



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



**GEAUGA COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
GEAUGA COUNTY**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	PAGE
Independent Auditor's Report	1
Prepared by Management:	
Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis) - All Governmental Fund Types – For the Year Ended December 31, 2022	5
Notes to the Financial Statements – For the Year Ended December 31, 2022	6
Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis) - All Governmental Fund Types – For the Year Ended December 31, 2021	15
Notes to the Financial Statements – For the Year Ended December 31, 2021	16
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	25

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Geauga County Family and Children First Council
Geauga County
12611 Ravenwood Drive, Suite 150
Chardon, Ohio 44024

To the Board of Trustees:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Unmodified and Adverse Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the Geauga County Family and Children First Council, Geauga County, Ohio (the Council), which comprises the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type combined total as of and for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, 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 combined total as of and for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, 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 2.

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 December 31, 2022 and 2021, or the changes in financial position thereof for the years 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 2 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 2 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 10 to the financial statements for each year, the financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures may impact subsequent periods of the Council. We did not modify our opinion regarding this matter.

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 28, 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.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

March 28, 2025

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Geauga County Family and Children First Council
Geauga County, Ohio
Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements
And Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)
All Governmental Fund Types
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

	General	Special Revenue	Combined Total
Cash Receipts			
Intergovernmental - Federal	\$0	\$109,290	\$109,290
Intergovernmental - State	0	283,858	283,858
Intergovernmental - Local	0	221,496	221,496
Local Contributions	841,794	84,848	926,642
Miscellaneous	9,745	0	9,745
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>851,539</u>	<u>699,492</u>	<u>1,551,031</u>
Cash Disbursements			
Personal Services	166,142	30,590	196,732
Contractual Services	115,819	208,140	323,959
Family Services and Support	27,986	16,694	44,680
Treatment Services	318,670	297,229	615,899
Advertising	130	0	130
Other	956	0	956
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>629,703</u>	<u>552,653</u>	<u>1,182,356</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	221,836	146,839	368,675
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>557,384</u>	<u>75,503</u>	<u>632,887</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u><u>\$779,220</u></u>	<u><u>\$222,342</u></u>	<u><u>\$1,001,562</u></u>

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

Geauga County Family and Children First Council

Geauga County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 1 – Reporting 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:

1. 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;
2. 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;
3. 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;
4. The Director of the County Department of Job and Family Services;
5. 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;
6. The Superintendent of the County Board of Developmental Disabilities or if the Superintendent serves as Superintendent as more than one County Board of Developmental Disabilities, the Superintendent's designee;
7. 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;
8. 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;
9. A representative of the municipal corporation with the largest population in the County;
10. The President of the Board of County Commissioners or an individual designated by the Board;
11. A representative of the regional office of the Ohio Department of Youth Services;
12. A representative of the County's Head Start agencies, as defined in Ohio Revised Code Section 3301.32;

Geauga County Family and Children First Council

Geauga County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

13. 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
14. 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:

1. Referrals to the Cabinet Council of those children for whom the County Council cannot provide adequate services;
2. 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;
3. 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";
4. Maintenance of an accountability system to monitor the County Council's progress in achieving results for families and children; and
5. Establishment of a mechanism to ensure ongoing input from a broad representation of families who are receiving services within the County system.

Public Entity Risk Pool

The Council participates in the County Risk Sharing Authority (CORSA) public entity risk pool. Note 5 to the financial statements provides additional information for this entity.

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

Geauga County Family and Children First Council

Geauga County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The Council's financial statements consist of a combined statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis).

Fund Accounting

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

General Fund The general fund accounts for and reports 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:

Help Me Grow Grant 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 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 This fund receives state grant monies distributed by the local public children services agency for the purposes of preventing parental relinquishment of custody solely for a child obtaining necessary treatment; and supporting the care of children in the custody of a Public Children Services Agency (PCSA) for congregate care and transitional services following discharge. The PCSA is required to distribute a minimum percentage of its MSY allocation to the FCFC annually. The Ohio Department of Medicaid also awarded similar funds to the Council.

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 authorizes Geauga County Job and Family Services, 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. Geauga County Job and Family Services agrees to be ultimately responsible for fulfilling the fiscal and administrative obligations of the agreement.

