

Trumbull County Children Services embarks on effort to elevate family healing

Warren, Ohio - Trumbull County Children Services (TCCS) is proud to announce their newest launch of a new shared practice model called PACT, Practice in Action Together.

This model was identified by the association of county agencies as a key component for modernizing Ohio's children services agencies in December 2020. "PACT will be revolutionary for public children services agencies as the model focuses on 'how' we strengthen relationships between caseworkers and families, elevate healing, and achieve equity while meeting state and federal mandates," said Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO) Executive Director Angela Sausser. "PACT was developed for and by caseworkers, supervisors and agency leaders working alongside families, former foster youth, academics and other experts."

Trumbull County Children Services and seven other agencies have been selected as champions for change to begin implementing PACT. "PCSAO's board of trustees has committed initial funding to build internal implementation capacity that will be needed to provide technical assistance, coaching and facilitation for these counties," Sausser added. "This included engaging Kaye Implementation & Evaluation as a research partner."

Participating county agencies include:

- Ashtabula County Children Services
- Athens County Children Services
- Belmont County Job & Family Services
- Champaign County Job & Family Services
- Fairfield County Job & Family Services
- Morgan County Job & Family Services
- Perry County Children Services
- Trumbull County Children Services
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"How we do our work is imPACTful when working with families. PACT's design is to help strengthen the relationships and collaborative efforts of child welfare and families served with the intent to provide more positive outcomes," stated Angela Cochran, Ohio START caseworker with TCCS and PACT design team member. "When we focus our attention on family values and building partnerships, we find that the work that we do daily is more meaningful and imPACTful in the lives of those we serve. I am very excited to see PACT implemented in our daily practice and improving how we work with families."

PCSAO's director of strategic initiatives, Mike Kenney, is leading the project. He praised the directors of selected agencies as thought leaders committed to improving outcomes for children and families. "After two years of listening to families, caseworkers and leaders on the journey to co-designing PACT, we believe that this model will result in hope for success and shared dignity between workers and families," Kenney said. "Relationships are the leading indicator of positive outcomes for families and children. PACT is designed to help caseworkers and families build meaningful relations through behavioral change and with relentless focus on family-centered values."

Learn more at <https://www.pcsao.org/pact>.

Trumbull County Children Services, in partnership with families and the community, protects and advocates for children in crisis or at risk of abuse and neglect. The Agency assesses risk and builds on family strengths in seeking to maintain or reunite children with safe families. We perform this mandate with compassion, respect, and professionalism to families in Trumbull County.