

**“ We want to express  
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We are grateful every day for their partnerships, our staff commitment to do whatever it takes to keep kids safe and help families grow stronger, and the courage of our Recovery program staff to step up and share their experience, strength and hope every day.”

**ANNUAL REPORT**

TRUMBULL  
COUNTY

**Children**  
SERVICES



## SERVICES OFFERED TO CHILDREN IN 2018

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 2018.

### Children Services

Provided services to **4,558** children in **2,244** families.

### Intake/Assessment Department

Assessed and provided services to **1,647** referrals of child maltreatment (i.e., abuse, neglect, dependency, other) concerning **3,806** children.

### Sexual Abuse and Investigation Unit

Conducted **197** investigations of serious sexual abuse, physical abuse, neglect and dependency allegations concerning **512** children.

### Ongoing In-Home Protective Services

Provided to **442** children.

### Children's Center

Serviced **43** children; **6,456** days of care in the Children's Center.

### Secure Care Unit for Children

Served **15** children for **1,928** days of care.

### Therapeutic Paid Placements

**68** children received **12,097** days of care in therapeutic foster care and other residential settings.

### Foster Care / Out-of-Home Care

**169** children were cared for in Agency foster homes for a total of **23,491** days of care; a monthly average of **66** children were served. The Agency had **90** licensed foster homes during **2018**.

### Adoption Services

**24** children were placed and **18** adoptions were finalized.

### Family Support Services

Provided to **109** families.

### Independent Living Initiatives

**56** 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 Job and Family Services Agency.

## 2018 HIGHLIGHTS



Acceptance of the Proclamation from the Commissioners



Support from BACA



Karl with a dog from Sit Means Sit



Pinwheels Event



Pinwheels Event at City Hall

# 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.

■ **NEW! Substance Use Disorder Programming:** The agency has two grant programs designed to address the intersection of child welfare and parental substance abuse. The Trumbull County Substance Use Disorder (T-SUDE) Initiative is a federal initiative funded by the US Department of Health and Human Services and evaluated by the Institute for Human Potential. The START (Sobriety, Treatment, & Reducing Trauma) program is funded by the Office of the Ohio Attorney General and evaluated by Ohio State University. Both programs pair a child welfare caseworker with a peer recovery advocate to provide intensive case management services.

■ **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.

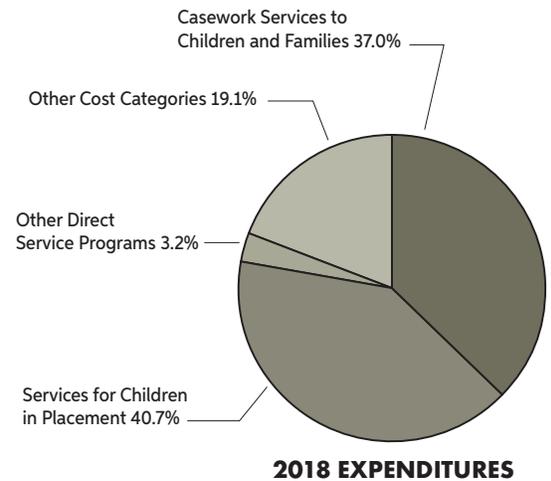
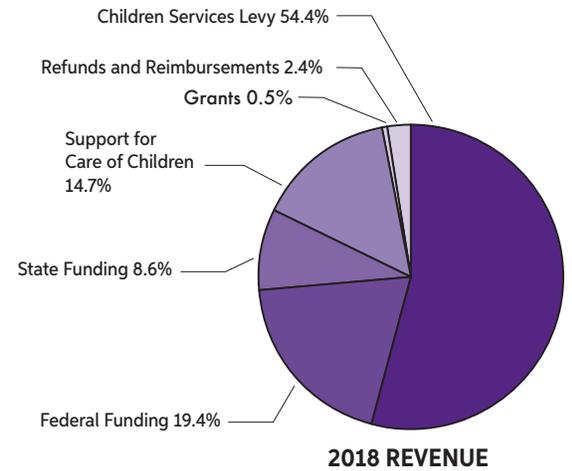
■ **Family Dependency Treatment Court (FDTC):** Family Court, Children Services, the Mental Health & Recovery Board, and other child advocates and treatment providers collaborate to assist parent(s) in achieving sobriety, receiving appropriate drug & alcohol treatment and making positive changes in their lives and the lives of their child(ren). Many 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. The Agency develops 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.

