



Commissioners
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For Immediate Release
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Butler County Commissioners Act to Reduce Children Services Caseloads

Hamilton, Ohio (August 20, 2007) – Today the Butler County Commissioners passed a resolution setting the performance standard for caseload sizes at Butler County Children Services to an average of twelve cases per caseworker. This matches the best practice standard set by the Public Child Protection Association of Ohio (PCSAO) and the Child Welfare League of America. Caseloads should not exceed fifteen cases per worker.

“Supporting frontline casework is getting back to basics,” says Commissioner Chuck Furmon, who has taken the lead on child welfare issues for the county commission. “We know caseload sizes will fluctuate but we want to set proactive measures for more effective case management.”

Children Services has been instructed to lower caseloads to meet this performance standard within 90 days. The agency’s new Director, Mike Fox and agency staff have developed a plan to comply with the commissioner’s resolution. The agency will add nine caseworkers to the existing staff. These caseworkers will be added without hiring additional staff or adding additional positions. The agency will do this in three ways:

1. Reclassify three vacant positions in other areas of the agency as caseworker positions. Those positions were posted Friday.
2. Positions that currently do not carry a caseload will be reclassified and assigned a caseload.
3. Reclassify administrative positions to casework positions.

This action addresses one of the major criticisms leveled against the agency in the wake of the Marcus Fiesel tragedy.

“We’re committed to improving Children Services,” said Commissioner Jolivet.

“This is the beginning of the improvements the public will see with the new leadership at the agency,” echoed Commissioner Don Dixon.