



**PERRY COUNTY  
CHILDREN SERVICES**

Protecting Children. Preserving Families. Building Futures.



**Perry County Children Services ANNUAL REPORT**  
TO THE COMMUNITY 2022

# A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

When I became the Executive Director of Perry County Children Services in late 2019, I could have never anticipated how much our world was about to change. No one could have predicted the massive impact of a global pandemic in both the short- and long-term. As the world began to re-emerge in 2022, the aftershocks were felt everywhere, but perhaps most acutely for the youngest members of our society. Increased demands upon our school personnel to meet the complex needs of children grew to a level that we could not ignore. In response, plans began to take shape for a new program that would bring caseworkers into our local schools to provide an additional layer of support. Our adventure into the school systems in Perry County began in New Lexington Elementary and will grow into all four of our districts in the Fall of 2023. The School Outreach Program is a unique partnership that we hope will fill a need in our schools and help break down barriers for children and families to gain access to additional community programs and supports.

While the number of children entering agency care declined in 2022, the costs associated with placement increased due to the higher acuity needs of children being placed and an overall increase in the cost of services. Many children who come to the attention of our system have significant multi-system involvement including delinquency, mental health diagnoses, developmental disabilities, and educational deficits. It takes every system working together cooperatively to address the complex needs of children and families in today's society.

With a shortage of available foster care homes, placement of children can be extremely difficult. The stark reality is that we have more children in need of placement in Ohio than we have available placement resources. Perry County is no different. We need more local foster homes, especially for older children. Keeping children in our community and in their own schools is critically important for minimizing the trauma of leaving their homes due a safety issue.

All children deserve to have the opportunity to thrive in an environment that is safe, healthy and happy. We simply cannot do this important work alone. We are fortunate that Perry County values what we do to support our youngest community members and to have a team that always strives to do better and create more opportunities for the people we serve.

*Amy L. Frame*

Amy L. Frame, Executive Director



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of Rehabilitation and Corrections

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Retired Principal, Millcreek Elementary School

## Mission

**The mission of PCCSB is to protect children from serious maltreatment, to make reasonable efforts to safely keep children in their own homes, and to provide permanency for children who must be removed from their families for their own safety.**

*Photo from L to R: Lacy Bateson, Wendy Barcus, Michelle Clouse, Misty White, Amy Frame, Katie Hursey*



# OUR SERVICES



## INTAKE

Intake services are typically the first point of contact at the agency, where we receive reports of alleged child abuse and neglect. Each call is individually recorded in the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System and reviewed to determine a screening decision. Intake services also includes after-hours emergency response.

*Photo from L to R: Lacy Bateson, Tiffany Knopp, Billi Klingler, Jalyn Hammond, Paige Dennis, Catherine Miller*



## ONGOING

The Ongoing unit provides supportive case management to strengthen family supports and to keep families together. In cases where children have been removed from their home, the Ongoing unit works toward family reunification. A case plan is developed by working closely with the family, support persons and service providers.

*Photo from L to R: Jennifer Nelson, Kelly Valentine, Katie Hursey, Tyler Wood, Kari Kern, Stephanie Benanti*



## FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION

When children are unable to remain safely in their own homes, alternative placement arrangements must be made. When there are no family placement options, licensed foster parents can help. Licensed foster parents must complete training and multiple assessments before they can be considered for licensing. Foster care is temporary and designed to help children in their greatest time of need. During this time, the Adoption unit is working to find the best permanent home for the child.

*Photo from L to R: Samantha Reynold, Wendy Winegardner, Kendall Fetty, Andrew Bennett*



## SCHOOL OUTREACH PROGRAM

The School Outreach Program is a local-levy-funded, short-term intervention program designed to help children and families by breaking barriers that hinder a child's overall potential and success through preventative services and supports. School Outreach Caseworkers provide a variety of services within the school building including, truancy prevention, community referrals and links to local resources, crisis intervention, summer support and assistance with basic needs. The services are open to all students and referrals are welcome from staff, parents or the students themselves.

