

ALLEN COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES

Protecting children by supporting and strengthening families in partnership with the community.



We are excited to deliver the Allen County Children Services (ACCS) 2022 Annual Report to the Community. Although we are no longer seeing the direct effects attributed to COVID in 2022, the pandemic has affected the public's mental health and well-being in a variety of ways. Those ways include the prevalence of mental illness and substance use disorders which has had a direct impact on the well-being of children and families in Allen County.

In 2022, ACCS investigated 912 cases of abuse and neglect, a 3 percent increase compared to the previous year. We also remained relatively consistent with a 4 percent increase in the number of children removed from the custody of their parents and placed with either relatives or into agency custody. Many of these referrals involved parents using substances containing synthetic opioids and stimulants. The referrals also include children working with multiple treatment providers while caregivers struggle to manage their complex needs.

Despite the challenges we face, we are proud to share our successes. One of the programs that continues to help families and parents battling substance use is our Ohio Sobriety Treatment and Reducing Trauma (START) program. In 2022, six families were able to participate in the intensive program with the goal of increasing the number of families served in 2023. The family peer mentor assigned to assist families in this program on average made 36 contacts with the family spending on average 60 minutes each time. The peer support piece of the program is vital to the success of providing hope and encouragement to the parent to ensure their children can remain safely in their care or successfully reunify.

The year 2022 also allowed us to prioritize the Kinnect to Family program with our Kinnect to Family Specialist serving 22 youth, the highest amount served since implementation in 2018. Kinnect to Family is a specialized, intense, family search and engagement program using diligent search strategies to identify connections for children and families. The program also empowers kinship caregivers and wraps them in supports allowing children to remain connected to their family and culture.

In addition, we were awarded \$160,245 in funds from the state for achieving best practice performance for timely investigations and ensuring visitation of more than 95 percent

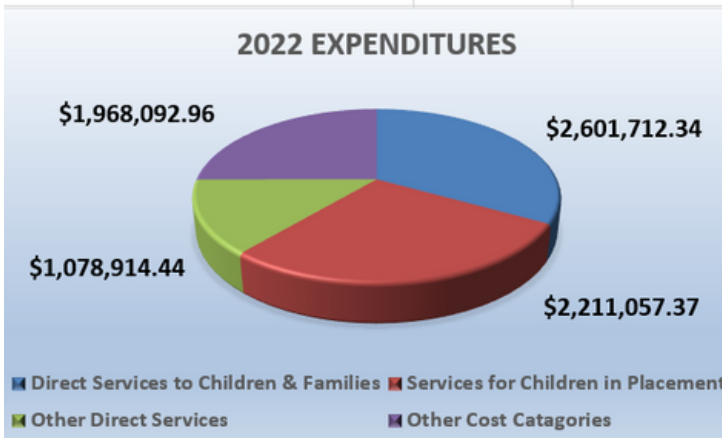
2022 by the numbers

- 4,180 referrals to our agency
- 912 referrals investigated
- 346 children in the temporary custody of relatives
- 192 children in protective supervision
- 120 children in agency custody
- 7 children found their forever home through adoption

Financials



2022 Revenue		
Federal	\$3,453,902.72	43.29%
State	\$1,570,428.99	19.68%
Local Levy	\$2,572,751.66	32.24%
Local	\$381,907.53	4.79%
Total Revenue	\$7,978,990.90	100.00%



2021 Expenditures		
Direct Services to Children and Families	\$2,601,712.34	33.11%
Services for Children in Placement	\$2,211,057.37	28.13%
Other Direct Services	\$1,078,914.44	13.72%
Other Cost Categories	\$1,968,092.96	25.04%
Total	\$7,859,777.11	100.00%

Board of Directors

- Chris Provaznik
- Christopher Jackson
- Kristopher Browning
- Aimee Bucher
- Nate Garlock
- Barbara Blass
- Jennifer Brogee

Executive Director

Sarah Newland



Allen County Children Services staff on Wear Blue Day 2022

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of all required face-to-face visits with children and parents. We pride ourselves on delivering the best service possible to the families we serve.

Our agency mission of “Protecting children by supporting and strengthening families in partnership with the community” continues to define the work we deliver to the community each day. Despite the challenges we face, our team remains committed to protecting children in our community while helping families overcome challenges. We cannot do it and cannot have success without the many partners we have in the community from agencies that work with us daily to the relative/kinship providers and foster parents who provide a safe home to children who are unable to remain in their own home. We look forward to continuing to deliver the highest quality and best outcomes for the families and children we serve.