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Honorable Wayne County Commissioners  
Jim Carmichael, Ann Obrecht, Scott Wiggam

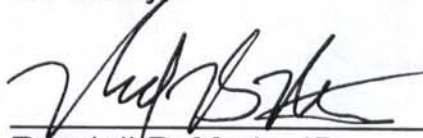
Honorable Judge Ray E. Leisy  
Juvenile and Probate Division of Common Pleas

Honorable Douglas E. Lumpkin, Director  
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Honorable Citizens of Wayne County

We are pleased to provide you, in compliance with Ohio law, our annual report for 2009.

Sincerely



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Randall B. Muth, JD  
Executive Director  
Wayne County Children Services Board

Board Approved: 03/16/10

Dear Community Members:

The mission of the Wayne County Children Services Board is, of course, to protect children and strengthen families. To accomplish this mission, we must constantly strive to develop and implement the most effective, evidenced based strategies to provide children with safe, nurturing and permanent families. But, we must also preserve our fiscal resources to ensure that we are never precluded from applying those same strategies due to financial constraints. I am extremely gratified to report to you that calendar year 2009 was a very successful year for the Wayne County Children Services Board in both respects. We realized great improvements in the quality of services we provided as well as historic fiscal savings.

We saw improvements in our screening techniques which has resulted in less investigations. Approximately two years ago, the state, for the first time, published screening guidelines. These guidelines were based on the most recent research and were designed, in part, to assist county child welfare agencies in discriminating between which reports would likely warrant children services involvement as opposed to those which should be referred to other agencies or simply screened out. The hope was that by utilizing these guidelines, agencies would become more efficient in the initial phases and reduce the number of investigations which don't reveal an ongoing need for services.

In 2009, we received 350 more calls to our report line than we did in 2008. However, we screened in 140 less calls. We doubled the number of calls which we referred to other agencies who were more appropriate to provide the services needed by the caller. Effective guidelines, however, are merely a tool – results can not be achieved without skilled, committed individuals to employ that tool. We are fortunate to have an effective and experienced screening department here at Wayne County Children Services. Through their efforts, we have become much more efficient in this area. By safely reducing the number of calls accepted for investigation, we have conserved resources and reduced unnecessary governmental intrusion into the privacy of Wayne County citizens.

We have amplified our efforts to engage families on a voluntary basis. By securing the agreement of individual families to work with us voluntarily, we have lessened the need to seek court orders compelling families to participate in case planning services. In 2009, we were able to reduce our court filings by 40%. This is significant because families who work voluntarily are more likely to make real and substantial change in their parenting. Also, less court filing reduces the burden we place on the prosecutor's office and the juvenile court. This, of course, allows those entities to devote more of their valuable resources to other stakeholders.

We have also reduced the burden we place on the tax payers. We began 2009 with the equivalent of 66 full-time employees. We ended the year with the equivalent of 63 full-time employees. We anticipate that operating with three less employees will save the county between \$130,000 and \$150,000 in salaries, medical benefits, retirement and other costs. Despite having three less employees, our case loads remain below recommended levels. We have accomplished this by implementing cutting edge techniques that have

resulted in a reduction in the time it takes to remedy the problems that led to our involvement with family or, when the problems can not be remedied, achieving a permanent placement for children.

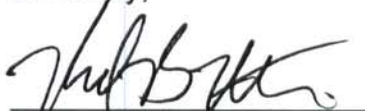
Fiscally, 2009 was a good year for us. We spent about \$290,000 less than we budgeted, and we received approximately \$275,000 more in revenue than we anticipated. When all the dust settled, we added over \$230,000 to our reserves during the year. In 2009, we set a plan in motion to return these savings to the tax payer by reducing the total millage of our levies.

Currently, the agency is supported by two property tax levies. One of those, a 0.6 mill, ten year levy was due to expire at the end of 2010. The law allowed us to seek a replacement or a renewal of this levy in November of 2009. Much discussion and planning went into the analysis of our anticipated fiscal needs in the short and long term. The historical performance of that levy tells us that a renewal of our current 0.6 mill levy would generate approximately \$907,000 each year from 2011 through 2020. However, our study of our current needs and the effect of the efficiencies we have experienced over the past three years revealed that we required less money to continue to provide the same level of service which we have historically provided. Therefore, the Board felt it was appropriate to replace that 0.6 mill, ten year levy with a new lower 0.2 mill, five year levy and return the savings to the community. We estimate that this new levy will generate almost \$400,000 per year less than a renewal of the original levy would have otherwise generated.

