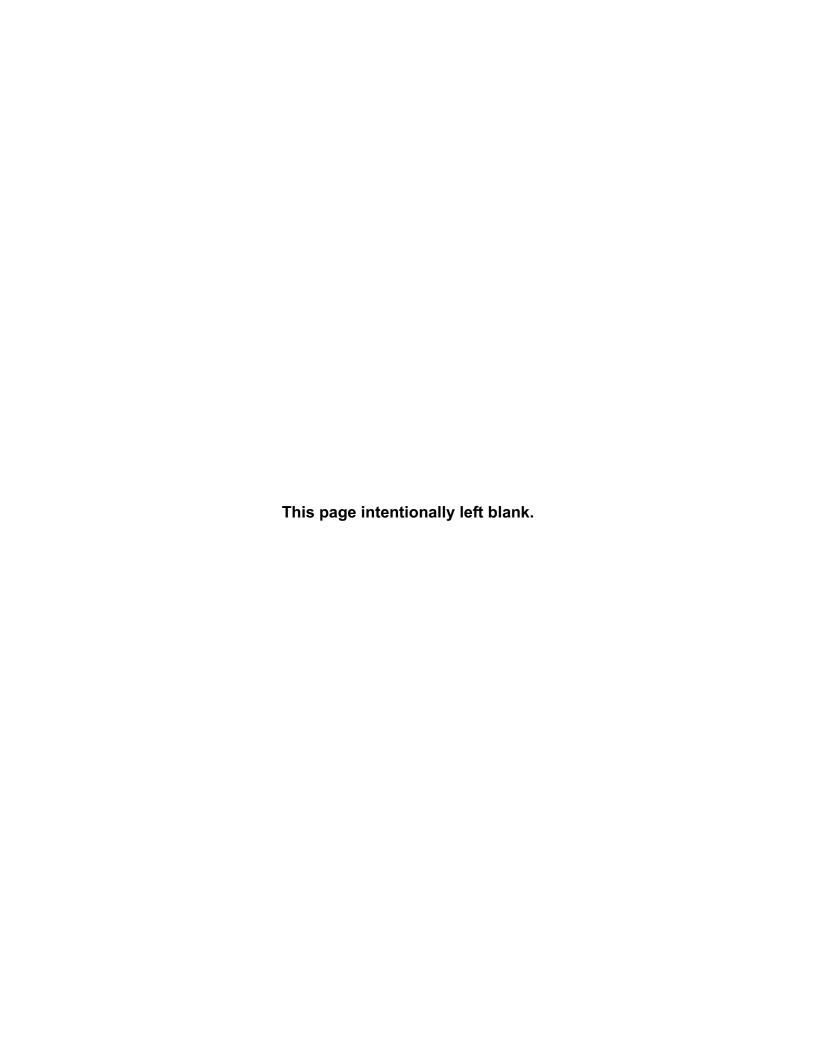




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Lorain County Children and Families Council Lorain County 216 3rd St. Elyria, Ohio 44035

To the Council:

As you are aware, the Auditor of State's Office (AOS) must modify the *Independent Accountants' Report* we provide on your financial statements due to an interpretation from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). While AOS does not legally require your government to prepare financial statements pursuant to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), the AICPA interpretation requires auditors to formally acknowledge that you did not prepare your financial statements in accordance with GAAP. Our Report includes an adverse opinion relating to GAAP presentation and measurement requirements, but does not imply the amounts the statements present are misstated under the non-GAAP basis you follow. The AOS report also includes an opinion on the financial statements you prepared using the cash basis and financial statement format the AOS permits.

Mary Taylor, CPA Auditor of State

Mary Saylor

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Lorain County Children and Families Council Lorain County 216 3rd St. Elyria, Ohio 44035

To the Council:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Lorain County Children and Families Council, Lorain County, Ohio (the Council) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2007. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Council's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described more fully in Note 2, the Council has prepared these financial statements using accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. These practices differ from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Although we cannot reasonably determine the effects on the financial statements of the variances between these regulatory accounting practices and GAAP, we presume they are material.

Instead of the combined funds the accompanying financial statements present, GAAP require presenting entity wide statements and also presenting the Council's larger (i.e. major) funds separately. While the Council does not follow GAAP, generally accepted auditing standards requires us to include the following paragraph if the statements do not substantially conform to GAAP presentation requirements. The Auditor of State permits, but does not require Councils to reformat their statements. The Council has elected not to follow GAAP statement formatting requirements. The following paragraph does not imply the amounts reported are materially misstated under the accounting basis the Auditor of State permits. Our opinion on the fair presentation of the amounts reported pursuant to its non-GAAP basis is in the second following paragraph.

