



PERRY

& Associates CPAs

PASSION *Beyond the Numbers*

**MERCER COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
MERCER COUNTY
REGULAR AUDIT
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 - 2023**



65 East State Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov
800-282-0370

Members of the Council
Mercer County Family and Children First Council
4980 Mud Pike
Celina, Ohio 45822

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of Mercer County Family and Children First Council, Mercer County, prepared by Perry & Associates, Certified Public Accountants, A.C., for the audit period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. Mercer County Family and Children First Council is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

April 22, 2025

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**MERCER COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
MERCER COUNTY**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Mercer County Family and Children First Council
Mercer County
4980 Mud Pike
Celina, OH 45822

To the Members of the Council:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Unmodified and Adverse Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the Mercer County Family and Children First Council, Mercer County, Ohio (the Council), which comprises the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions which Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit, described in Note 2.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Council, as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, or the changes in financial position thereof for the years then ended.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Council, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 2 of the financial statements, the financial statements are prepared by Council on the basis of the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C), which is an accounting basis other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), to satisfy these requirements. The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 2 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Council's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and the financial audit standards in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements (Continued)

- conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Council's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 13, 2024, 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. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Council's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Perry & Associates
Certified Public Accountants, A.C.
Marietta, Ohio

December 13, 2024

**MERCER COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
MERCER COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (REGULATORY CASH BASIS)
ALL GOVERNMENT FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	General	Special Revenue	Combined Total
Cash Receipts			
Intergovernmental	\$ 19,540	\$ 40,213	\$ 59,753
Local Funding Contributions	15,566	-	15,566
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>35,106</u>	<u>40,213</u>	<u>75,319</u>
Cash Disbursements			
Services	13,518	28,600	42,118
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>13,518</u>	<u>28,600</u>	<u>42,118</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	21,588	11,613	33,201
<i>Fund Cash Balances, July 1</i>	<u>27,152</u>	<u>59,120</u>	<u>86,272</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, June 30</i>	<u><u>\$ 48,740</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 70,733</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 119,473</u></u>

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

Mercer County Family and Children First Council

Mercer County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

Ohio Revised Code Section 121.37 created the Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council and required each Board of County Commissioners to establish a County Family and Children First Council. Statutory membership of County Council consists of the following individuals:

1. 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;
2. The Director of the Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services that serves 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. If a Board of Alcohol, Drug Addition, and Mental Health Services covers more than one County, the Director may designate a person to participate on the County's Council;
3. The Health Commissioner, or the Commissioner's designee, of the Board of Health of each City or General Health District in the County. If the County has two or more health districts, the Health Commissioner membership may be limited to the Commissioners of the two districts with the largest populations;
4. The Director of the County Department of Job and Family Services;
5. The Executive Director of the public children services agency or the County agency responsible for the administration of children services pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code Section 5153.15;
6. The Superintendent of the County Board of Developmental Disabilities or if the Superintendent serves as Superintendent as more than one County Board of Developmental Disabilities, the Superintendent's designee;
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 Ohio 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 municipal corporation with the largest population in the County;
10. The President of the Board of County Commissioners or an individual designated by the Board;
11. A representative of the regional office of the Ohio Department of Youth Services;
12. A representative of the County's Head Start agencies, as defined in Ohio Revised Code Section 3301.32;
13. A representative of the County's Early Intervention collaborative established pursuant to the federal early intervention program operated under the "Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004"; and
14. A representative of a local nonprofit entity that funds, advocates, or provides services to children and families.

Mercer County Family and Children First Council

Mercer County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

Note 1 – Reporting Entity (Continued)

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.

The purpose of the County Council is to streamline and coordinate existing government services for families seeking services for their children. In seeking to fulfill its purpose, a County Council shall provide for the following:

1. Referrals to the Cabinet Council of those children for whom the County Council cannot provide adequate services;
2. Development and implementation of a process that annually evaluates and prioritizes services, fills service gaps where possible, and invents new approaches to achieve better results for families and children;
3. Participation in the development of a countywide, comprehensive, coordinated, multi-disciplinary interagency system for infants and toddlers with developmental 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 “Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004”;
4. Maintenance of an accountability system to monitor the County Council’s progress in achieving results for families and children; and
5. Establishment of a mechanism to ensure ongoing input from a broad representation of families who are receiving services within the County system.

