



Commissioners
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Butler County Commissioners Approve Children Services Plan to Expand Services

Hamilton, Ohio (August 27, 2007) – Today, the Butler County Commissioners announced a plan to expand Butler County Children Services intake and assessment to a 24 hour-a-day on-site operation within 30 days. This means that children services staff would be on-site around-the-clock. “Children services staff will be more accessible and that translates into safer kids,” said Chuck Furmon, County Commissioner and commission lead on child welfare issues.

Children Services’ plan involves expanding the current second shift and adding a third shift at no additional cost to the agency. Specific details of the expanded operation will be worked out between the agency, union, and commission over the next several weeks.

According to Children Services, expanding to on-site, 24-hour coverage has significant benefits.

1. The agency will be more accessible to the community.
2. After hours assessments will be more thorough because workers will have immediate access to case documents.
3. Second and third shift staff will develop better relationships with staff from other community agencies such as law enforcement, court and medical.
4. More efficient use of agency resources and it is better for caseworkers.

Children Services has always responded to allegations and assessments after regular business hours. Currently the after-hours program is staffed with a rotating on-call list with workers and supervisors available via cell phone. Originally staff volunteered for on-call but during the last year on-call has become mandatory. At times this creates a burden for workers who have late night calls but are on a regular work schedule the next day.

“Children Services is the eighth largest public child protection agency in the state,” said Commissioner Don Dixon, “our population continues to grow.”

“This change is right in-line with our new focus—the basics of front-line casework,” said Commissioner Greg Jolivet.