



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



COUNTY: HURON

MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:

The Council recognizes Huron County's greatest resource is its families and children. The Mission of the Council is to support and strengthen families to meet their responsibilities by facilitating family-centered, coordinated, community-based, preventive and comprehensive services that identify and respond to the health, human and social service needs of Huron County families.

The Council is committed to utilizing the Search Institute's Developmental Assets framework to drive evaluation, prioritization, planning, development, and implementation efforts in working toward achieving the selected commitment: Children and Youth Choose Healthy Behaviors and Activities.

OPERATING STRUCTURE:

The Huron County FCFC has 17 members including a representative from the Administrative Agent, and is advised directly by the County's Juvenile Court Judge. Huron County is fortunate to include three dedicated family representatives in the Council's membership. This structure provides Council members with a mechanism for maintaining close watch over programs and systems, and allows regular and frequent opportunities for agency directors to interact and consult on other collaborative projects.

LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Community Capacity Building/Planning:** strategies and outcomes
The Huron County FCFC members work closely together on numerous initiatives. As a result of the Council's HB 289 planning, community partners continue to promote the county-wide "Huron County is an Asset Building County...Building Assets is as easy as A-B-C" initiative.
- **Service Coordination:** strategies and outcomes
The Huron County FCFC Coordinator facilitates service coordination across agencies on multiple levels. Referrals are processed through the Council office. The resulting strong linkages between Children Services, Juvenile Court and Mental Health have contributed to a reduction in the number of children placed out-of-county.
- **Family Empowerment:** strategies and outcomes
The Huron County FCFC provides support for families through a variety of services and programs. As families are engaged with Huron County agencies, they are encouraged to participate in the development of service plans within each system.
- **Early Childhood System of Care:** strategies and outcomes
Help Me Grow is implemented by the Huron County FCFC through contracted providers. The local Help Me Grow system has experienced tremendous growth over the past years with nearly 350 children receiving services on any given day.

LOCAL CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:** strategies and outcomes
Local prevention activities supported by OCTF funds have in the past included parenting classes, community education, and professional development workshops, provided by contract with local agencies. For SFY 2010, the Huron County FCFC will administer OCTF in addition to local pooled funds to make available the I-FAST model of In-Home Based Therapy (IHBT).

OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES: strategies and outcomes

- Huron County FCFC administers pooled funding to provide IHBT for our families.
- Huron County FCFC functions as the lead organization for the county-wide youth developmental asset building initiative.

FUNDING:

In addition to the Operational Capacity Building Funds provided by the state, the Huron County FCFC receives financial support from a handful of member agencies as their budgets allow. In-kind contributions in the way of staff support, office space and supplies, equipment, and operations allow the Huron County FCFC to fulfill the core requirements.

STAFFING:

The Huron County FCFC is staffed by a part-time (0.6 FTE) Council Coordinator, operating out of the North Point Educational Service Center located in the Huron County Administration Building.

CHALLENGES:

- Sustaining the Council's operations and capacity to obtain outcomes while meeting increasing administrative and reporting requirements.
- Supporting member agencies in the management of growth in utilization of local systems/programs due to the increased stresses on our families as costs increase and the availability of secure employment paying liveable wages declines.

FUTURE PLANS:

In addition to the mandated core requirements, the Huron County FCFC will focus during the next year on the continued development and promotion of the Asset Building County Initiative, evaluation of the membership structure and the potential of engaging corporate and other non-mandated organizations, obtaining sustainable funding for IHBT services and Help Me Grow, and the county-wide implementation of an evidence based wraparound model.

Contact Information:

Jennifer Grant, Council Coordinator
180 Milan Avenue, Suite 6
North Point Educational Service Center
Norwalk, OH 44857

Phone 419-668-1658
Fax 419-668-8506
email familyfirst@accnorwalk.com