We have continued our recognition of the benefits associated with safe, appropriate relative placement, and have dedicated one social worker to do nothing but facilitate these types of placements. We have seen great results. The statistic we use to measure our success in this area is comparing relative bed days to foster care bed days. Over the past year, we have seen an increase of around ten percent in favor of relative care. At any given time, approximately 46% of our traditional out of home placements are with relatives. That translates into a savings of almost \$102,000 to the County.

I am firmly convinced that child protection truly takes a community. So, as you read this, please take a moment to reflect on how you may help build a community where all children can thrive, develop character, and learn to be responsible citizens in an environment of security and love. By honoring our obligation to support and protect our young people, we all have an opportunity to make a positive difference in the life of a child and build a brighter future for our community. I encourage all citizens of Wayne County to recognize that child abuse prevention starts with each one of us.

Sincerely,



Randall B. Muth  
Executive Director

## **Children Services Mission Statement**

**In partnership with the community, Children Services of Wayne County protects children at risk of abuse or neglect and strengthens, preserves and empowers families. Through evaluation of that risk, we identify and coordinate community services. We work in collaboration with others to provide these children with safe, nurturing and permanent families, whether their own or another. We seek to enhance community awareness by educating the public.**

### **2009 Members of the Wayne County Children Services Board**

Melody Snure, Chairperson  
Pamela J. Domer  
James R. Jones  
Mark J. Stefanik

Vicky Puster, Vice-Chairperson  
Diane Jarrett  
Dr. Shellie Russell

### **2009 Members of the Wayne County Children Services Advisory Board**

Catherine Baker  
Tod Carmony  
Jim McAllister  
Donald Noble II  
Alicia Wallace

Marlene Barkheimer  
Harold "Hal" Fulton  
Ted Moore  
Daniel Plumly  
Jim Whittlesey

Dr. David Burke  
Dr. Amy Jolliff  
Deb Mosier  
Kevin Trent

## **Child Abuse and Neglect.....Investigation and Emergency Service**

The investigation phase of every allegation of child abuse or neglect is the most critical. It is a fact-finding process which often determines whether child abuse or neglect actually occurred or if other problems exist. The investigation can begin almost as soon as a complaint is received if it is of a life threatening nature and may take from two weeks to 45 days to complete. Intake investigators may work closely with area law enforcement officials if a crime is committed as each completes their own separate reports. When children's lives are endangered through abuse or neglect, they are occasionally removed from their parents' care for their own safety. This is done through the powers of a law enforcement officer or by a court order. Children Services caseworkers have no authority of their own to take custody of children. If possible, attempts will be made to have the child placed with safe family members. If this cannot be arranged, the child is usually placed into a family foster home.

In 2009, caseworkers investigated a total of 1,230 complaints of alleged child abuse, neglect or dependency. Of these 1,230 referrals,

8	were emancipated youth
115	were emotional maltreatment
547	were neglect complaints
294	were physical abuse complaints
146	were sexual abuse complaints
35	were courtesy interviews
46	were dependency
<u>38</u>	were family in need of service
1,230	

These referrals vary from mild forms of neglect and abuse to cases of serious injury or even death. Some of the involved children were placed outside of the home temporarily, others permanently. Criminal charges were filed by the County Prosecutor in a few cases, particularly those involving serious physical or sexual abuse. Caseworkers are often subpoenaed to testify in these proceedings.

Children Services responds to emergency child abuse and neglect reports 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Supervisory and casework personnel rotate being on-call and carry pagers to respond to emergencies whenever they happen. Referrals made after hours are answered first by the Justice Center.

Children Services staff continues to take seriously the role of informing the public on the seriousness of child abuse and neglect. For further information on speaking engagements or to request a speaker call Children Services at (330) 345-5340 during business hours, Monday through Friday.

