



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



COUNTY: PUTNAM

MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:

The Putnam County Family & Children First Council develops and supports multi-agency collaboration to accommodate and encourage efforts of families and communities to support the healthy development of Putnam County children and families. The FCFC takes a lead role in enhancing the sharing of local resources and improving access to services.

Putnam County FCFC strives to engage and empower families to be active, participating members of the Council's work in creating community plans and advocating on behalf of child and family issues. It is the FCFC vision that communities can support children and their caregivers in a way that allows them to be productive, self-reliant and nurturing so that families thrive and stay intact.

OPERATING STRUCTURE:

Putnam County FCFC has 23 members that are organized into committees including Steering Committee, Early Childhood Coordinating Committee, Family Coordination Team, Assessment/Evaluation Workgroup and a Mobilization Workgroup. The FCFC operates under the Educational Service Center which acts as administrative and fiscal agent.

LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Community Capacity Building/Planning:** strategies and outcomes include continuing capacity building/planning efforts started during the past two years of Partnership for Success (PFS). In addition, Council is working closely with juvenile justice and mental health leaders to implement action steps resulting from the Ohio Summit on Children that will increase community capacity building.
- **Service Coordination:** strategies and outcomes include providing quarterly education/awareness to schools and local agencies on Service Coordination Levels 1-2-3 as described in the County's Service Coordination Mechanism.
- **Family Empowerment:** strategies and outcomes include actively working with health and human service agencies to engage parents and ensure they have a voice and choice in the planning and provision of services for their child/family.
- **Early Childhood System of Care:** Council is a partner in the activities, curricula, programs and services that are a part of the Safe Schools/Healthy Students (SS/HS) federal grant awarded to the Putnam County Educational Service Center as many of the gaps and needs identified in the county HB 289 plan can be met through strategies outlined in the SS/HS grant. Cited for implementation directly related to improving early childhood systems of care are: initiate the use of a research-based curriculum to train early childhood system staff and parents about the social/emotional needs of young children, conduct a public awareness campaign to educate the community about these same needs, expand Incredible Years programming to include preschool, daycare, and other early childhood care providers. Outcomes will be measured by documentation of the utilization of the county's central intake site for early childhood referrals, by referrals for service to the FCFC and by pre-test/post test surveys of knowledge gained.

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

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:** strategies and outcomes
The county strategy is the "Children's Personal Safety Program" provided by Putnam Co. Children's Services. The strategy serves about 1,100 school-age children. Short-term outcome goals are: 1) increase youth's knowledge of personal safety and 2) increase youth's ability to

communicate a safety concern or problem to an adult. The intermediate-term outcome is to increase the number of youths communicating with parents or trusted adults about their problems.

OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES: strategies and outcomes

Partnerships For Success: SFY 09 marked the end of two years of participation in the Partnerships For Success initiative. FCFC accomplishments during the process include community mobilization with involvement of more than 60 volunteers, implementation of an evidence-based strategy to meet local needs called The Incredible Years Parent Program; over 60 families participating in the strategy, creation of new FCFC committees responsible for mobilization and assessment/ evaluation; diversification of Council membership to involve additional non-mandated members and family representatives; participation in EScore; improvements in data collection and interpretation related to Council outcomes.

FUNDING:

Putnam County FCFC operates on a \$259,000 budget. It receives \$200,945 for HMG; \$20,000 from Occupational Capacity Building Fund; \$15,000 from Ohio Children's Trust Fund; approximately \$10,000 from local membership dues; \$8,000 from Putnam County United Way; and \$5,681 for Access to Better Care non-behavioral health. In addition, the FCFC manages the county's ABC-GRF funds and FAST funds which total \$51,700.

STAFFING:

Council maintains a staff of: PT Council Coordinator, PT Help Me Grow Project Director, and PT Fiscal Officer.

CHALLENGES:

Flexible funding to support gaps and needs that are priorities for local children and families.

FUTURE PLANS:

FCFC will continue it's participation on the core management team for the Putnam County Safe Schools/Healthy Students federal grant. Plans also to include participation in a five-county regional Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice grant initiative, if funds are awarded.

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