



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



**VAN WERT COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
VAN WERT COUNTY
JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Van Wert County Family and Children First Council
Van Wert County
205 West Crawford Street
Van Wert, Ohio 45891

To the Members of the Council:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Unmodified and Adverse Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the Van Wert County Family and Children First Council, Van Wert County, Ohio (the Council), which comprises the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type and combined total as of and for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type and combined total as of and for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions which Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit, described in Note 1.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Council, as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, or the changes in financial position thereof for the fiscal year then ended.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Council, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 1 of the financial statements, the financial statements are prepared by the Council on the basis of the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C), which is an accounting basis other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), to satisfy these requirements. The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Council's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Council's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 4, 2025, on our consideration of the Council's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Council's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Faber".

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

March 4, 2025

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Van Wert County Family and Children First Council
Van Wert County
Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements
And Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)
All Governmental Fund Types
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts			
Intergovernmental - State	\$46,760	\$56,760	\$103,520
Intergovernmental - Federal		21,655	21,655
Local Contributions	10,067		10,067
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>56,827</u>	<u>78,415</u>	<u>135,242</u>
Cash Disbursements			
Personal Services	26,056		26,056
Contractual Services		6,382	6,382
Advertising and Printing	25		25
Conference	330		330
Equipment	675		675
Insurance	30		30
Office Supplies	150		150
Travel Reimbursements	371		371
Family-Centered Services and Support		11,747	11,747
Multi System Youth Technical Assistance- Pool Support		4,921	4,921
Multi System Youth Technical Assistance - Restricted Support		62,100	62,100
Special Services -Citizens Family Support	250		250
Special Services - Tri Co.ADAMHS Family Support	1,271		1,271
Special Services - United Way Family Support	8,298		8,298
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>37,456</u>	<u>85,150</u>	<u>122,606</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	19,371	(6,735)	12,636
<i>Fund Cash Balances, July 1</i>	<u>65,999</u>	<u>8,319</u>	<u>74,318</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, June 30</i>	<u><u>\$85,370</u></u>	<u><u>\$1,584</u></u>	<u><u>\$86,954</u></u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

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**VAN WERT COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
VAN WERT COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

1. REPORTING ENTITY/SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

Ohio Revised Code Section 121.37 created the Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council and required each Board of County Commissioners to establish a County Family and Children First Council. Statutory membership of County Council consists of the following individuals:

- a. At least three individuals representing the interest of families in the County. Where possible, the number of members representing families shall be equal to twenty percent of the Council's remaining membership;
- b. The Director of the Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services that serves the County, or, in the case of a County that has a Board of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services and a Community Mental Health Board, the Directors of both Boards. If a Board of Alcohol, Drug Addition, and Mental Health Services covers more than one County, the Director may designate a person to participate on the County's Council;
- c. The Health Commissioner, or the Commissioner's designee, of the Board of Health of each City or General Health District in the County. If the County has two or more health districts, the Health Commissioner membership may be limited to the Commissioners of the two districts with the largest populations;
- d. The Director of the County Department of Job and Family Services;
- e. The Executive Director of the public children services agency or the County agency responsible for the administration of children services pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code Section 5153.15;
- f. The Superintendent of the County Board of Developmental Disabilities or if the Superintendent serves as Superintendent of more than one County Board of Developmental Disabilities, the Superintendent's designee;
- g. The Superintendent of the city, exempted village, or local school district with the largest number of pupils residing in the County, as determined by the Ohio Department of Education, which shall notify each County of its determination at least biennially;
- h. A School Superintendent representing all other school districts with territory in the County, as designated at a biennial meeting of the superintendents of those districts;
- i. A representative of the municipal corporation with the largest population in the County;
- j. The President of the Board of County Commissioners or an individual designated by the Board;
- k. A representative of the regional office of the Ohio Department of Youth Services;
- l. A representative of the County's Head Start agencies, as defined in Ohio Revised Code Section 3301.32;
- m. A representative of the County's Early Intervention collaborative established pursuant to the federal early intervention program operated under the "Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004"; and

**VAN WERT COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
VAN WERT COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024
(Continued)**

- n. A representative of a local nonprofit entity that funds, advocates, or provides services to children and families.

