

# WAYNE COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES BOARD



2023 Annual Report  
Year in Review



# WAYNE COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES BOARD STAFF



## WAYNE COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES TEAMS LIST - 12/01/23

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
Deanna Nichols-Stika

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Don Noble II, Chair  
Gene Spittle, Secretary  
Victoria Hartzler  
Jim Jones  
Chad Kauffman, Vice-Chair  
Blaine Budd  
Mark Hostetler

### PROGRAM SERVICES

**Gloria Questel**  
Social Services Director  
Clerical Support: Paula Knode  
Misty Seith

**John Dillon**  
Clinical Services Director  
Clerical Support: Tina Rudy

**Brian Beeghley**  
Senior Social Service Supervisor

**INTAKE**  
Jennifer Thomas  
Social Service Supervisor  
Megan Bendon  
Katie Imhoff  
Kirsten Tousley  
Savannah Von Eitzen  
Heather Warner

**INTAKE**  
Ron Copenhaver  
Social Service Supervisor  
Chelsea Alleman  
Sarah Garsteck  
Natalie Rhinehart  
Gaby Schoenberg

**ONGOING**  
Michele Haynes  
Social Service Supervisor  
Brooke Hider  
Kennadee Lawson  
Katelyn Roper  
Rachel Workinger

**ONGOING**  
Brandon Holman  
Social Service Supervisor  
Macie Bell  
Lisa Burgett  
Kayla Cawthon  
Cortney Freshwater  
Pat Peterson  
Randy Selby

**ONGOING**  
Jordan Droll  
Social Service Supervisor  
Kianna Amstutz  
Aaron Bradford  
Catherine Cool-Wirtz  
Liz O'Hara

**PLACEMENT**  
Christa Hissong  
Social Service Supervisor  
Vanessa Cancelliere  
April Dreher  
Randy Rice  
Kathy Smith

**STAFF DEVELOPMENT/QA**  
Mike Smith  
Staff Development/QA Mgr.  
Eric Killinger

**PLACEMENT**  
Joanne Walker  
Social Service Supervisor  
Missy Bevington  
Miranda Hughes  
Melissa Leach  
Amy Rice  
Colleen Yonkof

**FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES**  
Jackie Wynn  
FSS Supervisor  
Kirstin Alexander  
Angie Chrostowski  
Tiffany Franklin  
Melinda Nelson  
Lisa Rutt  
Pam Schrock

### EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Ashley Poynter

### HUMAN RESOURCES

Lisa Cygan  
Human Resources Director

### FISCAL/IT

Lisa Conner  
Fiscal Director  
Jackie Rohr  
Sherrie Smith  
Chrystal Way  
Jessica Wertz

Tracy Chio  
Assistant Fiscal Director  
Teresa Arnold

Connie Imhoff  
Systems Administrator  
Christie Pohl

### MISSION

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

### PUBLIC RELATIONS/COMMUNITY EVENTS COORDINATOR

Anna Fink

In 2023, Wayne County Children Services Board continued its unwavering commitment to safeguarding and enhancing the well-being of children within our community. Rooted in our mission to protect children and strengthen families, our diverse range of programs and services addressed the unique needs of the children and families we served.

The surge in kinship placements is a notable trend within the broader landscape of foster care. Kinship placements involve placing children with relatives or close family friends when they cannot remain with their biological parents. This increase stems from a recognition of the benefits associated with maintaining familial connections for the child's well-being. Kinship care offers stability and continuity to children during challenging times. This shift in focus towards kinship placements underscores a commitment to preserving family ties and providing a more familiar and supportive environment for children in need. Wayne County Children Services observed a 3% increase in kinship bed utilization from 2022 to 2023.

Highlighting the transformative impact of our interventions, Wayne County Children Services presents a heartwarming success story that underscores the positive outcomes achieved through dedicated staff. To maintain privacy, the child referenced will be known as "Sally." Sally faced numerous challenges, but with the support of a loving caregiver, dedicated caseworkers, and a nurturing community, she overcame adversity and is thriving. With the passing of her mother and the incarceration of her father, Sally did not have an immediate family support network to depend on. Early in the winter of 2023, Kinnect Services were initiated for her. Within a short time, 86 family members were identified and contacted on behalf of the child. Two weeks after the family members were identified, 13 agreed to attend a meeting regarding placement options for Sally. During the meeting, a primary and secondary caregiver were identified by caseworkers. They both agreed to embark on the transformative journey of becoming licensed caregivers for Sally. This process would require an ICPC, which is an intrastate approval proceeding to allow children to be placed out of their home state. Determined to place Sally in a suitable and loving home, caseworkers worked tirelessly to achieve this goal. By early summer of 2023, Sally was transitioned from a residential facility into her primary caregiver's home. Inquisitive and eager to learn about her family heritage, Sally was provided with a "genogram" that included 191 family members. Her heartfelt enthusiasm led to many discussions about her family history and even photos of her fourth Great-Grandparents provided by Kinnect. Sally has obtained age-appropriate employment, learned the valuable skill of crafting a resume, and the positive life lesson of responsibility. The primary caregiver relative is now working on becoming licensed to adopt and making their home a permanent fixture for Sally.

