



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

PAINTING A BRIGHTER FUTURE



Agency 2022 Synopsis

Services in 2022

Provided services to 1,599 alleged child victims.

Screening/Assessment Investigations

Calls into the Agency Screening department: 7,100. Screened-in and investigated a total of 1,055 allegations. Of those, there were:

- 349 Neglect
- 281 Physical abuse
- 107 Sexual abuse
- 53 Emotional maltreatment
- 54 Dependency
- 211 FINS (Family In Need of Assistance)

Protective Ongoing Services

Average ongoing cases per quarter: 250
Number of children receiving ongoing services per quarter: 531

Kinship Care

Children in kinship care per quarter: 221
Average kinship cases per quarter: 116

Foster Care/Institutional Care

Children in Agency custody: 128 average
Total days in care: 46,871
Total placement costs: \$3,037,327
At the end of 2022, the Agency had 65 licensed foster homes.

Adoption Services

Number of children placed in adoptive homes: 30
Number of adoptions finalized: 41
Number of children waiting for an identified adoptive home at the end of 2022: 12

FTM's/TDM's

Held 154 Team Decision-Making meetings and 766 Family Team meetings in 2022.

Independent Living

Children aging out of care in 2022: 6

A Partner in the Community

Richland County Children Services actively participates in a myriad of community events that support children each year. We believe it's a great way to give back to the residents of Richland County. But we couldn't do this work all by ourselves. We have so many community partners (JFS, Youth & Family Council, the City of Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department, United Way of Richland County, NECIC, Mansfield Art Center, Kingwood Center Gardens, Richland County Juvenile Court, Richland County Domestic Relations Court, Richland County Prosecutor's Office, local law enforcement agencies, various mental health agencies, elected officials, and numerous private companies and religious organizations) who all help us in assisting others in various ways.

We are honored and humbled to serve alongside of these entities for the betterment of our community. Together we can paint a brighter future for the youth and families of Richland County.

Our Vision

In our ideal community, we envision:

- ◆ The community invests in the future of its children by providing opportunities to develop their social, emotional, physical, cognitive and cultural skills;
- ◆ Every child has a permanent, emotionally and economically stable family;
- ◆ The community values and supports the work of RCCS through its funding, provision of board leadership, and excellence in county governance;
- ◆ A committed staff that is supported by the Board and the community; and
- ◆ The community respects diversity and supports the racial, cultural and ethnic heritage of its families and neighborhoods.

Revised by Richland County Children Services Board - February 2023

From the Director's Desk

Nikki Harless

Painting a Brighter Future



Nikki Harless, MSW LISW-S
RCCS Executive Director

Part of the vision of our Agency is that every child has a permanent, emotionally, and economically stable family. We also envision that we have a committed staff that is supported by the Board and the community.

Our Agency's guiding principles help support us in our efforts to make our vision a reality. We respect families and believe everyone has a right to be treated with respect regardless of the circumstances that may bring them to our attention. The primary goal of our work is child safety. We focus on changing behaviors which place children at risk of abuse or neglect or that caused abuse or neglect. We never give up on families. We know families and their children are important to our community and therefore we will never stop working in service to them. We foster open communication and collaboration to support the success of all social service providers in Richland County in protecting children from maltreatment.



**FOSTER
PARENTS
NEEDED**

419-774-4100



www.richlandcountychildrenservices.org

Painting a brighter future by preventing child abuse and neglect is the responsibility of the entire community. Thank you for supporting us and letting us be the leaders in these efforts.

If you want to help paint a brighter future for the children and families of Richland County (either as a caseworker or as a foster parent) please contact us at (419) 774-4100.

~ OUR MISSION ~

To lead our community in assuring the safety, well-being and permanency of children at risk of abuse and neglect.

2022 Highlights & Events



RCCS staff wore 'No Excuse for Child Abuse' t-shirts for Wear Blue Day during Child Abuse Prevention Month.



RCCS kicked off April's Child Abuse Prevention Month activities with a Family Fun Night at the Richland Carousel. The Agency handed out stuffed animals and paid for free rides for local youth.



