



**Fairfield County Board of DD
Leadership Team Report
April 15, 2024**

Finance

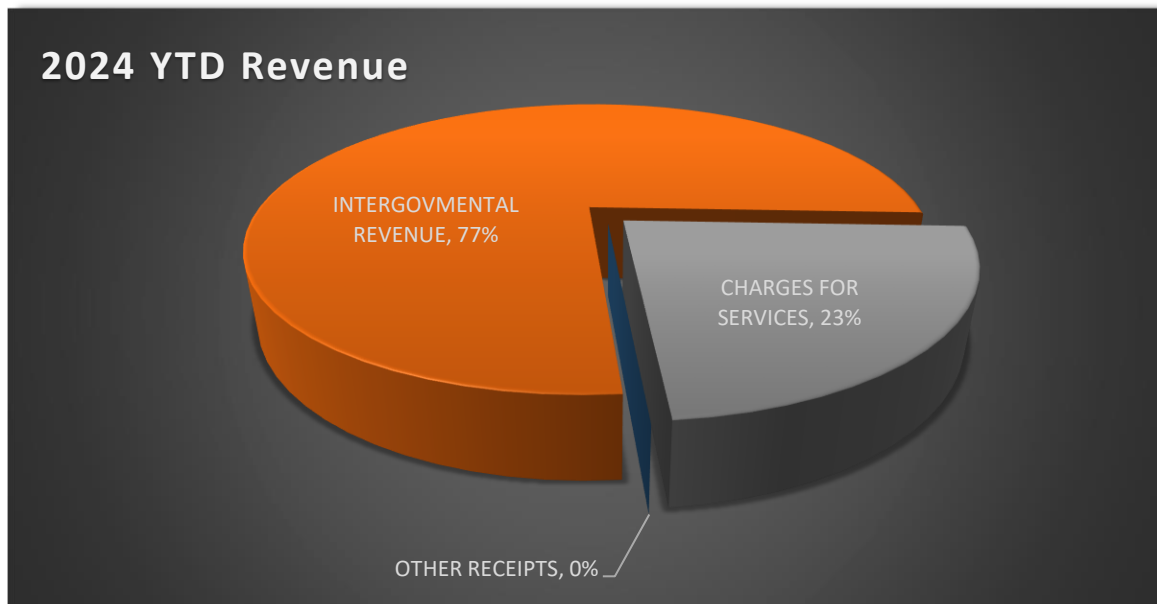
Beth Seifert

Revenues:

Revenues were approximately \$9,210,700 below projections.

Tax Revenues	\$ -9,231,000
Medicaid (TCM)	\$ 6,500
Medicaid Administrative Claiming	\$ 15,600
ODE	\$ 7,400
Dept of Ed Federal Grants	\$ -10,800
OOD	\$ 22,000
Vinton County Shared Services	\$ 11,700
Educational Aide Reimbursement from Districts	\$ -34,800

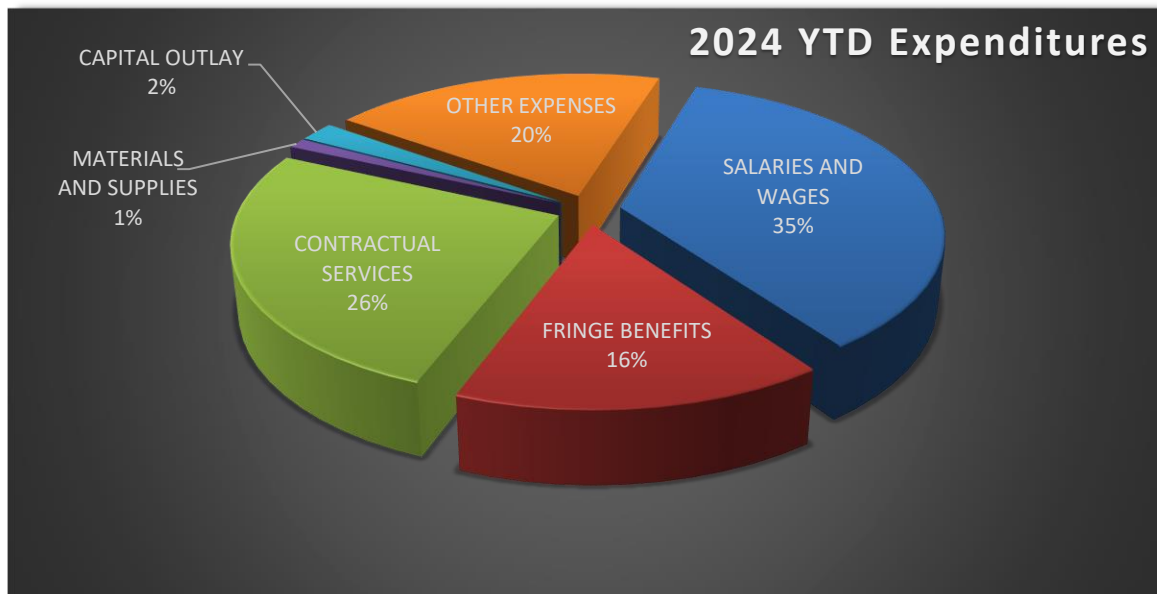
The first half tax settlement was expected in March (\$9,231,750) but was not posted until April 8 (\$9,674,280).



