



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



**COUNTY: FAIRFIELD**

**MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:**

In the pursuit of a better quality of life for the families, adults and children of Fairfield County, it is the mission of the Fairfield County Family, Adult and Children First Council to create and facilitate a coordinated system of services that responds to the strengths and needs of our community. The Fairfield County Family, Adult & Children First Council shall be a local community collaborative responsible for recommending policies and programs to the member organizations and others sharing responsibility for meeting the needs of children, adults, and families. The intent of this collaboration is to help identify and eliminate barriers to effective and efficient service delivery.

**OPERATING STRUCTURE:**

In addition to the statutory members of Council, Fairfield County created a core member designation that encourages representatives of agencies and organizations who contribute significantly to the overall well-being of the community and its human service delivery system to become actively involved. The current roster includes sixty-two (62) members. An active Executive Committee meets in alternate months to provide analysis and recommendations of emerging issues and initiatives. The Council is comprised of sub-committees and initiatives as outlined below:

- FACF Sub-Committees: Children's Committee (Early Childhood Coordinating Committee), Older Adult Network, Housing Coalition, Youth Programs (Prevention Works/MultiSystem Youth Committee)
- FACF Initiatives: Power of One Faith Based Summit, Information & Referral, Action for Healthy Kids, Success by Six, Suicide Prevention Coalition, Healthy Marriage Initiative

**LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- **Community Capacity Building/Planning:** strategies and outcomes  
The Fairfield County FACF Council is a leader in the area of community planning and coordination. The recently completed Fairfield First Community Needs Assessment, the bi-annual Youth Behavior Survey and the HB 289 Planning initiative are all examples of ongoing efforts to coordinate the planning efforts of the child and family serving entities in the county.
- **Service Coordination:** strategies and outcomes  
The Fairfield County FACF Multi-System Youth Committee Coordinator facilitates the county service coordination mechanism through three (3) distinct groups. These include the Early Childhood Cluster (birth - 8 years) and the Interdisciplinary Team (9 years old and up). Service Coordination at the practitioner level occurs here with FACF staff maintaining a caseload of approximately fifty-five (55) families for staffings and coordination. In addition, the Executive Cluster meets to consider funding issues and out-of-home placement cost sharing. The MSY Committee pooled fund consists of annual contributions from the Fairfield County Commissioners, Fairfield County ADAMH Board, Fairfield County MRDD and the Fairfield County Juvenile Court.
- **Family Empowerment:** strategies and outcomes  
Inclusion of parents, family members and surrogates is a priority of the service coordination mechanism for Fairfield County. Families are present at all staffings and are the center of each decision made on behalf of the children engaged in service coordination.
- **Early Childhood System of Care:** strategies and outcomes  
The Fairfield County FACF Council facilitates accomplishment of the Help Me Grow program and outcomes through a contract with the Lancaster Fairfield Community Action Agency. Through the

FACF Childrens Committee, all child and family serving agencies meet quarterly evaluate and design strategies to achieve their mission of creating and facilitating a coordinated system of services that responds to the strengths and needs of our community, creating an environment that enables every child to succeed.

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

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:** strategies and outcomes Fairfield County activities funded through the Ohio Children's Trust Fund in FY08 will include Teens with Tots (enhanced Help Me Grow program for teen parents) and parent education collaboration with the Fairfield County Child Advocacy Center.

**OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES:** strategies and outcomes

It has long been the practice of the Fairfield County FACF Council to serve as the catalyst and convenor for local family and child initiatives. Focus areas include Family Stability, Child and Youth Development, Health, Mental Health and Wellness and Job Development. Some of these recent efforts include: Ohio Benefit Bank coordination and training, Reach Out and Read (through the Success by Six program), Information & Referral agency reorganization and improvement program (to achieve 211 status), Suicide Prevention Coalition development (in partnership with the Council's Prevention Works for a Drug Free Fairfield County initiative), Parent Education Consortium (to develop and implement a continuum of parent education opportunities county-wide), and Housing Coalition (to align information and resources to reduce homelessness in Fairfield County).

**FUNDING:**

The funding structure of the Fairfield County FACF Council is a blend of local, state and federal resources. The total budget for FY09 was approximately \$1.6 million dollars. Sources include Help Me Grow, Drug-Free Communities, ADAMHS Board, Ohio Childrens Trust Fund, Osteopathic Heritage Foundation, OFCF, ODMH, ODYS, Suicide Prevention Foundation, Fairfield County Juvenile Court, Fairfield County MRDD, United Way of Fairfield County.

**STAFFING:**

There are six full-time and one part-time employees in the Fairfield County FACF offices. All are employed by the Fairfield County Commissioners. Areas of focus include Help Me Grow, Multi-System Youth (Service) Coordination, Prevention Works for A Drug-Free Fairfield County, Success by Six, Information & Referral and general FACF Council business.

**CHALLENGES:**

Fairfield County is one of the fastest growing counties in Ohio. The ability of our services for families and children struggle to keep pace with the growth. Limited local funding creates an increased need for flexible state and federal funds to address the unique needs of our economically diverse county.

**FUTURE PLANS:**

The Fairfield County FACF Council is accelerating our efforts to increase collaboration and alignment of cross-system services and programs. Utilizing a logic-modeling process and the recently completed Fairfield First Community Initiative, increased coordination and reduction of duplication of effort and resources will be enhanced. The creation of the Consumer/Family Advocacy Unit under the FACF Council umbrella is a priority area for 2010.

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