Geauga County Family and Children First Council

Geauga County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

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 (C). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Board recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred.

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(C) permit.

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 an estimate of financial resources and an appropriation measure with Geauga County Auditor as required by Ohio law.

A summary of 2022 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

Deposits and Investments

The Council designated the Geauga County Auditor as the fiscal agent for all funds received in the name of the Council. Deposits of monies are made with the Geauga County Treasurer and fund expenditures and balances are reported through the Geauga County Auditor. Deposits and investments are made in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code and are valued at the fiscal agent's carrying amount.

Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. The financial statements do not include a liability for unpaid leave.

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 Council classifies assets as *nonspendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact. For regulatory purposes, nonspendable fund balance includes unclaimed monies that are required to be held for five years before they may be utilized by the Council.

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.

Geauga County Family and Children First Council

Geauga County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Committed The Council can *commit* amounts via formal action (resolution). The Council must adhere to these commitments unless the Council amends the resolution. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed to satisfy contractual requirements.

Assigned Assigned fund balances are intended for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as *restricted* or *committed*. For regulatory purposes, assigned fund balance in the general fund is limited to encumbrances outstanding at year end.

Unassigned Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the general fund and includes amounts not included in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is only used to report a deficit fund balance.

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 9.

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2022, follows:

2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$955,500	\$851,539	(\$103,961)
Special Revenue	317,500	699,492	381,992
Total	\$1,273,000	\$1,551,031	\$278,031

2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$835,348	\$629,703	\$205,645
Special Revenue	616,686	552,653	64,033
Total	\$1,452,034	\$1,182,356	\$269,678

In March 2022, the Council returned unspent Multi-System Youth funds to the Ohio Department of Medicaid in the amount of \$5,192. Both the accompanying financial statements and budgetary tables above have been adjusted to reflect this disbursement as a reduction of intergovernmental state revenue in the applicable Special Revenue fund.

Geauga County Family and Children First Council

Geauga County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 4 – Deposits and Investments

The Geauga County Auditor, as fiscal agent for the Council, maintains a cash and investments pool used by all of the Geauga County Auditor's funds, including those of the Council. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments and the Geauga County Auditor is responsible for compliance. Deposits and investment disclosures for Geauga County as a whole may be obtained from the County.

This 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.

Note 5 – Risk Management

Workers' Compensation

Workers' Compensation coverage is provided by the State of Ohio. Geauga County pays the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation a rate-based premium. This rate is calculated based on accident history and administrative costs (if material).

Risk Pool Membership

The Council is a member of the County Risk Sharing Authority (CORSA). CORSA assumes the risk of loss up to the limits of the Council's policy. CORSA covers the following risks:

- General liability and casualty;
- Public official's liability;
- Errors and omissions;
- Law enforcement liability;
- Crime
- Property
- Vehicle; and
- Excess liability

The Pool reported the following summary of actuarially-measured liabilities and the assets available to pay those liabilities as of December 31:

	2022	2021
Cash and investments	\$137,285,899	\$151,054,939
Actuarial liabilities	53,364,339	50,499,878

Geauga County Family and Children First Council

Geauga County

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 6 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

The Council's employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plan's benefits, which include postretirement health care and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2022, OPERS members contributed 10 percent of their gross salaries, and the Council contributed an amount equaling 14 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Council has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2022.

Note 7 – Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offers a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plan, which includes 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 OPERS members in the traditional pension plan and combined plan was 0 percent during calendar year 2022. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the member-directed plan was 4 percent during calendar year 2022.

Effective January 1, 2022, OPERS discontinued the group plans currently offered to non-Medicare retirees and re-employed retirees. Instead, eligible non-Medicare retirees will select an individual medical plan. OPERS will provide a subsidy or allowance via an HRA allowance to those retirees who meet health care eligibility requirements. Retirees will be able to seek reimbursement for plan premiums and other qualified medical expenses.

Note 8 – 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.