RCCS employees donated a bike for MPD's Bike-A-Palooza event and handed out candy and brochures during the event as well.

2022 Highlights & Events



RCCS staff members set up a table at the Fall Family Festival (held at North Lake Park) and gave away candy, bottled water, foster parent recruitment information and free tacos.



RCCS staff members worked the Agency booth at both the Richland County Fair and the Bellville Street Fair, distributing RCCS-branded giveaway items, candy and informational brochures.



RCCS Executive Director Nikki Harless and Assistant Director Nicole Foulks met with Senator Mark Romanchuk in order to discuss the growing number and increasing cost of children entering Agency care.

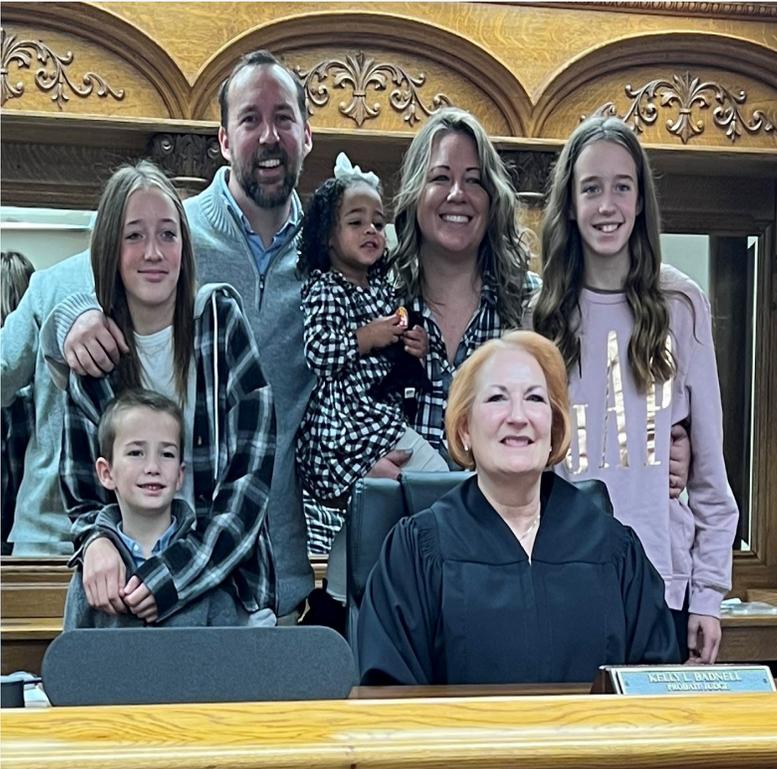
2022 Visitation Space Updates



The Agency repainted its entire visitation space in 2022 with kid-friendly colors in order to make this area more pleasant for families visiting with their children. RCCS Kinship Navigator Arlillian Nixon also hand-painted large murals on the walls for kids and their parents to enjoy.



2022 Foster/Adopt Families



RCCS celebrated the adoptions of 41 youth in 2022. RCCS adoption workers Athena Crider and Jennifer Hissom worked tirelessly all year to ensure that children seeking homes were matched with families who would love and care for them the way they deserve. Judge Kelly Badnell has also been instrumental in helping these children officially become members of safe, supportive and loving forever families.



RCCS Adoption Caseworker Athena Crider



RCCS Adoption Caseworker Jennifer Hissom

Excellence in Programs

Kinship Navigator Program

The Agency's kinship navigators work with families to locate and obtain community services for which they are eligible. The resources may include Medicaid coverage, food stamps, child care subsidies, Ohio Works First, and utilities assistance. The kinship program may also be able to assist with Power of Attorney, legal custody, legal guardianship, and other general legal questions. In 2022, the kinship team assisted 462 families and 883 children.

