

Date:

November 9, 2023

Subject:

APPROVE COUNTY CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) FOR VAN WERT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES (VWCDJFS)/PUBLIC CHILDREN SERVICES AGENCY (PCSA) EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 2023

The Board of County Commissioners of Van Wert County, Ohio, met in regular session in the office of said Board on the 9th day of November, 2023, with the following members present: Mr. Todd D. Wolfrum, Mr. Stan D. Owens, and Mr. Thad Lichtensteiger.

Mr. Lichtensteiger moved the adoption of the following **RESOLUTION**:

WHEREAS, Erinn Sellers, Director, and Lesley Sowers, Social Services Supervisor 1, Van Wert County Department of Job and Family Services (VWCDJFS), have submitted to this Board for review and approval the attached County Child Abuse and Neglect Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for VWCDJFS/Public Children Services Agency (PCSA); and

WHEREAS, said MOU sets forth the normal operating procedures to be employed by all concerned officials in the execution of their respective responsibilities when conducting child abuse or neglect assessments/investigations. The purpose of said MOU is to clearly delineate the role and responsibilities of each official or agency in assessing or investigating child abuse or neglect in Van Wert County. The respective duties and requirements of all involved are addressed in said MOU; therefore, be it


RESOLVED, that this Board of Van Wert County Commissioners does hereby approve the attached County Child Abuse and Neglect MOU for VWCDJFS/PCSA effective October 2023 as submitted and recommended by Ms. Sellers and Ms. Sowers.

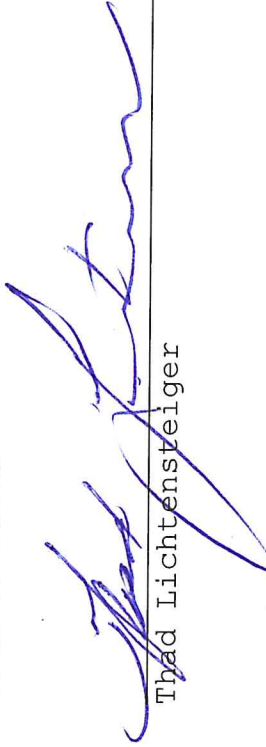
Mr. Wolfrum seconded the motion. The roll was called upon its adoption, and the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Wolfrum, Yea; Mr. Owens, Yea; and Mr. Lichtensteiger, Yea.

BOARD OF VAN WERT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Attest:


Todd D. Wolfrum, Chairman of the Board

 Stan D. Owens
Ryanne Bollenbacher, Clerk


Thad Lichtensteiger

c: Erinn Sellers, Director, VWCDJFS
Lesley Sowers, Social Services Supervisor 1, VWCDJFS

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VAN WERT COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES/CHILDREN
SERVICES

MEMORANDUM
OF
UNDERSTANDING

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

REVISED
Oct 2023

The county child abuse and neglect memorandum of understanding, hereinafter referred to as the memorandum, is a document that sets forth the normal operating procedures to be employed by all concerned officials in the execution of their respective responsibilities when conducting child abuse or neglect assessments/investigations. The purpose of the memorandum is to clearly delineate the role and responsibilities of each official or agency in assessing or investigating child abuse or neglect in the county. The respective duties and requirements of all involved shall be addressed in the memorandum.

The mandated subscribers to the plan include Juvenile Court Judge, County Peace Officer, Chief Municipal Officers, County Prosecuting Attorney, City Law Director, County Humane Society and the Director of the Public Children Services Agency/PCSA.

Failure to follow procedures set forth in the memorandum by the concerned officials is not grounds for, and shall not result in the dismissal of any charges or complaints arising from any reported case of abuse or neglect or the suppression for any evidence obtained as a result of the reported child abuse or neglect and does not give, and shall not be considered as giving, and rights or grounds for appeal or post conviction relief to any person pursuant to section 2151.4223 of the revised code.

