



Lorain County Children Services
2021
Annual Report





ABOUT LORAIN COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES

Mission

In partnership with the community, the staff, foster parents and volunteers of Lorain County Children Services are committed to the safety and well-being of abused, neglected and dependent children and will provide the highest quality protection, permanence and prevention services to children and families.

Values

We believe children do best in a family / We believe a child should be better off because of our involvement / We believe we should be involved with a child only for as long as needed / We value the child as our client / We value keeping siblings together / We value maximizing resources to achieve the best outcomes we can for our children timely / We value being a trauma informed agency / We value seeing our children to ensure safety / We value acting with urgency on all reports of abuse and neglect / We value high-expectations for our staff, foster families, and volunteers to accomplish the best outcomes for our children that we can / We value independent and critical thinking / We value that every child deserves to safely grow up in a family where they are valued, protected and have the opportunity for life-long well-being / We value continuous improvement and accept change / We value our collaborative role within the community's safety net for children.



Board and Leadership

Jim Miller, Board Chair

Andrew Lipian, Board Vice Chair

Christina Doran, Board Secretary

Mallory Santiago

Kenneth Glynn

Martin Heberling

Lee Armbruster

Dan Gross

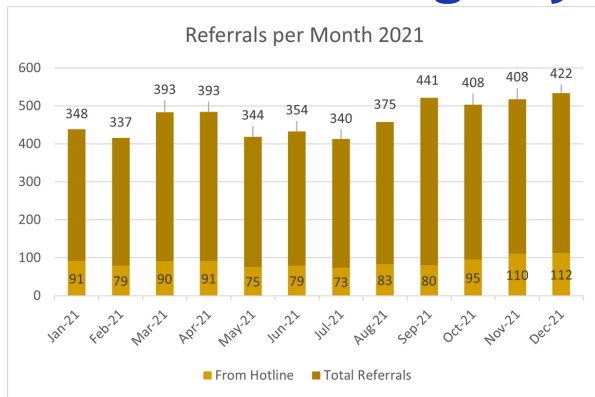
Tamika Bonilla

Kristen Fox Berki, MSSA, LISW, Executive Director

2021 DATA AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

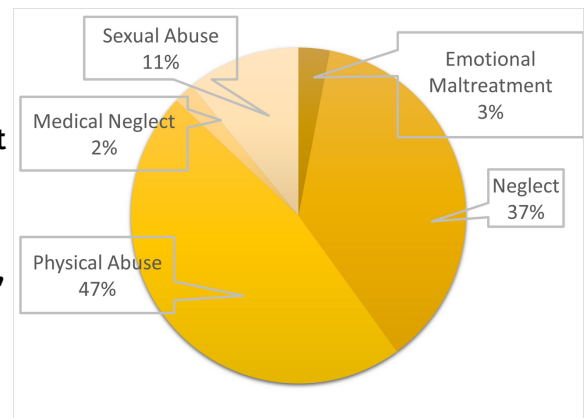


Referrals to the Agency



In 2021 LCCS received 4,563 reports of possible maltreatment of children. Of those, 1,818 (about 40%) met criteria for agency services and were assigned for an investigation/assessment. When reviewing screen in reports, 701 received a traditional response while 1010 received an alternate response. 112 reports were assigned as a Family in Need of Services report.

When people call us to share their concerns about a child's safety and well-being, LCCS places those concerns into categories. Many times, a caller expresses more than one type of concern per child



STRENGTH-BASED, FAMILY CENTERED INITIATIVES

LCCS offers several programs and initiatives that value each family's voice and builds upon their strengths to develop a more robust personal safety net.

Substance Use Disorder: The START program (Sobriety, Treatment, and Reducing Trauma) is funded by the the Office of the Ohio Attorney General and evaluated by Ohio State University. It is an approved foster care prevention program and pairs an LCCS caseworker and a peer recovery advocate with a parent to provide intensive case management services. 18 families were supported with OhioSTART services in 2021.