Ohio Accelerated Safety Analysis Protocol (ASAP)

Richland County Children Services has seen success with a program designed to reduce the number of child abuse deaths: the Ohio Accelerated Safety Analysis Protocol (ASAP). ASAP identifies high risk cases and implements a protocol for staff to follow. The model uses predictive analytics to determine child welfare risk scores. The program identifies the population of children who are at the highest risk of suffering a fatality or near fatality (serious injury) and implementing a case review process that will improve outcomes for these youth. It then tracks the entire case to ensure best practices are followed. In 2022, 86 cases were identified for Ohio ASAP and the subsequent case review process.



Ohio START (Sobriety, Treatment and Reducing Trauma) is an evidence-informed children services-led intervention model that helps public children services agencies (PCSAs) bring together caseworkers, behavioral health providers, and family peer mentors into teams dedicated to helping families struggling with co-occurring child maltreatment and substance use disorder. This model contains procedures for identifying families with potential substance use disorders during the Child Protective Services (CPS) intake/referral triage and during the investigation or assessment phase of the CPS response to allegations of child abuse/neglect. RCCS has partnered with Family Life Counseling to provide peer mentoring for parents struggling with addiction. In 2022, the team assisted a total of 16 families with the Ohio START program.

Fostering Family Ministries - CarePortal

The CarePortal is a technological tool utilized by the Fostering Family Ministries organization. When a CPS worker visits a child or family in need, that worker can enter what is needed into the CarePortal. The CarePortal shares that need (beds, smoke detectors, refrigerators, etc.) with local churches within that family's community, and those churches work to ensure that the child or family receives the help they need. This network provides preventative support for struggling families before foster care is a necessity. When the intervention of foster care is a necessity, the CarePortal also supports the foster and kinship families who are caring for those children. This technology has been utilized in 21 states and has helped 75,068 children so far and counting. In Richland County alone in 2022, six children received assistance from local churches in the amount of \$1,596.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

PCSAO Community of Practice

Richland County Children Services was one of several Ohio counties that joined the Race, Equity and Inclusion Community of Practice group through the Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO). In 2022, PCSAO brought the counties together in order to provide learning opportunities focused on the critical work of race, equity and inclusion (REI), to help those counties complete an organizational assessment of their own REI practices, and to help identify a policy or practice change that could be implemented to improve equity in child and family outcomes. RCCS leadership identified additional equity training as their main focal point for change, and so the Agency contracted with the Joy Channel organization to begin training sessions surrounding diversity, equity and inclusion with RCCS staff in 2023.



MEPA

The Multi-Ethnic Placement Act (MEPA) was passed by Congress in 1994 in order to decrease the length of time that children wait to be adopted, facilitate identification and recruitment of families that can meet the child's needs, and prevent discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin. It is the goal of RCCS and of every other child welfare agency to ensure that children in need of a foster home are placed quickly and that the placement decision is not impacted by the race, color or national origin of either the child or the prospective foster parents unless the need to do so is established after an individualized assessment. Every child in Agency custody who is matched with potential adoptive parents is protected in this manner by our internal MEPA Monitor. The MEPA Monitor assures that the Agency complies to the non-discrimination requirements as outlined in the Ohio Administrative Code 5101:2-48-13.



Financial Highlights

2022 Revenues and Expenses

2022 REVENUE

Revenue Sources (unaudited)

