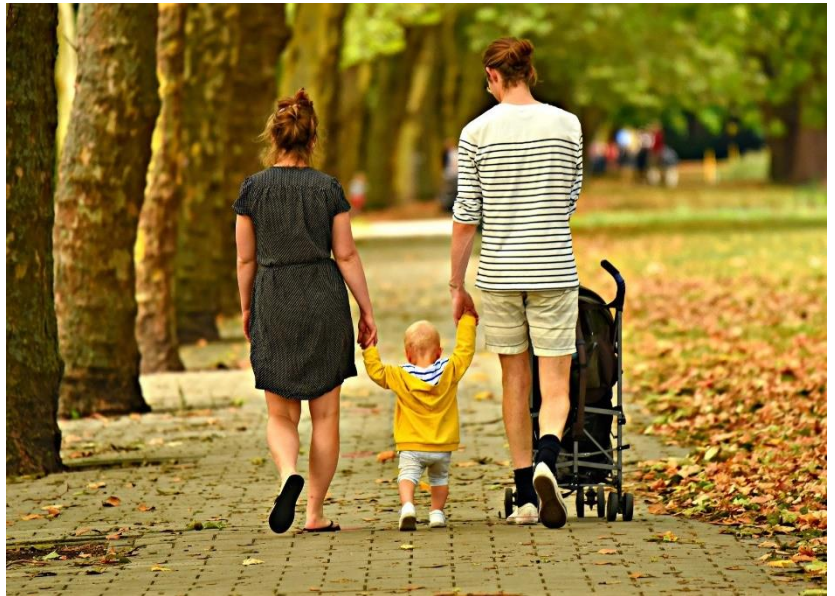


Wayne County Children Services

2021
ANNUAL REPORT



2021 In Review

By Deanna Nichols-Stika, Executive Director

Despite the ongoing pandemic impacting our community, I am grateful to report our agency has remained successful in meeting our mission of protecting abused and neglected children and to strengthen, preserve, and empower families. This has been achieved by our dedicated staff, Board of Directors, volunteers, and the support of our community. I have sincere appreciation of our entire team for their continued commitment and passion for the work we do.

Our agency has worked tirelessly to sustain and further our mission over this past year. Three highlights of our year that I would like to share with you are our implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act, expansion of supports for Kinship families, and continued adaptation to support families impacted by drug addiction.

In 2020, our agency began preparations for the initiation of the federally required Family First Prevention Services Act that went into effect in Ohio on October 1, 2021. This work supports our agency in becoming a prevention resource to strengthen families. We are making transformative changes within our placements of children to strengthen families so more children can remain safely with their parents or kinship caregivers. The agency has been intentional with expanding our supports and resources for kinship families. Kinship families are families who are relatives or non-relatives who have a relationship with a child and are caring for a child in place of the child's parents. We know children are successful in environments they know and feel well cared for. Expanding our supports for kinship families means better stability and long-term outcomes for children. In 2021,

MISSION STATEMENT

Wayne County Children Services, in partnership with the community, exists to protect abused and neglected children and to strengthen, preserve, and empower families.



WAYNE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Ron Amstutz
Becky Foster
Sue Smail

WCCSB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Don Noble II,
Chairperson
Chad Kauffman, Vice-
Chairperson
Gene Spittle,
Secretary
Blaine Budd
Vicky Hartzler
(December)
Jim Jones
Annette Mast
Jim Whittlesey
Secretary
(January- October)

WCCSB ADVISORY BOARD

Tod Carmony
Tammy Hoffman
Mark Hostetler
Dr. Amy Jolliff
Rev. Tricia Petraven
Daniel Plumly
Fran Samson
Carrie Snyder
Kevin Trent
Brenda Welch

2021 In Review (cont.)

By Deanna Nichols-Stika, Executive Director

the top reason children were removed from their homes in Wayne County was due to drug abuse by their parent or caregiver. Wayne County continues to refine available resources to families impacted by drug abuse. We continue to be a partner with Wayne County Juvenile Court for Family Dependency Treatment Court. We remain committed to implementing OhioSTART (Sobriety, Treatment, and Reducing Trauma), another valuable evidence-informed intervention model that builds teams dedicated to helping families struggling with co-occurring child maltreatment and substance use disorder.

These are just a few of our highlights from 2021. Each of these highlights have been made possible by partners like you who have come alongside our agency in sharing your time, talents, and treasures. Our agency can operate and fulfill our mission at the intensive level we do by your support. We continue to be grateful for your support.

