



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

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

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Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

Family and Children First Council
Van Wert County
114 East Main Street
Van Wert, Ohio 45891

To the Council Members:

As you are aware, the Auditor of State's Office (AOS) must modify the *Independent Accountants' Report* we provide on your financial statements due to an interpretation from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). While AOS does not legally require your government to prepare financial statements pursuant to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), the AICPA interpretation requires auditors to formally acknowledge that you did not prepare your financial statements in accordance with GAAP. Our Report includes an adverse opinion relating to GAAP presentation and measurement requirements, but does not imply the amounts the statements present are misstated under the non-GAAP basis you follow. The AOS report also includes an opinion on the financial statements you prepared using the cash basis and financial statement format the AOS permits.

Mary Taylor

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Auditor of State

June 3, 2009

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Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Family and Children First Council
Van Wert County
114 East Main Street
Van Wert, Ohio 45891

To the Council Members:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Family and Children First Council, Van Wert County, (the Council), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Council's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described more fully in Note 1, the Council has prepared these financial statements using accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. These practices differ from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Although we cannot reasonably determine the effects on the financial statements of the variances between these regulatory accounting practices and GAAP, we presume they are material.

While the Council does not follow GAAP, generally accepted auditing standards requires us to include the following paragraph if the statements do not substantially conform to GAAP presentation requirements. The Auditor of State permits, but does not require governments to reformat their statements. The Council has elected not to follow GAAP statement formatting requirements. The following paragraph does not imply the amounts reported are materially misstated under the accounting basis the Auditor of State permits. Our opinion on the fair presentation of the amounts reported pursuant to its non-GAAP basis is in the second following paragraph.

In our opinion, because of the effects of the matter discussed in the preceding two paragraphs, the financial statements referred to above for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007 do not present fairly, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Council as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, or its changes in financial position for the years then ended.

Also, in our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the fund cash balances and reserves for encumbrances of the Family and Children First Council, Van Wert County, as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and its cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the accounting basis Note 1 describes.

The Council has not presented Management's Discussion and Analysis, which accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America has determined is necessary to supplement, although not required to be part of, the financial statements.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 3, 2009, 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. While we did not opine on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance, that report describes the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. You should read it in conjunction with this report in assessing the results of our audit.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Taylor".

Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

June 3, 2009

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

**STATEMENTS OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007**

	2008	2007
Cash Receipts:		
Intergovernmental	\$5,681	\$25,681
Other receipts	1,500	2,400
Total Cash Receipts	7,181	28,081
 Cash Disbursements:		
Supplies	202	62
Contracts - Services	5,553	8,712
Advertising and Printing	168	497
Travel and Expenses		116
Other	6,490	14,925
Total Disbursements	12,413	24,312
 Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	(5,232)	3,769
 Fund Cash Balance, January 1	56,615	52,846
 Fund Cash Balance, December 31	51,383	56,615
 Reserves for Encumbrances, December 31	\$614	\$802

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

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

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

Ohio Rev. Code Section 121.37 created the Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council and permitted counties to establish county family and children first councils. Statutory membership of a county council consists of the following individuals:

- a. 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;
- b. The health commissioner of the board of health of each city or general health district in the county, or their designees;
- c. The director of the county department of jobs and family services;
- d. The executive director of the county agency responsible for the administration of children services pursuant to section 5153.15 of the Revised Code;
- e. The superintendent of the county board of mental retardation and developmental disabilities;
- f. The county's juvenile court judge senior in service or their 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 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 largest city in the county;
- j. The chair of the board of county commissioners, or an individual designated by the board;
- k. A representative of the regional office of the department of youth services;
- l. A representative of the county's head start agencies, as defined in section 3301.31 of the Revised Code;
- m. A representative of the county's early intervention collaborative established pursuant to the federal early intervention program operated under the "Education of the Handicapped Act Amendments of 1986";
- n. At least three individuals representing the interests 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.

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.