The Council's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Council is financially accountable.

Note 2- Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The Council’s financial statements consist of a combined statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis).

Fund Accounting

The Council uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The funds of the Council are presented below:

General Fund - The general fund accounts for and reports all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund. The general fund balance is available to the Council for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

Mercer County Family and Children First Council

Mercer County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

Note 2- Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Special Revenue Funds - These funds account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects. The Council had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

Multi-System Youth Fund - This fund receives grant money for technical assistance and financial assistance to children, youth, and families with complex and multi-system, needs.

Family-Centered Services and Supports Fund - This fund receives grant money restricted for maintaining children and youth in their homes and communities by meeting the multi-systemic needs of children receiving service coordination

Administrative/Fiscal Agent

Ohio Revised Code Section 121.37(B)(5)(a) requires the Council to select an administrative agent to provide fiscal and administrative services to the Council. The Council selected Mercer County Board of Developmental Disabilities. The Council authorizes Mercer County Board of Developmental Disabilities, as fiscal agent and administrative agent, to subcontract with, designate, and/or seek assistance from any agencies and/or organizations that it deems necessary in order to complete the obligations set forth in the agreement. Mercer County Board of Developmental Disabilities agrees to be ultimately responsible for fulfilling the fiscal and administrative obligations of the agreement.

Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Board recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit.

Budgetary Process

A Family and Children First Council established under Ohio Revised Code Section 121.37 is not a taxing authority and is not subject to Ohio Revised Code Chapter 5705. As of October 1, 1997, all Family and Children First Councils are required to file an annual budget with its administrative agent. The Council filed an estimate of financial resources and an appropriation measure with the Preble County Auditor as required by Ohio law.

A summary of 2024 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

Deposits and Investments

The Council designated the Mercer County Board of Developmental Disabilities as the fiscal agent for all funds received in the name of the Council. Deposits of monies are made with the Mercer County Treasurer and fund expenditures and balances are reported through the Mercer County Auditor. Deposits and investments are made in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code and are valued at the fiscal agent's carrying amount.

Mercer County Family and Children First Council
Mercer County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

Note 2- Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Fund Balance

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the Council must observe constraints imposed upon the use of its governmental-fund resources. The classifications are as follows:

Nonspendable The Council classifies assets as *nonspendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact. For regulatory purposes, nonspendable fund balance includes unclaimed monies that are required to be held for five years before they may be utilized by the Council.

Restricted Fund balance is *restricted* when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions.

Committed The Council can *commit* amounts via formal action (resolution). The Council must adhere to these commitments unless the Council amends the resolution. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed to satisfy contractual requirements.

Assigned Assigned fund balances are intended for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as *restricted* or *committed*. For regulatory purposes, assigned fund balance in the general fund is limited to encumbrances outstanding at year end.

Unassigned Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the general fund and includes amounts not included in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is only used to report a deficit fund balance.

The Council applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

For regulatory purposes, limited disclosure related to fund balance is included in Note 7.

Mercer County Family and Children First Council

Mercer County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the years ending June 30, 2024, follows:

2024 Budgeted Vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 32,750	\$ 35,106	\$ 2,356
Special Revenue	40,590	40,213	(377)
	<u>\$ 73,340</u>	<u>\$ 75,319</u>	<u>\$ 1,979</u>

2024 Budgeted Vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 30,750	\$ 27,872	\$ 2,878
Special Revenue	57,024	44,150	12,874
	<u>\$ 87,774</u>	<u>\$ 72,022</u>	<u>\$ 15,752</u>

Note 4 – Deposits and Investments

The Mercer County Auditor, as fiscal agent for the Council, maintains a cash pool used by all of Mercer County Auditor's funds, including those of the Council. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and the Mercer County Auditor is responsible for compliance. The carrying amount of deposits at June 30, 2024 was as follows:

	2024
Demand Deposits	<u>\$ 75,319</u>

At June 30, 2024, the Mercer County Board of Developmental Disabilities kept no money in equity securities. Equity securities are not eligible investments for the Council under Ohio law.

