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For Immediate Release
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Butler County Commissioners Act To Protect Children Affected by Substance Abuse

Hamilton, Ohio (October 8, 2007) – Today, the Butler County Commissioners adopted a resolution requiring Butler County Children Services to conduct an assessment of every family in which the mother tests positive for substance abuse at birth. This requirement is stricter than the guidelines set by the state.

“National and local statistics show that substance abuse is a contributing factor in three out of four cases of child abuse,” said County Commissioner Chuck Furmon, 30-year veteran of the Hamilton Police Department. “This is simply common sense if we want to protect children.”

Beginning immediately, Butler County Children Services will assess any family where the mother tests positive for substance abuse at birth. Currently state guidelines require Children Services to assess the home and environment when both mother and child test positive or the child exhibits signs of withdrawal.

The Commissioners also requested that Butler County Children Services issue a written request for stricter guidelines to the state.