Many professionals are required by law (ORC 2151.421) to report suspected child abuse and neglect. The chart below shows referrals made by professionals mandated

to report as compared to others not mandated to report. Whenever possible Children Services attempts to have the reporter identify themselves and to have the person who witnessed the incident make the report. We are extremely sensitive to the possibility that our agency can be misused as a means of harassment in custody and divorce proceedings. We prefer not to get involved in these types of situations, but must accept the report if there are specific allegations of child abuse or neglect. Ohio law does allow a civil action to be filed in court against persons who failed to make a child abuse report in "good faith." Ohio law does require that all reports of child abuse and neglect and their investigation by Children Services be confidential. These are not public records. ORC 2151.42.1(H)(1)

Children Services makes available a Complaint Review Procedure which affords a person with a complaint or grievance a step by step procedure to have their concern reviewed. Our goal is to treat all persons with respect and to clearly explain the role of Children Services as required by Ohio law.

**Sources of Reports Actually Investigated**

<b>Professionals Mandated to Report</b>	<b>2008 Reports</b>	<b>2009 Reports</b>	<b>2009 % of Total</b>	<b>+/- from Last Year</b>
Social Service Agencies	312	266	21.6%	- 46
Schools	132	148	12.0%	+16
Law Enforcement	170	128	10.4%	- 42
Medical	63	56	4.5%	- 7
Court & Probation	35	25	2.0%	- 10
Day Care	11	6	.5%	- 5
Clergy	0	3	.2%	+ 3
<b>Non-Mandated To Report</b>	<b>2008 Reports</b>	<b>2009 Reports</b>	<b>2009% of Total</b>	<b>+/- from Last Year</b>
Relatives	164	153	12.4%	- 11
Anonymous/Other	181	160	13.0%	- 21
Neighbor/Friend	131	141	11.4%	+10
Self/Victim	24	17	1.3%	- 7
Parent	137	137	11.1%	0

## Reporting Areas

Children Services is the only social service agency in Wayne County which has the legal responsibility to investigate reports of child abuse and neglect. With this legal mandate, caseworkers investigate these reports throughout Wayne County. Starting in 1994 Children Services switched from logging reports by city or villages to school districts. This was done to have more accurate data and to assist us with more strategic decisions of assigning specific staff to certain school districts or recruiting more foster parents within a specific school district. The following is a breakdown of reports by school district, but still significant is that every area of Wayne County receives and benefits from the agency's services.

### SCHOOL DISTRICTS

<b>District</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>+/- from last year</b>
Chippewa	60	64	+ 4
Dalton	27	13	- 14
Green	40	53	+13
Hillsdale	1	1	0
North Central	57	49	- 8
Northwestern	46	63	+17
Orrville	162	150	- 12
Rittman	97	82	- 15
Southeast	53	55	+ 2
Triway	66	59	- 7
West Holmes	2	1	- 1
Wooster	673	549	-124
Out of County	53	75	+ 22

The breakdown of all requests for services is as follows:

Child abuse and neglect complaints	1,230
Information & Referral	643
Foster/Adoptive Inquires	<u>168</u>

TOTAL 2,041

170 per month

### **Protective Services**

It is the goal of Wayne County Children Services to protect children in the least intrusive way to families. Although many people associate Children Services with the placement of abused and neglected children, over 50% of the families who are involved with Children Services keep their children at home. In 2009, an average of 291 children were served by casework staff each month. These services are often short-term and are designed to quickly educate and improve parental functioning, and to thus avoid the trauma of unnecessary placement.

Each family that is involved with Wayne County Children Services is assigned a caseworker and a case plan is written with and given to the family. The case plan prescribes what services are needed to improve parent functioning so as to reduce the risk of further abuse or neglect to the children. As time permits, caseworkers counsel families on such things as child development, nutrition, hygiene, basic parenting skills and appropriate expectations for children.

Services for children and families may include, but are not limited to the following: individual, group, or family counseling and therapeutic services; diagnostic services to assess chemical dependency, psychological or psychiatric disorders; medical and/or neurological evaluations to identify conditions requiring professional services; dental and optical services; protective daycare; case management; and family education programs. Most of these services are arranged and purchased from other social service agencies and individuals. The agency also had contracts to provide home health and homemaker services to families.

Part-time Case Aides employed by Children Services drove a total of 107,385.1 miles in 2009. The job of a Case Aide includes supervising visits and assisting caseworkers with transportation of parents and children to appointments and for visitation.

There are five types of cases that Protective Services Caseworkers can have on their caseloads: Protective Services, Protective Supervision, Temporary Custody, Planned Permanent Living Arrangement, and Permanent Custody.

Protective Services cases are families willing to work with Children Services voluntarily

and no court orders are necessary.

