



ANNUAL REPORT



## SERVICES OFFERED TO CHILDREN

Children Services offers a full slate of child welfare services for the families and children of Trumbull County. These services are listed below with the number of persons served in 2017.

### Children Services

Provided services to 4,580 children in 2,306 families.

### Intake/Assessment Department

Assessed and provided services to 1,795 referrals of child maltreatment (i.e., abuse, neglect, dependency, other) concerning 3,978 children.

### Sexual Abuse and Investigation Unit

Conducted 210 investigations of serious sexual abuse, physical abuse, neglect and dependency allegations concerning 482 children.

### Ongoing In-Home Protective Services

Provided to 362 children.

### Children's Center

Serviced 40 children; 6,780 days of care in the Children's Center.

### Secure Care Unit for Children

Served 20 children for 2,672 days of care.

### Therapeutic Paid Placements

59 children received 10,670 days of care in therapeutic foster care and other residential settings.

### Foster Care / Out-of-Home Care

181 children were cared for in Agency foster homes for a total of 24,517 days of care; a monthly average of 62 children were served. The Agency had 81 licensed foster homes during 2017.

### Adoption Services

32 children were placed and 37 adoptions were finalized.

### Family Support Services

Provided to 103 families.

### Independent Living Initiatives

64 children were prepared for emancipation from agency care and assisted after emancipation.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Trumbull County Children Services actively participates in several community programs that support children, such as the Family & Children First Council, the Child Assault Prosecution Team, the Child Fatality Review Board, the Child Advocacy Center, Trumbull County Juvenile Court and the County Job and Family Services Agency.

## 2017 HIGHLIGHTS



Cultural Diversity Committee Plans  
Cinco De Mayo Celebration



Rising Up & Moving On Speaker  
Bonnie Wilson



Support from MRDD



Warren G. Harding Choir  
performs at Pinwheels Event

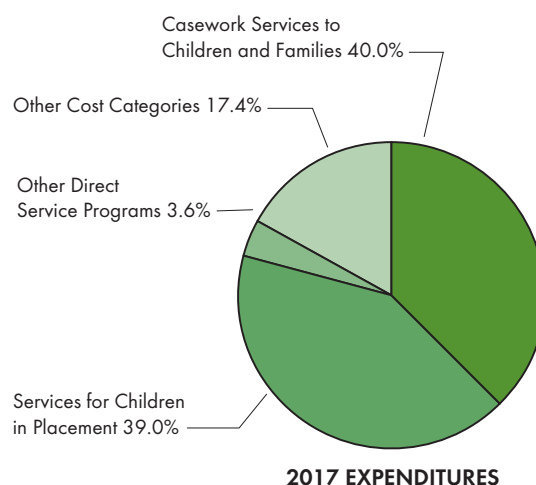
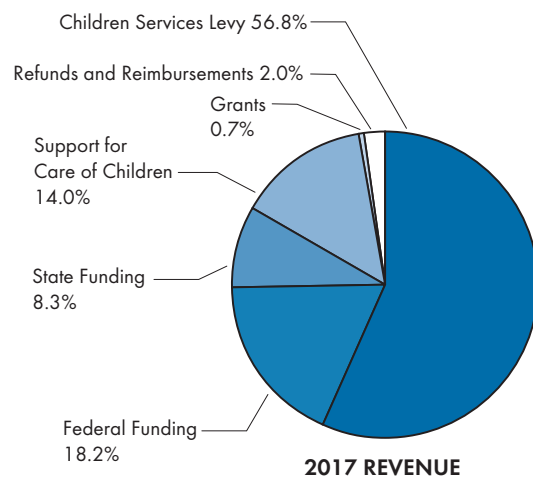


"George" the horse visits our children  
at the Fall Festival

## STRENGTH-BASED AND FAMILY CENTERED SERVICES

Children Services offers programs which strengthen and maintain family life. We identify positive attributes that have worked successfully for families in the past, and we build on these strengths so that families can solve their problems and grow stronger. Programs are developed which provide support for families and help children find permanency in their birth homes, relative homes or adoptive homes.

