

The Adams County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Lizabeth Lafferty – Superintendent

116 W. Mulberry Street - P.O. Box 157 - West Union, Ohio 45693 (937)544-2574

October 20, 2023

Dear House Representative Justin Pizzulli,

I am writing to provide support for the additional Common Pleas Judge in Adams County, Ohio. As a mandated member of the Adams County Family and Children First Council, the discussions take place monthly regarding the number of children placed in custody of the Adams County Children Services Board. These numbers are off the charts and not even relevant for the population size of 28,000 people living here. The same number of children are being served just 40 miles West in Clermont County where there is a population of over 200,000 residents. A second Judge would allow true oversight to the cases and the details surrounding these children. Cases that are ready to be closed, aren't being closed. Children coming into the county from other counties aren't being redirected back to the county of residency for services. Caseloads are way too high and the amount of monthly payments to out-of-county residential options are breaking the bank. Having one Judge dedicated to the juvenile system and providing strong partnerships to the agencies serving the children would truly be a Win Win for Adams County.

I appreciated the bill being introduced for the added Judge and hope the legislature can get this passed. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to email me at l.lafferty@adamscbdd.org.

Sincerely,

Lizabeth Lafferty

Superintendent

Adams CBDD