



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



**COUNTY: MAHONING**

**MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:**

To promote, maintain and facilitate community collaboration of multi system services to children and families of Mahoning County.

**OPERATING STRUCTURE:**

The Mahoning County Family and Children First Council (MCFCFC) is comprised of an Advisory Council and Executive Committee. Advisory Council membership is open to any person or organization in Mahoning County whose personal interest, public responsibilities or organizational mission is consistent with and supportive of the purpose and mission of the council. Executive authority to conduct business is vested in the MCFCFC Executive Committee whose membership includes members required by Ohio law, and additional representatives from Area Agency on Aging, Youngstown State University, and four representatives elected by the Advisory Council membership.

Committee structure includes: Four Executive Committees - By-Laws, Finance & Personnel, Nominating, Planning. Advisory committees for Help Me Grow, Ohio Children's Trust Fund, Service Coordination, and Tri-County Family Violence Prevention. A Coalition for Capable and Healthy Youth (CCHY) which has four workgroups focused on ATOD, Childhood Obesity, Truancy, and Youth Depression. Three Ad Hoc Committees - Cross System Training, Infant Safety, and Lead Elimination / Healthy Homes.

**LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- **Community Capacity Building/Planning:** strategies and outcomes  
MCFCFC has identified local priorities based on multiple community assessments. Committees and workgroups are established to provide for ongoing alignment of resources, planning and implementation of strategies, data collection, and outcome evaluation. MCFCFC seeks to engage the full community in its process and is actively involved in community capacity building activities sponsored by other agencies. MCFCFC encourages and assists with collaborative grant writing within the county and with neighboring counties.
- **Service Coordination:** strategies and outcomes  
MCFCFC service coordination mechanism utilizes a continuum of care. Service coordinators manage the flow and screening of clients as well as the training, implementation, and supervision of High - Fidelity WrapAround. Community based providers deliver family supports, respite, intensive home-based services, and additional WrapAround. This combination of care has produced effective outcomes for the past two years. In FY 2008 risk screen scores improved by 61%, number of days in residential treatment reduced by 99.9%, partial hospitalization reduced by 43%, local incarceration reduced by 69+%, and number of days in DYS reduced by 100% for the youth served through service coordination as compared to their days in each service the previous year. These results produced an estimated cost savings of \$272,210 to county systems.
- **Family Empowerment:** strategies and outcomes  
Family representatives are members of Advisory Council, Executive Committee, and member agencies. Family input is obtained at Council, agency meetings, HMG meetings / activities, and workshops. Service providers receiving Council funding are required to utilize client surveys and modify services as a result of client responses. Cross system training (for direct care providers) offered twice / year includes a parent speaker to share their story including what proved most helpful and suggestions for improvements. Family voice and choice is increased by WrapAround and family advocates. System representatives have reported these services have improved relations as families seem less frustrated and are more willing to work with systems / agencies.

- **Early Childhood System of Care:** strategies and outcomes  
Help Me Grow (HMG) provided 752 Newborn visits and 7084 ongoing visits during FY 08. Bilingual staff is available for Hispanic families. Certified Infant Massage Educators offer free classes to HMG participants. Summer Literacy Program promotes early literacy. E.I. Specialist Certificate is offered to staff. Collaborations include: 1)Maternal Depression Screening with D&E; 2)Hilton Special Quest Project with Early Head Start 3)conduct developmental screens, offer HMG services and support physicians at ONE Health.

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

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:** strategies and outcomes  
Strategies for FY 09: Six providers are funded to deliver parenting skills / empowerment programming. Parents attending programming will increase their knowledge of parent management strategies during year one and will demonstrate improved skills in utilizing the strategies in subsequent years.

**OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES:** strategies and outcomes

**Infant Safety** educates the community and individual families about safe sleep and furniture safety. Key partners: Help Me Grow (HMG), Healthy Moms/Healthy Babies (HM/HB), and Youngstown State University Center for Human Services Development. Committee members provide trainings, appear on newscasts/community shows, distribute "Onesies" with safe sleep information, provide "Pack-n-Plays" to families who do not have safe bedding and follow families to assure safety procedures are followed.

**Lead Elimination** partners with business, clergy, and public agencies to increase testing of children, communicate with one voice, and reduce non-compliant housing units. Housing unit registries (one with unremediated lead hazards, one with units made lead-safe) are posted on the web. Civil complaints are filed against occupied unremediated rental properties. Outcomes: number of children tested increased by 16% in 2007 and among the children tested 2% had blood lead elevations. This is the lowest number of new lead poisoning cases reported since tracking began in 1992.

**Tri-County Family Violence Prevention** seeks to create communities in Columbiana, Mahoning, and Trumbull counties that prevent the generational continuum of family violence. Strategies include a workplace initiative, "Call to Men", and Respect campaign.

**FUNDING:**

Administrative responsibilities funded by Operational Capacity grant, administrative fees and local memberships. Service coordination provided through Access to Better Care, Non-Behavioral Health and FAST. Grants and fund raising efforts fund local initiatives. Total budget including Help Me Grow is approximately \$2 million.

**STAFFING:**

MCFCFC staffing in FY 09 included an administrator, secretary, and service coordinator.

**CHALLENGES:**

Time limited or silo funding at both the federal and state level.

**FUTURE PLANS:**

MCFCFC will continue to assess the needs of the community, develop strategies, and monitor outcomes.

**Contact Information:**

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