This fiscal agent is responsible for maintaining adequate depository collateral for all funds in the fiscal agent's pooled and deposit accounts. All risks associated with the above deposits are the responsibility of the fiscal agent.

Note 5 – Risk Management

Commercial Insurance

The Council had obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- Comprehensive property and general liability;
- Vehicles; and
- Errors and omissions.

During 2024, the Council paid no money for losses that exceeded insurance coverage.

Mercer County Family and Children First Council

Mercer County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

Note 6 – Contingent Liabilities

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the Council are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. The grantor may require refunding any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.

Note 7 – Fund Balances

Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilities effective cash planning and control. At year end the balances of these amounts were as follows:

<u>Fund Balances</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Total</u>
Outstanding Encumbrances	\$ 14,354	\$ 15,550	\$ 29,904

The fund balance of special revenue funds is either restricted or committed. These restricted or committed amounts in the special revenue funds would include the outstanding encumbrances. In the general fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.

**MERCER COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
MERCER COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (REGULATORY CASH BASIS)
ALL GOVERNMENT FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

	General	Special Revenue	Combined Total
Cash Receipts			
Intergovernmental	\$ 11,351	\$ 37,483	\$ 48,834
Local Funding Contributions	11,498	-	11,498
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>22,849</u>	<u>37,483</u>	<u>60,332</u>
Cash Disbursements			
Services	<u>25,576</u>	<u>38,375</u>	<u>63,951</u>
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>25,576</u>	<u>38,375</u>	<u>63,951</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	(2,727)	(892)	(3,619)
<i>Fund Cash Balances, July 1 (Restated - See Note 8)</i>	<u>29,879</u>	<u>60,012</u>	<u>89,891</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, June 30</i>	<u><u>\$ 27,152</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 59,120</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 86,272</u></u>

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

Mercer County Family and Children First Council

Mercer County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

Ohio Revised Code Section 121.37 created the Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council and required each Board of County Commissioners to establish a County Family and Children First Council. Statutory membership of County Council consists of the following individuals:

1. 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;
2. The Director of the Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services that serves 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. If a Board of Alcohol, Drug Addition, and Mental Health Services covers more than one County, the Director may designate a person to participate on the County's Council;
3. The Health Commissioner, or the Commissioner's designee, of the Board of Health of each City or General Health District in the County. If the County has two or more health districts, the Health Commissioner membership may be limited to the Commissioners of the two districts with the largest populations;
4. The Director of the County Department of Job and Family Services;
5. The Executive Director of the public children services agency or the County agency responsible for the administration of children services pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code Section 5153.15;
6. The Superintendent of the County Board of Developmental Disabilities or if the Superintendent serves as Superintendent as more than one County Board of Developmental Disabilities, the Superintendent's designee;
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 Ohio 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 municipal corporation with the largest population in the County;
10. The President of the Board of County Commissioners or an individual designated by the Board;
11. A representative of the regional office of the Ohio Department of Youth Services;
12. A representative of the County's Head Start agencies, as defined in Ohio Revised Code Section 3301.32;
13. A representative of the County's Early Intervention collaborative established pursuant to the federal early intervention program operated under the "Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004"; and
14. A representative of a local nonprofit entity that funds, advocates, or provides services to children and families.