Note 9 – Fund Balances

Included in fund balance are amounts the Council cannot spend, including the balance of unclaimed monies, which cannot be spent for five years. 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 year end the balances of these amounts were as follows:

<u>Fund Balances</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Total</u>
Outstanding Encumbrances	\$100,942	\$143,445	\$244,387

Geauga County Family and Children First Council

Geauga County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

The fund balance of special revenue funds is either restricted or committed. These restricted or committed amounts in the special revenue funds would including the outstanding encumbrances. In the general fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.

Note 10 – COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended in June 2021 and the national state of emergency ended in May 2023. During 2022, the Council received COVID-19 funding through the American Rescue Plan Act in order to supplement existing early intervention grants. These funds were disbursed to the Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities and are reflected in the accompanying financial statements as contractual services of the Special Revenue Fund.

The financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the Council. The impact on the Council's future operating costs, revenues, and additional recovery from emergency funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated.

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Geauga County Family and Children First Council
Geauga County, Ohio
Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements
And Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)
All Governmental Fund Types
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

	General	Special Revenue	Combined Total
Cash Receipts			
Intergovernmental - Federal	\$0	\$15,405	\$15,405
Intergovernmental - State	0	142,376	142,376
Intergovernmental - Local	0	132,667	132,667
Local Contributions	890,593	55,970	946,563
Miscellaneous	21,276	0	21,276
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	911,869	346,418	1,258,287
Cash Disbursements			
Personal Services	197,806	19,611	217,417
Contractual Services	155,270	175,676	330,946
Family Services and Support	16,131	23,050	39,181
Treatment Services	551,275	391,933	943,208
Advertising	87	0	87
Other	4,539	0	4,539
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	925,108	610,270	1,535,378
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	(13,239)	(263,852)	(277,091)
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	570,623	339,355	909,978
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	\$557,384	\$75,503	\$632,887

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

Geauga County Family and Children First Council

Geauga County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 1 – Reporting 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:

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4. The Director of the County Department of Job and Family Services;
5. 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;
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Geauga County Family and Children First Council

Geauga County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

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2. 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;
3. 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";
4. Maintenance of an accountability system to monitor the County Council's progress in achieving results for families and children; and
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Public Entity Risk Pool

The Council participates in the County Risk Sharing Authority (CORSA) public entity risk pool. Note 5 to the financial statements provides additional information for this entity.

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

Geauga County Family and Children First Council

Geauga County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The Council's financial statements consist of a combined statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis).

Fund Accounting

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

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Family-Centered Services and Supports Fund This fund receives 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 This fund receives state grant monies distributed by the local public children services agency for the purposes of preventing parental relinquishment of custody solely for a child obtaining necessary treatment; and supporting the care of children in the custody of a Public Children Services Agency (PCSA) for congregate care and transitional services following discharge. The PCSA is required to distribute a minimum percentage of its MSY allocation to the FCFC annually. The Ohio Department of Medicaid also awarded similar funds to the Council.

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 authorizes Geauga County Job and Family Services, 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. Geauga County Job and Family Services agrees to be ultimately responsible for fulfilling the fiscal and administrative obligations of the agreement.

Geauga County Family and Children First Council

Geauga County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

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 (C). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Board recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred.

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(C) permit.

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 an estimate of financial resources and an appropriation measure with Geauga County Auditor as required by Ohio law.

A summary of 2021 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

Deposits and Investments

The Council designated the Geauga County Auditor as the fiscal agent for all funds received in the name of the Council. Deposits of monies are made with the Geauga County Treasurer and fund expenditures and balances are reported through the Geauga County Auditor. Deposits and investments are made in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code and are valued at the fiscal agent's carrying amount.

Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. The financial statements do not include a liability for unpaid leave.

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 Council classifies assets as *nonspendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact. For regulatory purposes, nonspendable fund balance includes unclaimed monies that are required to be held for five years before they may be utilized by the Council.

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.

Geauga County Family and Children First Council

Geauga County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Committed The Council can *commit* amounts via formal action (resolution). The Council must adhere to these commitments unless the Council amends the resolution. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed to satisfy contractual requirements.

Assigned Assigned fund balances are intended for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as *restricted* or *committed*. For regulatory purposes, assigned fund balance in the general fund is limited to encumbrances outstanding at year end.

Unassigned Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the general fund and includes amounts not included in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is only used to report a deficit fund balance.