Expenditures:

Expenditures were approximately \$580,400 below projections.

- Salary and Benefits were below projections by \$327,600.
 - Salaries were \$147,700 under budget.
 - Insurance premiums were \$79,800 under budget.
- Non-wage expenditures were \$252,800 below projections.
 - Contract Services were \$125,200 under budget.
 - Waiver Match and Administrative Fees were under budget by \$104,200.



Provider and Community Resources

Kyle Miller

MUI Coordinator, QA Liaison, Jamie Rigsby hosted the annual MUI stakeholder training. Attendance included staff, providers, parents, and people supported. The purpose of the meeting was to share and discuss state and local MUI data, trends, and preventative measures. We use the data as an effective tool for quality improvement and to collaborate with stakeholders. The local trends reviewed included the number of MUIs filed and that there were no MUIs filed for any programs operated by our staff. The top 3 MUI categories filed were misappropriation, neglect, and unanticipated

hospitalization, making up 41% of the filings. Highlights shared were the improvements in prevention planning, monitoring, and relating these to the Fairfield DD mission, vision, and values. Jamie credited the successes to more effective communication and collaboration with teams and the work of the behavior support team.

As we began implementing our increased collaboration between the SSA and PCR departments there have been numerous opportunities for partnering. Ten ISCs have reached out to 3 different staff from Provider and Community resources to discuss peoples Talents, Interests, Preferences and Strengths (TIPS) and how we can support. We have also connected with families and others to assist with ideas to increase inclusion aligned with those "TIPS." Additionally, we have been working together and having initial discussions to try out the "Choice Boards" to prepare for this new practice for new hires in the SSA department. The discussion material revolves around understanding Social Role Valorization, role of the DSP, and breaking the system support patterns of isolation, congregation, and segregation.

The Community Builder and Training Specialist, Pam Whiteley organized a local observance of the "Disability Day of Mourning." Since 2012, March 1st was meant to bring awareness to the people who have passed without recognition. We met at the unmarked cemetery next to the old county home on Route 37 (Fairfield County Infirmary Cemetery) across from OUL. The cemetery was created around the year 1828 and while it remains unknown for sure, there are an estimated 600-900 people buried there, however only about 85 are documented with 5 visible headstones.

Art & Clay/Square 7 was setting new record level sales while having a positive impact on the community. Sales were 40% (\$18,863.00) higher than any other March on record! Also, one of our newest relationships is with the Lancaster City Schools Bridges program. Assistant Manager/Staff Artist, Ashley Sark takes materials for various projects to Tarhe School and works with groups of 5 students in similar grade levels. She typically has 3 lessons each visit. The students seem to really enjoy it and the Bridges Administrator regularly highlights all the positive impact the events are having with the students. Lastly, the Storytime summer schedule is getting filled. We have confirmation of guest readers from local business owners, artists, community leaders, city, and county organizations and more.

Services and Supports

David Baum

An update on our progress entering OhioISPs and 1-page profiles: Currently 823 OhioISPs/1-page profiles are published or in progress within the Brittco system. 496 of the 823 OhioISPs/1-Page profiles are wavier (IO, Level 1, or SELF) that have been entered.

Susan Barnett, Transition Services Supervisor, Michelle Dexter, Medicaid Services Supervisor, Kyle Morris, Service & Support Outreach Supervisor, An'Gelica Harris, Behavior Support Services Supervisor, Tiffany Booze, Individual Support Coordinator, and I had the opportunity of presenting to the protective services staff at Job & Family Services. This was an opportunity to share our mission, discuss eligibility, role we play in supporting people, and focus on our collaborative efforts to support the children, families, and adults within our community.