Mercer County Family and Children First Council

Mercer County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

Note 1 – Reporting Entity (Continued)

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The purpose of the County Council is to streamline and coordinate existing government services for families seeking services for their children. In seeking to fulfill its purpose, a County Council shall provide for the following:

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2. Development and implementation of a process that annually evaluates and prioritizes services, fills service gaps where possible, and invents new approaches to achieve better results for families and children;
3. Participation in the development of a countywide, comprehensive, coordinated, multi-disciplinary interagency system for infants and toddlers with developmental 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 “Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004”;
4. Maintenance of an accountability system to monitor the County Council’s progress in achieving results for families and children; and
5. Establishment of a mechanism to ensure ongoing input from a broad representation of families who are receiving services within the County system.

The Council's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Council is financially accountable.

Note 2- Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The Council’s financial statements consist of a combined statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis).

Fund Accounting

The Council uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The funds of the Council are presented below:

General Fund - The general fund accounts for and reports all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund. The general fund balance is available to the Council for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

Mercer County Family and Children First Council

Mercer County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

Note 2- Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Special Revenue Funds - These funds account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects. The Council had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

Multi-System Youth Fund - This fund receives grant money for technical assistance and financial assistance to children, youth, and families with complex and multi-system, needs.

Family-Centered Services and Supports Fund - This fund receives grant money restricted for maintaining children and youth in their homes and communities by meeting the multi-systemic needs of children receiving service coordination

Administrative/Fiscal Agent

Ohio Revised Code Section 121.37(B)(5)(a) requires the Council to select an administrative agent to provide fiscal and administrative services to the Council. The Council has selected the Mercer County Board of Developmental Disabilities. The Council authorizes Mercer County Board of Developmental Disabilities, as fiscal agent and administrative agent, to subcontract with, designate, and/or seek assistance from any agencies and/or organizations that it deems necessary in order to complete the obligations set forth in the agreement. Mercer County Board of Developmental Disabilities agrees to be ultimately responsible for fulfilling the fiscal and administrative obligations of the agreement.

Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Board recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit.

Budgetary Process

A Family and Children First Council established under Ohio Revised Code Section 121.37 is not a taxing authority and is not subject to Ohio Revised Code Chapter 5705. As of October 1, 1997, all Family and Children First Councils are required to file an annual budget with its administrative agent. The Council filed an estimate of financial resources and an appropriation measure with the Mercer County Auditor as required by Ohio law.

A summary of 2023 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

Deposits and Investments

The Council designated the Mercer County Board of Developmental Disabilities as the fiscal agent for all funds received in the name of the Council. Deposits of monies are made with the Mercer County Treasurer and fund expenditures and balances are reported through the Mercer County Auditor. Deposits and investments are made in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code and are valued at the fiscal agent's carrying amount.

Mercer County Family and Children First Council

Mercer County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

Fund Balance

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the Council must observe constraints imposed upon the use of its governmental-fund resources. The classifications are as follows:

Nonspendable The Council classifies assets as *nonspendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact. For regulatory purposes, nonspendable fund balance includes unclaimed monies that are required to be held for five years before they may be utilized by the Council.

Note 2- Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Fund Balance (Continued)

Restricted Fund balance is *restricted* when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions.

Committed The Council can *commit* amounts via formal action (resolution). The Council must adhere to these commitments unless the Council amends the resolution. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed to satisfy contractual requirements.

Assigned Assigned fund balances are intended for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as *restricted* or *committed*. For regulatory purposes, assigned fund balance in the general fund is limited to encumbrances outstanding at year end.

Unassigned Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the general fund and includes amounts not included in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is only used to report a deficit fund balance.

The Council applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

For regulatory purposes, limited disclosure related to fund balance is included in Note 7.

Mercer County Family and Children First Council

Mercer County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the years ending June 30, 2023, follows:

2023 Budgeted Vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 17,750	\$ 22,849	\$ 5,099
Special Revenue	49,830	37,483	(12,347)
	<u>\$ 67,580</u>	<u>\$ 60,332</u>	<u>\$ (7,248)</u>

2023 Budgeted Vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 15,750	\$ 48,889	\$ (33,139)
Special Revenue	49,830	46,144	3,686
	<u>\$ 65,580</u>	<u>\$ 95,033</u>	<u>\$ (29,453)</u>

Note 4 – Deposits

The Mercer County Auditor, as fiscal agent for the Council, maintains a cash used by all of Mercer County Auditor's funds, including those of the Council. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and the Mercer County Auditor is responsible for compliance. The carrying amount of deposits at June 30, 2023 was as follows:

	2023
Demand Deposits	<u>\$ 86,272</u>

At June 30, 2023, the Mercer County Board of Developmental Disabilities kept no money in equity securities. Equity securities are not eligible investments for the Council under Ohio law.