A County Family and Children First Council may invite any other local public or private agency or group that funds, advocates, or provides services to children to have a representative become a permanent or temporary member of the Council.

The purpose of the County Council is to streamline and coordinate existing government services for families seeking services for their children. In seeking to fulfill its purpose, a County Council shall provide for the following:

- a. Referrals to the Cabinet Council of those children for whom the County Council cannot provide adequate services;
- b. Development and implementation of a process that annually evaluates and prioritizes services, fills service gaps where possible, and invents new approaches to achieve better results for families and children;
- c. Participation in the development of a countywide, comprehensive, coordinated, multi-disciplinary interagency system for infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities or delays and their families, as established pursuant to federal grants received and administered by the Department of Health for early intervention services under the "Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004";
- d. Maintenance of an accountability system to monitor the County Council's progress in achieving results for families and children; and
- e. Establishment of a mechanism to ensure ongoing input from a broad representation of families who are receiving services within the County system.

B. Reporting Entity

A reporting entity is comprised of the primary government, component units, and other organizations that are included to ensure that the financial statements are not misleading. The primary government of the Council consists of all funds, departments, and activities that are not legally separate from the Council. They comprise the Council's legal entity which provides services including human, social, health and education to families and children.

Component units are legally separate organizations for which the Council is financially accountable. The Council is financially accountable for an organization if the Council appoints a voting majority of the organization's governing board and (1) the Council is able to significantly influence the programs or services performed or provided by the organization; or (2) the Council is legally entitled to or can otherwise access the organization's resources; the Council is legally obligated or has otherwise assumed the responsibility to finance the deficits of, or provide financial support to, the organization; or the Council is obligated for the debt of the organization. Component units may also include organizations that are fiscally dependent on the Council in that the Council approves the budget, the issuance of debt, or the levying of taxes. The Council has no component units.

The Council's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Council is financially accountable.

**VAN WERT COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
VAN WERT COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024
(Continued)**

C. Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Council recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

The Council's financial statements consist of a combined statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis). These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit.

D. Fund Accounting

The Council uses funds to maintain its financial records during the fiscal year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The Council classifies its funds into the following types:

General Fund – The General Fund is the operating fund of the Council. It is used to account for and report all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund. The General Fund balance is available to the Council for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

Special Revenue Funds – These funds account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects. The Council had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

Early Intervention ARPA Fund - This fund receives federal grant monies restricted for the purpose of the grant provisions.

Family-Centered Services and Supports Fund - This fund receives state and federal grant monies restricted for maintaining children and youth in their homes and communities by meeting the multi-systemic needs of children receiving service coordination.

Multi-System Youth Technical Assistance Fund – This fund receives state grant monies for the purpose of offering technical assistance and financial assistance to children, youth and families with complex and multi-system needs.

E. Administrative/Fiscal Agent

Ohio Revised Code Section 121.37(B)(5)(a) requires the Council to select an administrative agent to provide fiscal and administrative services to the Council. The Council has selected the Van Wert City School District. The Council authorizes the Van Wert City School District, as fiscal agent and administrative agent, to subcontract with, designate, and/or seek assistance from any agencies and/or organizations that it deems necessary in order to complete the obligations set forth in the agreement. The Van Wert City School District agrees to be ultimately responsible for fulfilling the fiscal and administrative obligations of the agreement.

**VAN WERT COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
VAN WERT COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024
(Continued)**

F. Budgetary Process

A Family and Children First Council established under Ohio Revised Code Section 121.37 is not a taxing authority and is not subject to Ohio Revised Code Chapter 5705. As of October 1, 1997, all Family and Children First Councils are required to file an annual budget with its administrative agent. The Council filed a budget which includes an estimate of financial resources and expenditures with the Van Wert City School District as required by Ohio law. The Council budgets each fund annually.

A summary of fiscal year 2024 budgetary activity appears in Note 2.

G. Deposits and Investments

The Council's fiscal agent is the custodian for the Council's deposits and investments. The fiscal agent maintains a deposit and investment pool used for all of the fiscal agent's funds, including those of the Council. Deposits and investments are made in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code and are valued at the fiscal agent's carrying amount. The deposits and investments of the Council's assets are subject to the Van Wert City School District's Investment Policy.

