



OFCFCA

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



COUNTY: HARRISON

MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:

Through intensive, open-minded and inclusive collaboration, the Harrison County Family & Children First Council strives to improve the well being of children and their families in Harrison County. The Council seeks to strengthen families' ability to nurture their children by streamlining services to the families while maintaining a family-centered and community based approach to service delivery.

OPERATING STRUCTURE:

The Council has 24 members, both mandated and non-mandated. Three family representatives are actively engaged at all levels of the Council's work. The Council has the following four subcommittees:

- * Executive Committee - Identify strengths and challenges of service provision; address needs, gaps and priorities in family-centered services; monitor projects with emphasis on best-practice models; monitor and identify financial and non-financial resources; implement family-centered strategies
- * Early Childhood Collaborative Committee - As a team, the ECCC is committed to meeting the needs of all Harrison County children and their families.
- *Harrison County FCFC's Cluster - ensure that multi-need children and their families receive adequate, appropriate, family centered services.
- * OCTF LAB - Identify local needs for child abuse/neglect prevention, monitor local funding, compliance and evaluation of existing programs.
- * Through the Eyes of a Child - Identify barriers to service provision and implement solutions through the eyes of the child.

LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Community Capacity Building/Planning:** strategies and outcomes
Harrison County maintains a highly effective cross-systems planning ability. Multidisciplinary approaches are used to plan and implement new and existing programming.
- **Service Coordination:** strategies and outcomes
Harrison County's Service Coordination process supports the following commitments:
 - *Children have the right to live with and be supported by their families.
 - *Families have the right to participate at all levels in determining the needs, priorities and resources of their family.
 - *Family involvement throughout all levels of planning and service provision will be respected
 - *Racial, cultural and ethnic heritage of children and families will be respected while providing supports to the child and family.
 - *A shared responsibility among systems and families in assuring that expectant parents and newborns thrive, infants and toddlers thrive, children are ready for school, children and youth succeed in school, youth choose healthy behaviors and youth successfully transition into adulthood.
 - *Families have a right to individualized, family centered service coordination based on the unique strengths of the child or family.

Harrison County has applied for and has become an ESCORE county. Our desire is to collect meaningful data around those families referred to Cluster through the county's service coordination mechanism.

- **Family Empowerment:** strategies and outcomes
Family representation and engagement is seen throughout all levels of the Councils work, including planning and reporting, program review, and programmatic quality assurance audits. Families receive ongoing communication with opportunities for educational and training experiences.
- **Early Childhood System of Care:** strategies and outcomes
The Harrison County Family & Children First Council has direct oversight of the Help Me Grow program. The Council implements a comprehensive, interagency system for infants, toddlers and their families. Harrison County has successfully met all four performance indicators as outlined by the Ohio Department of Health and continues to serve above the number of children required by the Ohio Department of Health.

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

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:** strategies and outcomes
Harrison County's LAB oversees the Ohio Children's Trust Fund initiative. In SFY 09 Harrison County identified parent education as the most effective and needed prevention activity. The LAB will contract with a provider to make intensive one-on-one home visits and parent education opportunities available to any family self referral or agency referral.

FUNDING:

Harrison County's Family & Children First Council receives \$20,000 for operations from the Ohio Family & Children First Council/ODMH.

STAFFING:

Presently there are two part-time employees, a coordinator and a clerical support person.

CHALLENGES:

Flexibility in funding.

FUTURE PLANS:

The FCFC is looking forward to implementing school based mental health providers in the upcoming year. The "Eyes of the Child" Committee is currently working to have providers in place at the beginning of the 2008-09 school year.

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