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## **Trumbull County Children Services Achieves National Accreditation**

Warren, Ohio, - Trumbull County Children Services has achieved national accreditation through the New York-based Council on Accreditation (COA). Notably, the Agency received an expedited reaccreditation due to not having any out of compliance ratings. Trumbull County Children Services provides child protective services, foster and adoption, family support, independent living, residential services, and 24-hour crisis intervention. Organizations pursue accreditation to demonstrate the implementation of best practice standards in the field of human services.

Executive Director, Timothy Schaffner, shares, “I am so proud of the employees, leadership team and board of directors of this Agency for their commitment to advocating for Trumbull County families and their children. This accreditation would not be possible without their diligence in hardwiring best practices to help families get well and our partnership with community providers who are also dedicated to the well-being of Trumbull County families. The mission of our Agency has always been to stabilize and strengthen families and to do everything we can to help children remain with their biological family. We know this is where children thrive.”

COA accreditation is an objective, independent, and reliable validation of an agency’s performance. The accreditation process involves a detailed review and analysis of an organization’s administration, management, and service delivery functions against international standards of best practice. The standards driving accreditation ensure that services are well-coordinated, culturally competent, evidence-based, outcomes-oriented, and provided by a skilled and supported workforce. COA accreditation demonstrates accountability in the management of resources, sets standardized best practice thresholds for service and administration, and increases organizational capacity and accountability by creating a framework for ongoing quality improvement.

To achieve COA accreditation, Trumbull County Children Services first provided written evidence of compliance with the COA standards. Thereafter, a group of specially trained volunteer Peer Reviewers confirmed adherence to these standards during a series of on-site interviews with trustees, staff and clients. Based on their findings, COA’s volunteer-based Accreditation Commission voted that Trumbull County Children Services had successfully met the criteria for accreditation.

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.

Founded in 1977, COA is an independent, not-for-profit accreditor of the full continuum of community-based behavioral health care and social service organizations in the United States and Canada. Over 2,000 organizations — voluntary, public, and proprietary; local and statewide; large and small — have either successfully achieved COA accreditation or are currently engaged in the process. To learn more about COA, please visit [www.coanet.org](http://www.coanet.org).

For further information, please call Michelle Schmader, Community Liaison and Recruitment Specialist, at 330-372-2010, ext. 1343.

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