An order of Protective Supervision permits a child to remain in his or her own home in the custody of their parent, guardian, or custodian, subject to whatever conditions or limitations are ordered by the court. An order of Protective Supervision enables some children who might otherwise have required removal to remain in their homes, and also enables other children who already have been removed to return home much sooner.

An order of temporary custody to Wayne County Children Services , which may be terminated at anytime at the discretion of the court, vests in the agency as custodian the following rights: The right to have physical care and control of the child and to determine where and with whom he shall live, and the right and duty to protect, train, and discipline him and to provide him with food, shelter, education, and medical care. All rights and responsibilities of temporary commitment are subject to any residual parental rights, privileges and responsibilities.

An order of planned permanent living arrangement (PPLA) to Wayne County Children Services vests in the agency as custodian the same legal rights and duties, subject to the same residual, parental rights, privileges and responsibilities, as an order for legal custody. The court may place a child in a planned permanent living arrangement only if it finds, by clear and convincing evidence, that placement in planned permanent living arrangement is in the child's best interest and that one of the following exist:

- The child has physical, mental, or psychological problems or needs which render him unable to function in a family-like setting, and must remain in residential or institutional care.
- The parents of the child have significant physical, mental, or psychological problems which render them unable to care for the child, and adoption is not in the best interest of the child and the child retains a significant and positive relationship with a parent or relative.
- A child sixteen years of age or older who has been counseled on the permanent placement options available to him is unwilling to accept or unable to adapt to a permanent placement, and is in an agency program preparing him for independent living.

An order of permanent custody to Wayne County Children Services vests in the agency all parental rights, duties, and obligations, and divests the parents of any and all parental rights, privileges, and obligations, including but not necessarily limited to the privilege of reasonable visitation, consent to adoption, the privilege to determine the child's religious affiliation, and the responsibility for support.

## **Parent Education Classes**

The agency contributed 100% of the total costs for Parenting Classes.

### Steps to Better Parenting I (Parents with Children Birth to 11)

Children Services offered one ten week parent education class that ended early in 2009. This program is designed for parents with children between 0-11 years of age and is instructed by Heather Fath. The classes were held in Wooster. A total of 18 adults and 30 children were served by this class. Thirteen of the 18 adults attended eight or more of the ten classes (72%).

In March, 2009, Children Services restructured our parenting classes to provide a more concentrated approach in terms of educating parents of very young children and the older child population.

The classes were divided as follows into two separate parenting classes:

Steps to Better Parenting: "The Early Years" is designed for parents with children birth to four years of age and is instructed by Heather Fath. Children Services offered one ten week session of this class in 2009. The class was held in Wooster. A total of eight adults and eight children were served by this class. Six of the eight adults attended eight or more of the ten classes (75%).

Steps to Better Parenting: "The Middle Years" is designed for parents with children five to twelve years of age and is instructed by Heather Fath. Children Services offered two ten week sessions of this class in 2009. The class was held in Wooster. A total of 21 adults and 39 children were served by these classes. Eighteen of the twenty-one adults attended eight or more of the ten classes (86%).

## **Daycare Provider Training**

Our agency provided training in the recognition of, reporting, and prevention of child abuse and neglect to employees of daycare centers and in-home type B daycare providers associated with the County Department of Job and Family Services. Nine sessions were held during 2009, with 159 providers receiving the training and certification needed.

## **Protective Daycare**

Protective Day Care is arranged cooperatively with the assistance of the Wayne County Department of Job and Family Services and private day care providers and centers. Children Services arranges this service for children in high risk families. While the

children are in day care, the parents attend counseling, support groups, parent education class, and work.

Average number of families each month	2.9
Average number of children each month	5
Cost paid by Department of Job & Family Services annually	\$18,910.30
Cost paid by parents annually	\$1,927.00
Total Hours	4,571

### **Family Foster Care**

The backbone of any Children Services placement program is family foster care. To best meet the needs of abused and neglected children, Children Services recruits and recommends for licensure adults who provide a safe, nurturing home. Foster parents today don't just "love" a child back to sound physical and mental health. They are part of a team which includes at least the Placement Specialist, the Caseworker and a Supervisor who, together with the child's family, formulate a case plan which generally includes some responsibilities for each.

Foster parents are a vital source of day to day information on the child's behavior and adjustment. There is always a need for more foster families and the agency is always recruiting to meet the needs of children who need a safe, nurturing home.