Family Team Meetings: Family Team Meetings are a facilitated meeting between the family, supporters invited by the family, community providers and agency staff to strengthen and support the family in providing for the safety and well-being of the children. 715 Family Team Meetings were held in 2021, supporting 947 children from 428 families.

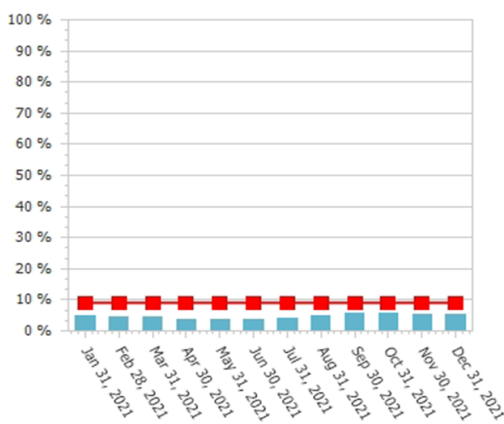
All About Me: Facilitators connect the child's family and foster families together to help develop a supportive relationship that often lasts long after the child's reunification.

Learn and Connect: Monthly structured opportunities for foster parents to receive information and education on a variety of topics and to enjoy fellowship and peer support.

2021 FEDERALLY MONITORED OUTCOME PERFORMANCE MEASURES

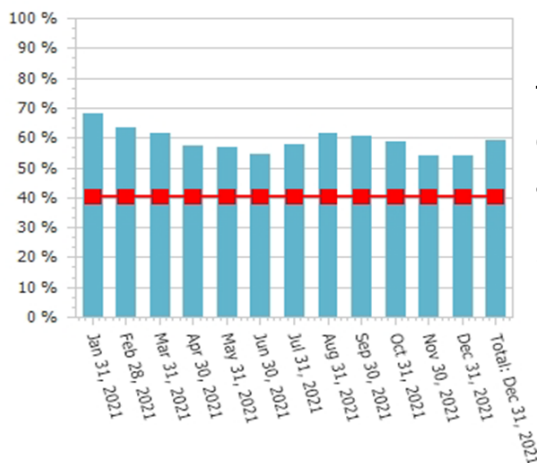


Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) data indicators provide performance information on jurisdictions' child safety and permanency outcomes. The data indicators are aggregate measures calculated using information that LCCS reports to Ohio who then refers report to the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) and the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS). State child welfare agency leaders, managers, continuous quality improvement (CQI) staff, judicial and legal communities, and others can use statewide data indicators to help evaluate state child welfare systems and inform strategic planning and CQI efforts.



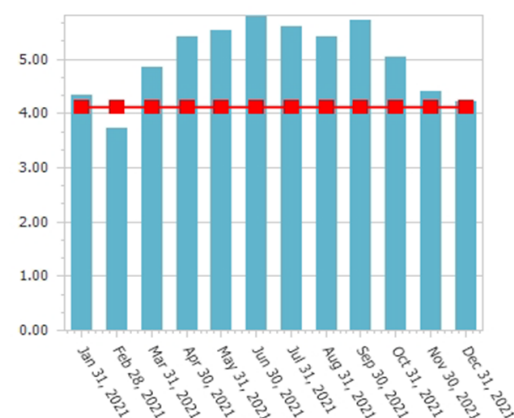
Recurrence of Maltreatment

This measures whether the agency was successful in preventing subsequent maltreatment of a child if the child was the subject of a substantiated or indicated report of maltreatment. The red line indicates the federal benchmark. In 2021, LCCS consistently performed better than the federal indicator.



Permanency in 12 months

This measures whether the agency reunifies or places children in safe and permanent homes as soon as possible after removal. The red line indicates the federal benchmark. In 2021, LCCS consistently performed better than the federal indicator.