This fiscal agent is responsible for maintaining adequate depository collateral for all funds in the fiscal agent's pooled and deposit accounts. All risks associated with the above deposits are the responsibility of the fiscal agent.

Note 5 – Risk Management

Commercial Insurance

The Council had obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- Comprehensive property and general liability;
- Vehicles; and
- Errors and omissions.

During 2023, the Council paid no money for losses that exceeded insurance coverage.

Mercer County Family and Children First Council
Mercer County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

Note 6 – Contingent Liabilities

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the Council are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. The grantor may require refunding any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.

Note 7 – Fund Balances

Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilities effective cash planning and control. At year end the balances of these amounts were as follows:

<u>Fund Balances</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Total</u>
Outstanding Encumbrances	\$ 23,313	\$ 7,769	\$ 31,082

The fund balance of special revenue funds is either restricted or committed. These restricted or committed amounts in the special revenue funds would include the outstanding encumbrances. In the general fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.

Note 8 – Restatement of Fund Balances

Adjustments to the beginning fund balances were necessary to properly report the beginning balance of the Special Revenue Multi-System Youth (MSY) fund. The following table details these adjustments:

	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Combined Total</u>
Audited Balances as of June 30, 2022	\$ 89,891	\$0	\$ 89,891
Balance of MSY Fund	(60,012)	60,012	-
Corrected Balances as of July 1, 2022	<u>\$ 29,879</u>	<u>\$ 60,012</u>	<u>\$ 89,891</u>

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

Mercer County Family and Children First Council
Mercer County
4980 Mud Pike
Celina, OH 45822

To the Council:

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the **Mercer County Family and Children First Council, Mercer County**, (the Council) as of and for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated December 13, 2024, wherein we noted the Council followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 and Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03(C) permit.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Council's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purposes of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Council's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We identified a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2024-001 that we consider to be a material weakness.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Council's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Council's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Perry and Associates
Certified Public Accountants, A.C.
Marietta, Ohio

December 13, 2024

**MERCER COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
MERCER COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS
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FINDING NUMBER 2024-001

Material Weakness

Financial Reporting

The Council is responsible for establishing procedures and controls to help prevent and detect errors in financial reporting.

During 2024 and 2023, receipts and disbursements were not always posted or classified correctly. The following posting errors were noted:

- Multi-System Youth receipts and disbursements were improperly reported within the General fund in 2024 and 2023. These Multi-System Youth funds should reside within a Special Revenue Fund.
- Family Centered Services and Supports receipts and disbursements were improperly reported within the General Fund in 2024 and 2023; and
- Intergovernmental receipts were improperly classified as Local Contributions in 2024 and 2023.

Not posting or classifying funds correctly led to the Council's financial statements requiring adjustments and reclassifications. The financial statements reflect all reclassifications.

We recommend the Business Director review the requirements for creating new special revenue funds and adjust all monies related to restricted grants to their own special revenue funds.

To help ensure accuracy and reliability in the financial reporting process, we recommend management perform a detailed review of its draft financial statements. Such review should include procedures to ensure that all sources of revenues are properly identified and classified on the financial statements.

We also recommend the Business Director refer to the ORC for guidance to determine the proper establishment of receipt and disbursement accounts and posting of receipts and disbursements.

Officials' Response – We did not receive a response from Officials to this finding.

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



MERCER COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL

MERCER COUNTY

AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION

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



Certified for Release 5/8/2025

65 East State Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-466-4514 or 800-282-0370

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at
www.ohioauditor.gov