Part of the recent ARPA funds awarded to Fairfield County are dedicated to support children and youth in connecting in their communities. I'm excited to be able to utilize these funds further to enhance experiences for children ages 3-5. We continue to support ages 6-22 (if receiving educational services) through summer scholarship but these ARPA funds will be utilized to assist in extending opportunities to the 3-5 age group. This initiative aims to provide funding for activities and programs that foster supporting connections through an environment of accessibility, diversity, and inclusivity. Our goal is to create opportunities for meaningful engagement and participation using a person-centered approach, focusing on each child's interests, gifts, and talents. Based on a child's individualized needs, funding may be used for registration fees, a summer camp/program/experience.

Our individual support coordinator teams shared some wonderful examples of how people are taking steps towards greater independence recently. Examples include:

- *Two individual teams have supported two young people by discontinuing their guardianships over the last few months. One is working towards being a peer mentor for the special abilities docket.*
- *Another individual coordinated public transit and obtained a demographic item at a local government agency so that they could obtain a state ID.*
- *A person supported is volunteering in a community organization they are interested in and building relationships through connections made there.*

Resource Management

Michelle Dexter

Comparisons
here since
March 2024

Program Enrollment

Total Enrollment for the Program (this does include **12 preschool students that are active and attend FRS who are not served**)

Individuals have an Individual Support Coordinator (ISC)
Adults supported by ISC

Kids/Transition Age supported by ISC

	+21
1770	
1258	+13
580	+6
678	+7

Waiver Enrollment

Individual Options
Level One
SELF

Replacement Waivers 2024 (previously issued waiver given to another person)

New Individual Options Waivers issued from 2024 Budget
New Level One Waivers issued from 2024 Budget

New SELF Waivers issued for 2024 Budget

228	-4
212	-4
29	-1
IOW 3 LOW 1 SELF 0	
0 of 8	
0 of 12	
0 of 2	

Locally Funded Services

Individuals in RSS home
Title XX
Individuals with personal assets or pending waivers

Individuals in a Nursing Home
Individuals who have redirected their budget

0	same
\$17,122.75	+1296.00
\$180,856.18	+23,067.16
0	same
0	same

Waiting List

New Current Needs Waiting List (on list)

0

Communications and Outreach

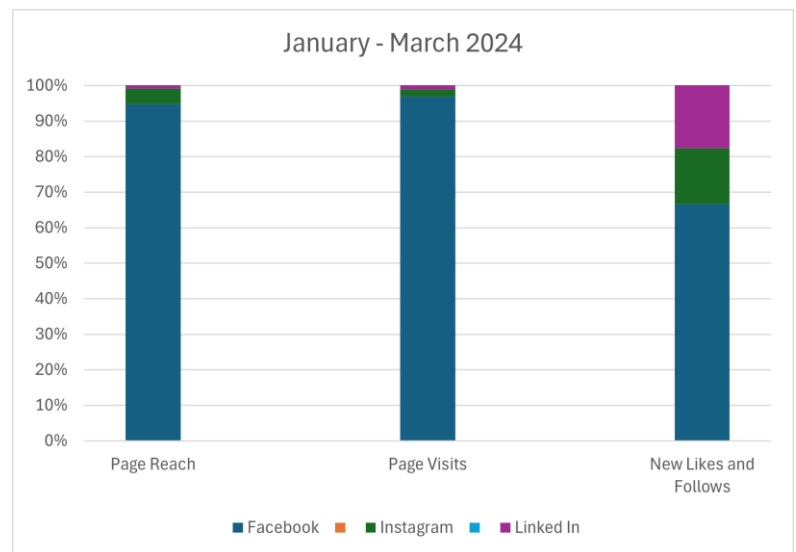
Anne Mikan

February and March have been a very busy time! As March came to an end, we wrapped up several outreach events and DD Awareness Month. We had great experiences in addition to valuable learning opportunities to enhance next year's activities. The Celebration of Possibilities was a success due to everyone's support. Many community members have said they have their calendar already marked for next year! In March, Anne and Alicia participated in Celebrate Women at Ohio University Lancaster, where they spent the day engaging and learning from women across various professional fields. Our department would also like to take a minute to thank our intern Carly for jumping right in to learn and making a huge difference as we tackled our busy spring. We wish her luck as she graduates this spring!

Parent Connect Groups – Alicia continues to work with the Child Connect Groups in creating an RSVP survey so the groups can gauge who will be able to attend. We continue to promote the event as their gathering is toward the end of April.