■ **Residential Services:** The Agency partners with Valley Counseling, Homes for Kids, Belmont Pines and Valley Home Health Care to provide therapeutic, trauma based 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.

■ **Wendy's Wonderful Kids (WWK) Recruitment Program:** The Agency's WWK Recruitment Program is graciously being funded by the Dave Thomas Foundation. These funds have allowed the Agency to hire a fulltime WWK Recruiter. The Agency's WWK Recruiter focuses exclusively on removing obstacles to permanency and finding adoptive homes for the Agency's hardest to place children.

■ **Permanency Roundtables:** All children and youth deserve permanency and permanent connections. Toward that goal, Permanency Roundtables (PRTs) are structured case consultations focused on the goals of expediting legal permanency for the child, stimulating thinking and learning about ways to accelerate permanency, and identifying and addressing systemic barriers to timely permanency. The values guiding PRTs include youth empowerment, the relentless persistency of permanency, sound prep for adulthood, a supportive team environment and the development of strategies that increase hope.



A great day for Brooklyn

# Lived Experience

We are often asked how the opiate epidemic has affected children and families in Trumbull County and whether any progress is being made in battling this terrible crisis. We can recount the statistics of the number of children taken into custody, the fact that they are younger than in previous years, that they are going into higher levels of care and that they stay there longer. We can share horrible stories of parents dying of this terrible disease and the trauma that addiction and death has visited upon the child. We emphasize that without sophisticated intervention with the child, the consequences will be lifelong and will take a toll emotionally and physically. But we also always remind our community that many more children would be in our custody if it were not for the grandparents and other kin who step up to take care of these children.



Timothy Schaffner

There are other positive changes and efforts to address this epidemic. We have joined efforts chaired by the Trumbull County Combined Health District along with the Mental Health Recovery Board, Law Enforcement, County and Federal Prosecutors, local hospitals, and Behavioral Health providers to create and implement a community wide action plan. These intense efforts have resulted in fewer opiate related overdose deaths in our county. We know in real time what drugs are on the streets, where the overdoses are occurring and the demographics of the victims. We can coordinate our efforts to predict most effectively the influx of dangerous drugs, intervene and save lives, then coordinate efforts to make connections to the appropriate level of addiction treatment.

Internally we have responded with the addition of several evidence-based practices to more effectively help our family partners. We wrote for and received two key grants to help in the initial development of these specialized interventions. We received an Ohio START grant to build a team to address more effectively the needs of a family with children over the age of one exposed to addiction. A federal grant supports development of a second team to address the needs of families with children under the age of one exposed to addiction, and to develop strategies to help other counties meet the requirements of the Comprehensive Addiction Recovery Act (CARA). We are confident that implementation of these programs will “step up our game” and help us assure that families receive and benefit from recovery programs while we assure the safety and well-being of the children.

A primary key to an effective recovery program (and ANY child welfare or behavioral health intervention) is the effectiveness of the therapeutic alliance between the professional and the client. Critical to our recovery programs are caseworkers and a supervisor who understand the disease of addiction and the fact that “treatment works, and people DO recover.” Essential to our ability in establishing relationships with our clients are our Recovery Coaches. These new grant supported staff are parents who have lived experience with addiction. They are parents who have struggled to parent effectively and have required the intervention of children services to firmly establish a recovery program that enabled them to parent again. When they contact a person struggling with addiction early in the process, they are living proof that there is help and hope. The outcomes nationally attest to this.

So, we want to express our thanks to our many partners in these challenging times. We are grateful every day for their partnerships, our staff commitment to do whatever it takes to keep kids safe and help families grow stronger, and the courage of our Recovery program staff to step up and share their experience, strength and hope every day.

