

ALLEN COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES

AGENCY HISTORY

Allen County Children Services Board is the county's "single agency of county government" empowered to provide public care and services to children as set forth in Chapter 5153 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Public services to children in Ohio began in 1866 with the passage of the Children's Home Law, enabling counties to build and maintain childcare institutions for dependent and neglected children. In 1946, the passage of the comprehensive Children Services Act by the State Legislature mandated that each county provide social services for children and their families.

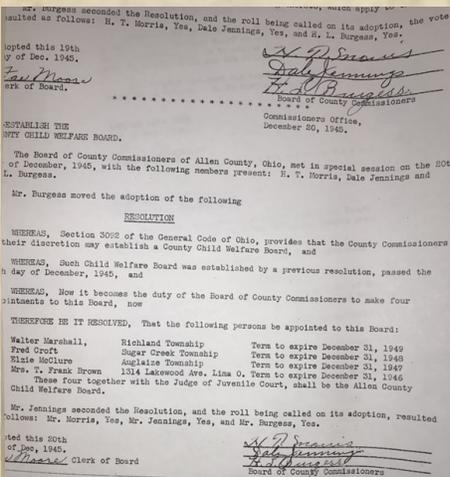
The first children's home in Allen County was opened in 1884 along Lafayette Road and was destroyed by a fire in 1891. Commissioners built a new children's home on land on Fort Amanda Road near Shawnee Road which opened in 1891. It served many children until late 1971 when it closed. It was replaced by Allen Acres which closed in 2003 in favor of foster family care.



The original Children's Home sat along Lafayette Road. The children who lived there went to school in the Bath district. Prior to the old Home burning, the Bath school district voted to deny them admission to the school "because of crowded conditions at the school and the fact that the board received no compensation."

The Board for Allen County Children Services was started when the Commissioners met in special session on Dec. 19, 1945, to consider House Bill 418, which passed the state legislature on June 28, 1945. The new law would become effective Jan. 1, 1946, and required county commissioners to appoint a county child welfare board or establish a county department of welfare.

Allen County commissioners established a County Child Welfare Board under the provisions of statute 3092 of the General Code of Ohio. Once established, commissioners appointed members to the board that replaced the Board of Trustees to the Children's Home.



On Dec. 20, 1945, the Commissioners passed a resolution to establish Allen County Children Services which also established a Child Welfare Board for Allen County. The original four appointments to the Board were Walter Marshall, Fred Croft, Elzie McClure and Mrs. T. Frank Brown.

Allen County Children Services is committed to protecting children by supporting and strengthening families in partnership with the community.