- **Family Unity Meetings:** An agency facilitator partners with the family in a community support team that strengthens the family and provides for the safety and well-being of the children.
- **Family-To-Family Team Meetings:** Family connections are made between foster parents and birth parents to support the children in care. The Family-To-Family relationship provides a foundation that continues long after the child returns home.
- **Family Dependency Treatment Court (FDTC):** Family Court, Children Services, the Mental Health & Recovery Board, and other child advocates and treatment providers collaborate to assist parent(s) in achieving sobriety, receiving appropriate drug & alcohol treatment and making positive changes in their lives and the lives of their child(ren). Many families involved in this program have achieved sobriety and reunification.
- **Ohio's Differential Response System:** Trumbull County Children Services is leading the state in sustaining Differential Response (DR). DR allows our staff the ability to offer either a traditional response or an alternative response to accepted reports of child maltreatment. The Agency develops a variety of family-centered practices that best serve the needs of families and children. Alternative Response focuses on working with families to identify strengths and build in safety networks that ensure child safety.
- **Residential Services:** The Agency partners with Valley Counseling, Homes for Kids, Belmont Pines and Valley Home Health Care to provide therapeutic, trauma based services for children who require residential treatment for emotional problems. Trumbull County is fortunate to have community-based residential treatment services offered by the Children's Center and the Secure Care for Children Unit. Without locally-based residential treatment, children would have to receive help from other institutions, miles from their home.
- **Wendy's Wonderful Kids (WWK) Recruitment Program:** The Agency's WWK Recruitment Program is graciously being funded by the Dave Thomas Foundation. These funds have allowed the Agency to hire a fulltime WWK Recruiter. The Agency's WWK Recruiter focuses exclusively on removing obstacles to permanency and finding adoptive homes for the Agency's hardest to place children.
- **Permanency Roundtables:** All children and youth deserve permanency and permanent connections. Toward that goal, Permanency Roundtables (PRTs) are structured case consultations focused on the goals of expediting legal permanency for the child, stimulating thinking and learning about ways to accelerate permanency, and identifying and addressing systemic barriers to timely permanency. The values guiding PRTs include youth empowerment, the relentless persistency of permanency, sound prep for adulthood, a supportive team environment and the development of strategies that increase hope.



Santa makes a special stop to visit our children



## Standing in the Gap

As the number of children entering our system has increased due to the opiate crisis, we noticed some disturbing trends. We've done our best to share the numbers in general. We know that Ohio is on the front lines in this opiate crisis and that Trumbull County has one of the highest rates of accidental overdose deaths. We know that annually, over 50% of the children taken into custody in Ohio were exposed to parental drug use. Even though more relatives are caring for these children (a 62% increase), the number of children in care has also increased at an alarming rate of 11% over last year. Youth in agency custody will surpass 20,000 in Ohio by 2020 compared to the 12,654 in care in 2013. Their stay in care is longer and the cost of this care has increased by 17%.



Timothy Schaffner

These are startling statistics but what is behind the numbers and is there more to the story? For instance, we know that recovering from addiction is a challenging process, that relapse is part of the disease and that recovery efforts might look different for the person addicted to opiates. According to the literature and our friends at the Centers for Innovative Practice at Case Western Reserve University, opiate addiction differs from alcohol and other drug addiction in terms of the following:

- the more rapid onset of addiction after exposure to the opiate
- the more rapid increase of tolerance and increasing amounts needed
- the incapacitating nature of withdrawal symptoms
- the increasing economic demands of the addiction
- the exposure to danger in obtaining and using these substances
- and the immediate incapacitation experienced after use.

We know that the impact of these realities which are unique to opiate addiction affect the developing child differently than other addictive processes. The ability of a parent to attune and attend to his or her child is severely impacted by this rapid onset illness. Development of attachment is therefore impacted, resulting in youth with a range of behaviors and challenges that may result in a need to place them in a higher, more restrictive level of care and a longer length of time in out-of-home care.

So how do we help these families and what more can we do for the children impacted by this disease? Enter our community of care and the lynchpin, the foster family!

