

ALLEN COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES



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



2024 by the numbers

- 3,858 referrals to our agency
- 762 referrals investigated
- 136 children in the temporary custody of relatives
- 259 children in protective supervision
- 209 children in agency custody
- 12 children found their forever home through adoption

One in 13 children in Allen County were served by Allen County Children Services (ACCS) in 2024 due to abuse and neglect. That statistic provides insight into the needs and vulnerabilities the families in our community face. It also shows the far-reaching impact our agency has with ensuring child protection.

In 2024, we again worked tirelessly to ensure our mission of protecting children by supporting and strengthening families in partnership with the community. We could not do this vital work without help from our partner agencies and the public. Last year, there were 3,858 calls made to ACCS reporting abuse and neglect with 762 cases opened for assessment.

Our ongoing units served 259 children in protective supervision which is when children remain in their own home while caseworkers work with the family on services to ensure child safety and wellbeing. There was a 20-percent increase in the number of children served in their home compared to the previous year. Our ongoing casework staff served 136 children in the temporary custody of relatives. There were 259 children removed from their home and placed in the custody of the agency. Our foster care staff was successful in finalizing 12 adoptions in 2024. The number of children in the temporary custody of relatives continues to decrease because of changes with our agency and the court specific to eligibility in the kinship guardianship assistance program. The program requires our agency maintains custody and places children with relative caregivers.

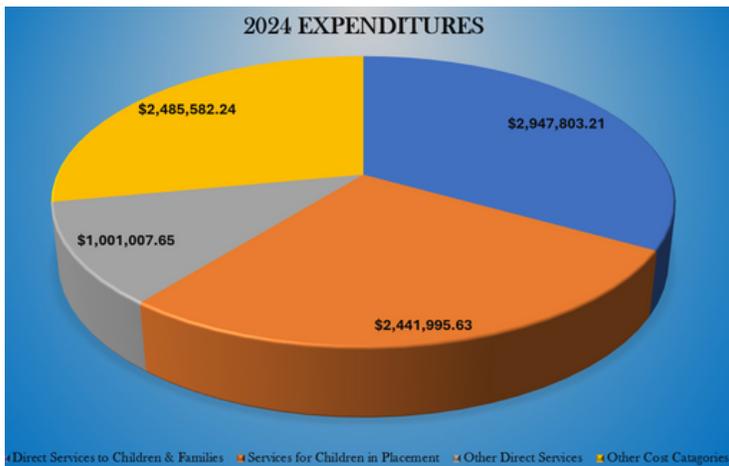
In 2024, we had 345 children in out-of-home placement. This year was similar to 2023 with 346 children, which was the lowest number of children placed outside the home in more than 10 years. Our increase in the number of children we are serving in protective supervision and the decrease of children in out-of-home placements are positive trends in our community for ensuring families remain intact.

Although out-of-home placements have decreased, the cost of paying for out-of-home placements has increased. The 2024 placement costs were the second highest total only to 2016 which was during the height of the opiate epidemic. Some of the costs were due to the impact of the kinship guardianship assistance program but most of the costs was due to the rising placement costs that have surged throughout the state. This rise has increased across all settings and has outpaced inflation with a statewide increase of foster homes by 29 percent, group homes up by 64 percent and residential treatment facilities by up 54 percent over the last four years.

Financials



2024 Revenue		
Federal	\$3,952,405.39	44%
State	\$2,356,102.73	26%
Local Levy	\$2,561,188.98	28%
Local	\$207,292.18	2%
Total Revenue	\$9,076,989.28	100.00%



2024 Expenditures		
Direct Services to Children and Families	\$2,947,803.21	33%
Services for Children in Placement	\$2,441,995.63	28%
Other Direct Services	\$1,001,007.65	11%
Other Cost Categories	\$2,485,582.24	28%
Total	\$8,876,388.73	100.00%

Board of Directors

- | | |
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Executive Director

Sarah Newland



Allen County Children Services staff on Wear Blue Day 2024

FROM FIRST PAGE

To combat the rising costs and have more opportunities for youth to remain in our community, ACCS in partnership with Auglaize and Hardin counties to secure a \$225,000 grant to license and maintain treatment foster care homes in the region. This opportunity is exciting and vital to our goal of serving youth with complex needs locally and reducing the need for congregate care. We also implemented the youth-centered permanency roundtable program in 2024 which put youth at the center of important meetings designed with the goal of establishing legal permanency. Our staff continues to do this important work while adapting to the challenges of a workforce shortage. Our priority of ensuring quality and best practice for families continues to be a focus. In 2024, ACCS received \$76,550 in best practice funding from the state for ensuring benchmarks for timeliness of investigations and compliance with our comprehensive visitation report. We developed a new training program to assist new staff with timely and effective training. The Ohio Department of Children and Youth also facilitated the child protection oversight and evaluation with positive findings in all categories of child safety, permanency and wellbeing. We ended 2024 on a bittersweet note when we said goodbye to long-serving board member Chris Provaznik whose dedication and commitment to the work of ACCS helped shape the agency over the last 27 years. As 2025 develops, we look forward to continuing the collaboration with our incredible community partners and continuing the priority of keeping families together while providing support and services to address safety concerns for the most vulnerable children in Allen County.

Sarah Newland
Executive Director