

Making a Difference

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY | 2018



Franklin County

**Children
Services**

Protecting Children by Strengthening Families



Franklin County Children Services Guiding Principles

Our Mission: Safety, Permanency and Well-being for Every Child

Through collaboration with families and their communities, we advocate for the safety, permanency and well-being of each child we serve in a manner that honors family and culture.

We Are Child Welfare Professionals

- We constantly pursue excellence
- We recognize the importance of providing effective and timely services
- We value, respect and support each other
- We are proud that we improve the quality of life for families in our community
- We are fiscally responsible
- We aspire to be culturally competent

We Honor Families

- We respect families' strengths
- We understand families are the experts of their own experience
- We recognize that children are best served within their family and community
- We separate what parents do from who they are

We Value Every Child

- We respect the individuality of each child we serve
- We advocate for each child's safety, permanency and well-being
- We honor each child's family and culture

We Value Partnerships

- Families have the right to be a part of the decision-making team
- Casework is the most important function of the agency team
- Families, communities and government share the responsibility to keep children safe

A note from the Director

Franklin County Children Services is comprised of more than 800 people working in various capacities ranging from direct service to multiple support areas who allow us to fulfill our mission of child protection. I am proud to work with such competent, dedicated people who show every day how much they care about Franklin County's children. This challenging work is getting more complex, but what helps are the days when we see our efforts make a difference.

That difference may be a parent who has been struggling with addiction, managing to complete her treatment, find a job, obtain housing and successfully reunify with her children. Or it may be a former foster youth who graduates from college and decides to use his social work degree to help others. The difference could be a volunteer who mentors a 14-year-old boy with significant behavioral and emotional issues. This volunteer decided to look beyond the diagnosis and see the child.

Success in this work depends not only upon our workforce, but the perseverance of families and children and those who support them. This includes kinship families, foster parents, adoptive families, volunteers, mentors and more than 100 partner agencies.

Through these partnerships with the community, FCCS continues to explore areas of best practice in child protection. Guiding this work will be our newly developed strategic plan that sets agency goals for the next five years. These goals help align our mission and guiding principles with our daily practice while also embedding a lens of equity to ensure all children are being served.



Executive Director Chip Spinning

This plan also outlines our agency focus moving forward:

- We have a strong, stable and culturally responsive workforce to carry out our mission.
- We have the financial stability to properly fund our workforce and the services we provide.
- We effectively engage with community partners and the public at large to enhance child safety, permanency and well-being.
- We strive to serve youth in the least restrictive, most family-like placements possible.

I look forward to your continued support in these efforts.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chip M. Spinning".

Chip M. Spinning

Enriching Lives, One Child at a Time

Mentor Matt Utt knows how important his job is, as an unwavering support and friend to his mentee, nine-year-old Daniel. A volunteer through Franklin County Children Services' Friendship mentoring program, Utt understands the importance of creating strong relationships with at-risk youth, having spent much of his life working with young people through mentoring programs and youth ministries. "If you can take a kid who has had a difficult situation and show him that someone outside of his family sees that he has value, give him a consistent presence and show him that the world can be an awesome place, it's invaluable," Utt says.

Utt appreciates having the opportunity to create positive experiences for Daniel, who is one of five siblings being raised by a single mom. The two quickly bonded when they first met, despite the fact they're both on the reserved side. "He's pretty low key and I'm an introvert too," Utt says. "But after the first outing, he opened up."



Matt & Daniel

Utt hangs out with or is in contact with Daniel and his family just about every week. One of Utt's favorite things to do is to share new experiences, whether it's learning about a different culture or trying Indian food for the first time.

"It's been great to expose Daniel to things outside of his own world," says Utt, who has also taken Daniel camping in Virginia and had the youth spend the day with him at his office.

Grateful for his relationship with Daniel, Utt urges others to step up and mentor. Commit fully if you have the chance to enrich a child's life, he says. "If you're going to do it, do it 100%," he advises. "There have been times when I didn't feel up to it, but I've never regretted spending time with him. It's got to be a priority."