## 2018 REVENUE

Revenue Sources:

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>Children Services Levy</b> .....                 | <b>9,064,059</b>    |
| <b>Federal Reimbursement</b>                        |                     |
| • Title IV-E .....                                  | 2,835,559           |
| • Title IV-B .....                                  | 130,397             |
| • Medicaid.....                                     | 156,908             |
| • Emergency Services Assistance.....                | 104,928             |
| • Caseworker Visits .....                           | 6,901               |
| <b>Total Federal Funding</b> .....                  | <b>3,234,693</b>    |
| <b>State Reimbursement</b>                          |                     |
| • Child Welfare Subsidy (SCPA) .....                | 1,255,326           |
| • Post Finalization Adoption Subsidy.....           | 88,977              |
| • Non-Recurring Adoption Subsidy.....               | 13,057              |
| • State Match Funding.....                          | 52,928              |
| • Foster Parent Training .....                      | 16,530              |
| <b>Total State Funding</b> .....                    | <b>1,426,818</b>    |
| <b>Support for the Care of Children</b>             |                     |
| • Foster Care and Paid Placements .....             | 1,128,800           |
| • Residential and Group Care .....                  | 1,189,536           |
| • Independent Living .....                          | 115,427             |
| <b>Total Support for the Care of Children</b> ..... | <b>2,433,763</b>    |
| <b>Grants</b> .....                                 | <b>87,679</b>       |
| <b>Refunds and Reimbursements</b> .....             | <b>400,709</b>      |
| <b>TOTAL 2018 REVENUE</b> .....                     | <b>\$16,647,721</b> |

## 2018 EXPENDITURES

Service Categories:

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>Casework Services to Children and Families</b>     |                     |
| • Intake and Assessments .....                        | 1,472,753           |
| • Investigations.....                                 | 386,558             |
| • In Home Services .....                              | 864,131             |
| • Substitute Care Services.....                       | 1,578,213           |
| • Resources and Permanency Planning.....              | 1,491,518           |
| • Family Support Team .....                           | 158,717             |
| • After Hours Emergency Team .....                    | 97,389              |
| • Family Unity Meetings .....                         | 92,321              |
| <b>Subtotal</b> .....                                 | <b>6,141,600</b>    |
| <b>Services for Children in Placement</b>             |                     |
| • Children’s Center.....                              | 2,023,800           |
| • Foster Care and Adoption Subsidy Payments .....     | 1,312,829           |
| • Secure Care .....                                   | 799,140             |
| • Paid Placements.....                                | 1,911,751           |
| • Transportation Services .....                       | 402,558             |
| • Independent Living Initiatives .....                | 206,361             |
| • Foster Child Daycare .....                          | 117,698             |
| <b>Subtotal</b> .....                                 | <b>6,774,137</b>    |
| <b>Other Direct Service Programs</b>                  |                     |
| • Child Assault Prosecution Funding.....              | 304,771             |
| • Runaway and Homeless Youth Funding .....            | 9,786               |
| • Family Emergency Support .....                      | 208,954             |
| • Family Dependency Treatment Court .....             | 13,554              |
| <b>Subtotal</b> .....                                 | <b>537,065</b>      |
| <b>Other Cost Categories</b>                          |                     |
| • Maintenance and Custodians .....                    | 403,613             |
| • Human Resources and Administration Costs.....       | 845,593             |
| • Fiscal, Quality Assurance and Support.....          | 1,095,688           |
| • Legal Services .....                                | 513,118             |
| • Staff Training and Education .....                  | 189,642             |
| • Community Education and Recruitment Activities..... | 46,152              |
| • Wendy’s Wonderful Kids .....                        | 84,020              |
| <b>Subtotal</b> .....                                 | <b>3,177,826</b>    |
| <b>TOTAL 2018 OPERATING EXPENSES</b> .....            | <b>\$16,630,628</b> |



Daina enjoyed creating bubbles at the Adoption Day Celebration at the Trumbull County Courthouse.



Ms. Nicolette Darkangelo  
President



Mrs. Alikei Raphtis  
Vice-President



Ms. Loree Richardson  
Secretary



Atty. Thomas Carey



Mr. Kevin Gavitt



Sister Jean Orsuto



Mr. Luther Stubbs

**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.