H. Capital Assets

The Council records cash disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant and equipment when paid. These items are not reflected as assets in the accompanying financial statements.

I. Fund Balance

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the Council must observe constraints imposed upon the use of its governmental-fund resources. The classifications are as follows:

Nonspendable – The nonspendable fund balance classification includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form or legally required to be maintained intact. The "not in spendable form" criterion includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash.

Restricted – Fund balance is restricted when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Committed – The committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes imposed by a formal action (resolution) of the Council. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Council removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action (resolution) it employed to previously commit those amounts. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed for use in satisfying those contractual requirements.

**VAN WERT COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
VAN WERT COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024
(Continued)**

Assigned – Amounts in the assigned fund balance classification are intended to be used by Council for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In governmental funds other than the General Fund, assigned fund balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. In the General Fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by policies of the Council, which includes giving the administrative/fiscal agent the authority to constrain monies for intended purposes.

Unassigned – Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the General Fund and includes all spendable amounts not contained in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is only used to report a deficit fund balance resulting from the overspending for specific purposes for which amounts had been restricted, committed, or assigned.

The Council applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

For regulatory purposes, limited disclosures related to fund balance is included in Note 8.

2. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 follows:

2024 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$56,827	\$56,827	\$0
Special Revenue	208,640	78,415	(130,225)
Total	<u>\$265,467</u>	<u>\$135,242</u>	<u>(\$130,225)</u>

2024 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$58,077	\$37,456	\$20,621
Special Revenue	216,960	85,150	131,810
Total	<u>\$275,037</u>	<u>\$122,606</u>	<u>\$152,431</u>

3. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND INVESTMENTS

The Van Wert City School District, as fiscal agent for the Council, maintains a cash and investments pool used by all of the Van Wert City School District's funds, including those of the Council. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments and the Van Wert City School District is responsible for compliance. The carrying amount of deposits and investments at June 30 was as follows:

	2024
Demand deposits	<u>\$86,954</u>
Total deposits	<u>\$86,954</u>

**VAN WERT COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
VAN WERT COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024
(Continued)**

The fiscal agent is responsible for maintaining adequate depository collateral for all funds in the fiscal agent's pooled and deposit accounts. All risks associated with the above deposits are the responsibility of the fiscal agent.

4. RETIREMENT SYSTEM

The Council's employees belong to the School Employees Retirement System (SERS) or State Teachers Retirement System (STRS). SERS and STRS are cost-sharing, multiple-employer plans. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes each plan's benefits, which include postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2024, SERS members contributed 10%, of their gross salaries and the Council contributed an amount equaling 14%, of participants' gross salaries. For 2024, STRS members contributed 14%, of their gross salaries and the Council contributed an amount equaling 14%, of participants' gross salaries. The Council has paid all contributions required through June 30, 2024.

5. POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Both SERS and STRS offer cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans, which include multiple health care plans including medical coverage, prescription drug coverage, and deposits to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement, to qualifying benefit recipients. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for SERS members was 0 percent for the period from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for STRS members was 0 percent for the period from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

Commercial Insurance

The Council is an additional insured entity on the liability policy of the administrative/fiscal agent, Van Wert City School District, which includes the following:

- Comprehensive property and general liability;
- Vehicles; and
- Errors and omissions.

There has not been a significant reduction in this coverage from the prior fiscal year.

7. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the Council are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. The grantor may require refunding any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.

**VAN WERT COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
VAN WERT COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024
(Continued)**

8. FUND BALANCE

Include in fund balance are amounts the Council cannot spend, including the balance of unclaimed monies, which cannot be spent for five years and the unexpendable corpus of the permanent funds. Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilitate effective cash planning and control. At June 30, 2024, the General Fund and Special Revenue funds had no outstanding encumbrances.

The fund balance of special revenue is either restricted or committed. The fund balance of debt service funds and capital projects funds are restricted, committed, or assigned. The fund balance of permanent funds that is not a part of the nonspendable corpus is either restricted or committed. These restricted, committed, and assigned amounts in the special revenue, debt service, capital projects, and permanent funds would include the outstanding encumbrances. In the General fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.

