



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



COUNTY: CARROLL

MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:

Carroll County's Family and Children First Council's vision and mission is that our children will be born into stable families, loving and caring environments, free of abuse and neglect. These children will be nurtured not only physically, but also mentally, and spiritually. As these children grow and mature we envision them transitioning into productive adults who will respect authority and will assume responsibility for their own actions.

For the Community we see a county wide kindred spirit of helping and assisting our families, our children, and each other. Council wants to minimize, even eliminate, the negative impact society's issues have on the families and children we serve. Council sees its involvement in promoting a safe and clean community, with each member of Council promoting the positive and valuing those qualities in each other. Council will work together to maximize available resources and to minimize duplication.

OPERATING STRUCTURE:

The Carroll County FCFC has 25 mandated and appointed members plus 20+ other non-appointed volunteers that provide governance of and the "workforce" to carry out Council's initiatives, projects, committee assignments and service coordination functions.

LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Community Capacity Building/Planning:** strategies and outcomes
The Carroll County FCFC in addressing their chosen commitments to child well being plans to initiate the following strategies: 1) Children are Ready for School - educational programs for parents, caregivers and professionals to provide information and techniques to prevent abuse/neglect and to prepare children academically, socially, and emotionally for school while waiting for affordable, open, pre-school slots. 2) Youth Participating in Healthy Behaviors- Council was awarded a WIA grant to operate a Youth Life and Employment Preparation program. A coordinating strategy is to form a Youth Board to provide insight and direction for services appropriate for the youth ages 14 to 21 in our community.
- **Service Coordination:** strategies and outcomes
Carroll County FCFC operates the service coordination function through it's FEAT (Family Empowerment Assistance Team) Committee. Representatives from the DJFS, Mental Health and Counseling agencies, MR/DD, Juvenile Court, the ADAMHS Board and the county school districts work with the FCFC to maximize services and resources for referred children/families. The Council is actively exploring ways to enhance the service coordination infrastructure to better address community needs in a more timely and efficient manner.
- **Family Empowerment:** strategies and outcomes
Carroll County FCFC has initiated and plans to continue the process of empowering families through the development of programs focused on Advocacy (NAMI Hand to Hand Classes), Abuse and Neglect prevention (Family and Domestic Violence Workshop) and increased Family representation and visibility on Council (recruitment, orientation and education).
- **Early Childhood System of Care:** strategies and outcomes
Carroll County FCFC works directly with Help Me Grow, a grants operated STEPS program for children 3-5 years of age, Head Start, and local daycare and preschool facilities. Directors of these programs sit on Council as voting members and/ or on the Early Childhood Coordinating

Committee(ECCC). The ECCC is working to increase the availability of affordable preschool to county families.

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

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:** strategies and outcomes
The Carroll County FCFC maintained oversight of the OCTF Grant and plans to provide child abuse and neglect prevention training and education to parents, caregivers, law enforcement and county medical / social service professionals particularly for the pre-school age children (3-5).

OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES: strategies and outcomes

Carroll County FCFC operates a WIA and TANF funded Summer Youth Employment Program that provided work experience and academic skill enhancement for disadvantaged youth in the county.

FUNDING:

The Carroll County FCFC receives the Ohio Capacity Building Grant and administrative money generated from WIA, ABLE and TANF grants to cover staffing and special projects.

STAFFING:

There is one part-time coordinator who allocates 20 hours per week for FCFC and 8 hours per week for supervision of the WIA Youth Program and the TANF/ABLE GED Program. Staff for these programs include a full-time youth coordinator and a full-time certified teacher.

CHALLENGES:

The increased needs of county families related to loss of jobs, a lack of public transportation and limited fiscal resources increases the need for the community agencies to develop services to meet these needs on shrinking federal and state funded budgets.

FUTURE PLANS:

Carroll County was chosen to be a Partnership for Success County for SFY 2009. We are very excited about this designation and look forward to the opportunities this provides.

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