Ready To Make A Difference In
A Child's Life As A Mentor?

Visit childrenservices.franklincountyohio.gov/programs/volunteers-and-mentors.cfm



“Opening Doors of Understanding with Our Immigrant, Refugee and New American Community,” held at Douglas Community Center in Linden.

Partnering to Better Serve Children & Families

Franklin County Children Services’ newly implemented strategic plan focuses on effectively engaging with community partners and the public at large to enhance child safety, permanency and well-being. As part of the plan, FCCS began two initiatives in 2018: ongoing community dialogues and heightened community outreach efforts through 100 targeted neighborhood hubs.

The **community dialogues** centered on critical issues affecting child welfare such as the opioid epidemic and the needs of Central Ohio’s refugee, immigrant and new American populations. Open to all, these conversations were held at neighborhood gathering places throughout Franklin County and attended by local political leaders, public health officials, community stakeholders, concerned citizens, child welfare professionals and other social service providers.

The first dialogue took place at Glenwood Recreation Center in the Hilltop and examined the local impact of the opioid crisis on children and families, especially regarding the stress and strain this epidemic puts on local resources. Future dialogue topics will include a look at disproportionality and disparity in the child protection system as well as understanding the ways in which the faith community can support families.

Also part of FCCS’s strategic plan, the 100 **community hubs** are a way for the agency to strengthen neighborhood connections in targeted Franklin County ZIP codes. Focused on areas with the highest number of screened-in referrals to FCCS, the hubs are a way to discover and share resources that may benefit the children and families the agency serves. A sampling of current hubs and community partners include the south side’s Reeb Avenue Center, the Greater Hilltop Area Shalom Zone, Lower Lights Christian Health Center in Franklinton and the Foundation for Families in Linden.



Kinship Families: Providing Love & Support to Kids in Need

Sometimes being family has nothing to do with DNA. For Deanna Poindexter, this was definitely the case with Bella. The two first met right after Bella was born and left with a relative, one of Poindexter's family friends. When Poindexter met this baby girl, it was "love at first sight," she says, adding that she knew she wanted to be there for her. When Poindexter learned that Bella was in need of a long-term caregiver, she immediately stepped up to be her kinship care provider.

Kinship families like the Poindexters are often grandparents, aunts, uncles or caring individuals outside of a family who provide children with a stable, loving home when their parents are unable to care for them. On either a temporary or permanent basis, kinship caregivers offer much needed consistency and support during a challenging time in a child's life. By placing a child in a more familiar environment, kinship care creates a critical sense of belonging and allows a child to maintain vital connections to culture and community.

Poindexter and Bella, who just turned two, have a special bond that goes far beyond blood. As a single parent, Poindexter relies on the support of her family to ensure that Bella is surrounded with love in a safe and nurturing environment. She keeps in touch with Bella's family, updating them on her developmental milestones and scheduling visits for Bella with her sibling. Poindexter has succeeded in part due to help from her Franklin County Children Services kinship caseworker Lieschen Compston. "I wouldn't have been able to make it without the support of Lieschen,"

Poindexter says. Although raising a baby has its challenges, Poindexter knows that this was all meant to be, especially now that she is in the process of officially adopting her little girl.

"The joy of having Bella to love makes it all worth it," she says. "Bella chose me to love and care for her in the absence of her mother."



Deanna & Bella

Always There for Children & Families

Striving tirelessly to create positive outcomes for those most in need, FCCS's direct service staff is always there for children and families. Here's a look at three of these everyday heroes.

