



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



COUNTY: FRANKLIN

MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:

The mission of the Franklin County Family and Children First Council is to provide leadership and insight to policy makers, other Franklin County organizations, and the community in order to make Franklin County a thriving community of hopeful healthy children and strong families.

OPERATING STRUCTURE:

Franklin County FCFC has over 15 member agencies. These agencies make up the full Council. The Executive Directors of our major systems comprise our County's Children's Cabinet. Working in conjunction with our Oversight/Finance Committee, Children's Cabinet acts as the governing board and oversees daily operations. The Oversight/Finance Committee acts as the work group resolving day-to-day issues.

Franklin County FCFC is currently undergoing a transition to a host agency, Franklin County DJFS, and is in the process of hiring an Executive Director for the first time. These changes have resulted in an ongoing evolution of the Council and, in many respects, a philosophical change about the role of Council in the County. We believe we will emerge from this transition better positioned to help families and children throughout the county succeed at all levels.

LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Community Capacity Building/Planning:** strategies and outcomes
The Oversight/Finance Committee and Children's Cabinet are constantly in discussion about how to build more operational and service capacity in all areas for the families we serve. Council has been instrumental in several cross-system collaborations, bringing multiple systems to the table to better meet the needs of families. These include, but are not limited to the implementation of www.helpmykid.org, Partnerships for Success, Multi-Systemic Therapy, and the Behavioral Health and Juvenile Justice project.
- **Service Coordination:** strategies and outcomes
FCFC Intersystem Coordinators work collaboratively with public social services agencies in the county and a variety of community-based providers to help create a seamless system of care for families. They assist families with high-need, multiple system children navigate the individual systems, reduce barriers, and find solutions when other avenues have been unsuccessful. In calendar year 2007, there were over 100 open cases, some of which were case consultations for families who needed guidance, but not service coordination, per se. Intersystem Coordinators do all they can to keep kids in the home by helping families access the appropriate level of service.
- **Family Empowerment:** strategies and outcomes
Parent Representatives are actively involved in Council meetings. In addition, one parent sits on the Children's Cabinet. Intersystem Coordinators are constantly working to empower families during team meetings and when working with provider agencies. In addition, FAST and Service Coordination families are currently utilizing parent advocates and/or parent mentors. We have asked the State for TA in this area as we look to enhance our parent advocate network and further engage and empower the families we work with.
- **Early Childhood System of Care:** strategies and outcomes
Franklin County FCFC administers Help Me Grow county-wide through more than 10 contracted providers; the FCFC does not provide direct service in this area. In SFY08, approximately 3000

children were served daily by these providers and over 5,500 were served annually . Approximately 800 children were transitioned from HMG to 16 different school districts in a year.

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

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:** strategies and outcomes
In SFY08, four vendors provided some form of parent education classes and one provided respite services. These providers have consistently met contracted performance goals as measured by various pre- and post- tests/surveys.

OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES: strategies and outcomes

The Nisonger project provides specialized psychiatric services including initial evaluations to youth under 21 with eligible diagnosis by MRDD and ADAMH. They provide non-psychiatric services that include completing evaluation documents and attending family team meetings. They are often brought in to create a behavior plan for youth with an open multi-system case.

FUNDING:

Local pooled funding is generated from contributions by key systems: Children Services, ADAMH Board, Board of MR/DD, Department of Job and Family Services, Juvenile Court, and Columbus City Schools. These funds are used to support the multi-system service coordination fund, multi-system discretionary fund, Nisonger Project, Multi-Systemic Therapy, and a match of the ABC non-behavioral health fund.

In addition, the Help Me Grow budget is approximately \$7 million. Teen Pregnancy Prevention programs are funded at around \$500,000 and Ohio Children's Trust Fund at \$338,000.

STAFFING:

Franklin County FCFC has over 15 staff, 2 of which are on-loan from system partners. Staff include a Program Manager, Data and Evaluation Coordinator, Intersystem Coordinators, and Administrative Assistants, among others. Also included are administrative Help Me Grow Central Site staff. Children's Cabinet and Council are in the process of hiring an Executive Director for the first time, replacing the previous position of Intersystem Administrator. Currently, Help Me Grow staff and FCFC Administrative staff are in two different office locations. Staff are currently employed by the Educational Service Center of Franklin County.

CHALLENGES:

Several of the challenges that face Franklin County FCFC are uniquely urban issues. These include, but are not limited to, serving a large immigrant population, the impact of poverty in inner-city areas, and "big system" issues. Additionally, there are barriers around flexible and coordinated funding and keeping up with the compliance elements that are related to various funding streams. In some cases, the amount of resources and energy expended to access funding does not seem reasonable.

FUTURE PLANS:

Upon the hiring of an Executive Director, many of the processes and procedures in place will continue to be examined and improved as necessary. As Franklin County FCFC continues its evolution to be more proactive and an agent of change and collaboration in the County, priorities and programs will be re-examined. It is a priority of the new host agency and the Council to merge the staff at one central location. This will improve the supervision and support given to staff at each location and in turn, allow for more support of the new Executive Director as well.

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