Federal Funds - \$5,293,303

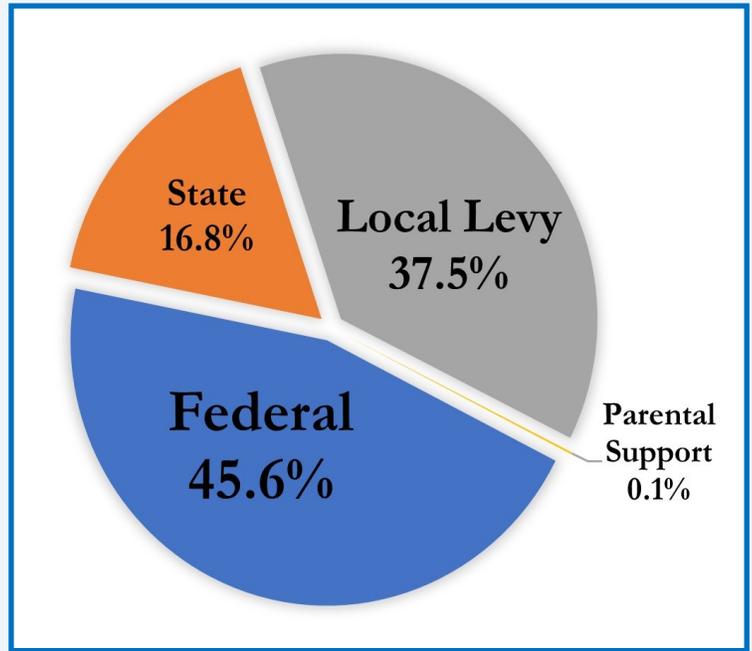
State Funds - \$1,943,588

Local Levy Funds - \$4,352,304

Parental Support - \$2,401

Other – \$12,926

Total - \$11,604,523



2022 EXPENSES

Expense Categories (unaudited)

Personnel - \$6,308,206

Placement Services - \$3,812,517

Adoption Services - \$252,949

Purchased Services - \$419,404

Operations / Overhead - \$332,039

Total – \$11,125,116

Our Impact

Richland County Children Services facilitated the disbursement of over \$1.8 million in 2022 for various programs to help support our clients, foster parents, adoptive parents, and kinship families in caring for the children in their homes. Two of these programs (PRC and Kinship Childcare) were funded through contracts with the local Job & Family Services agency (for a total amount of \$235,572). An outline of our local community support programs and their associated expenditures is below:

- **KPI (Kinship Permanency Incentive) - \$247,425 - Paid directly from the State to kin families to help with the costs associated with the child (ren) living with them**
- **PRC (Prevention, Retention & Contingency) - \$144,501 - Paid to kin families to help with the costs associated with the child(ren) living with them**
- **ESAA (Emergency Services Assistance Allocation) - \$116,210 - Paid to families for things such as rent, utilities and furniture in an effort to keep children in their own homes or return them to their homes**
- **Kinship Care - \$34,938 - Paid to kin families for things such as rent, utilities and furniture in an effort to help them care for the child(ren) in their home**
- **Foster Parent Training - \$19,605 - Stipends paid to foster/adoptive parents and prospective foster/adoptive parents for attending training**
- **Adoption Subsidies - \$1,069,998 - Paid to parents who adopted children in Agency custody**
- **In addition, the Agency paid \$91,071 in childcare payments for children placed with kin and \$160,154 in childcare payments for children placed with foster parents who work outside the home.**

2022 RCCS Board Members



Patrick A. Heydinger
Chair



Nicole Blakley
Vice Chair



Jim Nicholson
Secretary



Jason Murray, Esq.
Treasurer



Renee Bessick



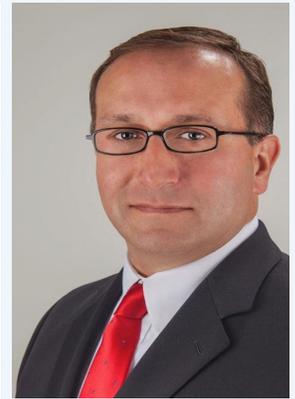
Bill Hope



Mary Stentz



Bennie Allen-Stanford



Scott Gatchall

Agency 2022 Leadership Team

Nikki Harless, MSW LISW-S, Executive Director

Nicole Foulks, MSW LSW, Assistant Director

Marsha Coleman, MSW LISW-S, Clinical Director

Kevin Goshe, MBA, Finance/Building & Grounds Director

Tara Lautzenhiser, MSCJ, Program Manager

Chris Zuercher, JD, Legal Services Manager

Sarah Soliday, MBA, Human Resource Manager

Angie Poth, MBA, Records/Program Support Manager

Pam Hinton-Groves, MIS, MIS Manager

Amy Hackedorn, MBA, Sup. of Administrative Services

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