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

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007
(Continued)**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

A county council's statutory responsibilities include the following:

- a. Refer to the cabinet council those children for whom the council cannot provide adequate services;
- b. Make periodic reports to the cabinet council regarding the number of children referred to the county council and the progress made in meeting the needs of each child;
- c. Develop a plan that reviews and adjusts existing programs, fills service gaps where possible, or invents new approaches to achieve better results for families and children;
- d. Participate in the development of a county wide, 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 "Education of the Handicapped Act Amendments of 1986";
- e. Maintain an accountability system to monitor the council's progress in achieving its purposes;
- f. Establish a mechanism to ensure ongoing input from a broad representation of families who are receiving services within the county system.

B. Accounting Basis

These financial statements follow the accounting basis the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. 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).

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the Auditor of State prescribes or permits.

C. Deposits and Investments

As required by the Ohio Revised Code, the Van Wert County Treasurer is custodian for the Council's deposits. The County's deposit and investment pool holds the Council's assets, valued at the Treasurer's reported carrying amount.

D. Fund Accounting

The Council uses fund accounting to segregate cash and investments that are restricted as to use. The Council classifies its fund into the following type:

1. General Fund

The General Fund reports all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

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

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007
(Continued)**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

E. Fiscal Agent/Administrative Agent

The Van Wert County Auditor serves as fiscal agent for the Council. Council funds are maintained in a separate agency fund by the County.

Van Wert County Commissioners served as administrative agent for the Council from January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2008. The Commissioners appointed the Van Wert County Department of Jobs and Family Services to administer the operations of the Council.

F. Budgetary Process

A Family and Children First Council established under ORC Section 121.37 is not a taxing authority and is not subject to Ohio Revised Code Chapter 5705. As of October, 1997, the entity is required to file a budget with the Administrative Agent. The Council budgets each fund annually.

1. Appropriations

The Council annually approves appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund, function or object level of control. Unencumbered appropriations lapse at year end.

2. Estimated Resources

Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus unencumbered cash as of January 1.

3. Encumbrances

The Ohio Revised Code requires the Council to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over, and need not be reappropriated.

A summary of 2008 and 2007 budgetary activity appears in Note 2.

G. Property, Plant, and Equipment

The Council records disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statements do not report these items as assets.

2. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2008 and 2007 follows:

2008 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$2,000	\$7,181	\$5,181

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

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2007
(Continued)**

2. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY (Continued)

2008 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$47,178	\$13,027	\$34,151
	\$47,178	\$13,027	\$34,151

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$21,300	\$28,081	\$6,781
	\$21,300	\$28,081	\$6,781

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$43,632	\$25,114	\$18,518
	\$43,632	\$25,114	\$18,518

3. RISK MANAGEMENT

Commercial Insurance

The Council has obtained commercial insurance through Van Wert County for the following risks:

- Comprehensive property and general liability;



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Auditor of State

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

Family and Children First Council
Van Wert County
114 East Main Street
Van Wert, Ohio 45891

To the Council Members:

We have audited the financial statements of the Family and Children First Council, Van Wert County, (the Council) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, and have issued our report thereon dated June 3, 2009, wherein we noted the Council followed accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes rather than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Council's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our audit procedures for expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not to opine on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we have not opined on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control over financial reporting.

A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the Council's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with its applicable accounting basis, such that there is more than a remote likelihood that the Council's internal control will not prevent or detect a more-than-inconsequential financial statement misstatement.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies resulting in more than a remote likelihood that the Council's internal control will not prevent or detect a material financial statement misstatement.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all internal control deficiencies that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider material weaknesses, as defined above.

We noted a certain matter that we reported to the Council's management in a separate letter dated June 3, 2009.

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Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the Council's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*.

We intend this report solely for the information and use of the Advisory Committee, management, and Council. We intend it for no one other than these specified parties.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Taylor".

Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

June 3, 2009



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Auditor of State

FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL

VAN WERT COUNTY

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

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

Susan Babbitt

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

**CERTIFIED
JUNE 30, 2009**