



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

COUNTY: DEFIANCE

MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:

The family is the center of Defiance County, and children are the future. The well-being of Defiance County families is important in building strong communities. Defiance County will provide comprehensive and effective collaboration to support families in their responsibilities of building independent and productive lives, while providing programming and activities to nurture and motivate parents and children to realize their potential. Defiance County will be a place where families can build upon their heritage, feel secure in the present and reach for the future.

OPERATING STRUCTURE:

The Family and Children First Council consists of 27 members. The Defiance County Board of Commissioners provides leadership as the administrative agent along with an eight member Steering Committee.

LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Community Capacity Building/Planning:** strategies and outcomes
2009 marks one year post the Partnerships for Success process for Defiance County FCFC. Our County continues to be committed to using evidence-based programming and making data driven decisions. In order to improve interagency communication, the Council coordinates the 'Get Connected, Get Answers' training. The training gathers professionals together to become more familiar with the resources available for Defiance County families and to learn a common protocol for dealing with families in crisis.
- **Service Coordination:** strategies and outcomes
The Council provides service coordination through the WrapAround model. A 20 hour per week WrapAround Coordinator works with family teams to meet improved outcomes. Improvement is tracked through a family outcomes matrix with the ultimate goal of keeping children and families together.
- **Early Childhood System of Care:** strategies and outcomes
The Help Me Grow program is very successful in Defiance County. The program regularly exceeds target numbers and meets outcome standards.

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

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:** strategies and outcomes
The focus of our child abuse and neglect prevention is a maternal depression screening and referral process. Defiance County has a high percentage of new moms who do not complete their postpartum physician visits and national rates tell us the percentage of new moms experiencing postpartum depression often goes undetected. An evidence-based screening tool will be used in order to identify moms dealing with maternal depression. In addition a maternal support group has been formed.

OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES: strategies and outcomes

The FCFC has created the We Can Community Coalition which has created both evidence-based intervention and prevention programs dealing with childhood obesity. Defiance County has the 9th highest rate of obese third graders in Ohio. The programs have shown a dramatic improvement in the amount of physical activity and nutritional choices made by participants.

FUNDING:

In addition to the Operational Capacity Grant, the Council operates from membership dues and administrative fees from various grants.

STAFFING:

The Council employs a full-time Coordinator, a full-time Help Me Grow Project Director and one Help Me Grow Service Coordinator.

Contact Information:

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