

Wayne County Children Services Board

2010 Annual Report



Protecting Children and Strengthening
Families since 1882...

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Page</u>	
2	Compliance Statement
3	Director's Message
5	Children Services Mission Statement
5	Children Services Board Members
5	Children Services Advisory Board Members
6	Child Abuse & Neglect - Investigation & Emergency Services
7	Sources of Reports Actually Investigated
8	Reporting Areas
9	Protective Services
10	Parent Education Classes
11	Daycare Provider Training
11	Protective Daycare
11	Family Foster Care
12	Foster Parent Orientation/Training
13	Purchased Residential Care
13	Adoption
14	Subsidized Adoptions
14	Expectant Parent Services
14	Title IV-E
14	Psychological & Counseling
14	Volunteer Services
15	Number of Individuals Receiving Services
16	2010 Financial Report
17	Wayne County Family & Children First Council
19	Table of Organization on 12/31/10

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

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

Honorable Michael B. Colbert, 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 2010.

Sincerely,

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

Board Approved: 03/15/11

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 strategies due to financial constraints. This is even more important given the grave economic situation our state and country is facing. I am extremely gratified to report to you that calendar year 2010 was yet another 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 continued fiscal savings.

The improve quality of service and other fiscal savings have allowed the agency to reduce the burden we place on the tax payers. Based upon the improved efficiencies demonstrated by the agency over the past several years, in 2009, the Board felt it was appropriate to replace our .6 mill, ten year levy with a new lower .2 mill, five year levy and return the savings to the community. We estimate that this new levy will save Wayne County tax payers almost \$400,000 per year beginning in 2011. However, to preserve the same level of services to the children of Wayne County with less burden on the tax payers, we must continue to improve efficiencies. We have done so in three areas – programmatic improvements, fiscal conservation, and non-tax revenue enhancements.

In the area of programmatic improvements, we continued efforts to reduce the average time it takes for us to come to case resolution. This has resulted in lower case loads, which has translated to lower staffing needs. We began 2009 with the equivalent of 66 full time employees and ended that year with the equivalent of 63 full time employees – a reduction of three employees. We continued that trend by positioning the Agency to begin 2011 with the equivalent of 60 full time employees. That equates to a reduction of six full time employees, or a 9% reduction in force, over the past two years. We anticipate that operating with six less employees will save the county approximately \$254,000 per year in salaries, medical benefits, retirement and other costs. Despite having seven less employees, our case loads remain at or below recommended levels.

We continued to see improvements in our screening techniques which has contributed to less investigations. While we received approximately the same number of calls to our report line as last year we screened in 60 less calls. This translates to approximately a 5% reduction in the number of investigations completed during 2010. By safely reducing the number of calls accepted for investigation, we have conserved our resources and reduced unnecessary governmental intrusion into the privacy of Wayne County citizens.

Perhaps what I am most proud of, however, is that we have continued to reduce high-end residential placements of our children. Most research indicates institutional care for children should be viewed as a placement of last resort and should be utilized on a short term basis to ensure the safety of the child or the community. In the absence of significant safety risks, children are much better served in their community and in the most family-like setting possible. Over the course of 2010, we continued to reduce the number and duration of children in residential settings.

Not only is it better for children to be returned to a family-like setting as quickly as possible, but the reduction in number and duration of residential placements greatly reduces our overall placement costs. For example, in 2009, the agency paid \$1,076,919 for residential placements alone. In 2010, we reduced that number by 40% to \$649,894. That's a savings of \$427,025 to the tax payers in one year alone! In 2011, a portion of those savings will be reinvested in community based services designed to prevent the need for placement of children outside the home and the rest will be returned to the community through lesser tax millage.

Finally, we have made a concerted effort to drawn down as many federal dollars to our community as is possible. Most significantly, Wayne County became the first county in the state to take advantage of a federal Medicaid demonstration project designed to assist children in transitioning from residential care to an in-home setting. Through the collaborative efforts of the Children Services' Clinical Director, Robin Troyer, and Wayne County's Families and Children First Coordinator, Cameron Maneese, this project has infused approximately \$75,000 of federal grant money to our community. While other counties have followed our lead, none, even the metro counties, have been able to bring as many federal dollars into their community through this program as have we.

