

From the Director’s Desk

Patty Harrelson



Franklin D. Roosevelt once said: “The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.”

In that spirit, I would like to thank the voters of Richland County for their willingness to support our tax levy in 2018. We continue to operate in fiscally transparent and accountable manner. There are many upcoming changes to our 2019 landscape, including a new Governor, and we are mindful of the support that he offers to our field in his initial budget. I am sure it is positive movement for one of our most vulnerable populations.

Recent changes in federal law will also significantly challenge us in 2019 and beyond. With the passage of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) of 2018, we will be subject to more rules concerning the placement of children in group and residential settings. Does this mean fewer children will be housed in those facilities? At this moment, I am doubtful. Children will still come to us with significant needs that cannot be met in traditional family foster care, and they will require placement in residential or group settings for some or all of their time with us. In addition, our Court system will continue to encounter children with needs that cannot be met in family foster care. These youth often end up in our custody due to their history with serious acts of delinquency such as using weapons, breaking into homes, assaultive actions and even sexually offending conduct.

The word “prevention” in the FFPSA does not mean prevention of child abuse and neglect, but instead should be interpreted to mean diversion from congregate care. The act does provide funding for services to kids and their families such as parenting classes and counseling, but most of our local programs do not yet qualify for the payment. We will be working with our providers over the next year to get them ready for these changes. FFPSA requires entities to utilize one of a small number of evidence-based strategies, in addition to monitoring outcomes and becoming more trauma-focused.

We continue to work with Congress to gain a two-year “off-ramp” for ProtectOhio. This is an initiative that helps us operate an amazing kinship program and provide many services to Richland County. Losing it will likely bring changes to our agency that will not be good for the community, such as elimination of the Kinship Legal Program. This program has helped so many residents to gain custody of kin in the Domestic Relations Court, and we thank the Honorable Heather Cockley for her work with these individuals. We also wish to note that while we will miss working with the Honorable Ron Spon, we welcome our new Juvenile Court Judge, the Honorable William Steven McKinley, to the bench. We look forward to working with him through all of our changes.

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Patty Harrelson, MSSA, LISW-S, Executive Director

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Marsha Coleman, MSW, LISW-S, Clinical Director/Risk Manager

Kevin Goshe, MBA, Director of Finance

Tim Harless, MSW, Community Outreach/Programming Director

Edith Gilliland, JD, Legal Services Manager

Chris Zuercher, JD, Human Resource Manager

Amy Gosser, MBA, Executive Assistant

Richland County Children Services

731 Scholl Road

Mansfield, Ohio 44907

Phone 419.774-4100 / Fax 419.774.4114 / [www.richlandcountychildrens-services.org](http://www.richlandcountychildrens-services.org)



Our Children, Our Greatest Treasures



Richland County Children Services



2018 Annual Report



Children Services in 2018

Provided services to 2,146 alleged child victims. On average, 486 cases were worked every month by 48 caseworkers.

Screening/Assessments

Calls into the Screening department: 7,658. Of those, 1,186 calls were Information & Referrals. Conducted 1,377 screened-in intakes. Of those, there were:

- 442 neglect
- 287 physical abuse
- 142 sexual abuse
- 73 emotional maltreatment
- 89 dependency
- 344 FINS (Family in Need of Assistance)

Forensic Center Interviews

Conducted 54 interviews at the Ohio Health Forensic Center in 2018 for sexual and physical abuse allegations.

Protective Ongoing Services

Average ongoing cases per month: 358. Number of children receiving ongoing services per month: 734.

Agency/Visitation Center

Supervised visits at the Agency: 1,733. Supervised visits to Visitation Center: 408. Transports: 645

Kinship Care

Children in kinship care per month: 236. Kinship cases per month: 126.

Foster Care/Institutional Care

Children in Agency custody: 95. Total days in care: 34,246. Total placement costs (residential, institutions, and foster care): \$1,736,568. At the end of 2018, the Agency had 59 licensed foster homes.

Adoption Services

Number of children placed in adoptive homes: 28. Number of adoptions finalized: 19

FTM’s/TDM’s

Held 281 Team Decision-Making meetings and 1,405 Family Team meetings in 2018.

Independent Living Support

Agency prepared 22 children for emancipation from foster care, with 6 youth aging out of care.