Lorain County Children and Families Council Lorain County Independent Accountants' Report Page 2

In our opinion, because of the effects of the matter discussed in the preceding two paragraphs, the financial statements referred to above for the year ended December 31, 2007 do not present fairly, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Council as of December 31, 2007, or its changes in financial position for the year then ended.

Also, in our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the combined fund cash balances of the Lorain County Children and Families Council, Lorain County, as of December 31, 2007, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the year then ended on the accounting basis Note 2 describes.

The Council has not presented Management's Discussion and Analysis, which accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America has determined is necessary to supplement, although not required to be part of, the financial statements.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 23, 2008, 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. While we did not opine on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance, that report describes the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. You should read it in conjunction with this report in assessing the results of our audit.

We conducted our audit to opine on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Council's basic financial statements. The federal awards expenditure schedule is required by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations* but is not a required part of the basic financial statements. We subjected the federal awards expenditure schedule to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements. In our opinion, this information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Mary Taylor, CPA Auditor of State

Mary Taylor

COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES - ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007

	Governmental Fund Types		
	<u>General</u>	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts:			
Intergovernmental - State	\$88,514	\$470,737	\$559,251
Intergovernmental - Federal	78,631	976,692	1,055,323
Loan Proceeds	42,438	0	42,438
Total Cash Receipts	209,583	1,447,429	1,657,012
Cash Disbursements:			
Salaries and Benefits	200,702	0	200,702
Office Supplies	37	999	1,036
Contractual Services	0	1,464,126	1,464,126
Other Operating Expenses	1,706	1,518	3,224
Total Cash Disbursements	202,445	1,466,643	1,669,088
Excess of Cash Receipts Over Cash Disbursements	7,138	(19,214)	(12,076)
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Fund Cash Balances, January 1, 2007	39,147	189,845	228,992
Fund Cash Balances, December 31, 2007	\$46,285	\$170,631	\$216,916

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

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2007

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENTITY

- **A. General** Section 121.37, Revised Code, created the Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council and permitted counties to establish county family and children first councils. Statutory membership of a county council consists of the following individuals:
 - 1. The director of the board of alcohol, drug addiction and mental health services that serve 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;
 - 2. The health commissioner of the board of health of each city or general health district in the county, or their designees;
 - 3. The director of the county department of job and family services;
 - 4. The executive director of the county agency responsible for the administration of children services pursuant to Section 5153.15 of the Revised Code;
 - 5. The superintendent of the county board of mental retardation and developmental disabilities;
 - 6. The county's juvenile court judge senior in service;
 - 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 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 largest city in the county;
 - 10. The chair of the board of county commissioners, or an individual designated by the board;
 - 11. A representative of the regional office of the department of youth services;
 - 12. A representative of the county's head start agencies, as defined in Section 3301.31 of the Revised Code;
 - 13. A representative of the county's early intervention collaborative established pursuant to the federal early intervention program operated under the "Education of the Handicapped Act Amendments of 1986"; and
 - 14. 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.

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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2007 (Continued)

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENTITY (Continued)

A. General (Continued)

A county council's statutory responsibilities include the following:

- 1. Refer to the cabinet council those children for whom the council cannot provide adequate services;
- 2. Make periodic reports to the cabinet council regarding the number of children referred to the county council and the progress made in meeting the needs of each child;
- 3. Develop a plan that reviews and adjusts existing programs, fill service gaps where possible, or invents new approaches to achieve better results for families and children;
- 4. Participate in the development of a countywide, comprehensive, coordinated, multidisciplinary, interagency system for infants and toddlers with develop-mental 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 "Education of the Handicapped Act Amendments of 1986";
- 5. Maintain an accountability system to monitor the council's progress in achieving its purposes, and:
- 6. Establish a mechanism to ensure ongoing input from a broad representation of families who are receiving service within the county system.
- B. Council Board The Family Cluster was established in 1991. This organization served as a county council, however, lacked council membership as required by Ohio Revised Code Section 121.37. In April, 1993, the Cluster determined that a formal Children and Families Council was needed. The Cluster hired an Executive Director and established the Children and Families Council. The necessary membership was added to become a county Children and Families First Council as established by Ohio Revised Code 121.37.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Basis of Accounting – These financial statements follow the basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Ohio Auditor of State, which is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting. Receipts are recognized when received in cash rather than when earned, and disbursements are recognized when a payment is made rather than when a liability is incurred.

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State.