## WAYNE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Ron Amstutz  
Jonathan Hofstetter  
Sue Smail

## WCCSB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Don Noble II,  
Chairperson  
Chad Kauffman,  
Vice-Chairperson  
Gene Spittle,  
Secretary  
Blaine Budd  
Vicky Hartzler  
Mark Hostetler  
Jim Jones

## WCCSB ADVISORY BOARD

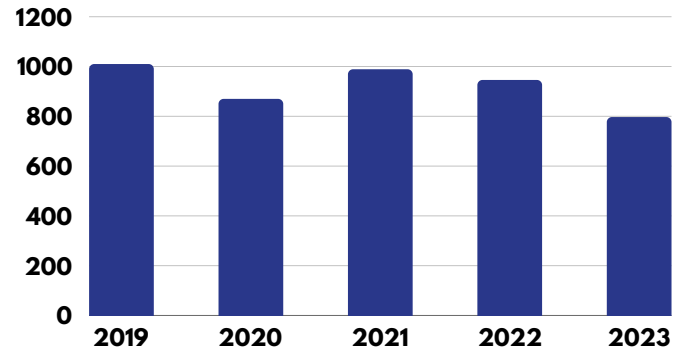
Tod Carmony  
Traci Carmony  
Tammy Hoffman  
Dr. Amy Joliff  
Robyn McClintock  
Lynn Moomaw  
Daniel Plumly  
Carrie Snyder  
Brenda Welch

# 2023 REPORT OF SERVICES

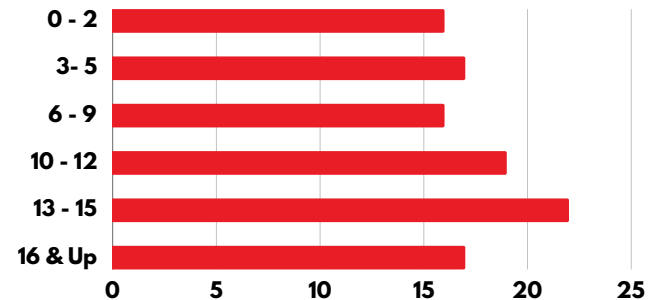
## INTAKE, ONGOING, FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION STATISTICS

- 181 Children Served with Protective Services on 12/31/2023
- 60 Intake Cases Transferred for Ongoing Services in 2023
- 19 Children Received Protective Day Care at a cost of \$43,942.32
- 9 Adoptions Finalized
- 36 Children in Permanent Custody
- 25 Licensed Foster Homes on 12/31/2023
- 47 Inquiries Received from Families for Foster Care and/or Adoption