All reports of alleged child abuse and neglect, in verbal or written forms, are to be made to the Public Children Services Agency:

Children Services Department

Van Wert County Department of Job and Family Services

114 East Main Street

P.O. Box 595

Van Wert, OH 45891

Telephone: (419)-238-5430

Office Hours: 8:00a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Monday through Friday

Reports outside the above office hours shall be made to the Sheriff's Department or the Police Department having jurisdiction. The Law Enforcement Agency shall contact the on-call protective service worker.

Law Enforcement Agencies, by law are also required to accept reports of suspected abuse or neglect. All Law Enforcement Agencies agree that any such reports received shall be immediately referred to the Public Children Services Agency. The PCSA shall maintain staff available on a 24-hour basis, 7 days a week for emergency assessments and investigations after

office hours. Each Law Enforcement Agency will be provided an on-call list. This list shall contain the name and cell number of the on-call worker. The Supervisor's cell phone number is also provided.

All incoming calls, in regard to child abuse/neglect received by the Van Wert County Department of Job and Family Services, are referred to the Children Services Unit. Children Services gathers available data and makes the determination as to whether a particular referral constitutes a child abuse/neglect assessment or investigation. Said information determines the method of initiation and the time frame. The priority is determined based upon the safety or risk of the alleged child victim. The Supervisor assigns the assessment/investigation to a child protective services worker. The assigned child protective worker will refer the case to the appropriate law enforcement agency when the concerns constitute a criminal offense. Then the worker is refused access to an alleged child victim, when the child is determined to be at imminent risk of harm, law enforcement will also be contacted for assistance. The child protective worker initiates and completes the assessment/investigation, initiates court action when necessary, and initiates necessary medical services and other emergency supportive services for the child. The child protective worker makes a disposition of an investigation as unsubstantiated, indicated, or substantiated. If there is an active safety threat and alleged child victim's risk is determined to be high at any point during the assessment or investigation, the worker enacts a safety response, Emergency supportive services and ongoing protective services are made available by Children Services on behalf of the children about whom the report is being made, in an effort to prevent further neglect or abuse, to assure their safety, and whenever possible, to preserve the family unity intact.

If an emergency exists because a child is at imminent risk of harm, an assessment or investigation shall begin within 1 hour of receipt of the report. Assessments/Investigations of each report determined not to be an emergency must begin within 24 hours.

Investigations of a criminal nature require a joint investigation by Children Services and the appropriate law enforcement agency. The law enforcement agency having jurisdiction shall accompany the child protective worker as a peace officer while conducting any investigative activities in which the safety of a child protective worker is at risk. Additionally, Children Services, as deemed necessary to protect the children, will consult with appropriate law enforcement, the county Prosecuting Attorney, and the Juvenile Judge as necessary, in any cases that require their intervention or assistance. Upon completion of the assessment or investigation the disposition is entered in SACWIS (State Child Welfare Information System).

When Van Wert County Children Services Agency receives a referral from a mandated reporter who provides their name and contact information, Van Wert County Children Services Agency shall forward an initial mandated reporter notification to the referent within seven days. The notification will be provided, in accordance with the mandated reporter's preference. Information shared with the mandated reporter shall include the information permitted by ORC 2151.421(K); Whether the agency has initiated an investigation of the report, whether the

agency is continuing to investigate the report; whether the agency is otherwise involved with the child who is the subject of the report; the general status of the health and safety of the child who is the subject of the report; whether the report has resulted in the filing of a complaint in juvenile court or of criminal charges in another court.

When Van Wert County Children Services Agency closes an investigation/assessment reported by a mandated reporter, Van Wert County Children Services Agency shall forward an outcome mandated reporter notification to the referent. The notification will be provided in accordance with the mandated reporter's preference. Information shared with the mandated reporter shall be that permitted by ORC 2151.421 to include a notification that the agency has closed the investigation along with a point of contact.

