

# BUILDING STRONGER FAMILIES



# ANNUAL REPORT

## SERVICES OFFERED TO CHILDREN

Children Services offers a full slate of child welfare services for the families and children of Trumbull County. These services are listed below with the number of persons served in 2014.

### ■ Children Services

Provided services to 3,844 children in 1,985 families.

### ■ Intake/Assessment Department

Assessed and provided services to 1,260 referrals of child maltreatment (i.e., abuse, neglect, dependency, other) concerning 2,832 children.

### ■ Sexual Abuse and Investigation Unit

Conducted 225 investigations of serious sexual abuse, physical abuse, neglect and dependency allegations concerning 503 children.

### ■ Ongoing In-Home Protective Services

Provided to 345 children.

### ■ Children's Center

Serviced 33 children; 5,983 days of care in the Children's Center.

### ■ Secure Care Unit for Children

Served 18 children for 2,389 days of care.

### ■ Therapeutic Paid Placements

57 children received 10,395 days of care in therapeutic foster care and other residential settings.

### ■ Foster Care

222 children were cared for in Agency foster homes for a total of 47,245 days of care; a monthly average of 121 children were served. The Agency had 101 licensed foster homes during 2014.

### ■ Adoption Services

32 children were placed and 17 adoptions finalized.

### ■ Family Support Services

Provided to 132 families.

### ■ Independent Living Initiatives

35 children were prepared for emancipation from agency care and assisted after emancipation.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Trumbull County Children Services actively participates in several community programs that support children, such as the Family & Children First Council, the Child Assault Prosecution Team, the Child Fatality Review Board, the Child Advocacy Center, Trumbull County Juvenile Court and the County Human Services Planning Committee.



Day Care Visits for Treats



Little Princess



Rising Up & Moving On



Pinwheels for Prevention



United Way Collection



Trumbull County Fair



Father Focus

## STRENGTH-BASED AND FAMILY CENTERED SERVICES

Children Services offers programs which strengthen and maintain family life. We identify positive attributes that have worked successfully for families in the past, and we build on these strengths so that families can solve their problems and grow stronger. Programs are developed which provide support for families and help children find permanency in their birth homes, relative homes or adoptive homes.

- **Family Unity Meetings:** An agency facilitator partners with the family in a community support team that strengthens the family and provides for the safety and well-being of the children.

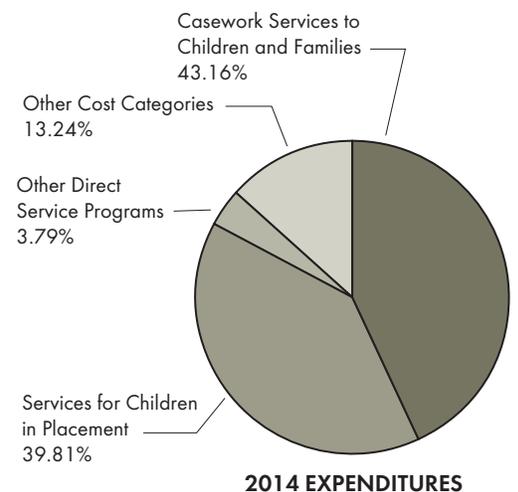
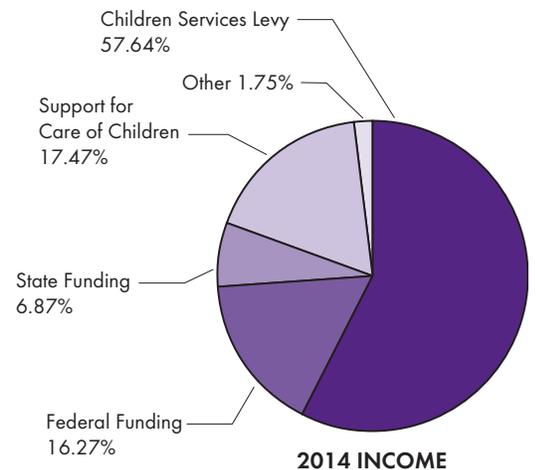
- **Family-To-Family Team Meetings:** Family connections are made between foster parents and birth parents to support the children in care. The Family-To-Family relationship provides a foundation that continues long after the child returns home.

- **Family Dependency Treatment Court (FDTC):** Family Court, Children Services, the Mental Health & Recovery Board, and other child advocates and treatment providers collaborate to assist parent(s) in achieving sobriety, receiving appropriate drug & alcohol treatment and making positive changes in their lives and the lives of their child(ren). Some families involved in this program have achieved sobriety and reunification.

- **Ohio's Differential Response System:** Trumbull County Children Services is leading the state in sustaining Differential Response (DR). DR allows our staff the ability to offer either a traditional response or an alternative response to accepted reports of child maltreatment. This flexibility allows the Agency to develop a variety of family-centered practices that best serve the needs of families and children. Alternative Response focuses on working with families to identify strengths and build in safety networks that ensure child safety. Alternative Response utilizes family engagement to develop family service plans that meet the needs of the children and adults in the home.

- **Residential Services:** The Agency partners with Valley Counseling and Homes for Kids to provide therapeutic services for children who require residential treatment for emotional problems. Trumbull County is fortunate to have community-based residential treatment services offered by the Children's Center and the Secure Care for Children Unit. Without locally-based residential treatment, children would have to receive help from other institutions, miles from their home.

- **Father Focus:** Trumbull County Children Services is developing a fatherhood program, entitled "Father Focus," with a mission to engage fathers and help promote positive involvement with their children. Research shows that the benefits of having an involved father include improved verbal skills, improved academic performance and better social and emotional development, resulting in fewer behavioral problems. Children who have fathers involved are less likely to engage in delinquent behavior or use drugs and are less likely to suffer from child maltreatment. The Agency has entered into collaboration with the Trumbull County Fatherhood Initiative and is also being mentored by Summit County Children Services, who has had a successful Fatherhood program for several years.