Placement Stability- Moves per 1,000 Days in Care

This measures whether the agency ensures that children who the agency removes from their homes experience stability while they are in foster care. The Red line indicates the federal benchmark. LCCS faced challenges with placement stability due to the child welfare workforce crisis that extended into foster care providers. Increased recruitment, support, and retention initiatives to help assure sufficient capacity led to mid year improvements that have continued into 2022.

YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE OR KINSHIP CARE



FOSTER CARE

In January 2021, 106 children were in foster care. At the end of the year, 131 children were in foster care.

When looking at the outcomes for children who exited foster care in 2021:

- 29% of children were adopted
- 24% of children were reunified with a parent
- 26% were placed in the temporary custody of a kinship relative
- 7% were placed in the temporary custody of a kinship non-relative
- 7% were placed in the legal custody of kinship relative
- 4% were placed in the legal custody of kinship non-relative
- 3% turned 18 years old and transitioned out of foster care



LORAIN COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES

Lived Experience Panel Discussion

FOLLOW [FACEBOOK.COM/LCCSFOSTERPARENTS](https://www.facebook.com/LCCSFosterParents) FOR UPCOMING DATES AND TIMES!



The Lived Experience Panel Discussion is your opportunity to meet LCCS staff, foster parents and young adults who have experienced the children services system. It is a wonderful opportunity to ask questions, get to know us, and learn if fostering is right for you!

KINSHIP CARE

In January 2021, 252 children were in kinship care. At the end of the year, 244 children were in kinship care.

When looking at the outcomes for children who exited kinship care in 2021:

- 54% of children were placed in the legal custody of a relative
- 31% of children were reunified with a parent
- 14% were placed in the agency's custody and entered foster care
- 1% turned 18 years old and transitioned out of foster care

2021 Revenue and Expenditures

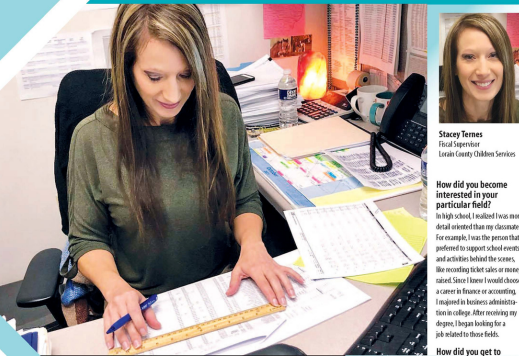
2021 REVENUE SOURCES

Children Services Levy	\$11,762,636.19
Federal Reimbursements	\$7,792,426.49
Title IV-E	\$1,109,564.28
Funding Certainty Grant	\$2,435,553.06
Title IV-B	\$ 136,217.00
Caseworker Visits/Activity	\$3,966,452.85
Social Security	\$ 144,639.30
State Reimbursements	\$3,116,761.97
Child Welfare Subsidy	\$2,390,424.27
Multi-System Youth Funding	\$ 426,181.50
Best Practices Funding	\$ 118,384.00
Foster Parent Recruitment Funding	\$ 109,798.54
Child Support	\$71,973.66
Other Local	\$ 387,647.57
TOTAL 2021 REVENUE	\$23,059,472.22

In 2021, Fiscal Supervisor, Stacey Ternes was featured in the Chronicle Telegram's Career Profiles page to encourage students to consider a finance career.

Career Profiles

A weekly series providing information on career exploration



Stacey Ternes
Fiscal Supervisor
Lorain County Children Services

How did you become interested in your particular field?
I'm high school student I was more detail oriented than my classmates. For example, I was the person that prepared to support school events and activities behind the scenes, like recording ticket sales or money raised. Since I have I would choose a career in finance or accounting, I majored in business administration in college. After earning my degree, I began looking for a job related to these fields.