As a social service aide (SSA), **Jasmin Davidson** plays a supporting yet critically important role at FCCS. Facilitating visitation for families with children in out-of-home care, Davidson develops relationships with the parents and kids she sees every week. As those who observe family visits, provide transportation and do whatever else is needed, SSAs often have the most direct involvement with parents as they work through the issues that brought them to the agency. "We see their struggles firsthand," Davidson says, adding that her goal is to always show respect, make families feel at ease and listen to their concerns. A music lover, Davidson lets the kids she transports choose their own playlists so they have something familiar to listen to. "It helps relax them," says Davidson, who understands that for most youth, interaction with a child welfare agency can be stressful, confusing and frightening.



Jasmin Davidson



Van Frasher

If you're an unruly, delinquent or at-risk youth in Franklin County, meeting **Van Frasher** could change the course of your life. A child welfare caseworker with 20 years of experience, Frasher is stationed at Franklin County Juvenile Court where he specializes as a diversion liaison. On behalf of FCCS, he collaborates with the court to identify at-risk youth and families who might benefit from at-home services and community resources. The goal is to strengthen families in need and address the underlying issues delinquent youth face, which are often related to trauma, substance abuse or a lack of parental guidance. Ultimately, the objective is to help all parties avoid involvement with both the legal and child welfare systems. "It's all about working for the betterment of a child," Frasher says.

Caseworker **Kelly Hartmann** helps older youth in permanent agency custody, those who have often spent years in and out of the "system." Because they've endured so much, these teens can understandably be wary and mistrusting. This is where Hartmann excels: she has a gift for breaking through and cultivating lasting connections with and on behalf of these youth. "Kelly has an authenticity that resonates with the teenagers on her caseload," says Melissa Estrella, a former supervisor. "It takes Kelly some time, but when she finally gains the trust of youth let down their entire life by adults, she is saying, 'I'm here. You know I've got your back.' And she does." The perfect example of Hartmann's commitment is when one of her teens, mom-to-be Ashley, 17, went into labor and didn't have anyone with her at the hospital. Hartmann, who had just stopped by to check in, decided to stay. She supported this teen through eight hours of labor, holding her hand the entire time.



Kelly Hartmann

Remarkable & Resilient

Staying true to our mission, Franklin County Children Services helped thousands of children in 2018. Despite experiencing trauma, hardship, heartbreak and other challenges that most of us can't even begin to fathom, these youth displayed incredible resilience and achieved impressive things. Here's a look at some of their inspiring endeavors.



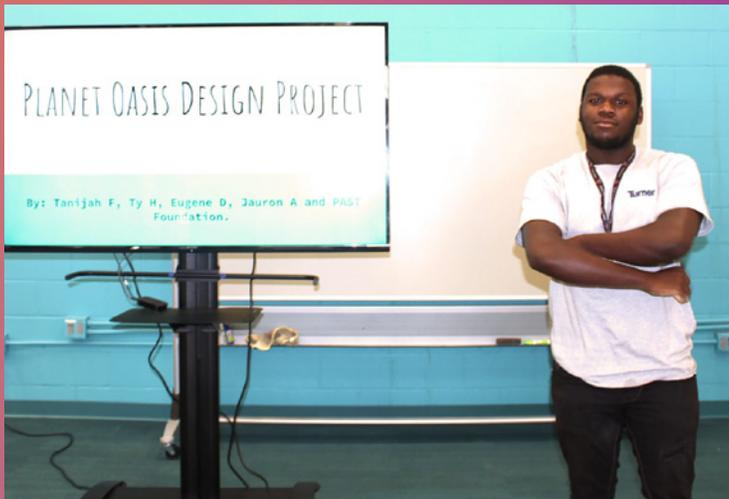
Kyajah Rodriguez and Sabrina Frazier
2018 Jack Donahue Scholarship Winners



Annual FCCS Graduation Party



Therapeutic Arts Program Annual Art Show and Silent Auction



Future Entrepreneur Tywan at the PAST Foundation's Summer Program



Young Innovator Jazmin at the PAST Foundation's Summer Program



Kyajah, Board Member of Overcoming Hurdles in Ohio Youth Advisory



Elayna, Board Member of Overcoming Hurdles in Ohio Youth Advisory

Franklin County Children Services 2018 Report of Services

In 2018, Franklin County Children Services provided help for **32,293** children and their families via direct services from the agency's professional staff and through purchased services from provider agencies.