Children Services is also committed to partnering with other agencies and governmental agencies to maximize federal support of our valuable programs. For example, we recently entered into a contract with the Wayne County Prosecuting Attorney which will allow our agencies to access federal Title IV-E money to offset the costs associated with representing a public children services agency in court. When this program is fully operational, we anticipate receiving federal reimbursement for 50% of the costs associated with prosecuting our cases, roughly \$35,000 per year, from the federal government.

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, JD
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.

2010 Members of the Wayne County Children Services Board

Diane Jarrett, Chairperson
James R. Jones
Dr. Shellie Russell
Mark J. Stefanik

Pamela J. Domer, Vice-Chairperson
Vicky Puster
Gene Spittle
Nan Whitsel

2010 Members of the Wayne County Children Services Advisory Board

Marlene Barkheimer
Dr. Amy Jolliff
Daniel Plumly
Kevin Trent

Dr. David Burke
Ted Moore
Dave Rhoad
Alicia Wallace

Tod Carmony
Donald Noble II
Pat Simpson
Jim Whittlesey

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 2010, caseworkers investigated a total of 1,170 complaints of alleged child abuse, neglect or dependency. Of these 1,170 referrals,

6	were emancipated youth
120	were emotional maltreatment
462	were neglect complaints
287	were physical abuse complaints
157	were sexual abuse complaints
56	were courtesy interviews
50	were dependency
<u>32</u>	were family in need of service
1,170	

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

Professionals Mandated to Report	2009 Reports	2010 Reports	2010 % of Total	+/- from Last Year
Social Service Agencies	266	248	21.20%	- 18
Schools	148	160	13.67%	+12
Law Enforcement	128	123	10.51%	- 5
Medical	56	37	3.16%	- 19
Court & Probation	25	30	2.56%	+ 5
Day Care	6	5	.43%	- 1
Clergy	3	3	.26%	0
Non-Mandated To Report	2009 Reports	2010 Reports	2010% of Total	+/- from Last Year
Relatives	153	119	10.17%	- 34
Anonymous/Other	160	153	13.08%	- 7
Neighbor/Friend	141	129	11.02%	- 12
Self/Victim	17	21	1.80%	+ 4
Parent	137	142	12.14%	+ 5

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

District	2009	2010	+/- from last year
Chippewa	64	49	- 15
Dalton	13	32	+19
Green	53	45	- 8
Hillsdale	1	2	+ 1
North Central	49	46	- 3
Northwestern	63	63	0
Orrville	150	157	+ 7
Rittman	82	92	+10
Southeast	55	36	- 19
Triway	59	56	- 3
West Holmes	1	4	+ 3
Wooster	549	487	- 62
Out of County	75	80	+ 5
Unknown	16	21	+ 5

The breakdown of all requests for services is as follows:

Child abuse and neglect complaints	1,170	
Information & Referral	623	
Foster/Adoptive Inquires	<u>229</u>	
TOTAL	2,022	168.5 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 2010, an average of 304 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 129,434.75 miles in 2010. 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 "The Early Years" is designed for parents with children ages birth to 4 years old, and is instructed by Heather Fath. WCCSB offered two ten week parent education classes in 2010. The classes were held in Wooster. A total of 67 adults enrolled in the classes. A total of 35 adults (by attending at least two classes) and 36 children were served by these classes. Twenty-three of the thirty-five adults attended eight or more of the ten classes (66%).

Steps to Better Parenting "The Middle Years" is designed for parents with children ages 5-12 years old, and is instructed by Heather Fath. WCCSB offered two ten week parent education classes in 2010. The classes were held in Wooster. A total of 34 adults enrolled in the classes. A total of 13 adults (by attending at least 2 classes) and 21 children were served by these classes. Eight of the thirteen adults attended eight or

more of the ten classes (62%).

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. Six sessions were held during 2010, with 91 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	6.7
Average number of children each month	10.3
Cost paid by Department of Job & Family Services annually	\$43,448.51
Total Hours	12,293.3

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.

Four areas were identified for particular emphasis in 2010: recruitment of foster homes in the Wooster City School District, foster homes for children ages six and older, minority foster homes, and adoption of children in the agency's permanent custody.

In 2011, we will continue to focus on these four key areas as well as the recruitment of foster homes in the Orrville City School District. Currently, about 15% of the children in our agency's custody are from the Orrville City School District, yet only one foster home (2% of our total) is located in the Orrville City School District.