B. Fund Accounting – The Council maintains its accounting records in accordance with the principles of fund accounting. Fund accounting is a concept developed to meet the needs of governmental entities in which legal or other restraints require the recording of specific receipts and disbursements. The transactions are reflected in a self-balancing group of accounts. The Council classifies its funds into the following types:

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2007 (Continued)

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

B. Fund Accounting (Continued)

General Fund – This fund is the general operating fund of the Council. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required by law or contract to be accounted for in another fund.

Special Revenue Funds – These funds are used to account for proceeds from specific sources that are legally restricted to expenditures for specific purposes.

The Council maintains a separate special revenue fund for each program which is awarded to the Council that is either entirely or partially funded from federal sources. During 2007, the Council had the following programs: Ohio Early Start, TANF, Ohio Children's Trust Fund, and Early Intervention.

- C. Fiscal Agent The Lorain County Auditor serves as the fiscal agent for the Council.
- **D.** Administrative Agent The Lorain County Board of Commissioners serves as the Administrative Agent for the Council. This is in addition to any other duties performed by the Board of Commissioners.
- **E.** Fixed Assets Acquisitions of fixed assets are recorded as disbursements when paid and are not reflected as assets on the accompanying financial statements.
- **F.** Intersystem Administrator The purpose of the Council is to identify ways in which Lorain County child serving systems can provide services to the community in the most efficient and effective manner. The Executive Director of the Council administers all of the Council's programs.

3. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH

The Lorain County Auditor maintains a cash pool used by all of the County's funds, including those of the Council. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The Council's carrying amount of cash on deposit with the County at December 31, 2007 was \$216,916. The Lorain County Auditor, as the ultimate fiscal agent for the Council, is responsible for maintaining adequate depository collateral for all funds in Lorain County's pooled and deposit accounts.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2007 (Continued)

4. LOANS

The Council receives interest free loans from Lorain County by resolution of the Lorain County Commissioners. Loan activity for the year ended 2007 is as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance
General	\$ 52,301	\$ 42,438	\$ -	\$ 94,739
Special Revenue				
Childrens Trust	1,925	-	-	1,925
Total Special Revenue	1,925			1,925
Grand Total	\$ 54,226	\$ 42,438	\$ -	\$ 96,664

5. RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Council employees belong to the Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) of Ohio. The OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan. This plan provides retirement and disability benefits, annual cost of living adjustments and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided by state statute per Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code. The OPERS issues a publicly available, stand-alone financial report. Interested parties may obtain a copy by making a written request to: 277 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4642 or by calling 614-466-2085 or 1-800-222-7377.

The OPERS members contributed 9.5% of their gross salaries. The Council contributed an amount equal to 13.85% of participants' gross salaries. The Council has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2007.

6. ON BEHALF PAYMENTS

The Council receives On Behalf Payments from the Lorain County Department of Job and Family Services. During fiscal year 2007, the total of these payments, which were related to TANF, was \$976,692. This amount is reflected as federal government revenue and other operating expenditures on the Council's financial statements.

SCHEDULE OF FEDERAL AWARDS EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2007

Federal Agency Pass-through Agency Federal Program	Pass Through Agency Awarding Number	Federal CFDA Number	Expenditures
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Passed Through the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Passed Through the Lorain County Department of Job and Family Services			
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	N/A	93.558	\$976,692
Total U.S. Department of Health and Human Services			976,692
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION Passed Through the Ohio Bureau of Early Intervention Services Special Education - Grants for Infants and Families with Disabilities (Part C) Total U.S. Department of Education	N/A	84.181	174,175 174,175
Total All Federal Funds			\$ 1,150,867

The accompanying notes to this schedule are an integral part of this schedule.

NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF FEDERAL AWARDS EXPENDITURES FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007

NOTE A - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accompanying Schedule of Federal Awards Expenditures (the Schedule) summarizes activity of the Lorain County Children and Families Council's federal award programs. The schedule has been prepared on the cash basis of accounting.

NOTE B- SUBRECIPIENTS

The Council passes through certain Federal assistance received from the Lorain County Department of Jobs and Family Services and the Ohio Bureau of Early Intervention Services to subrecipients as follows:

<u>Program Title</u>	Federal CFDA <u>Number</u>	Amount Provided to Subrecipients
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	93.558	\$ 958,022
Special Education – Grants for Infants and Families with Disabilities (Part C)	84.181	<u> 174,175</u>
Total:		\$ <u>1,132,197</u>

As described in Note A, the Council records expenditures of Federal awards to subrecipients when paid in cash.

