



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



COUNTY: GUERNSEY

MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:

The mission of the Guernsey County Family & Children First Council is to ensure an optimal quality of life by meeting the physical, education, emotional, spiritual, and economic needs of all children and families. By coordinating the collaborative efforts of its members the council plans, develops, and supports services and opportunities to provide health and well-being in the children and families of Guernsey County.

The Guernsey County FCFC is currently focused on school readiness and success. The Council is well aware of other issues that affect the families and children of the county, but recent data and assessments have identified that the issues around school readiness and school success were in immediate need of focus and attention. Enhanced working relationships with school administration and personnel have allowed the Council to expand programming and services offered to the county's public school districts.

OPERATING STRUCTURE:

The Guernsey County FCFC has 25 members spanning the areas of health and human services, community support, law enforcement, health care providers and education. The Council's committee structure is designed to address the following areas: Community Strengths & Weaknesses, Planning & Priorities, Programming & Oversight, Funding.

FCFC Committee Structure:

Board of Trustees / Executive Committee / HB289 & OCTF Core Teams / Help Me Grow Oversight / Early Childhood Coordinating Committee

LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Community Capacity Building/Planning:** strategies and outcomes
The members of the Guernsey County FCFC have a great working relationship with each other and with other community initiatives. The Council works closely with the local Suicide Prevention Coalition, Youth Commission, Child Protective Task Force, and multiple non-profit and community service organizations such as Leadership Guernsey, Guernsey County Youth Leadership, Guernsey County OSU Extension, and the local United Way. The Guernsey County FCFC has also been party to community economic development directives. In 2008, the Council served as a representative to the Community and Social Conditions Committee of the Guernsey County Planning Commission. This committee put the FCFC at the table crafting collaborative initiatives to spur economic development throughout the Guernsey County area.
- **Service Coordination:** strategies and outcomes
The Guernsey County FCFC addresses service coordination on two levels. The Executive Committee works at a systems level to make sure that all Council members and community partners are working together as closely and as efficiently as possible. On a programming level, Council created a wraparound services committee that is led by the Council Director, Council Chair and the Council's Multi-System Youth Coordinator. This committee has representation from each of the Council's mandated members, the county's public school districts, and local mental health service providers. This committee works with individual referrals and referring agencies to develop family service plans to meet the needs of youth and families who are involved with multiple county systems.
- **Family Empowerment:** strategies and outcomes

The Guernsey County FCFC maintains family and parental involvement in each of our programming elements. Each of the Council's Family Representatives have had experiences with different systems, the Help Me Grow program has a Parent's Advisory Committee, and families are the most integral part of our service coordination and wraparound program. Each program and member of Council is dedicated to enhancing family empowerment.

- **Early Childhood System of Care:** strategies and outcomes
The Guernsey County FCFC implements the Help Me Grow program through our county's developmental disabilities agency. Although Council does not provide direct service, oversight is conducted through the Help Me Grow Oversight Committee and the Early Childhood Coordinating Committee. Over 740 children were served by Guernsey County Help Me Grow in 2008.

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

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:** strategies and outcomes
The Guernsey County FCFC's Community Outreach Education Coordinator conducts public outreach trainings and targeted youth outreach trainings throughout the county. These trainings provide tools, practices and procedures on how to identify, avoid and prevent child abuse and neglect. These activities are supported in part by the Ohio Children's Trust Fund.

OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES: strategies and outcomes

The Guernsey County FCFC is an intergral part of the Guernsey County Youth Commission. The Youth Commission is a unified effort of area agencies, businesses, community leaders, and concerned citizens established to meet the needs of youth and families in Guernsey County. The Youth Commission uses identified Core Values to promote healthy and productive youth by implementing innovative and creative programs and activities to foster the development of safe and stable families.

FUNDING:

The Guernsey County FCFC receives funding from the State of Ohio, local grants and foundations and local contributions to support our programming efforts. The total budget including all Council programming and initiatives was \$597,000 for SFY 2009.

STAFFING:

The Guernsey County FCFC supports a full-time Director who supervises 7 Program Coordinators.

CHALLENGES:

The Guernsey County FCFC has identified three challenges moving forward: 1. Flexible funding system for state funding, 2. Comprehensive data collection and program evaluation efforts, 3. Strengthening working relationships with local school districts.

FUTURE PLANS:

The Guernsey County FCFC will continue to enhance our strategic planning efforts with our community partners to support Ohio's Commitments to Child Well-Being through the utilization of HB289.

Contact Information:

Chad Hibbs, Director
Guernsey County Family & Children First Council
756 Wheeling Ave.
Cambridge, OH 43725

Phone 740-432-6815
Fax 740-432-8039
email hibbsc@odjfs.state.oh.us