In 2009, foster home recruitment continued to focus on families willing to provide long term care for teenage children with special needs and young children. Those special needs could be medical, behavioral, or emotional. In addition, recruitment emphasized racial and ethnic diversity.

Foster parents were recruited to provide care for the pre-school population and teenagers. If you are interested in becoming a foster parent, please contact the agency during business hours, Monday through Friday, at (330)345-5340.

In 2009, 110 children were served in Wayne County family foster care homes. This compares to 116 in 2008. Children Services only places children in foster care who need protection and/or are dependent while their parents obtain help. Next to the parents' own home or a relative, a family foster home is the next best and least restrictive placement for children.

Further statistics are listed below showing the age/sex composition.

	<b>0-6 years</b>	<b>7-12 years</b>	<b>13-19 years</b>	<b>Total</b>
Male	25	14	10	49
Female	24	17	20	61
Total	49	31	30	110

As of January 12, 2010, the agency had permanent custody of 15 children without signed placement papers. Adoptive homes have been identified for 12 of the children.

### **Percentage of Children in Foster Care by Age**

<b>Age</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
0-6 years	51.76%	55.26%	48.27%	44.5%
7-12 years	21.05%	21.05%	23.28%	28.2%
12-18 years	27.19%	23.69%	28.45%	27.3%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

### **Foster Parent Orientation/Training**

Since 1996, Wayne County Children Services has combined the foster and adoptive family application process. Beginning in 1997, we also combined our recruitment and pre-service education requirements as well. Between January 1 and December 31, 2009, the agency received 168 inquiries about the foster care/adoption program.

Pre-service orientation sessions, which are open to the Northeast Region, were held three times in 2009 and 45 individuals completed the required 36 hour program. Fifteen home studies were completed during the year for placement resources. These home studies included five interstate relative placement requests. From these classes and previous classes, ten families were issued foster/adoptive licenses. Nineteen additional families were recertified. Nine families withdrew from the foster care program in 2009.

On December 31, 2009, 37 of our 52 foster families were caring for 62 foster children in their homes.

## **Purchased Residential Care**

Frequently, youth are referred to Children Services and their medical, mental and emotional needs and/or behavior necessitates a more structured institutional placement. In 2009, 109 youth were placed in 12 different placement agencies and Kinship homes, with the various types of facilities and placements noted below:

<b>Placement</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Residential	14	5	19
Therapeutic Foster Care	19	13	32
Other (hospital, group home)	2	2	4
Kinship Care	32	35	67
MR/DD Placement	0	0	0

\*Some children were served in more than one level of care in 2009.

The cost of caring for these children can be staggering. Residential facilities can range from \$115.00 per day to over \$300.00 per day. The placement costs of many of these youth are shared either with the Mental Health and Recovery Board and/or the Wayne County Juvenile Court. Children Services attempts to purchase the best service for the least cost and still meet the child's needs.

## **Adoption**

The agency last opened the healthy young child adoption list in February of 1988 and 52 applications were accepted. Children Services always accepts applications from adults willing to adopt special needs children.

The agency placed 19 children into adoptive homes in 2009. All of these children were from Wayne County.

Twenty-four of our children in adoptive placement had their adoption finalized by the Probate Court in 2009. Five of the children with finalized adoptions in 2009 were from counties other than Wayne.

The age range for children adopted in 2009 was one year to twelve years of age. Many of the children do have physical or emotional handicaps, are bi-racial or are sibling groups. There are always more people waiting to adopt healthy young children than there are children available for adoption. Wayne County Children Services and Ohio's other public adoption agencies primarily place older special needs children for adoption.

## **Subsidized Adoptions**

Subsidized adoptions are available when the agency has extremely difficult children with special needs available for adoption. These children are generally emotionally, physically or mentally handicapped, bi-racial, sibling groups or have experienced multiple placements. They usually come into the agency's custody initially due to child abuse or neglect. The State and Federal government supply some funds to encourage agencies to find permanent homes for these "high risk" children.

In 2009, there were 132 subsidies (state maintenance and federal Title IV-E adoption assistance) involving 132 children. There were 28 state maintenance subsidies, and 92 federal Title IV-E adoption assistance subsidies. Twelve children received COBRA adoption assistance.

## **Expectant Parent Services**

The agency offers comprehensive services to expectant parents, including counseling, pre-natal information and adoption services. This is a state mandated service. There was one referral received in 2009.

