



To strengthen families to achieve  
their fullest potential.

## OFCFCA

**Promoting healthy children, strong families,  
and thriving communities county by county.**



### **COUNTY: ASHTABULA**

#### **MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:**

Family strengths are the foundation upon which future generations of Ashtabula County children are inspired to dream and be encouraged to reach their highest potential. The community, drawing on its diversity, provides the bridge which allows our families and children to overcome any obstacle; therefore, the Ashtabula County Family and Children First Council commits to the continuous development and implementation of the comprehensive and collaborate process which promotes a family centered community in which there are employment opportunities, income, housing, education, and services adequate to meet the challenges of life with dignity. The Council's priority is to see that all services and programs within the county work in collaboration with each other, to give the best service to families. Keeping communication open between services and the community is a priority for the Ashtabula County Family and Children First Council.

#### **OPERATING STRUCTURE:**

The Ashtabula County FCFC has 31 members. We have three Family Representatives. The Committees of the Council consist of: Executive, Finance, Personnel, Public Information, Program, Service Coordination, Early Childhood Coordinating Committee.

#### **LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- **Community Capacity Building/Planning:** strategies and outcomes  
The Ashtabula County FCFC, through its Public Information Committee, holds workshops throughout the year for the public to educate the service providers on a variety of topics and to bring the community together to discuss resources, barriers and successes. Also, at the Council meetings the various community agencies announce any upcoming events and the Council gets behind them to support any efforts. Any needs of various agencies are discussed and resolutions are made.
- **Service Coordination:** strategies and outcomes  
The Ashtabula County FCFC works actively on the Service Coordination Team. The goal of the program is to create an Individualized Family Service Plan with the family to coordinate services or problem solve with families and providers in order to meet the needs of the child and family as best we can within our capacity to meet their needs. Plans are organized around the strengths and needs of the child and family and help to identify and prioritize services that will work in the unique culture of the family and allow for services to be offered to the family in a coordinated and practical manner.
- **Family Empowerment:** strategies and outcomes  
Ashtabula County FCFC has three active Family Representatives on Council who are eager to help the children of Ashtabula County. Family Representatives bring their experiences with the system and agencies in Ashtabula County to the table so that the agencies might be able to better understand the barriers and successes of their agencies and Ashtabula County service providers as a whole.
- **Early Childhood System of Care:** strategies and outcomes  
The Ashtabula County FCFC implements the Help Me Grow program county-wide through contracted providers. No direct services are provided by FCFC. The number of families and children served has continued to increase in this very valuable program of Ashtabula County.

**LOCAL CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND RESPONSIBILITIES (As Applicable):**

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:** strategies and outcomes  
Focus area: Child abuse and neglect. Long-Term Child Well-Being Commitment: Children are Ready for School. Intermediate Outcome: Decrease in the number of children 0-5 who experience abuse and neglect. Short Term Outcome: Increase parental knowledge of child development and age appropriate parenting skills; and decrease the number of children 0-5 who exhibit problem behaviors. Strategies: Evidence-based, promising practice or innovative practice parent education program for parents of children 0-5 that is delivered in a natural environment and focuses on one or more of the following: increasing parent/child bonding, enhancing a parent's knowledge of child development as it relates to parenting issues and the importance of boundaries for building social and emotional well-being in children. Innovative Practices will produce research that supports the implementation of the program.

**OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES:** strategies and outcomes

The Ashtabula County FCFC implemented the following through their HB 289 Update: Focus area: Early Intervention Services. Long Term Child Well-Being Commitment: Infants and Toddlers Thrive. Intermediate Outcome: Increase enrollment and retention of Part C infants into Early Intervention programs. Short Term Outcome: increase accessibility to Early Intervention programs for Part C eligible families and ensure families who are enrolled will remain in the program until transition.

**FUNDING:**

The Ashtabula County FCFC relies on the Operational Capacity Building Funds provided by the State; the 5% Administrative Fee from Help Me Grow TANF and GRF funds; \$10,000 annually from Ashtabula County Children Services Board; \$2,000 annually from the Ashtabula County MR/DD and the 5% administration fee from the Ohio Children's Trust Fund. In addition, the activities of the Service Coordination team are funded through the ABC and FAST initiatives. It is the responsibility of the Service Coordination Team, in collaboration with the Ashtabula County Mental Health and Recovery Service Board, and FCFC to determine how these funds are used to assist families in the county, within the parameters of the funding streams.

**STAFFING:**

At the present time, the Ashtabula County FCFC has two staff employees, the Administrative Assistant and a part time Council/Service Coordinator.

**CHALLENGES:**

With the lack of funds coming in at the present time, it has not been possible to hire a full time Council or Service Coordinator. Due to the size of our county and the financial constraints we do not have all the services available locally that we would like to have, such as sex offender treatment, more structured respite, and trauma based treatment.

**FUTURE PLANS:**

Future plans of the Ashtabula County FCFC are dependent on the resolution of the state budget. The Council plans to work together to improve the well-being of all children in Ashtabula county.

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