INTERVIEWING PROCEDURES

Children Services and law enforcement agency shall use interviewing methods that are appropriate for the developmental functioning and situation of the child. (The Children Services Protective Worker shall, and a law enforcement officer may interview the child who is the subject of the report). Children Services and law enforcement will coordinate interviews and work together to eliminate all unnecessary interviews of alleged child victims. Digital audio/video recordings of the interview of children who are the subject of child abuse or neglect may be made by Children Services or the law enforcement agency involved in the interview. The intent of the recording is to eliminate repeated interviews of the child, minimize trauma and to preserve uncontaminated statements of the child. The attorney representing the alleged perpetrator may access the videotape subject to proper legal procedures for Discovery are followed. Copies of these recordings will be provided to the above individuals upon compliance with the stated procedures. Law Enforcement will be the lead agency in the collection of forensic evidence and will coordinate with the necessary facilities to obtain and store such evidence properly.

Law Enforcement will interview all alleged perpetrators and Children Services may assist, when there are allegations of a criminal nature, charges have been filed or pending.

REMOVAL OF CHILDREN

ORC Section 2151.31 states in part:

- (A) A child may be taken into custody in any of the following ways;
 - (1) Pursuant to an order of the court under this chapter or motion filed per ORC 2930.05
 - (2) Pursuant to the laws of arrest

- (3) By a law enforcement officer or duly authorized officer of the court when any of the following conditions are present;
- (a) There are reasonable grounds to believe that the child is suffering from illness or injury and is not receiving proper care, as described in section 2151.03 of the Ohio Revised Code and the child's removal is necessary to prevent immediate or threatened physical or emotional harm.
 - (b) There are reasonable grounds to believe that the child is in immediate danger from his/her surroundings and that his/her removal is necessary to prevent immediate or threatened physical or emotional harm.
 - (c) There are reasonable grounds to believe that a parent, guardian, custodian, or other household members of the child's household has abused or neglected another child in the household and to believe that the child is in danger of immediate or threatened physical or emotional harm from that person.

ORC section 2151.421 states, "no peace officer shall remove a child about whom a report is made pursuant to this section from the child's parents, stepparents, or guardian or any other person having custody of the child without consultation with the public children services agency, unless, in the judgement of the officer, and , if the report was made by physician, the physician, immediate removal is considered essential to protect the child from further abuse or neglect".

Law Enforcement shall accompany the Children Services Protective worker during the assessment or investigation in which the need for removal of the child may be necessary. If a child is taken into custody by law enforcement officer, they shall immediately contact Children Services. If after hours, the on-call worker shall be contacted.

FAILURE TO REPORT

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.99, whoever violated division (A) (1) of Section 2151.421 (mandatory reporting), or division (I) (1) of section 2151.421 (unauthorized dissemination) of the revised code is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.

Children Services will notify in writing the County Prosecutor of any mandated reporter who failed to report incident of abuse/neglect. Pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code 5101:2-33-21 (D), when the PCSA has knowledge of unauthorized dissemination of information, they will notify in writing the county prosecutor or City Law Director and The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. A copy of written notification will be maintained in the case record.

JOINT INVESTIGATION

Children Services and Law Enforcement will coordinate reported cases of child abuse and neglect sharing of investigation reports and procedures specific to case which:

- (a) Involve out of home care child abuse or neglect.
- (b) Require third party investigation procedures and the assistance of law enforcement.
- (c) Require law enforcement to immediately respond.
- (d) Involve a child death in which abuse or neglect is suspected as the cause of death.
- (e) Involved alleged withholding of medically indicated treatment from disabled infants with life-threatening conditions.
- (f) Involve the death of a child who is in the custody of the PCSA in accordance with rule 5101:2-33-14 of the Administrative Code
- (g) Involve alleged child abuse and/or neglect constituting a crime against a child, including human trafficking, child endangerment, domestic violence, physical and sexual abuse or the like, are cooperatively planned and require a joint assessment/investigation with law enforcement of jurisdiction.

