



OFCFCA

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



COUNTY: MADISON

MISSION STATEMENT/LOCAL FOCUS: *The MADISON COUNTY FAMILY COUNCIL will create an environment where all families can identify and maximize their strengths in order to achieve their fullest potential to view the future with hope and direction.* The Council's focus is on a community plan for prevention, family unity, collaboration between families and service providers, community awareness of services, unified service delivery system, and pooling of fiscal resources. Madison County Family Council evaluates issues from birth to seniors, with our primary focus on children and families.

OPERATING STRUCTURE:

Family Council : Madison County Family and Children First Council is comprised of seventy (70) members representing forty-nine (49) different social services, criminal justice, consumers, public and non-profit organizations who are committed to collaboration with and support of the continued development of a comprehensive community strategy.

Madison County Family Council Advisory Committee: Agency administrators, two representatives from general membership, and parent representation as appointed by county commissioners.

Early Childhood Collaboration Committee: Representatives of agencies, parents, and providers serving birth to age 8 years of age.

Service Coordination Teams:

Cluster Interagency Review Team: Madison County has an established coordinated multi-disciplinary system process of local entities that meet to evaluate new referrals and to monitor ongoing cases. The purpose of this team is to provide quality assurance, review identified case goals, monitor timely goal attainment, share service/program information, problem solve service delivery barriers, and recommend children demonstrating need for shared funding agreement.

Child and Family Team(s): Family Specific Teams are convened to assess and coordinate individual family service needs. These Teams are comprised of service providers or individuals selected by the family. The Teams meet regularly with the consumers until their service needs and goals are achieved. The Team develops a Family Service Plan that reflects a family-friendly system of care.

Special Projects ad hoc committees as assigned, such as *Continuum of Care to prevent Homelessness, Prevention Education committee, Community Needs Assessment Committee, etc.*

Administrative Agency: Madison County Department of Family and Children

LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:

Community Capacity Building/Planning: The Council is a partnership of community organizations and government agencies working together towards a shared vision of improving the well being of children and families.

- **Planning** is completed through coordinated efforts utilizing research based methodology and identification of service needs. Madison County began a strategic planning process in 1998 whereby a comprehensive research based Community Needs Assessment is conducted tri-annually to evaluate human service needs pertaining to 12 life domains. This Needs Assessment includes random telephone surveys of 1% of the population as well as focus groups. The results of these assessments are presented to the Madison County Family Council and the community. In addition to program-specific evaluation results, these assessments help determine the prioritization of service needs, selection of potential strategies, and identification of funding sources and lead agencies.
- **Development** of social service programs and procedures is implemented in a manner which prioritizes collaboration of programming, non-duplication of services, strategies designed to most effectively address those needs as well as sharing of resources to maximize cost effectiveness.
- **Evaluation** of services is achieved through completion of a coordinated community needs assessment, sharing of research data, centralization of information regarding resources and provision of oversight for community programs and initiatives.
- **Advocacy** with state and federal legislators on behalf of children and the Madison County community.

Service Coordination is provided through the Cluster Interagency Review Team and the Child and Family Team(s). Teams are encouraged to promote mutual collaboration with agencies, be creative and

flexible in planning for the best interests of the child (ren) and families, value the diversity of families, preserve the family unit , address identified needs and reduce unnecessary out-of-home placements. This group also assists families in identifying strengths, recognizing service needs, and developing family-driven treatment plans.

Family Empowerment is an integral part of Madison County Family Council whereby family representatives contribute and interact on every level of the Council hierarchy. Emphasizing the importance of Family Empowerment, we believe that focusing on the uniqueness of each child and family requiring our assistance will assist in the allocation of appropriate intervention plans and strategies. Utilizing family centered planning, early identification of key indicators, as well as a coordinated system of preventative and intervention services designed to enhance family stability will assist in the reduction of unhealthy behaviors and promote healthy, safe, and productive families.

Early Childhood is a primary focus through the coordination of programs such as Incredible Years, Help Me Grow, Early Childhood Mental Health, Wraparound and Headstart.

LOCAL CHILDRENS TRUST FUND RESPONSIBILITIES: Madison County Family Council Advisory Committee serves as the local advisory board for the Children Trust Fund and related programming. Families Together Crisis Stabilization, a component of Wraparound, is currently funded through CTF.

OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES:

- The *Family Services Wraparound Program* was implemented to provide flexible family support services as identified through the Family Service Plan.
- Madison County Family Council implemented in 2007 a comprehensive *Prevention Education Program* providing research based programming for parents and educators. Programming includes: Strengthening Families (families/children age 10-14); Incredible Years (families/children age 0-8); Incredible Advanced Training; IY Infant; Home Based Incredible Years; and Dina Training.
- Participation in a research project through Synthesis, Inc. which integrates Cluster Based Planning approach with emphasis the family's role in the treatment of youth with behavioral health problems.
- Information & Referral services are provided for Madison County.
- Continuum of Care (RHISCO) is in the 2nd year of the 10 year strategic plan to prevent homelessness.
- Save Our Homes: a collaborative task force comprised of realtors, lenders, attorneys and social services whose goal is to prevent foreclosures.

FUNDING:

Madison County Dept. of Family and Children currently receives \$20,000 from the state for FCFC operations. Local funding contributions are in the amount of \$137,150 for operations and \$115,868 for programming. Additional state and federal funds in the amount of \$314,165 are received for program specific expenditures. Total budget of \$587,183. Additionally, Madison County Commissioners absorb costs for Community Needs Assessment and required audits.

STAFFING:

There are 6.5 staff in the Madison County Dept. of Family & Children who allocate their time between coordination of Council requirements, fiscal management, Help Me Grow, Prevention Education, Wraparound, CTF programming, Information & Referral as well as related Council initiatives.

CHALLENGES:

Increasing demands for complicated reporting with inadequate funding for staffing, strategic planning requirements, outdated state and federal data, and time consuming incompatible reporting formats.

FUTURE PLANS:

In 2009-10 we will be reviewing our comprehensive triennial community needs assessment, continuing our Prevention Education & Wraparound Programs; and striving to maintain quality programming with reduce funding.

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