If you are interested in becoming a foster parent, please contact the agency during business hours, Monday through Friday, at (330)345-5340.

In 2010, 118 children were served in Wayne County family foster care homes. This compares to 110 in 2009. 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.

	0-6 years	7-12 years	13-19 years	Total
Male	26	17	9	52
Female	29	10	27	66
Total	55	27	36	118

As of February 1, 2011, the agency had permanent custody of 16 children without signed placement papers. Adoptive homes have been identified for nine of the children.

Percentage of Children in Foster Care by Age

Age	2007	2008	2009	2010
0-6 years	55.26%	48.27%	44.5%	46.6%
7-12 years	21.05%	23.28%	28.2%	22.9%
12-18 years	23.69%	28.45%	27.3%	30.5%
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, 2010, the agency received 229 inquiries about the foster care/adoption program.

Pre-service orientation sessions, which are open to the Northeast Region, were held three times in 2010 and 43 individuals completed the required 36 hour program. Fourteen home studies were completed during the year for placement resources. These home studies included six interstate relative placement requests. From these classes and previous classes, eight families were issued foster/adoptive licenses. Fourteen additional families were recertified. Eight families withdrew from the foster care program in 2010.

On December 31, 2010, 36 of our 52 foster families were caring for 66 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 2010, 93 youth were placed in 13 different placement agencies and Kinship homes, with the various types of facilities and placements noted below:

Placement	Male	Female	Total
Residential	13	8	21
Therapeutic Foster Care	17	15	32
Other (hospital, group home)	1	3	4
Kinship Care	21	15	36

*Some children were served in more than one level of care in 2010.

The cost of caring for these children can be staggering. Residential facilities can range from \$115.00 per day to over \$381.00 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

At this time, Wayne County Children Services only takes applications from adults willing to adopt special needs children.

The agency placed seven children into adoptive homes in 2010. All of these children were from Wayne County.

Ten of our children in adoptive placement had their adoption finalized by the Probate Court in 2010. All of the children with finalized adoptions in 2010 were from Wayne County.

The age range for children adopted in 2010 was two years to seventeen 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 2010, there were 133 subsidies (state maintenance and federal Title IV-E adoption assistance) involving 132 children. There were 28 state maintenance subsidies, and 93 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 were no referrals received in 2010.

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 that governs the approval of these grants. In 2010, 91 new cases were approved of which 17 were approved for children at Multi-County. As of December 31, 2010, there were 63 children receiving Title IV-E FCM benefits (program eligible only and reimbursable) who were in the following placements:

- 38 - Own licensed foster homes
- 8 - Therapeutic foster homes
- 5 - Residential facilities
- 10 - Approved relative placements
- 2 - Adoptive placements
- 63

Psychological and Counseling

Psychological assessments and counseling costs for 2010 totaled \$54,299.00. The \$54,299.00 amount represents a net cost to Children Services, after all Medicaid and private insurance sources have been fully utilized.

Volunteer Services

During 2010, the agency had 105 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 310 children with gifts in 2010.

Nine outings/field trips, such as trick-or-treat, movie night, and game night, just to name a few, were provided by volunteers for the children we served. The 42 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 3,050 hours in 2010.

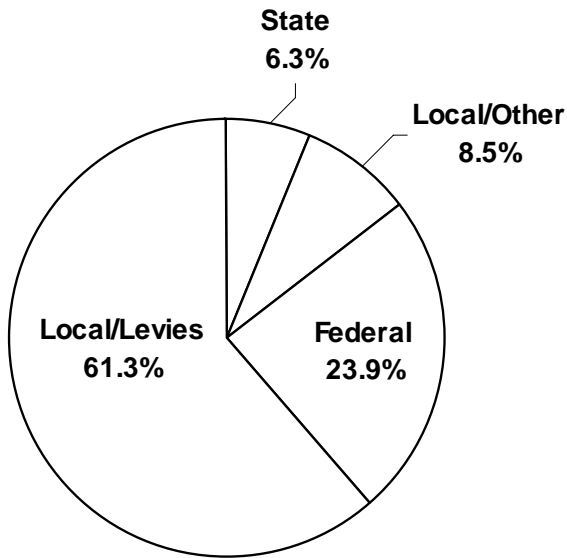
Individuals Receiving Services from Wayne County Children Services in 2010

