



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



COUNTY: WILLIAMS

MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:

Motto: Strong families make strong communities. The mission of the Williams County Family and Children First Council is to support strong, nurturing and healthy families by creating and sustaining a collaborative, accessible and effective system of services. The ultimate goal in this process is to empower families to meet their own needs and be advocates for them.

OPERATING STRUCTURE:

The Williams County Council is governed by an Executive Board and has more than 20 member agencies. The Williams County Commissioners serve as the Council's Administrative Agent. Key committees of Council include the HB 289 Core Team, Clinical-Resource Committee, Family Committee, Help Me Grow Steering Team and the Early Childhood Collaborative Committee.

LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Community Capacity Building/Planning:** strategies and outcomes
Through the Partnerships for Success Initiative, Williams County has worked toward the long term goal of healthy choices for our youth. Two key areas of focus are Reduction of Teen Pregnancy and Behaviors associated with Mental Health. Through the Teen Pregnancy Initiative, we have two key strategies. The first is: Mentoring High Risk Youth, part of School Community Sexual Risk Reduction for Teens-Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program and the second is: Talking Parents/Healthy Teens- also a part of SCSRR for Teens. Both are in the first full year of implementation with short term goals of reducing sexual activity, increasing contraception use by those choosing to be active, and teens making healthy sexual choices. The Mental Health Initiative implemented two strategies including Families and Schools Together (FAST) an evidence based program and Signs of Suicide. The short term goals included Increased family Support indicated by increased parent child relationship, increased social support for family and increased family functioning. The evaluation data positive increases in all three areas.
- **Service Coordination:** strategies and outcomes
In 2008 the Williams County Service Coordination Mechanism expanded to include the use of ESCORE (Electronic Service Coordination Outcomes, Resources and Evaluation). Through this platform the Service Coordinator has the ability to track individual outcomes for families through 10 different domains using the Matrix. More than 42 families have been served and entered into the system. Although new to this type of data tracking in service coordination, we are developing a base line from which we can support families and improve services. Currently 23% of the cases are involved in WrapAround teams.
- **Early Childhood System of Care:** strategies and outcomes
The Williams County Help Me Grow program successfully met and exceeded all target numbers for services. In State Fiscal Year 2008 the HMG staff served 163 children at risk of developing delays and 160 youth with diagnosed medical conditions or developmental delays. Children are referred to the Help Me Grow program through County agencies, Medical facilities and by family members. Through community screenings more than 160 children were screened, of which 15 were referred for further evaluation. The Screenings are a collaborative effort through the TWIGS, ECC group including the Health Department, MR/DD, Head Start, Bryan City Schools and the Educational Service Center.

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

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:** strategies and outcomes
In State Fiscal Year 2008 the FCFC funded two agencies to work toward the reduction of Child Abuse and Neglect. Women and Family Services conducted classroom training utilizing the Child Assault Prevention (CAP) curriculum. Over 600 students had opportunity to learn through interactive role plays. Sandy Cay, Inc utilized funding to provide Team meetings for special needs students and their families. Outcomes include: Increased understanding of behaviors present is self and others. Increase in rate of follow through with strategies. Increased connectedness to family, peers and others and decreased frustration level for student and family members.

OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES: strategies and outcomes

Williams County has accepted the call to participate in the Summit on Children. A key group of county partners are planning efforts to address the issue of safe and permanent homes for our children.

FUNDING:

The Council in Williams County is funded through multiple avenues. The State Capacity Grant funds less than one third of the annual budget. The remaining budget is supported by county partners and from the administration of grants through Council.

STAFFING:

Williams County employs a Part Time Director.

CHALLENGES:

The primary challenge of Council is to provide relevant and current data to help inform decision makers on the best utilization of resources including staff, programming and funding. As with all counties, the increased tightening of the budget effects each individual agency and the Council is required to be strategic and more purposeful with funding it is entrusted with. Building key data and tracking outcomes is vital to the future success of services in our county.

FUTURE PLANS:

In 2009, the Council plans to initiate the second Youth Risk Behavior Survey. The data will be compared to the baseline data collected in 2006. This will allow the council to form conclusions and make decisions on current programming and initiatives.

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