



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



**COUNTY: HOLMES**

**MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:**

The Holmes County Family & Children First Council is a network of organizations and individuals that promotes safe, healthy, and stable children and families. This is accomplished by communication and facilitating service coordination, setting service priorities, and sharing organizational resources.

**OPERATING STRUCTURE:**

Holmes County FCFC has 21 members and nearly a dozen non-appointed community volunteers that participate in Council initiatives. Holmes County Department of Job and Family Services serves as Council's Administrative and Fiscal Agent.

**LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- **Community Capacity Building/Planning:** strategies and outcomes  
Holmes County FCFC partners with public and private area agencies and individuals to identify, understand, and address emerging gaps in need and services for children and families. The Holmes County Prevention Coalition was formed as a result of the Partnerships for Success/HB 289 community assessment process. The Coalition has membership from over a dozen community sectors and has sponsored a Town Hall Meeting on Underage Drinking, Parent Who Host Lose The Most - Don't be a Party to Teenage Drinking campaign, and participates in Amish Health & Safety Days.
- **Service Coordination:** strategies and outcomes  
Holmes County FCFC's Service Funding Committee membership includes representation from Juvenile Court, Children's Services, the Mental Health and Recovery Board and MRDD. Referrals are accepted at every level of involvement and case managers facilitate development and monitoring of case plans.
- **Family Empowerment:** strategies and outcomes  
Holmes County FCFC works with its member agencies to include families in all decision-making stages of service planning and delivery. Improving the quality of life and future opportunities for all of our residents requires the commitment and collaboration of all Council members and engagement of the community as a whole. Pre- and post- service plan development review is utilized.
- **Early Childhood System of Care:** strategies and outcomes  
Holmes County FCFC implements Help Me Grow, provides leadership and support to the Early Childhood Coordinating Committee and participates in the Child and Family Health Services Consortium. Continuing improvement measures are incorporated into HMG program review and monitoring. All efforts serve to maximize effective and efficient service delivery while avoiding duplication of services. The Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant (through Access to Better Care) works with providers, families and young children and is instrumental in the implementation of Incredible Years programming.

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

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:** strategies and outcomes  
Holmes County FCFC serves as the Local Advisory Board for Ohio Children's Trust Fund programming. In SFY 2009 service providers will focus on reducing child abuse/neglect by addressing the impact of substance abuse on these behaviors.

**OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES:** strategies and outcomes

The Community Care Board and its Service Funding Committee oversees the implementation of the Service Coordination Plan and mechanism related to multiple needs children and their families, and designates pooled funds to meet the needs of eligible children and their families. The Project STAY Advisory Board oversees program activities of STAY (Services to At-risk Youth). STAY utilizes a prevention, crisis intervention and treatment continuum strategy, using student assistance programming, and an alternative learning school, behavioral health counseling, budgeting and other life skill consultation. Families and children are involved in a variety of programming services.

**FUNDING:**

Holmes County FCFC receives funding from its member agencies, as well as in-kind funding for staffing support. The total budget of over \$1,175,000 includes funding to implement Access to Better Care, FAST, Help Me Grow, pooled funding, Council administration and Ohio Children's Trust Fund programming.

**STAFFING:**

The Holmes County FCFC Coordinator is the only full time employee.

**CHALLENGES:**

Lack of flexibility of funding for all county agencies prohibits the use of allocated dollars in areas of specific need to each county.

**FUTURE PLANS:**

Holmes County FCFC will continue its work to provide leadership, advocacy and collaboration to support current initiatives and identify emerging concerns for children and families.

**Contact Information:**

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