



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



COUNTY: DARKE

MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:

The mission of the Darke County Family and Children First Council is to improve the quality of life for Darke County children and families through collaborative planning and service delivery. In the completion of this mission the work of the Council will be family focused, strength driven, and data informed. The work of the Council will be conducted with patience, persistence, flexibility and humor.

OPERATING STRUCTURE:

Operationally the work of the Darke County FCF Council is completed by six (6) working committees. These Committees are: the Family Stability Committee which has a primary focus of the service coordination needs of the county as well as the implementation of the Service Coordination Plan. The EEEEC Committee has a primary focus of data collection to assist with assessing the needs and strengths of the early childhood system of care as well as making service recommendations regarding the 0-5 population to the FCF Council. The Children's Trust Fund Committee attends to data collection, community assessment, and service needs related to child abuse and neglect. The Education Committee works in collaboration with public education to gather education related data for the purpose of the ongoing community needs assessment process. The Budget Committee reviews and manages FCF fiscal operations. The Executive Committee advises and supervises the FCF Service Coordinator and is empowered to act on behalf of the FCF membership in circumstances in which the full Council membership is not available. All of these work groups are engaged with the process of community capacity building on an ongoing basis.

LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Community Capacity Building/Planning:** strategies and outcomes
In conjunction with the HB289 mandate the current primary activity related to community capacity building is the development and implementation of an ongoing community assessment and planning process that will allow Darke County to collaboratively evaluate the needs of the community, assess the strengths and gaps of the existing service continuum, and to make informed decisions regarding the ongoing community priorities and the strategies used to address these priorities. The local Council committed to such a formal process for implementation in SFY 09.
- **Service Coordination:** strategies and outcomes
The primary mission of the service coordination process in Darke County is to maximize local resources in order to keep children and families intact. The annual service review of this process consistently indicates that 90% of all families referred to the service coordination process remain united with their families.
- **Family Empowerment:** strategies and outcomes
For SFY 2009, the local FCF Council has committed to a community centered "speakers bureau" that is intended to better inform Darke County of the existence of FCFC, solicit input regarding specific council concerns and initiatives, and invite community participation in these efforts.
- **Early Childhood System of Care:** strategies and outcomes
The current priority of the EEEEC is to integrate itself into the community assessment and planning process by determining which risk factors and indicators to include in the ongoing data assessment process. Next the goal of the EEEEC for SFY 2009 is to evaluate this collected data in order to better assist FCF with the determination of community priorities related to the 0-5 population.

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

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:** strategies and outcomes
To positively impact child abuse and neglect in Darke County by educating youth and parents regarding the warning signs of child abuse and neglect as well as how to access assistance if faced with a actual or potential circumstance of child abuse and neglect.

OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES: strategies and outcomes

Blend the Summit on Children initiative initiated by the Governor and the Ohio Supreme Court with the HB 289 planning and assessment process.

FUNDING:

The funding sources for the annual FCFC operating budget in Darke County is comprised of \$20,000 originating from the OCBF grant and \$15-18,000 in pooled fund contributions from the local FCFC membership.

STAFFING:

The Darke County FCF Council currently employes one part time employee in the position of Service Coordinator.

CHALLENGES:

- 1) Sustaining exisitng services in the face of reduced fiscal and human resources.
- 2) Remaining engaged in the collaborative, broad brushed macro planning required to deliver effective coordinated community services.

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