REMEMBRANCE OF BOARD MEMBER JIM WHITTLESEY

We remember and honor Mr. Jim Whittlesey, who was serving on our Board of Directors at the time of his passing on October 24, 2021. We thank Jim for his dedication to our Board, and his family for sharing him with us throughout the last 13 years. We appreciate his family for supporting his passion for children in his community. Jim became a Board Member of Wayne County Children Services in January of 2019 and was currently serving as the Board of Director's Secretary. He joined the Board after serving on the agency's Advisory Board Committee for eleven years.

We will forever remember Jim's smile and laugh, his questions to fully understand the impact of Board decisions on children and families, and his concern specifically for older children in residential placements.

On Jim's Board Member application to the County Commissioners, he stated that he "saw the need to be active in his community and be an advocate for children in Wayne County". He certainly fulfilled the need he saw in many ways, our agency being just one of those avenues. Jim leaves a legacy with us of his deep love for his family and his community.

A LEGEND OF CARING

It does take a community to protect its children and the citizens of Wayne County and the Children Services Board have been doing this since 1882.

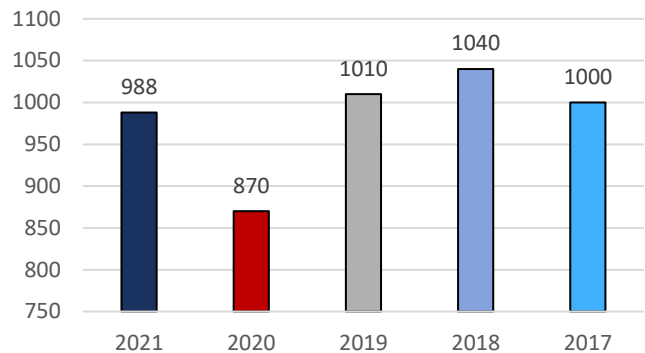


2021 REPORT OF SERVICES

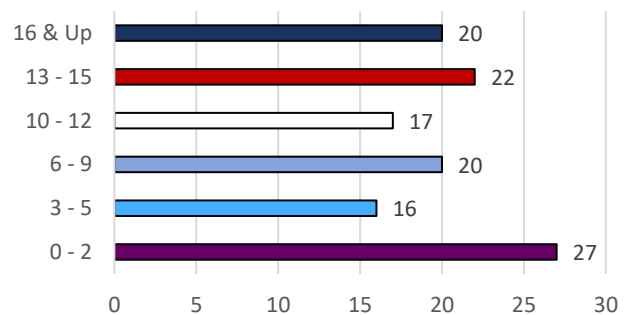
INTAKE, ONGOING, FOSTER CARE, & ADOPTION STATISTICS

- 254 Children Served with Protective Services on 12/31/2021.
- 132 Families Served with Protective Services on 12/31/2021.
- 21 Children Received Protective Day Care at a cost of \$62,373.
- 217 Hours of Support Provided to Children from Volunteer Mentors and Tutors.
- 14 Adoptions Finalized.
- 17 Children Placed in Adoptive Homes.
- 35 Licensed Foster Homes on 12/31/2021.
- 132 Inquiries Received from Families for Kinship Care, Foster Care, and/or Adoption.

AGENCY INVESTIGATIVE STATISTICS

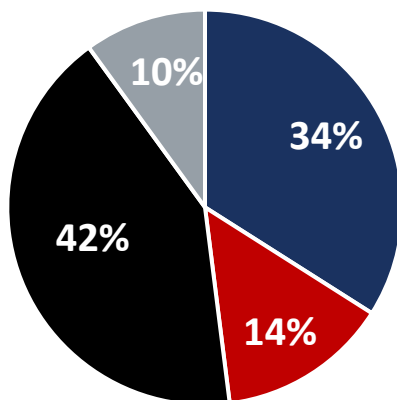


TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH PLACEMENTS BY AGE ON 12/31/2021



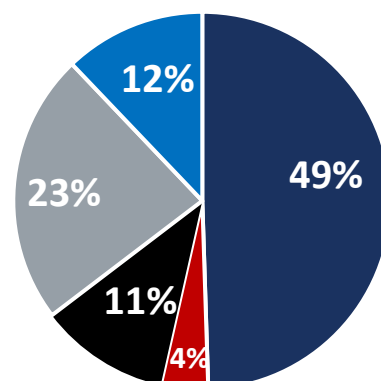
2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Revenue: \$10,466,655



- Federal \$3,545,705
- State \$1,450,668
- Local/Levies \$4,385,398
- Local/Other \$1,084,884

Total Expenditures: \$9,684,482



- Salaries/Benefits \$4,792,303
- Foster Care \$418,999
- Therapeutic Foster Care \$1,080,777
- Residential \$2,257,159
- Other \$1,135,244



Our Greatest Resource

By Lisa Cygan, Human Resources Director

Wayne County Children Services is fortunate to have many resources in Wayne County; community partners, foster/adoptive parents, taxpayers, etc. But there is one resource that stands out above all others...our staff. Our 72 staff members are a diverse group with many different backgrounds and interests, but they come together to make up an agency who cares deeply for each other and the families and children in Wayne County.