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Van Wert County Family and Children First Council
Van Wert County
Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements
And Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)
All Governmental Fund Types
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts			
Intergovernmental - State	\$19,350	\$233,890	\$253,240
Intergovernmental - Federal		60,913	60,913
Local Contributions	9,363		9,363
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>28,713</u>	<u>294,803</u>	<u>323,516</u>
Cash Disbursements			
Personal Services	16,114		16,114
Contractual Services		138,786	138,786
Advertising and Printing	25		25
Audit	3,608		3,608
Insurance	30		30
Office Supplies	140		140
Travel Reimbursements	429		429
Family-Centered Services and Support		13,775	13,775
Multi System Youth Technical Assistance- Pool Support		13,669	13,669
Multi System Youth Technical Assistance - Restricted Support		127,650	127,650
Special Services - Tri Co.ADAMHS Family Support	1,500		1,500
Special Services - United Way Family Support	7,613		7,613
Refund State Admin	4,507		4,507
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>33,966</u>	<u>293,880</u>	<u>327,846</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	(5,253)	923	(4,330)
<i>Fund Cash Balances, July 1</i>	<u>71,252</u>	<u>7,396</u>	<u>78,648</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, June 30</i>	<u><u>\$65,999</u></u>	<u><u>\$8,319</u></u>	<u><u>\$74,318</u></u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

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**VAN WERT COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
VAN WERT COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

1. REPORTING ENTITY/SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

Ohio Revised Code Section 121.37 created the Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council and required each Board of County Commissioners to establish a County Family and Children First Council. Statutory membership of County Council consists of the following individuals:

- a. At least three individuals representing the interest of families in the County. Where possible, the number of members representing families shall be equal to twenty percent of the Council's remaining membership;
- b. The Director of the Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services that serves the County, or, in the case of a County that has a Board of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services and a Community Mental Health Board, the Directors of both Boards. If a Board of Alcohol, Drug Addition, and Mental Health Services covers more than one County, the Director may designate a person to participate on the County's Council;
- c. The Health Commissioner, or the Commissioner's designee, of the Board of Health of each City or General Health District in the County. If the County has two or more health districts, the Health Commissioner membership may be limited to the Commissioners of the two districts with the largest populations;
- d. The Director of the County Department of Job and Family Services;
- e. The Executive Director of the public children services agency or the County agency responsible for the administration of children services pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code Section 5153.15;
- f. The Superintendent of the County Board of Developmental Disabilities or if the Superintendent serves as Superintendent of more than one County Board of Developmental Disabilities, the Superintendent's designee;
- g. The Superintendent of the city, exempted village, or local school district with the largest number of pupils residing in the County, as determined by the Ohio Department of Education, which shall notify each County of its determination at least biennially;
- h. A School Superintendent representing all other school districts with territory in the County, as designated at a biennial meeting of the superintendents of those districts;
- i. A representative of the municipal corporation with the largest population in the County;
- j. The President of the Board of County Commissioners or an individual designated by the Board;
- k. A representative of the regional office of the Ohio Department of Youth Services;
- l. A representative of the County's Head Start agencies, as defined in Ohio Revised Code Section 3301.32;
- m. A representative of the County's Early Intervention collaborative established pursuant to the federal early intervention program operated under the "Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004"; and

**VAN WERT COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
VAN WERT COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023
(Continued)**

- n. A representative of a local nonprofit entity that funds, advocates, or provides services to children and families.

A County Family and Children First Council may invite any other local public or private agency or group that funds, advocates, or provides services to children to have a representative become a permanent or temporary member of the Council.

The purpose of the County Council is to streamline and coordinate existing government services for families seeking services for their children. In seeking to fulfill its purpose, a County Council shall provide for the following:

- a. Referrals to the Cabinet Council of those children for whom the County Council cannot provide adequate services;
- b. Development and implementation of a process that annually evaluates and prioritizes services, fills service gaps where possible, and invents new approaches to achieve better results for families and children;
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- d. Maintenance of an accountability system to monitor the County Council's progress in achieving results for families and children; and
- e. Establishment of a mechanism to ensure ongoing input from a broad representation of families who are receiving services within the County system.