How did you get to where you are today?
Early in my career I helped people connect to human services benefits, the Food Stamp or Medicaid. This was before computer programs existed with barcode verification and benefit calculations, so being detail oriented and good at math along with having compassion for clients, were very necessary skills. I really liked knowing that I was making a difference for people. These early job experiences, including work in other fiscal services like payroll and accounting, contributed to my landing a job as Fiscal Supervisor for Lorain County Children Services. That I've seen a lot of programs that benefit clients as well as employees.

What skills or certifications do you think are needed to be successful in this field?
I think there are three main skills needed to be successful in this field. One is communication. There are always a lot of deadlines, ability to work with people and help answer their questions, and attention to detail.

What changes have you seen in the last few years in your industry?
The biggest change I have seen in the last few years is the improvement in technology. Computer systems are being upgraded constantly. It's about keeping up with communication in our computerized world. There are always changes in programs that we need to learn and adapt to.

What is the best part of your job?
Even though I am continually performing the same tasks, every day is different. Things are always changing which makes my job challenging. I enjoy being part of this Agency. I respect what our customers do and knowing that my role supports their being able to do good. I also enjoy my coworkers.

Do you have any words of advice for someone considering a career in your field?
If you are considering going to fiscal finance or an accounting field, you would need to develop strong math and accounting skills because you will use them every day. Learn computer skills and be able to adapt to the programs that pertain to the job. Remember that your job is to benefit your community so that a company or organization whose mission aligns to yours.

Nationwide, there were 174,200 community and social service managers, with approximately 5,380 in the State of Ohio.

2021 EXPENDITURES

Casework Services to Children and Families	\$13,439,907.31
Services Children in Placement	\$4,319,188.86
Services to Children and their Families	\$2,325,826.60
Facilities, Vehicles, Other	\$ 794,070.90
TOTAL 2021 EXPENDITURES	\$20,878,993.67

FINANCIAL MANAGERS

The Finance Manager is responsible for managing the financial activities of the organization, including financial analysis and planning, accounting operations and reporting, budgeting and external audits.

Employment in community and social service occupations is projected to grow 12 percent from 2020 to 2030, faster than the average for all occupations, adding about 346,900 jobs.

THE TYPE OF WORK

- Establish and maintain relationships with individual or business customers or provide assistance with problems these customers may encounter.
- Responsible for the inflows and outflows of cash during the fiscal period.
- Plan, direct, or coordinate the activities of workers in branches, offices, or departments of establishments.
- Prepare operational or risk reports for management analysis.
- Evaluate data pertaining to costs to plan budgets.

PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

A bachelor's degree in accounting or finance is the minimum education needed for financial operations managers. Those with MBAs or a graduate degree in accounting might have more work opportunities and higher salaries. Financial management positions typically require a few years of experience in the financial department of another organization. Computer proficiency is a must for financial managers because many financial reports are generated electronically.

THE FUTURE

Most projected new jobs in this occupational group are in computer and social worker occupations, as these services will continue to be needed in areas such as drug abuse counseling and rehabilitation counseling, and also for school and career counseling.

EARNINGS POTENTIAL

Annual Salary for 2020	100th Percentile	75th Percentile	50th Percentile	25th Percentile	10th Percentile
United States	\$42,230	\$49,400	\$55,800	\$61,500	\$67,800
Ohio	\$42,200	\$49,400	\$55,800	\$61,500	\$67,800
Other Ohio Metro Area	\$44,700	\$50,100	\$56,100	\$61,500	\$67,800

WHAT EMPLOYERS LOOK FOR IN INDIVIDUALS

- Business and Accounting – economic and accounting principles and practices; the financial markets, banking and the analysis and reporting of financial data.
- Administration and Management – business and management principles; financial strategy; planning; resource allocation; human resources; marketing; leadership techniques; production methods; and coordination of people and resources.
- Mathematics – arithmetic, algebra, geometry, calculus, statistics, and their application.
- Customer and Personal Service – principles and processes for providing customer and personal services; this includes customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for services, and evaluation of customer satisfaction.
- English Language – structure and content of the English language; including the meaning and spelling of words, rules of composition, and grammar.



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