



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



COUNTY: ROSS

MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:

The Ross County Family and Children First Council works to further advance the collaboration among community resources and service providers by promoting, planning, developing, and implementing a system of preventative and responsive services to build safe kids and strong families in Ross County communities.

OPERATING STRUCTURE:

Ross County FCFC operates under the Ross County Commissioners with Ross County Job and Family Services as the administrative agent. We consist of mandated members, non-mandated and community partners.

LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Community Capacity Building/Planning:** strategies and outcomes
Through strong collaborative efforts, the focus of Ross County FCFC is to strengthen family units in our communities by continually reviewing needs and planning for change utilizing the Partnerships for Success model. We promote the capacity to develop, implement, and sustain long-term solutions that will have a positive impact on long-term outcomes.
- **Service Coordination:** strategies and outcomes
Ross County FCFC works closely with community agencies to facilitate communication and cooperative efforts; to review specific cases referred by local agencies when traditional services are no longer effectively meeting the child's needs; to develop, refine or support a treatment plan for the child in coordination with various agencies; provide on-going monitoring; and to coordinate the most appropriate and least restrictive environment with closest proximity to caregivers.
- **Family Empowerment:** strategies and outcomes
Ross County FCFC works closely with local agencies to address the needs of families throughout our communities. Our parent reps work directly with children, families, schools, and community agencies to achieve success. A strong service coordination team allows for the successful implementation of service plans.
- **Early Childhood System of Care:** strategies and outcomes
The Ross County Family and Children First Council contracts with the local Health District to implement the Help Me Grow program. FCFC/JFS provides oversight and program monitoring. 1,412 referrals were made during the 07-08 program year.

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

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:** strategies and outcomes
Ross County FCFC contracts with the Child Protection Center to implement a Body Safety and parenting program. Over 3,000 children and 300 parents were served during the 2007-2008 program year. Students acquired increased knowledge of appropriate sexual boundaries while parents demonstrated an increase in knowledge of child development, appropriate redirection, and communication skills.

OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES: strategies and outcomes

Ross County Family and Children First Council monitors program strategies and collects data to determine program effectiveness. As we pursue the long-term outcomes of Youth Choose Healthy Behaviors and Children are Ready for School, strategies and indicators are continually evaluated as to

the effect beyond the program level they have on the community. Crisis Response Team - Reducing Juvenile Delinquency/Decreasing # of Juvenile Court charges System of Care for Juvenile Offenders-Reduce Juvenile Delinquency/Increase behavior management skills. After School Network - Increase School Success/Increase regular school attendance. ISS Home-Based Therapy - Decrease Juvenile Delinquency/Decrease the number of out-of-home placements. ISS GED Program - Increase School Success/Increase the number of students obtaining high school diploma or GED. Parenting classes/substance abuse - Decrease substance abuse/Increase knowledge level of parents. Roweton Alternative Education Campus - Increase School Success/Increase graduation rates.

FUNDING:

Ross County FCFC receives funding from OCBF, Help Me Grow, and Local and State grants.

STAFFING:

1 Part-time contracted Coordinator; 1 part-time Parent Educator; and 1 full-time Cluster Coordinator.

CHALLENGES:

As the number of children and families requiring assistance increases, the need for additional flexible funding increases.

FUTURE PLANS:

Ross County Family and Children First Council will continue to focus on current initiatives supporting our HB289 plan while working closely with community agencies to review priorities.

Contact Information:

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