## AGENCY INVESTIGATIVE STATISTICS

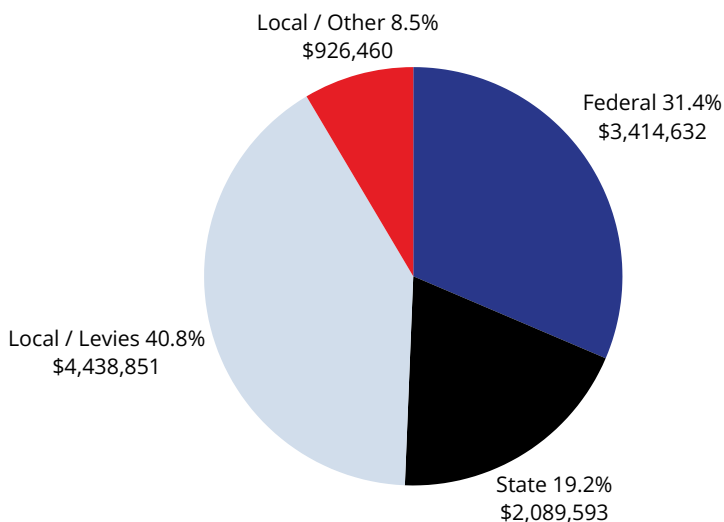


## TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH PLACEMENTS BY AGE ON 12/31/2023

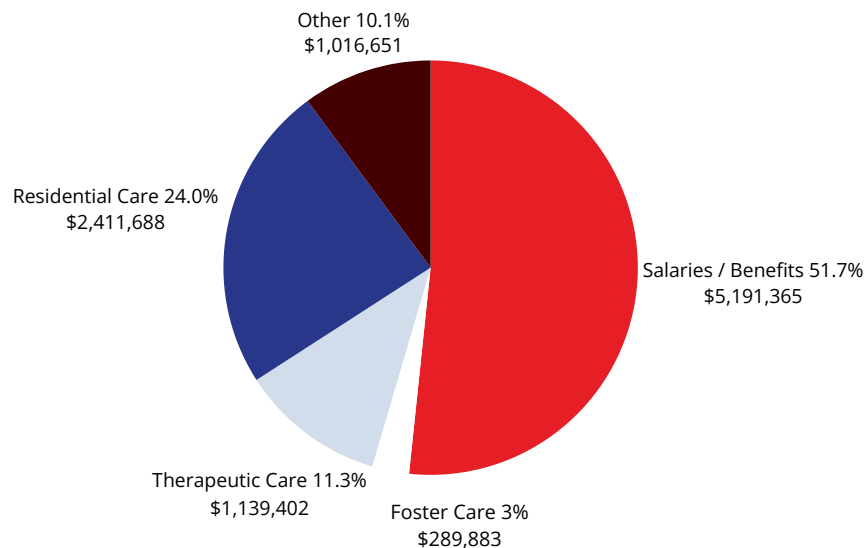


# 2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

## TOTAL REVENUE: \$10,869,536



## TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$10,539,094





# WORKFORCE SHORTAGE

The workforce shortage at Wayne County Children Services Board stems from a combination of factors. Firstly, the demanding nature of the work involved in child welfare, including investigating reports of abuse and neglect, providing support to families in crisis, and facilitating placements for children in need of out-of-home care, contributes to high levels of stress. Additionally, workforce shortage challenges have been felt by many agencies and business' across multiple geographic areas.

The shortage of personnel at Wayne County Children Services Board directly impacted the extra services the agency was able to provide to our community in 2023. Staff across the agency had higher workloads. Data shifts related to the number of children served have been observed due to staffing challenges and consolidated initiatives. Our agency hired 16 qualified staff people to join our team in 2023. We ended the year with 8 caseworker vacancies to fill in 2024.

Addressing the workforce shortage at Wayne County Children Services Board has been a multifaceted approach that addresses both recruitment and retention efforts. The agency must continue to prioritize initiatives aimed at retaining our professionals and attracting new qualified professionals to join its workforce, such as offering competitive salaries, providing opportunities for career advancement, and implementing targeted recruitment campaigns to reach potential candidates.

## PLACEMENT CRISIS

Wayne County Children Services Board continues to grapple with a significant placement crisis within its child welfare agency. This crisis is shared across Ohio and the nation.

The placement crisis in Wayne County Children Services Board stems from various interconnected factors. Despite efforts to recruit and retain foster families, Wayne County Children Services Board struggles to keep up with the demand for foster homes. This shortage exacerbates the challenges of finding suitable placements for children in need of temporary care.

Many children entering the foster care system have complex physical, emotional, and/or behavioral needs that require specialized care. Finding appropriate placements equipped to address these needs adds another layer of difficulty to the placement process.

The placement crisis has profound implications for the well-being of children and families involved with Wayne County Children Services Board. Frequent placement changes or delays in finding suitable placements can exacerbate the trauma experienced by children who have already been removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect. Instability in living arrangements can disrupt their sense of security and hinder their emotional development.

Investing in recruitment efforts and providing ongoing support, training, and resources to foster families can help increase the pool of available placements and improve retention rates.

This annual report encapsulates the collective dedication of our staff, volunteers, and partners in realizing our mission. While acknowledging our achievements, we remain vigilant in addressing challenges and look forward to the continued support through our upcoming levy and collaborations.

Wayne County Children Services Board remains steadfast in its commitment to protect, preserve, and empower families to build a foundation for a brighter tomorrow.



## **Wayne County Children Services Board**

**Protecting Children & Strengthening Families since 1882**

Protect   Preserve   Empower



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