Social Media – During the initial quarter of 2024 our social media platforms experienced a growth in followers on LinkedIn, a rise in traffic on Facebook, and an expanded reach on Instagram compared to previous periods. Our Instagram page achieved a 93% reach during the quarter, representing the approximate number of accounts that viewed our content at least once. The post featuring our photographs from the 2024 Celebration of Possibilities garnered the highest engagement on Facebook in March.

Here is a snapshot of our likes, visits and new followers across the platforms during the first quarter of 2024.



Professional Development – Jen and the Communications and Outreach Department have spent the last few weeks finalizing the plans for the all staff. This spring, the sessions are focused on the Fairfield DD staff around the idea of organizational health. If we all have a solid foundation, it will allow each role to be even more

successful. Jen met with staff from each department who brainstormed ideas for the event. A variety of topics including positive communication, fostering an environment of responsibility, and even resolving conflict with emotional intelligence were presented.

Human Resources

Cindy Hillberry

During March, we spent a considerable amount of time working with the consultant on the compensation study. We also followed up on stay interviews with information supervisors could discuss with their employees.

New staff members in the month of March:

Forest Rose

Aiden Lucas began as an Intermittent Educational Aide on March 25.

Staff members changing positions in the month of March:

Services & Supports

Elise Caldwell moved to the role of Individual Support Coordinator from Individual Support Coordinator-Employment Focus on March 23.

Courtney Pendleton moved to the role of Intermittent Secretary/Receptionist from File Clerk on March 23.

Forest Rose

Victoria Will moved to the role of Intermittent Educational Aide from Educational Aide on March 23.

Staff members leaving the organization in the month of March:

Services & Supports

Darenda Geer, Work Incentives Practitioner, resigned her position as of March 1.

We also have the following positions posted or unfilled at this time:

Services & Supports

Introduction and Eligibility Specialist

Individual Support Coordinator 2 (multiple positions - perpetual post)

Individual Support Coordinator (three positions + Floating)

Forest Rose

Educational Aide (three positions + Floating)

Educational Aide-Intermittent (reposted annually)

Instructor-Intermittent (reposted annually)

Forest Rose School

Lindsey Hanes

It's hard to believe that we are wrapping up the school year and there is so much to celebrate! We have several students whom we are planning transitions for which includes:

- *1 student graduating from Forest Rose into an adult program.*
- *7 students with IEPs graduating from our preschool program and transitioning back to their district of residence for their school programs.*
- *6 preschool peer role models.*
- *3 school age students returning to their home districts.*

We view each of these milestones as a time to celebrate the success of the individual and a time to remember and reflect on the role we play at Forest Rose in supporting people lives of great independence.

Early Intervention & Birth to Three:

Jenna Trager

Early Intervention is currently providing services to **206** families in Fairfield County. In March we received **34** new referrals from Help Me Grow and **23** children transitioned out of our program.

Operations Updates

Todd McCullough

This month, both teams have been working on behind the scenes projects as well as a steady flow of work tickets. The facilities team has been painting at Forest Rose School, running new network wire at Forest Rose, SSA, and the Pickerington regional office. IT has been busy working on repairing group policies connected to our shared drive. Also, work is being done to build out some archiving options in Intellicloud. In addition to these tasks, the team has stayed busy with 2024 deployments, disposals, and organizing inventory following the recent renovations.

On March 27th, I had the opportunity to work on a disaster response drill with Fairfield County Emergency Management. We simulated a strong tornado with a direct strike to a complex area of Lancaster. It is always good to join in on these drills to practice our skills in the emergency coordination of resources.

Enabling Technology

Lori Ferbrache

Therapy: Submitted by Victoria Nadler, SLP

At Forest Rose School, we strive for independence. I recently returned from maternity leave and have seen huge improvements in the communication skills of the students on my caseload. One of the preschoolers found his voice. During his most recent speech therapy sessions, I heard him say "ball" numerous times, "whoa" and "yay" when excited, and an approximation for "help". Ball and help have been modeled on his AAC device, and now he is using them verbally. Another student had a language explosion and is verbally communicating his feelings, answering questions, telling what's next, and asking the question "why". He will also independently go to his AAC device to play songs when he needs to self-regulate. The staff at Forest Rose School does an amazing job with the students and follow through what is done within therapy sessions – this was made very apparent when coming back after an 8 week intermission. I greatly appreciate the staff and all the hard work they put into each day!

Assistive Technology:

Seven new referrals were made for Enabling Technology Evaluations in March 2024. Fifteen individuals are currently utilizing remote supports, and two individuals are in the process of exploring if remote supports are appropriate for them to enhance independence while supporting their needs.