REQUESTING ASSISTANCE

Children Services will request the assistance of law enforcement when the following circumstances apply, which may include but is not limited to:

- (a) Children Services has reason to believe the child is in immediate danger of serious harm.
- (b) Children Services has reason to believe the worker is or will be in danger of harm.
- (c) Children Services has reason to believe that a crime is being committed or has been committed against a child.
- (d) An exigent circumstance exists.
- (e) Children Services worker must conduct a home visit after regular business hours and a law enforcement escort is requested as a standard operating procedure.
- (f) Children Services is removing a child from his/her family via an order of the court and the assistance of law enforcement is needed as the Agency has reason to believe the family will challenge the removal.
- (g) Children Services must conduct an assessment/investigation at a known drug house and law enforcement escort is needed.
- (h) Children Services is working with a client who has propensity toward violence and the assistance of law enforcement is needed to ensure the safety of all involved.

- (i) Children Services is working with a family that has historically threatened to do harm to Agency staff.

Children Services will ensure that the processes and procedures to attempt to coordinate the assistance of law enforcement is obtained timely in cases where child abuse or neglect is alleged in order to ensure child safety and conduct investigation activities within the maximum 60 (sixty) day time frame afforded PCSA's to complete abuse/neglect assessment/investigations, as specified in rule 5101:2-36 of the Administrative Code.

CROSS REFERRAL OF REPORTS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT THIRD PARTY INVESTIGATIONS

Children Services shall make a referral in accordance with OAC 5101:2-36-12 to law enforcement if the report could constitute a criminal offense, if Children Services requires assistance in the assessment/investigation, or if a third-party investigation is required when the following parties included as principles:

- (1) Any institution, facility, or family foster home which is licensed or certified by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and operated or supervised by the County Public Children Services Agency;
- (2) Any employee, or agency of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services or County Public Children Services Agency; or
- (3) Any authorized person who is representing the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and Family Services or the Public Children Services Agency and who is providing services for payment or as a volunteer.

Van Wert County Children Services Agency must request the assistance of a third party within 24 hours of identifying that a conflict of interest exists. Law Enforcement shall serve as a third party when a report alleges a criminal offense.

The requests and law enforcement's response shall be documented in the case record. The law enforcement agency shall forward a copy of the report to the County Prosecutor's office or City Law Director if legal action is warranted.

Children Services shall assess/investigate each report in accordance with procedures set forth in OAC 5101: 2-36-12. When appropriate, Children Services shall follow the procedures set forth in OAC 5101: 2-36-08 for third party investigations, OAC 5101: 2-36-05 concerning stranger danger investigations, and OAC 5101: 2-36-13 for investigations involving two or more PCSA's.

Children Services shall maintain copies of their investigations and law enforcement's third party investigation in the case records.

Children services and the law enforcement agency shall consult with and forward a report to the County Prosecutor or City Law Director regarding any legal action.

Out-Of-Home Care Investigations

Out of home care settings in regards to report of child abuse and neglect include: a detention facility, shelter facility, family foster home, foster home, pre-finalized adopted placement, certified foster home, approved foster care organization, certified organization, child day care center, Type a family day care home, Type B family day care home, group home, institution, state institution, residential facility, residential care center, public or nonpublic school or respite home that is responsible for the care, physical custody, or control of a child.

For all reports of child abuse and neglect in an out-of-home care setting, a Law Enforcement Agency that receives a report shall immediately provide a verbal report to the Children Services followed by a written report. This shall be completed in accordance with the procedures established for the respite of any report of child abuse or neglect.

Children Services shall immediately contact the out-of-home care setting administrative office, director or other chief administrative officer or the board of directors, county commissioners, or law enforcement if the administrative officer, director or other chief administrative officer is alleged to be the perpetrator. Children Services shall follow the procedures set forth in OAC Rule 5101:2-36-12 and 5101:2-36-05 pertaining to the assessments and investigations of reports of abuse or neglect. Children Services shall also follow procedures set forth in OAC Rule 5101:2-36-08 pertaining to out-of-home care and third-party investigations.