Category	Number Receiving Services
Protective Services Ongoing Children	333
Child Abuse & Neglect Investigations	1,170
Protective Services - Ongoing Families	258
Parent Education Classes	48 adults 57 children
Subsidized Adoptions	133
Children Placed for Adoption	10
Family Foster Care	118
Psychological Assessments	77
Healthchecks	96
Adoption/Foster Parent Orientation	48
Information and Referral	623
Foster/Adoptive Inquires	229
Daycare Provider Training	91

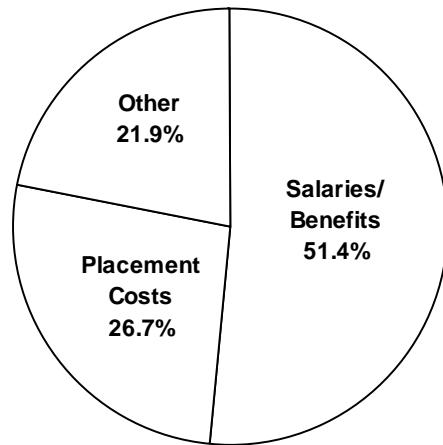
WAYNE COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES 2010 FINANCIAL REPORT

Salaries (including payroll expenses)	\$ 3,340,057
Medical	2,936
Clothing	5,973
Foster Homes, Institutions & Day Care	1,734,683
Other Expenses (travel, supplies & equipment)	<u>1,415,176</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 6,498,825
Less State & Federal Funds Spent	<u>\$ 2,115,914</u>
Total Charge to Wayne County	<u>\$ 4,382,911</u>

2010 Revenue - \$6,987,459



2010 Expenses - \$6,498,825



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 at www.waynecfc.org to Wayne County parents of infants, toddlers and pre-school children to age six.
- Help Me Grow – Comprehensive home visiting program for pregnant women, infants and children to age three.
- Four Child Abuse Prevention/Parenting Programs made possible by the Ohio Children's Trust Fund. – See www.waynecfc.org
- 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.
- 21st Century Community Learning Centers – Before and after school programs and Community Resource Centers.

Other Family and Children First Council Initiatives include:

- **Diversion Team** – FCFC coordinates the Diversion Team: Multi-System Children Oversight Committee; comprised of Mental Health and Recovery Board, Juvenile Court, Board of Developmental Disabilities, Children Services, Tri-Co ESC, and Wooster City Schools. This Team oversees referral to Service Coordination and the Child Community Behavioral Health Aide. It oversees joint planning and funding for children requiring out of home placement (who are not in the Juvenile Court Multi-County Attention System or CSB regular foster care). Oversees community based programming and the funding of community based supports to maintain children in their homes. Acts as the Transition Team to draw down funds when available, re: Home Choice dollars, TANF, and pooled local contributions. Since 2007, and the introduction of Service Coordination, to 2010 out of home placements have dropped (over time) by a third at a cost savings of \$650,000.00.
- **Service Coordination** – Begun in March of 2006, Service Coordination has continued to grow and expand to serve more children. Typically 80-90 children and their families are served. The Diversion Team, under the direction of the Wayne County Family and Children First Council, oversees the Service Coordination Facilitator whose charge it is to coordinate the organization of team meetings for the families of children who require the support of multiple systems and agencies. Family Plans are created based on the strengths of the child and family.
- In conjunction with Service Coordination, the **Child Community Behavioral Health Behavioral Health Aide** serves children and families in their homes. This is a way to keep children who have *multiple challenges, in school and in their homes. In 2010 CCBHA provided 713 direct hours of service to 19 families, helping to stabilize youth in school and their homes and preventing the need to obtain out of home placements. (*Common example: abused or neglected child with mental health concerns and developmental delays and/or juvenile court involvement).
- **Family Advisory Committee** – A mission and focus of FCFC, this committee offers families with children with special needs a place to share their knowledge and support each other, while impacting local and state policies. Parent/family driven education is presented weekly on Parenting Points Radio Show, 104.5 FM. This committee also coordinates parent education by offering workshops on the IEP (Individual Educational Plan) process, helps parents and guardians navigate resources and agencies and offers family advocacy.

In order for the Council to see if the programs and projects it supports have an impact and desired outcomes, a Community Health Assessment 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. The Community Health Assessment for 2010 is due in May, 2011.



Wayne County Children Services Table of Organization

December 31, 2010