B. Reporting Entity

A reporting entity is comprised of the primary government, component units, and other organizations that are included to ensure that the financial statements are not misleading. The primary government of the Council consists of all funds, departments, and activities that are not legally separate from the Council. They comprise the Council's legal entity which provides services including human, social, health and education to families and children.

Component units are legally separate organizations for which the Council is financially accountable. The Council is financially accountable for an organization if the Council appoints a voting majority of the organization's governing board and (1) the Council is able to significantly influence the programs or services performed or provided by the organization; or (2) the Council is legally entitled to or can otherwise access the organization's resources; the Council is legally obligated or has otherwise assumed the responsibility to finance the deficits of, or provide financial support to, the organization; or the Council is obligated for the debt of the organization. Component units may also include organizations that are fiscally dependent on the Council in that the Council approves the budget, the issuance of debt, or the levying of taxes. The Council has no component units.

The Council's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Council is financially accountable.

**VAN WERT COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
VAN WERT COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023
(Continued)**

C. Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Council recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

The Council's financial statements consist of a combined statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis). These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit.

D. Fund Accounting

The Council uses funds to maintain its financial records during the fiscal year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The Council classifies its funds into the following types:

General Fund – The General Fund is the operating fund of the Council. It is used to account for and report all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund. The General Fund balance is available to the Council for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

Special Revenue Funds – These funds account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects. The Council had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

Early Intervention ARPA Fund - This fund receives state and federal grant monies restricted for the purpose of the grant provisions.

Family-Centered Services and Supports Fund - This fund receives state and federal grant monies restricted for maintaining children and youth in their homes and communities by meeting the multi-systemic needs of children receiving service coordination.

Multi-System Youth Technical Assistance Fund – This fund receives state grant monies for the purpose of offering technical assistance and financial assistance to children, youth and families with complex and multi-system needs.

E. Administrative/Fiscal Agent

Ohio Revised Code Section 121.37(B)(5)(a) requires the Council to select an administrative agent to provide fiscal and administrative services to the Council. The Council has selected the Van Wert City School District. The Council authorizes the Van Wert City School District, as fiscal agent and administrative agent, to subcontract with, designate, and/or seek assistance from any agencies and/or organizations that it deems necessary in order to complete the obligations set forth in the agreement. The Van Wert City School District agrees to be ultimately responsible for fulfilling the fiscal and administrative obligations of the agreement.

**VAN WERT COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
VAN WERT COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023
(Continued)**

F. Budgetary Process

A Family and Children First Council established under Ohio Revised Code Section 121.37 is not a taxing authority and is not subject to Ohio Revised Code Chapter 5705. As of October 1, 1997, all Family and Children First Councils are required to file an annual budget with its administrative agent. The Council filed a budget which includes an estimate of financial resources and expenditures with the Van Wert City School District as required by Ohio law. The Council budgets each fund annually.

A summary of fiscal year 2023 budgetary activity appears in Note 2.

G. Deposits and Investments

The Council's fiscal agent is the custodian for the Council's deposits and investments. The fiscal agent maintains a deposit and investment pool used for all of the fiscal agent's funds, including those of the Council. Deposits and investments are made in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code and are valued at the fiscal agent's carrying amount. The deposits and investments of the Council's assets are subject to the Van Wert City School District's Investment Policy.

H. Capital Assets

The Council records cash disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant and equipment when paid. These items are not reflected as assets in the accompanying financial statements.

I. Fund Balance

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the Council must observe constraints imposed upon the use of its governmental-fund resources. The classifications are as follows:

Nonspendable – The nonspendable fund balance classification includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form or legally required to be maintained intact. The "not in spendable form" criterion includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash.

Restricted – Fund balance is restricted when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Committed – The committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes imposed by a formal action (resolution) of the Council. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Council removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action (resolution) it employed to previously commit those amounts. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed for use in satisfying those contractual requirements.