Children Services shall conduct a third-party investigation when the following parties are involved as principals; any institution, facility, or family foster home which is licensed, or certifies by ODJFS and operated or supervised by Children Services; any employee, or agency of ODJFS or Children Services; or any authorized person who is representing ODJFS or Children Services and who is providing services for payment or as a volunteer. When a third-party investigation is required, Children Services shall make a verbal report requesting a third-party investigation to the appropriate Law Enforcement Agency within 24 (twenty-four) hours.

Children Services and Law Enforcement Agency (if involved) shall consult with the County Prosecutor or City Law Director regarding any legal action.

INVESTIGATIONS INVOLVING AN EMERGENCY THAT REQUIRES AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

The inquirer shall contact the appropriate Law Enforcement Agency with jurisdiction if it is before or after the office hours of Children Services. The Law Enforcement Agency shall contact the on-call Children Protective Services Worker. An on-call worker shall be available seven days a week, 24 hours a day to respond to emergencies, as well as to access to an Administrator per 5101:2-5-13 (A) (19). If determined to be an emergency, the on-call Children Protective Services worker shall begin an investigation within one hour of the respite of the information.

INVESTIGATIONS OF THE DEATH OF A CHILD BY ABUSE OR NEGLECT

Van Wert County Children Services Agency is governed by ORC section 307.622 and must have a child fatality review board. All reports involving the death of a child due to suspected alleged abuse or neglect shall be immediately reported to Children Services. Children Services shall contact the appropriate law enforcement agency and initiate a joint investigation. Children Services oral report shall be followed by a written report within three (3) working days. Investigative findings shall be reported to the County Prosecutor by Children Services and Law Enforcement Agency to be reviewed by the Prosecutor for the purpose of prosecution.

Children Services shall report all cases in which the death of a child is alleged to have occurred as a result of abuse or neglect, in cases which Children Services has received any previous allegation of abuse or neglect or has had other protective services involvement, to the appropriate regional field office of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services pursuant to 5101:2-33-14.

Investigations of a child fatality-death of a child in the custody of Van Wert County Children Services Agency, the agency must follow section 5101:2-33-14 of the OAC.

INVESTIGATIONS INVOLVING ALLEGED WITHHOLDING OF MEDICALLY INDICATED TREATMENT FROM DISABLED INFANTS WITH LIFE THREATENING CONDITIONS

All reports involving alleged withholding of medically indicated treatment from disabled infants with life-threatening conditions shall be immediately reported to Children Services, who shall immediately notify the appropriate Law Enforcement Agency, followed by a written report within 3 business days, a joint investigation shall be conducted.

When Children Services or Law Enforcement Agency is refused access to medical records or is unable to perform its mandated investigation, assistance shall be sought from the County Prosecuting Attorney or City Law Director to obtain a court order for the necessary authorization to receive medical records and perform the mandated investigation. If the parents, guardian, or custodian refuse to consent to the provision of appropriate nutrition, hydration, medication, or medically indicated treatment, Children Services and the Law Enforcement Agency shall immediately request assistance from the County Prosecuting Attorney or City Law Director in order to obtain an emergency court order granting authorization to provide medical care and treatment.

Assessments and investigations shall be conducted in accordance with OAC 5101:2-36-07; Procedures for interviewing in Cases Involving Alleged Withholding of Medically Indicated Treatment from Disabled Infants with Life-Threatening Conditions.

INVESTIGATIONS OF MISSING CHILDREN

Pursuant to ORC 2901.30:

Upon obtaining the knowledge that a minor person, under 18 years of age, has either run away from, or who otherwise is missing from the home of, or the care, custody, and control of the minor's parents, parent who is the residential parent and legal custodian, legal custodian, or other person having responsibility for care of the minor, and about whom there is reason to believe he could be a victim of ORC Sections 2905.01, Kidnapping; or a violation of Section 2905.02, Abduction; or a violation of Section 2905.03, Unlawful Restraint; or a violation of Sections 2905.04, Child Stealing, as it existed prior to its repeal: Children Services shall refer the reporter to the law enforcement agency of appropriate jurisdiction. Children Services shall immediately make a verbal report to the appropriate Law Enforcement Agency followed by a written report within three (3) days.