The subrecipient agencies have certain compliance responsibilities related to administering these Federal Programs. Under OMB Circular A-133, the Council is responsible for monitoring subrecipients to help assure that Federal awards are used for authorized purposes in compliance with laws, regulations and the provisions of contracts or grant agreements, and that performance goals are achieved.

CFDA - Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance



INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Lorain County Children and Families Council Lorain County 216 3rd St. Elyria, Ohio 44035

To the Council:

We have audited the financial statements of the Lorain County Children and Families Council, Lorain County, Ohio (the Council) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2007, and have issued our report thereon dated May 23, 2008, wherein we noted the Council followed accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes rather than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Council's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our audit procedures for expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not to opine on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we have not opined on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control over financial reporting.

A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the Council's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with its applicable accounting basis, such that there is more than a remote likelihood that the Council's internal control will not prevent or detect a more than inconsequential financial statement misstatement.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies resulting in more than a remote likelihood that the Council's internal control will not prevent or detect a material financial statement misstatement.

Lorain County Children and Families Council Lorain County Independent Accountants' Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by *Government Auditing Standards* Page 2

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all internal control deficiencies that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider material weaknesses, as defined above.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the Council's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*.

We did note certain noncompliance or other matters that we reported to the Council's management in a separate letter dated May 23, 2008.

We intend this report solely for the information and use of the audit committee, management, Council, and federal awarding agencies and pass-through entities. We intend it for no one other than these specified parties.

Mary Taylor, CPA Auditor of State

Mary Taylor



INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO ITS MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH OMB CIRCULAR A-133

Lorain County Children and Families Council Lorain County 216 3rd St. Elyria, Ohio 44035

To the Council:

Compliance

We have audited the compliance of the Lorain County Children and Families Council, Lorain County, Ohio (the Council) with the types of compliance requirements described in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) *Circular A-133, Compliance Supplement* that apply to its major federal program for the year ended December 31, 2007. The summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings identifies the Council's major federal program. The Council's management is responsible for complying with the requirements of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants applicable to each major federal program. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Council's compliance based on our audit.

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and OMB Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*. Those standards and OMB Circular A-133 require that we plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure whether noncompliance occurred with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could directly and materially affect a major federal program. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence about the Council's compliance with those requirements and performing other procedures we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion. Our audit does not provide a legal determination on the Council's compliance with those requirements.

In our opinion, the Lorain County Children and Families Council complied, in all material respects, with the requirements referred to above that apply to its major federal program for the year ended December 31, 2007.

Lorain County Children and Families Council Lorain County Independent Accountants' Report on Compliance with Requirements Applicable to its Major Federal Programs and Internal Control Over Compliance in Accordance with OMB Circular A-133 Page 2

Internal Control Over Compliance

The Council's management is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants applicable to federal programs. In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Council's internal control over compliance with requirements that could directly and materially affect a major federal program in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on compliance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control over compliance.

A control deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, when performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect noncompliance with a federal program compliance requirement on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the entity's ability to administer a federal program such that there is more than a remote likelihood that the entity's internal control will not prevent or detect more than inconsequential noncompliance with a federal program compliance requirement.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies, that results in more than a remote likelihood that the Council's internal control will not prevent or detect material noncompliance with a federal program's compliance requirements.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above.

We intend this report solely for the information and use of the audit committee, management, Council, federal awarding agencies, and pass-through entities. It is not intended for anyone other than these specified parties.

Mary Taylor, CPA Auditor of State

Mary Taylor

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS OMB CIRCULAR A -133 § .505 DECEMBER 31, 2007

1. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

(d)(1)(i)	Type of Financial Statement Opinion	Unqualified
(d)(1)(ii)	Were there any material control weaknesses reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d)(1)(ii)	Were there any other significant deficiencies in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d)(1)(iii)	Was there any reported material noncompliance at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d)(1)(iv)	Were there any material internal control weaknesses reported for major federal programs?	No
(d)(1)(iv)	Were there any other significant deficiencies in internal control reported for major federal programs?	No
(d)(1)(v)	Type of Major Programs' Compliance Opinion	Unqualified
(d)(1)(vi)	Are there any reportable findings under § .510?	No
(d)(1)(vii)	Major Programs (list):	Temporary Assistance to Needy Families – CFDA #93.558
(d)(1)(viii)	Dollar Threshold: Type A\B Programs	Type A: > \$ 300,000 Type B: all others
(d)(1)(ix)	Low Risk Auditee?	No

2. FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS

None

3. FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS

None



FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL LORAIN COUNTY

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report which is required to be filed in the Office of the Auditor of State pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in Columbus, Ohio.

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

Susan Babbitt

CERTIFIED JUNE 19, 2008