At the end of 2021 our staff had just over 735 total years of service; with an average of 10.2 years per person. Those are amazing numbers! Our turnover rate in 2021 was the lowest it has been in many years.

The work our staff does is emotional, fulfilling, difficult and at times heart-breaking. Yet, our staff show up every day not knowing what challenge they may face while supporting the families we serve. In 2021, we continued our Resiliency Alliance project to support staff and help them deal with the stress and trauma associated with their jobs. We also contracted with a coach to help staff with communication, trust building and other individual needs. We continue to see success in these areas and remain committed to supporting our staff.

In the Spring of 2021, our Administrative Team began a project to identify our agency's Core Values. With input from all our staff, the following Core Values were developed and put in place in August: Teamwork, Resilient, Accountable, Committed and Trustworthy. These are powerful words that we've embraced and strive to keep front and center each day as we go about our work.

We know 2022 will have its challenges and celebrations. I know our staff will pull together to tackle each challenge and celebrate with each other when we, or the families we serve, reach a goal. This is what we do, and we do it together as a team at Wayne County Children Services.

Staff By the Numbers

- 70 Full-time Staff
- 2 Part-time Staff
- Average Length of Service to Agency is 10.22 years.





New Technology & Focused on Family

By Gloria Questel, Social Services Director

In 2021, the Social Service Department focused on the new technology that we learned to use during the pandemic and made that part of our new normal in child welfare practice. While the pandemic presented many hurdles in protecting children, it also illuminated the creative, outside the box thinking that we needed to protect children and strengthen families. We are proud of the commitment our staff showed in ensuring our families had what they needed to survive and thrive. Our service delivery has expanded to include more virtual meetings with families and colleagues. Our agency has depended on the many cooperative organizations in our community to support families. While we battled some staff shortages due to illnesses and quarantines, particularly in late 2021, others within the agency stepped up to work as a team to make sure our families were served.

As we incorporated some new major federal legislation, Family First Preservation Act, in our practice we learned to rely more on the extended family to be part of our solution focused efforts to support families. We used the principles that we have known to be true in our field, which is that the best way to assist families is to guide them to help each other to function more effectively. We have enjoyed watching families flourish and become stronger under these principles. Our Family First legislation also provided us with more checks and balances around residential facilities for our youth. These principles, in theory, will shorten the length of stay needed in a youth residential facility. We know that children thrive best in families, so the focus is to move the youth through treatment efficiently and return them to a family-like setting as quickly as possible.

In child welfare we are never stagnate. This constant movement and learning enable us to respond relevantly to our families. This dynamic approach to serving families and children at risk creates an environment where we can be innovative in our responses. Every family is unique and special in its own way, it's important to our agency to respond to that individuality in kind.

Kinship Supportive Services

By John Dillon, Clinical Services Director

The agency has expended time and resources to expand our Kinship resources. The agency has dedicated two Caseworkers and a Supervisor to support one of our most valuable resources, Kinship supports, for our children. The agency has seen a steady rise in utilization of kinship supports for our children. It became clear that we needed to increase the kinship supportive services within our Foster Care Department to serve those families taking care of our children. The Foster Care/Kinship Department has met the expectation and provided intensive hands-on support to families. We have a dedicated staff creating efficiencies within the Department to streamline home studies and referrals to kinship supports.

The agency initiated the Kinnect project in October 2021. Kinnect is an intense short-term evidence informed practice model developed by the Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition. The program model features two major elements: family finding and family support interventions. This project aligns with our Mission, Strategic Plan, Family First Prevention Services Act, and with state rules. It's the right thing to do for our families.

2021 Christmas "Make a Wish" Program

Once again, despite the pandemic, the agency's collaboration with the Fraternal Order of Police and various service organizations led to another successful Christmas program for children involved with our agency. This year's project served 278 children and involved 110 sponsors.

OUR LOCATION

2534 Burbank Road
Wooster, OH 44691

Phone:
(330) 345-5340

Hours:
Monday-Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

www.waynecsb.org