## **Title IV-E**

The Title IV-E program is a Federal/State program to provide grants for children in custody. There are strict guidelines concerning family income prior to the child's removal, governing the approval of these grants.

In 2009, 63 new cases were approved of which 21 were approved for children at Multi-County. As of December 31, 2009, there were 87 children receiving Title IV-E FCM benefits (program eligible only and reimbursable) who were in the following placements:

- 41 - Own licensed foster homes
- 15 - Therapeutic foster homes
- 15 - Residential facilities
- 14 - Approved relative placements
- 2 - Adoptive placements
- 87

## **Psychological and Counseling**

Psychological assessments and counseling costs for 2009 totaled \$48,676.00. The \$48,676.00 amount represents a net cost to Children Services, after all Medicaid and private insurance sources have been fully utilized.

## **Volunteer Services**

During 2009, the agency had 90 active volunteers. Many more one time volunteers gave of their time by helping with the Closet of Hope, Christmas 'Make A Wish,' and the Tot/Tag Station at the Wayne County Fair. Because of the generosity of community sponsors, the Christmas 'Make A Wish' program provided 312 children with gifts in 2009.

Ten outings/field trips, such as trick-or-treat, movie night, and roller skating, just to name a few, were provided by volunteers for the children we served. The 40 Mentor volunteers provided one-on-one companionship to children ages 4 to 19. Other volunteers served as Special Project volunteers and Tutors. In all, volunteers gave 2,597 hours in 2009.

## **Wayne County Family & Children First Council**

The mission of the Wayne County Family & Children First Council was developed in 1990 and remains: "To promote coordination and collaboration among local government, not for profit organizations, businesses and parents for the benefit of Wayne County's Children." The Council promotes healthy children, healthy families and thriving communities. They ensure shared responsibility, shared resources, and shared results by enhancing alignment, access and accountability.

The partners of this collaborative are: Dalton Local Schools, Catholic Charities, Chippewa Local Schools, Christian Children's Home of Ohio, City of Wooster, Community Action/Head Start of Wayne/Medina, Department of Youth Services, Green Local Schools, Help Me Grow, Mental Health & Recovery Board, North Central Local Schools, Northwestern Local Schools, Ohio State University Extension, Orrville Area United Way, Orrville City Schools, Parent Representatives (4), Planned Parenthood of North Central Ohio, Rittman Exempted Schools, Southeast Local Schools, STEPS at Liberty Center/Every Woman's House, The Counseling Center, Tri-County Educational Service Center, Triway Local Schools, United Way of Wayne & Holmes Counties, The Village Network, Wayne County Board of MR/DD, Wayne County Children Services Board, Wayne County Commissioners, Wayne County Health Department, Wayne County Job & Family Services, Wayne County Juvenile Court, Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, Wayne County Public Library, Wooster Community Hospital, Wooster City Schools, Wooster Salvation Army, YMCA of Wooster, and Your Human Resource Center.

As a collaborative, the Wayne County Family & Children First Council oversees and supports the following projects and programs:

- Asset Development – A research based approach to positive youth development.
- Growing Together – A series of child development newsletters available to Wayne County parents of infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers to age five.

- Help Me Grow – Comprehensive home visiting program for pregnant women, infants and children to age three.
- Five Child Abuse Prevention/Parenting Programs made possible by the Ohio Children’s Trust Fund.
- Child & Family Health Services – Project which offers community outreach to improve health outcomes for women, infants and children with a focus on childhood immunizations, lead poisoning, childhood obesity, health insurance (Medicaid), bullying prevention and access to necessary services.
- School Community Partnership – Partnership between all Wayne County School districts and the Wayne County Family & Children First Council to improve academic outcomes and address social emotional development of students.
- Transitions Plus – Student assistance and work force development program for at risk students. This project includes ten school districts and the Wayne County Schools Career Center.
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers – Before and after school programs and Community Resource Centers.
- Parenting Points Radio Show focused on parents giving each other support and advice.