"We are part of the process, to bridge that gap. There's a gap and somebody needs to stand in it and we've got to be those people for that time." Keith, a foster father, said it so well. It's the foster family who steps in when the parents can no longer care for their children due to the ravages of this illness. When there is no extended family available to take the child in, the foster family is there. It's the loving family setting that can continue to repair and restore the child, attending and attuning to his or her needs. It's the foster family who can provide structure, safety and stability so that the child can begin to heal and respond to the care of loving adults. It's the foster family who stands in the gap while the parent begins the recovery process to restore his or her ability to be a loving parent. As our foster mother Jackie has so eloquently stated, "If the people who really love children, who want to keep them safe don't foster, who is going to be the one doing it?" We need more loving people like Keith and Jackie to help our children through this crisis. In the words of Rabbi Hillel,

**"If not us, who? If not now, when?"**

## 2017 Revenue

Revenue Sources:

<b>Children Services Levy</b> .....	9,094,163
<b>Federal Reimbursement</b>	
• Title IV-E .....	2,669,760
• Title IV-B .....	139,960
• Medicaid .....	5,036
• Emergency Services Assistance .....	94,220
• Caseworker Visits .....	9,144
Total Federal Funding .....	2,918,120
<b>State Reimbursement</b>	
• Child Welfare Subsidy (SCPA) .....	1,073,665
• State Adoption Incentive .....	36,420
• Post Finalization Adoption Subsidy .....	65,311
• Non-Recurring Adoption Subsidy .....	20,857
• State Match Funding .....	37,663
• Foster Parent Training .....	11,180
• Kinship Permanency Incentive .....	92,775
Total State Funding .....	1,337,871
<b>Support for the Care of Children</b>	
• Foster Care and Paid Placements .....	1,125,419
• Residential and Group Care .....	1,013,581
• Independent Living .....	105,621
Total Support for the Care of Children .....	2,244,621
<b>Grants</b> .....	104,500
<b>Refunds and Reimbursements</b> .....	322,678
<b>TOTAL 2017 REVENUE</b> .....	\$16,021,953

## 2017 Expenditures

Service Categories:

### Casework Services to Children and Families

• Intake and Assessments .....	1,605,830
• Investigations .....	371,611
• In Home Services .....	836,554
• Substitute Care Services .....	1,462,087
• Resources and Permanency Planning .....	1,604,342
• Family Support Team .....	150,782
• After Hours Emergency Team .....	98,252
• Family Unity Meetings .....	131,865
Subtotal .....	6,261,323

### Services for Children in Placement

• Children's Center .....	1,960,824
• Foster Care and Adoption Subsidy Payments .....	1,259,863
• Secure Care .....	750,914
• Paid Placements .....	1,449,989
• Transportation Services .....	385,274
• Independent Living Initiatives .....	217,313
• Foster Child Daycare .....	88,804
Subtotal .....	6,112,981

### Other Direct Service Programs

• Child Assault Prosecution Funding .....	304,772
• Runaway and Homeless Youth Funding .....	2,916
• Family Emergency Support .....	165,403
• Kinship Permanency Incentive .....	80,325
• Family Dependency Treatment Court .....	8,627
Subtotal .....	562,043

### Other Cost Categories

• Maintenance and Custodians .....	353,878
• Human Resources and Administration Costs .....	729,016
• Fiscal, Quality Assurance and Support .....	936,060
• Legal Services .....	463,855
• Staff Training and Education .....	165,822
• Community Education .....	18,027
• Grant Initiatives .....	68,465
Subtotal .....	2,735,123

**TOTAL 2017 OPERATING EXPENSES** .....

\$15,671,470





Adoption Day Celebration at the Trumbull County Courthouse



Ms. Nicolette Darkangelo  
President



Mrs. Alik Raphtis  
Vice-President



Ms. Loree Richardson  
Secretary



Atty. Thomas Carey



Mr. Kevin Gavitt



Sister Jean Orsuto



Mr. Luther Stubbs

## TRUMBULL COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES

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Trumbull County Children Services is accredited by the Council on Accreditation and is a member agency of the Child Welfare League of America. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Speakers are available to address community groups. Call for information.