Prevention

Children Services believes that its mission to protect children by strengthening families can best be carried out by offering a variety of support services to families at every stage of a case. Prevention services are designed to provide help to families and children to prevent case openings, to prevent out-of-home placement of children, to prevent further maltreatment of children, and to prevent the recidivism of children who have returned home following placement.

Services are aligned with the Children Services mission and with meeting federal goals in three areas: permanency, well-being and safety.

Permanency

Children Services is committed to assuring a safe, permanent home for every child who cannot remain with or return to family.

In 2018:

- **158** adoptions were legalized
- Through FCCS's youth transition services department, **192** older youth under agency care were referred to resources focused on achieving independence and self-sufficiency

Well-being

Children Services provides special opportunities and services to youth in order to enhance their well-being.

In 2018:

- **473** children were mentored by **481** volunteers through the agency's Friendship, Malaika, Simba and College-Bound mentoring programs. Youth were also helped by **42** FCCS crisis center volunteers at the agency's intake, assessment and investigations office
- **6,500** children received gifts through the Holiday Wish program provided by **1,653** individuals and **240** groups, with the assistance of more than **374** Holiday Wish volunteers donating more than **1,503** hours of their time
- **43** youth received services through the Therapeutic Arts Program, in partnership with the Ohio Arts Council and Blick Art Materials



24-hour Child Abuse Hotline:
614-229-7000

General Information:
614-229-7100

Adoption:
614-341-6060

Kinship:
614-341-6161

Volunteers & Mentors:
614-275-2690

Communications:
614-275-2523

Foster Home Recruitment:
614-275-2711



Safety

Children Services intake and investigations staff provides protective services by investigating referrals of children who are alleged to be abused, neglected or dependent. These services are provided 24 hours a day. FCCS also accepts referrals from the Franklin County Juvenile Court on youth who are unruly or delinquent.

When investigations indicate a need for ongoing services, a case is opened and sent to one of the agency's two regions or two managed care partner agencies. Children Services provides case management, protective and supportive services, as well as purchased services from community agencies within a case plan agreed to by the family and Children Services casework staff.

In 2018, there were:

- **33,273** intake referrals received
- **13,770** referrals screened in for investigation/assessment
- Ongoing services for **5,033** cases
- **11,900** children served as part of the agency's active ongoing caseload
- Family services for **4,613** children through managed care partnerships

Every effort is made by Children Services to keep children with their families whenever safely possible. When out-of-home placement is necessary, the agency's goal is to place children in the least restrictive environment, to provide opportunities for and to facilitate regular visitation, and to reunite families as soon as this can be safely accomplished.

In 2018, Franklin County Children Services had:

- **4,769** children in agency custody
- **3,137** children in paid care
- **2,375** children placed in purchased foster care
- **990** children placed in group or institutional care
- **1,948** children placed with relatives





Franklin County Children Services 2018 Income Statistics

Operating Fund Balance as of January 1, 2018	\$135,560,533
Income	(Cash Basis):
Local & Miscellaneous Funds	\$134,261,350
Property Taxes	\$133,192,367
Interfund Revenue	609,229
Board & Care from Parents	224,705
Miscellaneous	235,049
Federal Funds	\$55,233,189
Title IV-E Placement (Administration)	\$7,356,075
Title IV-E ProtectOHIO Waiver	25,761,038
Title IV-E Administration	17,341,644
Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, VA Benefits	715,778
Title IV-B - ESSA (Emergency Services Supplemental Assistance)	430,344
CHAFFEE Independent Living Program	858,195
Gateway CALL	34,961
Miscellaneous	2,735,154
State Revenue	\$5,205,393
Regional Training	\$603,394
Child Protective & Feisel Allocation	4,295,286
Miscellaneous	306,714
Beginning Balance plus 2018 Income	\$194,699,933
Total 2018 Income	\$330,260,466



