



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



COUNTY: AUGLAIZE

MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:

To continually improve the quality of life for all Auglaize County residents through streamlining and coordination of existing service agencies.

OPERATING STRUCTURE:

Auglaize County Family and Children First Council is a locally driven Council that focuses on collaboration to streamline and coordinate existing services for children and families. We are a small Council consisting of thirty mandated and non-mandated members. We are comprised of a full Council (General Assembly) that meets quarterly and an Executive/Intersystems Committee that meets approximately six times a year. In addition, we currently have four sub-committees (FAST/Service Coordination, ChildNet/ECC, Children's Trust Fund, and Training) that carry out the goals and activities of Council.

LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Community Capacity Building/Planning:** strategies and outcomes
Council works closely with various community entities, our Council Coordinator and/or council members serve on various community boards and committees. These same community entities serve on Council appointed boards and committees. It is through these avenues that community capacity building and planning takes place.
- **Service Coordination:** strategies and outcomes
Council provides county-wide service coordination services for families through our Family Stability Team/FAST. This program provides not only service coordination but intervention, wrap around services and funding as well. The overall goal is to provide the necessary supports and services that promote family stability and keep children in their homes.
- **Family Empowerment:** strategies and outcomes
Parents are invited and encouraged to attend all council meetings and activities. This encouragement includes providing a stipend for each event and/or meeting attended. The family also acts as the core for all service coordination plans that are developed. Council makes it a priority to ensure that these plans are developed and implemented with parent/family assistance. This assurance increases family support of the plan as well as the successfulness of the established plan. All parents/families involved with service coordination are also offered a parent advocate.
- **Early Childhood System of Care:** strategies and outcomes
Our county's Early Childhood System of care is provided by our Help Me Grow Program in collaborative efforts with our CCG committee, aka ChildNet. We have a very extensive HMG program in the county that is administered out of our county Health Department with Council and our CCG committee providing governance and oversight. We are proud to say that we consistently meet and/or exceed our annual target numbers. This system of care is truly a collaborative effort in our county.

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

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:** strategies and outcomes
Council has just recently included CTF into our House Bill 289 Plan and will be implementing the following strategies in 2010: parenting programs for adults and

teens including Shaken Baby Syndrome education, crisis intervention, and peer mentoring. It is our hope that these strategies will provide an increase in parental knowledge and awareness thus decrease child abuse and neglect.

OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES: strategies and outcomes

Other local initiatives include a college based mentor program for our "at risk" adolescents, annual cross-systems community training, safe kids initiatives with a current focus on internet, texting, and other computer safety issues, and increasing mental health services and screenings (e.g. making TEEN Screen available to every teen in the county).

FUNDING:

The Administration of Council is facilitated through the Auglaize County Health Department and the County Auditor acts as our fiscal agent. The Administration of Council is funded almost entirely from the OFCF Operation Capacity Building Funds Grant, additional minimal sources of revenue include a voluntary membership dues structure and in-kind contributions from member agencies. Service coordination activities, programs and supports are funded entirely from local pooled funds.

STAFFING:

We have one part-time coordinator that is responsible for coordinating all of the activities of Council as well as the service coordination needs of the county.

CHALLENGES:

*Meeting the increasing requirements of unfunded mandates from the state.

*Engaging parents.

FUTURE PLANS:

It is Council's plan to continue working locally to meet the needs of families in our community, as well as strive to maintain our core responsibilities including HB289 while maintaining our focus on what we need to do locally to ensure the success of our families.

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