Adoption Day

## BUILDING STRONGER FAMILIES

We talk a lot about our great partnerships in Trumbull County. Our Family and Children First Council has effectively brought us all to the table for years, bringing focus to all of our efforts with bi-annual strategic planning sessions which assure that everyone has a voice in identifying service gaps and then jointly determining the most effective and efficient actions to address them. We're very proud of our High Fidelity Wraparound initiative which brings all of our front line staff to the table with identified youth and families and their supports to help keep the youth at home and the family intact. In fact, our success with families and the millions of dollars that we save annually has brought statewide attention to our county's efforts and will likely result in replication of this initiative across the state.



Timothy Schaffner

Despite our past successful efforts, we can never stop and rest on our laurels. Trumbull County Children Services has embarked on some new partnerships that we think are essential to maintaining our standards of excellence. We received a Primary Parent Partner Planning grant in 2014. Our planning committee, made up of case-work staff, supervisors, a Board member, a foster parent and two parents who have received services from this agency, met throughout the year, researching and visiting other programs to complete our plan. This plan's implementation in 2015 will be supported by a new grant that will allow us to provide orientation sessions to newly involved parents, support groups for youth and their parents and, most importantly, support from parent practitioners (parents who have formerly received our services) who can work with new families in our system.

A second grant effort, initiated in 2014, supports the establishment of a Fatherhood program entitled Father Focus. We are lucky to be guided in our work by Summit County Children Services, whose well-established program has resulted in fathers being identified in 93% of their cases! Our own well-established Father Focus committee has conducted an agency self-assessment, arranged for father search and engagement training for all casework staff, and will partner with father practitioners to facilitate groups for fathers involved with our agency.

Finally, we are very excited to be an active partner in the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) spearheaded by our Family Court with technical assistance provided by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. We have learned that nationally only 25% of youth who are detained are charged with violent offenses. We also now know that detention leads to worse outcomes such as increased school dropout rates and increased use of drugs and alcohol. In fact, detention is a stronger predictor of recidivism among juveniles than many well-known factors. Through collaboration and use of shared data, we will establish alternative programming in our community to address the issues that bring youth to the attention of our courts. The impact of this process has been very positive in other communities and we look forward to new and creative ways to meet the needs of the youth and families of Trumbull County.

We promise to keep you posted regarding our progress in these areas. We are ALWAYS open to new ideas and programs that will further our mission. We are interested in everyone's ideas about ways that we can work together to **HELP BUILD STRONGER FAMILIES** in our community.

## 2014 Income

Revenue Sources:

<b>Children Services Levy</b> .....	9,515,310
<b>Federal Reimbursement</b>	
• Title IV-E .....	2,433,039
• Title IV-B .....	135,879
• Emergency Services Assistance .....	102,512
• Caseworker Visits.....	9,399
• Medicaid Administration.....	4,168
Total Federal Funding.....	2,684,997
<b>State Reimbursement</b>	
• Child Welfare Subsidy (SCPA).....	970,435
• Post Finalization Adoption Subsidy.....	9,764
• Non-Recurring Adoption Subsidy.....	7,262
• State Match Funding .....	12,110
• Foster Parent Training .....	15,420
• Community Luncheon.....	2,764
• Kinship Permanency Incentive .....	116,175
Total State Funding.....	1,133,930
<b>Support for the Care of Children</b>	
• Foster Care and Paid Placements .....	1,209,833
• Residential and Group Care .....	1,595,704
• Independent Living .....	78,823
Total Support for the Care of Children .....	2,884,360
<b>Grants</b> .....	5,000
<b>Refunds and Reimbursements</b> .....	284,131
<b>TOTAL 2014 INCOME</b> .....	\$16,507,728

## 2014 Expenditures

Service Categories:

### Casework Services to Children and Families

• Intake and Assessments.....	1,601,541
• Investigations.....	432,025
• In Home Services .....	1,128,632
• Substitute Care Services.....	1,441,640
• Resources and Permanency Planning.....	1,663,582
• Family Support Team.....	142,530
• After Hours Emergency Team .....	100,936
• Family Unity Meetings.....	90,422
Subtotal.....	6,601,308

### Services for Children in Placement

• Children's Center .....	1,689,256
• Foster Care and Adoption Subsidy Payments.....	1,730,548
• Secure Care .....	720,117
• Paid Placements .....	1,121,371
• Transportation Services .....	484,148
• Independent Living Initiatives.....	149,391
• Foster Child Daycare.....	194,802
Subtotal .....	6,089,633

### Other Direct Service Programs

• Child Assault Prosecution Funding .....	289,896
• Runaway and Homeless Youth Funding .....	9,055
• Family Emergency Support .....	147,540
• Kinship Permanency Incentive .....	117,600
• Family Dependency Treatment Court.....	16,067
Subtotal .....	580,158

### Other Cost Categories

• Maintenance and Custodians.....	336,731
• Human Resources and Administration Costs .....	595,025
• Fiscal, CQI and Support.....	909,821
• Staff Training and Education.....	118,695
• Community Education.....	64,918
Subtotal.....	2,025,190

**TOTAL 2014 OPERATING EXPENSES** ..... \$15,296,289



Final Adoption Day for Judge Swift



Sister Jean Orsuto  
President



Mrs. Aliko Raphtis  
Vice-President



Ms. Nicolette Darkangelo  
Secretary



Mr. Carlo A. Ciccone



Mr. Kevin Govitt

**TRUMBULL COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES**

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Trumbull County Children Services is accredited by the Council on Accreditation and is a member agency of the Child Welfare League of America. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Speakers are available to address community groups. Call for information.