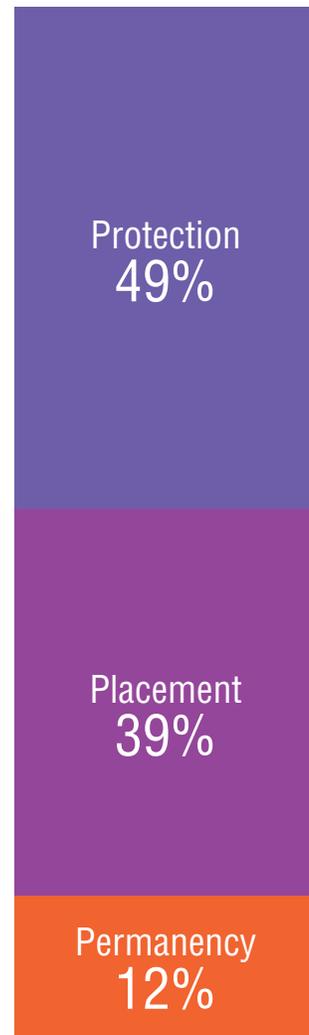


Franklin County Children Services 2018 Expense Statistics

Operating Expenditures

(Cash Basis):

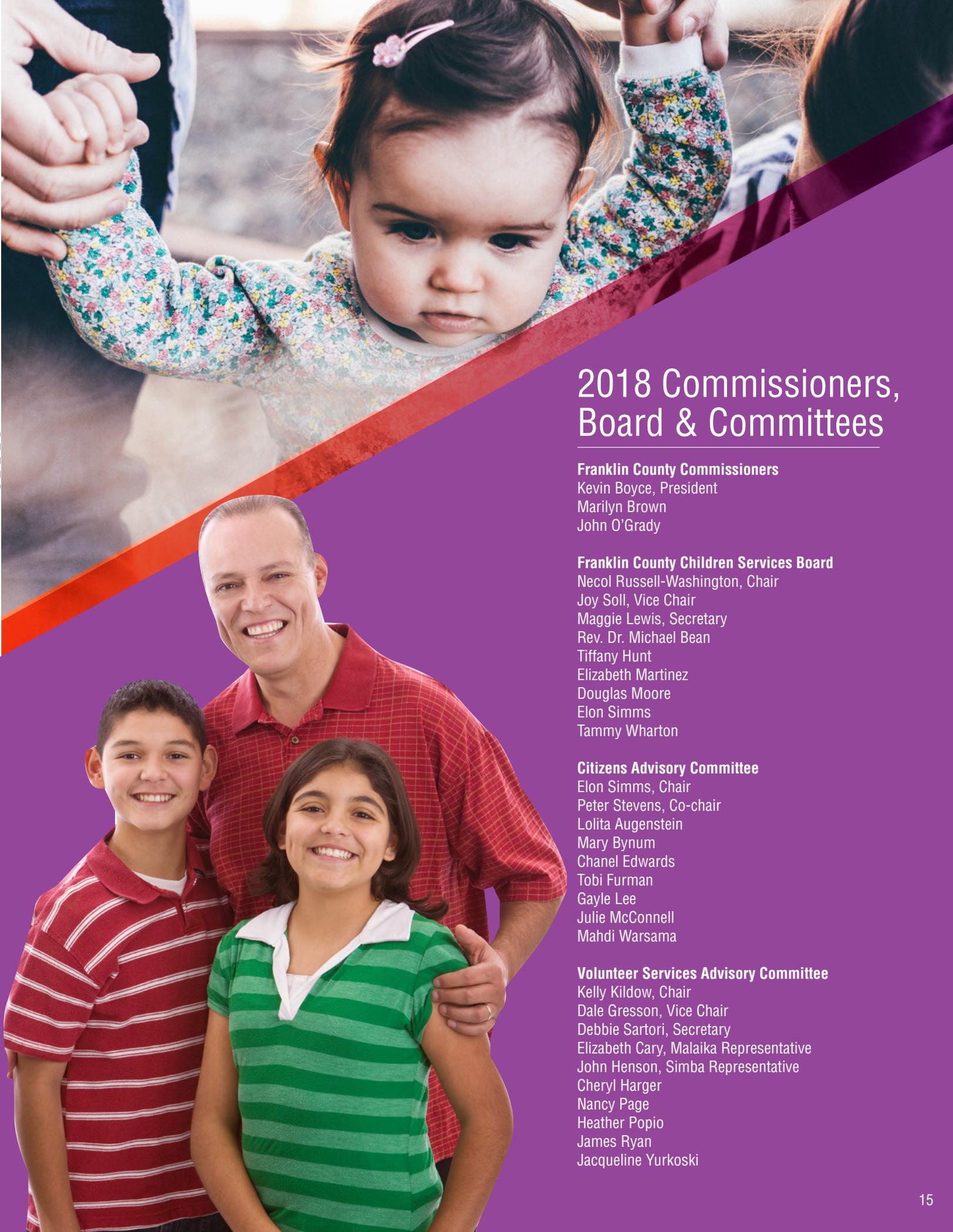
Protection Program	\$102,102,571
Intake & Investigations	\$33,819,965
Casework Protective Services	35,928,283
Care Partnerships	28,747,813
Family Support Services	3,606,509
Placement Program	\$78,458,605
Family Care Services	\$11,296,455
Foster Home Care	30,514,236
Group Home Care	10,988,126
Kinship Care	1,321,231
Institutional Care	24,338,558
Permanency Program	\$16,951,850
Adoption Services	\$8,961,931
Child Enrichment Services	4,698,570
Emancipation Services	3,291,348
Total 2018 Operating Expenditures	\$197,513,025
Operating Fund Balance as of December 31, 2018	\$132,747,441
Ending Balance plus 2018 Expenses	\$330,260,466



