



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



COUNTY: ERIE

MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:

For any organization, and certainly for any collaborative effort to succeed, there must be a consensus on the foundation on which that collaboration rests. The Family & Children First Council of Erie County's vision is that we are "Improving the Quality of Family Life in Erie County". We do this with a commitment to the following beliefs:

- Families are our most important human resource, and their children our most vulnerable class of citizens. Children with multiple needs are at an even higher risk of failure in becoming self-reliant adults. We believe that our forum can create ideas and influence policy.
- We will positively influence an array of systems, which already exist to support families, and with these systems form a safety net of support.
- The child serving systems will one day coalesce at all levels, so that children and families will be offered complete services which will support them and form an unbreakable chain.
- Children and families will be nurtured and protected by an all-encompassing system, which will wrap around them according to their unique needs.
- That one day, in Erie County, every family will be afforded the opportunity to secure supportive and educational services to fully enhance the lives of our families and children.

In tandem with that vision is the following mission:

The Family & Children First Council shall assure that services to families and children are delivered in a timely, effective, and coordinated manner and in the least restrictive environment. It is our intent to achieve local collaborative decision making to create partnerships within the community to ensure that families and children of Erie County will have the nutrition and health care needed to have healthy minds and bodies; families will understand and address the developmental needs of their children; and family members will be literate and possess the knowledge and skills necessary to be productive and responsible citizens.

Guiding Principles:

Our Family & Children First Council is geared to improve services to multi-need children and families. With that in mind our Family & Children First Council supports the following:

- The system of care shall include a comprehensive array of effective services.
- Services shall be individualized to meet the unique needs of the child and family and will address the eight life domain areas.
- The array of services shall be the least restrictive and most appropriate.
- Families and surrogate families shall be full participants in the planning and delivery of services.
- Children shall receive services that are integrated and coordinated across agencies.
- Early intervention and prevention programs shall be promoted in order to enhance the opportunities for success.
- The rights of children and families shall be protected.
- Services shall reflect the cultural and ethnic diversity of the community and its residents.

OPERATING STRUCTURE:

Our Council has a three tier structure which consists of the following:

The Administrative Level consists of the top executives of all the systems who participate in the Family & Children First Council, along with parent representation. The second level of the Council is the Wraparound Management Response Team. This Level consists of the middle level managers of the participating systems. The "Family Team" Level of the Council is the direct service level. The Family Team is a multiple systems team, which provides strengths based assessment and treatment planning for children and their families.

LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Community Capacity Building/Planning:** strategies and outcomes
Our county utilizes the PFS process in continued planning efforts. Our FCFC works collaboratively with other agencies to formulate plans which will benefit the entire county. Our Health Department in conjunction with local agencies completed an updated community health assesment this year, which will enhance future planning efforts.
- **Service Coordination:** strategies and outcomes
Our county received a \$974,917.00 grant from the Office of Justice to expand our Service Coordination and Wraparound initiative program. This Family Strengthening Grant allowed us to enhance our initiative by utilizing the High Fidelity model of Wraparound. Our program has approximately 120 families involved in Service Coordination/Wraparound. This will be our third year using High Fidelity Wraparound with our families
- **Family Empowerment:** strategies and outcomes
Our county actively engages families in Service Coordination and Wraparound. Families are the voice for their individual family plans. This year our county will be forming a Parent Advisory Council with the assistance of our council parent representative.
- **Early Childhood System of Care:** strategies and outcomes
The Erie County FCFC implements the Help Me Grow Program county-wide through a contract with MRDD. The FCFC Director acts as the Help Me Grow Project Director and shares Clinical Supervision with MRDD. Our county wide collaborative efforts have provided our Help Me Grow Families with a seamless system of care.

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

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:** strategies and outcomes
Our FCFC acts as the Local Advisory Board for the Ohio Children's Trust Fund. Our county utilizes our Care-A-Van, a Community Resource Centers as a part of our movement to strengthen families and communities through addressing needs for family supports aimed at preventing child abuse and neglect and to provide general assistance and local resources for families.

OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES: strategies and outcomes

Our county has ended its Safe School/Healthy Students initiative. Through this initiative we will be sustaining our Incredible Years, Strengthening Families Parenting Programs along with other initiatives.

FUNDING:

The Erie County FCFC has an annual budget of approximately \$725,000.00. These funds are comprised of Federal, State and local funding, and support our various initiatives such as Help Me Grow, the Care-A-Van, Service Coordination/Wraparound. and our FCFC operations.

STAFFING:

The Erie County Family & Children First Council is a department under the Erie County Commissioners. The FCFC Director and the Care-A-Van Project Coordinator are the two staff members.

CHALLENGES:

Increasing needs for flexible state and federal funding in our county. Especially funding that will support our Wraparound families.

FUTURE PLANS:

Our county has applied for a Federal Systems of Care grant. If awarded this grant will provide us with 18 million dollars over a five year period to implement a School Based Mental Health Initiative.

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