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 9.

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2021, follows:

2021 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$993,500	\$911,869	(\$81,631)
Special Revenue	206,250	346,418	140,168
Total	<u>\$1,199,750</u>	<u>\$1,258,287</u>	<u>\$58,537</u>

2021 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$1,142,565	\$925,108	\$217,457
Special Revenue	753,929	610,270	143,659
Total	<u>\$1,896,494</u>	<u>\$1,535,378</u>	<u>\$361,116</u>

Geauga County Family and Children First Council

Geauga County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 4 – Deposits and Investments

The Geauga County Auditor, as fiscal agent for the Council, maintains a cash and investments pool used by all of the Geauga County Auditor's funds, including those of the Council. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments and the Geauga County Auditor is responsible for compliance. Deposits and investment disclosures for Geauga County as a whole may be obtained from the County.

This 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.

Note 5 – Risk Management

Workers' Compensation

Workers' Compensation coverage is provided by the State of Ohio. Geauga County pays the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation a rate-based premium. This rate is calculated based on accident history and administrative costs (if material).

Risk Pool Membership

The Council is a member of the County Risk Sharing Authority (CORSA). CORSA assumes the risk of loss up to the limits of the Council's policy. CORSA covers the following risks:

- General liability and casualty;
- Public official's liability;
- Errors and omissions;
- Law enforcement liability;
- Crime
- Property
- Vehicle; and
- Excess liability

The Pool reported the following summary of actuarially-measured liabilities and the assets available to pay those liabilities as of December 31:

	2021	2020
Cash and investments	\$151,054,939	\$142,264,663
Actuarial liabilities	50,499,878	47,825,389

Geauga County Family and Children First Council

Geauga County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Health Care Benefits

Health care benefits for County employees, including those of the Council, are administered by the County Employee Benefit Consortium of Ohio (CEBCO), a service program of the County Commissioners Association of Ohio. CEBCO is a self-funded purchasing pool that offers medical, prescription, dental, and life insurance benefits and is governed by a Board comprised of representatives of counties that participate in the program.

For the year ended December 31, 2021, CEBCO reported \$95,630,038 in total assets and \$27,456,300 in total liabilities.

Note 6 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

The Council's employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plan's benefits, which include postretirement health care and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2021, OPERS members contributed 10 percent of their gross salaries, and the Council contributed an amount equaling 14 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Council has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2021.

Note 7 – Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offers a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plan, which includes 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 OPERS members in the traditional pension plan and combined plan was 0 percent during calendar year 2021. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the member-directed plan was 4 percent during calendar year 2021.

Note 8 – 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.

Geauga County Family and Children First Council

Geauga County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 9 – Fund Balances

Included in fund balance are amounts the Council cannot spend, including the balance of unclaimed monies, which cannot be spent for five years, and unspent grant funds to be returned to the grantor. 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 year end the balances of these amounts were as follows:

<u>Fund Balances</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Total</u>
Nonspendable:			
Unspent Grant Funds	\$0	\$5,192	\$5,192
Outstanding Encumbrances	81,249	100,355	181,604
Total	<u>\$81,249</u>	<u>\$105,547</u>	<u>\$186,796</u>

The fund balance of special revenue funds is either restricted or committed. These restricted or committed amounts in the special revenue funds would include the outstanding encumbrances. In the general fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.

Note 10 – COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended in June 2021 and the national state of emergency ended in May 2023. During 2021, the Council received COVID-19 funding. The financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the Council. The impact on the Council's future operating costs, revenues, and additional recovery from emergency funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated.

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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**

Geauga County Family and Children First Council
Geauga County
12611 Ravenwood Drive, Suite 150
Chardon, Ohio 44024

To the Board of Trustees:

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 combined total as of and for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021 and the related notes to the financial statements of the Geauga County Family and Children First Council, Geauga County, Ohio (the Council) and have issued our report thereon dated March 28, 2025, wherein we noted the Council followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 and Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03(C) permit. We also noted the financial impact of COVID-19 and related emergency measures which may impact subsequent periods of the Council.

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 opinions 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 28, 2025

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



GEAUGA COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL

GEAUGA 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 5/8/2025

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