phone services.
3. Home managers with access to individual's accounts and no oversight stole larger sums of money in 2010. (One case over 60,000 stolen)
4. The home was broken into, and money and items were stolen. On a number of occasions the house was not locked for staffing convenience.
5. Gift cards were purchased for the individuals but came up missing or were taken by staff.
6. Identity theft has occurred when personal, private information is shared.
7. Burial accounts that were opened and money was supposed to be deposited but wasn't.
8. Social networking has increased and opportunities to be taken advantage on the web have also increased.

The primary cause in many situations is that there was no regular oversight of persons whose job it was to manage the individual's funds. Primary Persons Involved (PPI's), over time, were able to take larger sums of money because they were trusted and no one else was monitoring the funds.

Another major cause was the accounting systems in place. A number of receipts weren't tracked for specific purchases and long periods of time had passed before documenting expenses. Accounting of expenditures was poor and in some cases nonexistent. Delays of this nature make it almost impossible to determine how and when money was spent and allow the PPI to become comfortable in taking the money.

Prevention

1. DODD will incorporate this analysis into the 2011 training programs.
2. Trends and Patterns will be noted through the ITS system.
3. Data Analysis from the Annual Report will be placed on the department website.
4. Committee recommendations will be shared in 2011 via a Misappropriation health and safety alert.