Other Family and Children First Council Initiatives include:

Diversion Team – Developed in 1996, the Diversion Team is charged with using a strength based approach for service planning and coordination. This group represents funding agencies that pool their resources to prevent unnecessary out of home placements of children from their families, and redirect funds to local services to better meet the needs of families. The Diversion Team oversees the implementation of the FAST 09 program, which offered a Family Support Specialist through The Counseling Center of Wayne and Holmes Counties. In 2009, the Diversion Team revised intake procedures, rewrote oversight and reviewed standards, and increased the use of Service Coordination. With this it appears that the number of placements being made has declined. A single day count in June, 2007, had 54 youths in placement, as compared to a single day count in June, 2009, of 36 children. Another noteworthy outcome: the Diversion Team supervised the placements of 75 children in 2007, and in 2009, 66 children were in placement; the lowest number of children since 2003 when 82 children were in out of home placement.

Service Coordination – Begun in March of 2006, Service Coordination has continued to grow and expand to serve more children. By year end, 88 children and their families had been served. The Diversion Team, under the direction of the Wayne County Family and Children First Council, oversee the Service Coordination Facilitator whose charge it is to coordinate the organization of team meetings for the families of children who are involved in multiple systems and agencies. Family Plans are created based on the strengths of the child and family.

Since July, 2007, the Wayne County Family and Children First Council submitted a comprehensive plan to impact child well-being in our county. At that time the Council selected as its focus commitment: **Wayne County children will be ready for school.**

The Council has focused its planning energy and selected goals to address this one commitment to child well being. One goal, FCFC has been interested in increasing the number of Day Cares that meet Step Up to Quality standards. Of 17 Child Care Centers, ten have achieved a star rating (and two have received a two star rating) out of a possible three, representing a 5% increase from 2008 of participating centers.

In order for the Council to see if the programs and projects it supports have an impact and desired outcomes, a Health Services Community Assessment Data Book was published (supported by the Ohio Department of Health and under the auspices of the Child and Family Health Service project) entitled "What's Up With Our Kids?" 2008 it is available on the FCFC web site: [www.waynefcfc.org](http://www.waynefcfc.org).

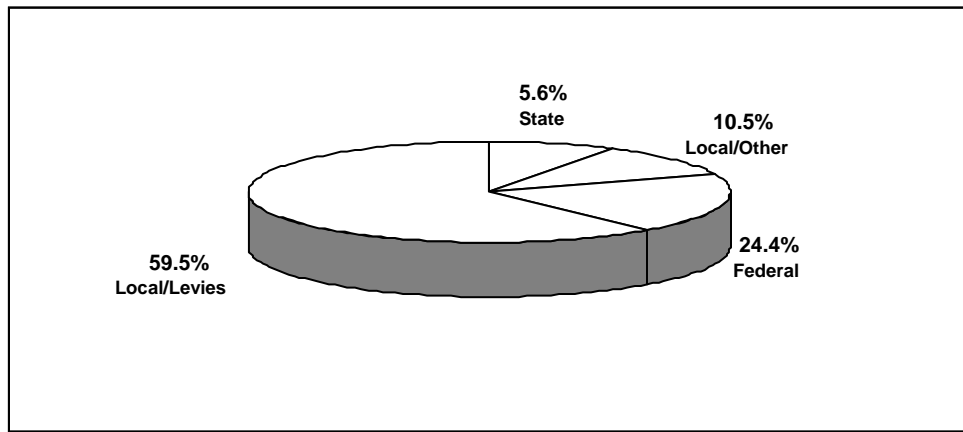
**Individuals Receiving Services from Wayne County Children Services**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Number Receiving Services</b>
Protective Services Ongoing Children	587
Child Abuse & Neglect Investigations	1,230
Protective Services - Ongoing Families	296
Parent Education Classes	47 adults 77 children
Subsidized Adoptions	132
Children Placed for Adoption	24
Family Foster Care	110
Psychological Assessments	70
Healthchecks	133
Adoption/Foster Parent Orientation	45
Information and Referral	643
Foster/Adoptive Inquires	168
Daycare Provider Training	159

**WAYNE COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES 2009 FINANCIAL REPORT**

Salaries (including payroll expenses)	\$ 3,235,229
Medical	3,217
Clothing	5,521
Foster Homes, Institutions & Day Care	2,028,663
Other Expenses (travel, supplies & equipment)	<u>1,655,295</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 6,927,925
Less State & Federal Funds Spent	<u>\$ 2,148,771</u>
Total Charge to Wayne County	<u>\$ 4,779,154</u>

**2009 Revenue - \$7,161,119**



**2009 Expenses - \$6,927,925**