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 and communities that support the agency each day.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS



Law enforcement and RCCS partner to fight internet crimes against children



Youth Fitness Initiative



Richland County Fair Youth Day



Wear Blue Day Support from Richland Newhope



Girl Scouts Gift Bag Donation

Our Mission

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

RCCS 2018

Programs and Services



**Binti Foster Care Recruitment**— RCCS is leading the state in Foster Care recruitment technology with the software program, Binti. Through Binti, the agency has a public recruiting website to let potential families learn about foster care and adoption. Binti offers a mobile-optimized application portal to complete and sign required paperwork. This process can be completed anywhere from any device. Once the application is submitted, caseworkers use a private dashboard to track the application and complete background checks. The goal of Binti is to increase the number of licensed foster homes within the Richland County area, in addition to making the application process easier for potential parents.

**HOPE Primary Parent Partner:** The Helping Ohio Parent Effectively (HOPE) Program utilizes the experience of parents partners to engage and advocate for parents currently involved with the child welfare system, ensuring they have the knowledge and support to achieve the best permanency plan for their children.

**Ohio START Program**— The agency is partnering with the Ohio START Program. Ohio START (Sobriety, Treatment, and Reducing Trauma) is an intervention program that provides specialized victim services, such as intensive trauma counseling, to children who have suffered victimization with substance abuse of a parent being the primary risk factor. The program also assists parents of children referred to the program with their path to recovery from addiction.

**Protect Ohio:** Protect Ohio is the Title IV-E Child Welfare Demonstration Project allowing public children services agencies flexibility in spending federal funds. Richland County, one of 18 participating counties, and has demonstrated great measurable success under all CFSR standards. Protect Ohio works and Richland County’s numbers prove it. RCCS has reduced the number of children in agency custody by two-thirds in six years and still exceeded quality performance expectations and Ohio averages in terms of child safety, permanency, timeliness of adoption and placement stability. Our primary goals guided by state and federal guidelines are to keep children with their own families, without risking their safety, by providing services needed to help the family succeed.

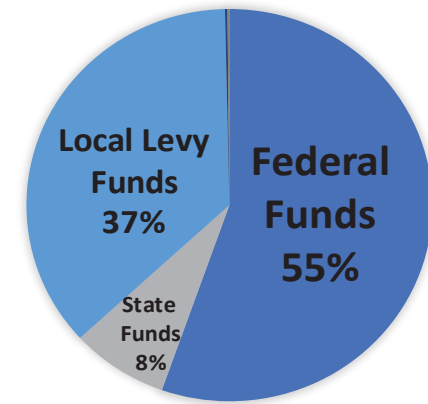
**Navigator Kinship Care:** Kinship Care refers to a temporary or permanent arrangement in which a relative or non-related adult, who has a long-standing relationship or bond with the child or family, has assumed the fulltime, substitute care of a child whose parents are unwilling or unable to do so. Reasons for this need for Kinship Care can include death or chronic illness, substance abuse, incarceration, domestic violence, child abuse or neglect, teenage pregnancy, unemployment, poverty or other problems. Kinship Care includes relationships established through an informal agreement, a legal custody or guardianship order, or a kinship adoption. RCCS Kinship Navigators help Kinship Caregivers locate and obtain community services for which they are eligible. Our Kinship Navigator staff assists clients in finding resources. They are also available to just listen to the day-to-day issues that all Kinship Caregivers experience.

**Family Team Meetings/Team Decision-Making Meetings:** The agency gathers family, friends, support people, and community specialists to solve problems and improve childcare. This keeps the family central to the development of the case plan and allows for shared responsibilities between family and agency.

**Adoption Subsidy Committee**— A new Adoption Subsidy Committee was created at the end of 2017. This committee is made up of three members of the Agency management team. They gather and discuss the information needed to determine a fair subsidy payment for those parents whom adopt our kids.

2018 Revenues & Expenses

RCCS 2018 REVENUE



Revenue Sources (unaudited):

**Federal Funds - \$5,379,421**

**State Funds - \$753,005**

**Local Levy Funds - \$3,543,169**

**Parental Support - \$18,883**

**Other - \$14,932**

**Total - \$9,709,410**



Expense Categories (unaudited):

**Personnel - \$6,346,187**

**Placement Services -\$2,580,620**

**Adoption Services - \$223,203**

**Purchased Services - \$228,448**

**Administrative Support - \$351,850**

**Total - \$9,730,309**