**VAN WERT COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
VAN WERT COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

(Continued)

Assigned – Amounts in the assigned fund balance classification are intended to be used by Council for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In governmental funds other than the General Fund, assigned fund balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. In the General Fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by policies of the Council, which includes giving the administrative/fiscal agent the authority to constrain monies for intended purposes.

Unassigned – Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the General Fund and includes all spendable amounts not contained in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is only used to report a deficit fund balance resulting from the overspending for specific purposes for which amounts had been restricted, committed, or assigned.

The Council applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

For regulatory purposes, limited disclosure related to fund balance is included in Note 8.

2. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 follows:

2023 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$41,123	\$28,713	(\$12,410)
Special Revenue	338,038	294,803	(43,235)
Total	<u>\$379,161</u>	<u>\$323,516</u>	<u>(\$55,645)</u>

2023 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$42,177	\$33,966	\$8,211
Special Revenue	348,887	293,880	55,007
Total	<u>\$391,064</u>	<u>\$327,846</u>	<u>\$63,218</u>

3. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND INVESTMENTS

The Van Wert City School District, as fiscal agent for the Council, maintains a cash and investments pool used by all of the Van Wert City School District's funds, including those of the Council. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments and the Van Wert City School District is responsible for compliance. The carrying amount of deposits and investments at June 30 was as follows:

	2023
Demand deposits	<u>\$74,318</u>
Total deposits	<u>\$74,318</u>

**VAN WERT COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
VAN WERT COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023
(Continued)**

The fiscal agent is responsible for maintaining adequate depository collateral for all funds in the fiscal agent's pooled and deposit accounts. All risks associated with the above deposits are the responsibility of the fiscal agent.

4. RETIREMENT SYSTEM

The Council's employees belong to the School Employees Retirement System (SERS) or State Teachers Retirement System (STRS). SERS and STRS are cost-sharing, multiple-employer plans. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes each plan's benefits, which include postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2023, SERS members contributed 10%, of their gross salaries and the Council contributed an amount equaling 14%, of participants' gross salaries. For 2023, STRS members contributed 14%, of their gross salaries and the Council contributed an amount equaling 14%, of participants' gross salaries. The Council has paid all contributions required through June 30, 2023.

5. POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Both SERS and STRS offer cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans, which include multiple health care plans including medical coverage, prescription drug coverage, and deposits to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement, to qualifying benefit recipients. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for SERS members was 0 percent for the period from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for STRS members was 0 percent for the period from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

Commercial Insurance

The Council is an additional insured entity on the liability policy of the administrative/fiscal agent, Van Wert City School District, which includes the following:

- Comprehensive property and general liability;
- Vehicles; and
- Errors and omissions.

There has not been a significant reduction in this coverage from the prior fiscal year.

7. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the Council are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. The grantor may require refunding any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.

**VAN WERT COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
VAN WERT COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023
(Continued)**

8. FUND BALANCE

Include in fund balance are amounts the Council cannot spend, including the balance of unclaimed monies, which cannot be spent for five years and the unexpendable corpus of the permanent funds. Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilitate effective cash planning and control. At June 30, 2023, the General Fund and Special Revenue funds had no outstanding encumbrances.

The fund balance of special revenue is either restricted or committed. The fund balance of debt service funds and capital projects funds are restricted, committed, or assigned. The fund balance of permanent funds that is not a part of the nonspendable corpus is either restricted or committed. These restricted, committed, and assigned amounts in the special revenue, debt service, capital projects, and permanent funds would include the outstanding encumbrances. In the General fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Van Wert County Family and Children First Council
Van Wert County
205 West Crawford Street
Van Wert, Ohio 45891

To the Members of the Council:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements for each governmental fund type and the combined total as of and for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023 and the related notes to the financial statements of the Van Wert County Family and Children First Council, Van Wert County, Ohio (the Council) and have issued our report thereon dated March 4, 2025, wherein we noted the Council followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 and Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03(C) permit.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Council's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Council's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Council's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Council's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

March 4, 2025

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



VAN WERT COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL

VAN WERT COUNTY

AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report, which is required to be filed pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in the Office of the Ohio Auditor of State in Columbus, Ohio.



Certified for Release 3/20/2025

65 East State Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-466-4514 or 800-282-0370

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at
www.ohioauditor.gov