Van Wert County Children Services will contact the law enforcement agency for entry into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database if the child is in the agency's custody. Van Wert County Children Services Agency will also contact the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) if the child is in the agency's custody.

Upon request from a Law Enforcement Agency, Children Services shall immediately grant the Law Enforcement Agency access to all information concerning a missing child that the agency possesses that may be relevant to the Law Enforcement Agency in investigating a missing child report. The information obtained by the Law Enforcement Agency shall be used only to further the investigation to locate the missing child.

Law enforcement shall notify Van Wert County Children Services upon learning that a minor child who is alleged to be in the child services system or who is known or suspected to be abused or neglected has either run away from or is otherwise missing from the home or the care, custody and control of the child's parents, custodial parent, legal guardian, or non-custodial parent.

INVESTIGATIONS OF INTERFERENCES WITH CUSTODY

Pursuant to ORC Sections 2919.23:

No person, knowing the person is without privilege to do so or being reckless in that regard, shall entice, take, keep or harbor a child identified in division (A)(1), (2), or (3) of this section from the parent, guardian, or custodian of that child. All reports of this nature shall be immediately reported to the appropriate Law Enforcement Agency for investigation. A verbal report shall be followed by a written report within three (3) working days.

INVESTIGATIONS CONTRIBUTING TO THE UNRULINESS OF DELINQUENCY OF A CHILD

Pursuant to ORC Section 2919.24:

No person shall act in any way to aid, abet, induce, cause, encourage or contribute to a child of a ward of the Juvenile Court becoming an unruly or delinquent child. No person shall act in a way tending to cause a child or a ward of the Juvenile Court to become an unruly child or a delinquent child. All reports of the nature shall be immediately reported to the appropriate Law Enforcement Agency for investigation. A verbal report shall be followed by a written report within three (3) working days.

JUVENILE COURT

The juvenile court has a duty to exercise jurisdiction over adults and children to hear and decide matters as permitted by the Ohio Revised Code 2151 and 2152. The court is responsible for issuing orders regarding the care, protection, health, safety, mental and physical best interest of children. The Juvenile Judge shall ensure that due process of law is achieved; hear evidence and issue findings of fact and conclusions of law as to any abused, neglected, or dependent child; order timely and safe permanency dispositions for children; preserve the family environment whenever possible while keeping the child(ren)'s health and safety paramount.

COUNTY PROSECUTOR

The County Prosecutor shall report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect to Van Wert County Children Services Agency or appropriate law enforcement agency. The County Prosecutor shall represent Van Wert County Children Services Agency in legal actions to protect a child from further harm resulting from child abuse or neglect.

The prosecuting attorney may inquire into the commission of crimes within the county. The prosecuting attorney shall prosecute, on behalf of the state, all complaints, suits, and controversies in which the state is a party, except for those required to be prosecuted by a special prosecutor or by the attorney general. The County Prosecutor is to determine, based upon the facts, whether criminal culpability exists and if enough evidence exists for a matter to be prosecuted. The prosecutor will be available to law enforcement and Van Wert County Children Services Agency staff for questions or assistance in the investigation of child abuse and neglect cases and eliminate the need for testimony at the municipal court level by allowing for direct presentation to the Grand Jury, when feasible to minimize trauma to child victims. The prosecuting attorney agrees to aid Van Wert County Children Services Agency in protecting the confidential nature of children services records and investigations as well as the special protection afforded to the identity of the reporting source.

LOCAL ANIMAL CRUELTY REPORTING AGENCY

Van Wert County Sheriff's Office is the local animal cruelty reporting agency which investigates reports of animal abuse and neglect within the county and, pursuant to ORC 2151.421, reports suspected cases of child abuse and neglect that may be observed during the commission of their duties to Van Wert County Children Services Agency or local law enforcement. The local animal cruelty reporting agencies are to utilize the Humane Agents authorization to remove children under emergency circumstances, if necessary. In those circumstances, they are to coordinate efforts with Van Wert County Children Services Agency and local law enforcement as soon as possible or within 24 hours.