*Photo from L to R: Rikki Wilson, Allison Shiplett, Misty White, Stephanie Benanti, Jaime Taylor*

# BY THE NUMBERS 2022



**10**

Agency Licensed Foster and Adoptive Homes



**15**

Inquiries for Foster Care or Adoption



**41**

Kinship Care Home Study Inquiries



**1,714**

Caseworker Conducted Home Visits



**\$62,325**

in State Kinship Permanency Incentive Program Funds Issued by ODJFS through PCCS

**PARENT/FAMILY ISSUES AND PARENTAL DRUG USE IS PRIMARY REASON FOR REMOVAL.**

**1,088**

Intake Reports

**257**

Screened in for Investigation

**779**

Reports from Mandated Reporters  
*(school employees, counselors, social workers, nurses, doctors, law enforcement)*

**45**

Children Placed in Agency Custody



of the time siblings are placed together



of the time, children were placed in Perry County or an adjoining county in 2022



of children who entered agency custody were initially placed with a relative in 2022 (27 of 45)

**24**

reunited with a parent

+

**27**

entered legal custody of a relative

+

**5**

finalized adoptions

+

**4**

emancipated from foster care

=

**60**

children exited agency custody in 2022

**"I think giving the kids who cross our paths the ability to believe in themselves is the best reward!"**

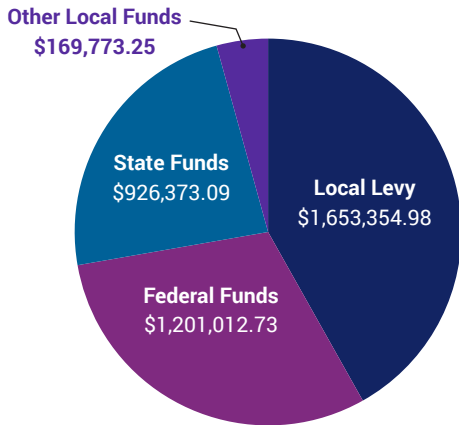
*Brandy & Kelly Spicer, Foster Parents*



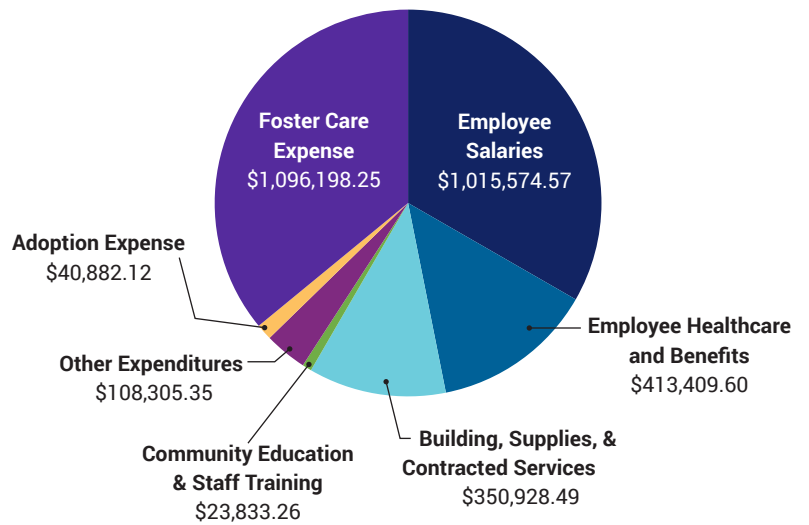


# REVENUE & EXPENSES

**2022 REVENUE - \$3,950,514.05**



**2022 EXPENDITURES - \$3,049,131.64**



“This position of school outreach caseworker is a game changer for fulfilling the needs of our elementary students and families. Our students start each day with a friendly greeting at the front door by our school outreach caseworker. By having this liaison in our school daily, we are able to provide above and beyond support to our kids and staff.”

*Casey Coffey, Superintendent, New Lexington School District*

# REVENUE BREAKDOWNS