Franklin County Children Services

2018 Purchased Services

A New Leaf, Inc.	\$1,679,656.96	Hittle House	\$302,353.15
Action For Children	\$44,849.32	House Of New Hope	\$880,795.84
ADAMH	\$92,220.00	Huckleberry House	\$180,562.85
Adelphoi Village	\$119,244.22	Indiana Developmental Training Center	\$246,982.05
Adriel School	\$899,817.51	Julia Paige Family Center	\$72,352.28
Agape For Youth	\$44,340.12	Kids Count Too	\$148,472.00
Alliance Human Services	\$9,817.60	LHS Family and Youth Services	\$660,720.00
Applewood Centers	\$174,106.48	LifeStart	\$512,920.00
Bair Foundation	\$1,929,463.86	Maryhaven, Inc.	\$1,231,606.40
Beech Brook Spaulding	\$24,624.00	MBH of Elgin	\$8,695.68
Bellefaire JCB	\$490,796.26	Mustard Seed Foundation	\$148,925.00
Belmont Pines Hospital	\$1,035,206.44	National Youth Advocate Program	\$8,023,951.06
Big Brothers, Big Sisters	\$110,720.75	National Youth Advocate Program (PASS & Healthy Ways)	\$1,326.54
Buckeye Ranch	\$6,383,577.93	Nationwide Children's Hospital (ECMH)	\$37,015.01
Caregivers Helper, Inc.	\$365,756.61	Netcare Access (Psychological Assessments)	\$140,344.24
Caring For Kids, Inc.	\$501,716.85	New Beginnings Residential Treatment Center	\$115,287.00
Carrington Youth Academy	\$255,592.65	New Life Group Homes	\$1,072,223.70
Center For Family Safety & Healing (Fostering Connections)	\$129,555.00	New Story Of Ohio	\$2,325,233.71
Children Have Options Inc.	\$13,522.04	Oasis Therapeutic Foster Care Network	\$351,047.37
Children's Hospital Medical Center	\$188,363.34	Oesterlen Services For Youth	\$676,055.34
Children's Hunger Alliance	\$25,000.00	OhioGuidestone	\$31,771.74
Christian Children's Home	\$70,840.00	Ohio Mentor	\$1,148,510.42
Columbus Public Health (Family Ties)	\$227,737.90	Options Treatment Center	\$16,150.00
Community Refugee & Immigration Services (Parenting)	\$117,724.50	Piney Ridge Center Inc. (Woodridge Of Missouri)	\$86,400.00
Consumer Support Services	\$1,474,964.44	Pressley Ridge	\$107,823.64
Cornell Abraxas Group	\$430,672.67	Rehabilitation Centers	\$55,195.00
D.O.Y Services, Inc.	\$538,937.77	Resolute Acquisition Corporation	\$292,825.00
Detroit Behavioral Health	\$369,886.00	Rite Of Passage-Hillcrest Academy	\$130,522.34
Devereux Foundation	\$286,094.44	RTC Resource Acquisition Corp	\$53,550.00
Directions For Youth	\$80,000.00	Safehouse Ministries	\$189,318.64
Dungarvin Ohio, Inc.	\$882,485.70	Sequel Pomegranate Health Systems	\$5,475,233.47
Eastway Corporation	\$1,248,550.66	Southeast Inc.	\$525,776.25
Educational Service Center Of Central Ohio	\$1,973,896.33	Specialized Alternatives For Youth	\$2,220,563.08
ENA/Necco	\$924,800.91	St. Stephen's Community Services	\$1,243,396.21
Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services	\$54,166.71	St. Vincent Family Center	\$1,287,180.52
Fairfield Information Services (Drug Screens)	\$581,546.45	Step By Step Academy	\$14,400.00
Family Wellness Solutions	\$26,800.00	UMCH Family Services	\$1,789,661.57
Foundations For Living (Keystone Richland Center)	\$708,413.42	Village Network	\$5,147,930.61
Fox Run Center For Children & Adolescents	\$2,032,543.27	White Deer Run	\$368,978.60
George Junior Republic	\$1,288,770.93	Woodridge Of Missouri	\$1,543,920.00
Gravehaven Inc.	\$255,300.00	Woodward Youth Corp	\$30,080.00
Greater Hilltop Shalom Zone (After-school Activities)	\$65,625.00	Youth Advocate Services	\$2,513,877.04
		Youth And Family Centered Services	\$26,950.00
		Youth Villages	\$1,871,600.00
Subtotal			\$71,466,188.39
Payment to Children Services			
Adoptive Homes			\$4,669,171.00
Other Purchased Social Services			\$300,199.00
Total Purchased Social Services			\$76,435,557



2018 Commissioners, Board & Committees

Franklin County Commissioners

Kevin Boyce, President
Marilyn Brown
John O'Grady

Franklin County Children Services Board

Necol Russell-Washington, Chair
Joy Soll, Vice Chair
Maggie Lewis, Secretary
Rev. Dr. Michael Bean
Tiffany Hunt
Elizabeth Martinez
Douglas Moore
Elon Simms
Tammy Wharton

Citizens Advisory Committee

Elon Simms, Chair
Peter Stevens, Co-chair
Lolita Augenstein
Mary Bynum
Chanel Edwards
Tobi Furman
Gayle Lee
Julie McConnell
Mahdi Warsama

Volunteer Services Advisory Committee

Kelly Kildow, Chair
Dale Gresson, Vice Chair
Debbie Sartori, Secretary
Elizabeth Cary, Malaika Representative
John Henson, Simba Representative
Cheryl Harger
Nancy Page
Heather Popio
James Ryan
Jacqueline Yurkoski



Protecting Children by Strengthening Families

Franklin County Children Services 2018 Report to the Community

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614-275-2571 | childrenservices.franklincountyohio.gov/