DISASTER PLAN PREPAREDNESS

The following individuals are identified as essential personnel needed for the function of the Children Services agency in case of a disaster.

1. Agency Director
2. Children Services Supervisor
3. Business Administrator
4. Other Children Services workers, as available or assigned.

In the event of a disaster an alternative work location will be at Van Wert County Sheriff's Office (SO) and/or Emergency Command Operation Center (ECOC) as identified by Emergency Management Director.

In the event of standard communication failures, the agency staff, substitute caregivers and the team members will be expected to report to the SO/ECOC or to follow instructions as given on the Emergency Broadcast System including but not limited to television and radio announcements.

Essential work activities during the disaster will be identified as the provision of food, clothing, shelter to ensure safety of the children, and caregivers.

Agency staff will be based out of the ECOC or other designated area to respond to new reports of child maltreatment, and to ensure the continuity of services for families receiving in-home supportive services and children in out-of-home placements. Agency staff will request the services of local Law Enforcement Agencies and/or Emergency Management Personnel to assist with transportation, communication, or other necessary functions for the performance of child protective duties.

Children Services supervisor will be responsible for tracking clients and substitute caregivers by maintaining monthly record of those persons and keeping them in an alternative location without the reliance of SACWIS or other technical systems. New reports of clients will be kept on paper and secured along with other agency and court records in a secure location; as

designated by Local Law Enforcement Emergency Management Personnel, if the agency office is unavailable.

Children Services personnel will work in cooperation with Local Law Enforcement, medical providers and other disaster response agencies to coordinate services for children in agency custody and children with no known available parent.

Agency personnel will work with emergency shelters in training for disaster preparedness, the coordination of services for families/children and volunteers.

Confidentiality Statement

Any report made in accordance with ORCE section 2151.421 is confidential. Both the information and the name of the person who made the report under section 2151.421 shall not be released to the public for use and shall not be used as evidence in any civil action or proceeding brought against the person who made the report.

Children Services records are not public records and are exempt from Ohio's Sunshine Laws under ORC 149.43. Children Services records are confidential in nature and should be treated accordingly.

ORC section 2151.423 requires Van Wert County Children Services Agency to disclose confidential information discovered during an investigation conducted pursuant to section 2151.421 or 2151.422 of the ORC to any federal, state, or local government entity that needs the information to carry out its responsibilities to protect children from abuse or neglect. Likewise, law enforcement, Van Wert County Children Services Agency, and other entities are expected to release information to Van Wert County Children Services Agency for the purpose of carrying out its responsibility of protecting children from abuse and/or neglect.

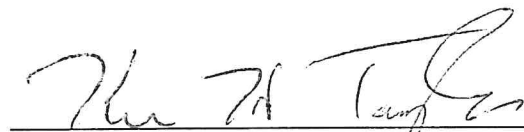
The confidentiality provisions of this MOU will survive the expiration or termination of this agreement. The MOU must be retained for a period of at least seven years per the state of Ohio Records retention schedule.


Lesley Sowers, LSW, Children Services Supervisor

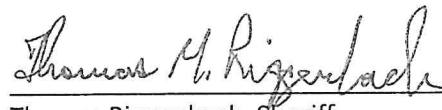
11/6/2023
Date


Erinn Sellers, Director VWCDJFS

11-9-2023
Date


Kevin Taylor, Juvenile Court Judge

11-6-2023
Date


Thomas Riggerbach, Sheriff

11/08/2023
Date


Eva Yarger, Van Wert County Prosecutor

11/6/23
Date


John Hatcher, City Law Director

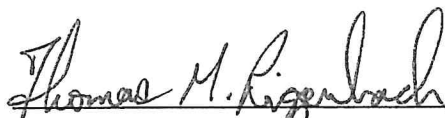
11/6/23
Date


Douglas Weigle, VW City Chief of Police

11-7-23
Date


Mark Slate, Delphos Chief of Police

11/8/23
Date


Thomas Riggerbach, County Humane Agency

11/08/2023
Date