



Hamilton County
Family and Children
First Council

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



COUNTY: HAMILTON

MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:

To streamline and coordinate services for children and families to enable those we serve to achieve better outcomes.

OPERATING STRUCTURE:

HCFCFC is overseen by an Executive Committee who sets the agenda, selects priorities and drives the work plan for HCFCFC. The Executive Committee meets monthly and is very active in overseeing FCFC activities. The Executive Committee is always presided over by a County Commissioner. The full Council is made up of about 70 community agencies and organizations. The Council meets around specific issues and FCFC members participate in many intersystem committees and initiatives convened by FCFC.

LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Community Capacity Building/Planning:** strategies and outcomes
During the initial H.B. 289 planning process the HCFCFC selected Youth Succeed in School as its priority outcome. Within that priority, the primary strategies selected by a large FCFC committee was to improve the coordination of high quality services in schools and to increase family engagement in schools. Two inter-system/agency committees have developed specific strategies to accomplish these goals. Process outcomes to date include movement toward shared evaluation methods among agencies providing coordination in schools, development and use of an assessment tool to evaluate school needs and develop planning options, training for new coordinators, quarterly interagency coordinator meetings, mentor mentee coordinator programs, development of a resource manual for family engagement policies and assessment and recommendations to improve family friendly practices for schools.

Service Coordination: **strategies and outcomes**

The Inter System Service Collaboration Committee (ISCC) is comprised of representatives from the following agencies: Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services, Hamilton County Juvenile Court, Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, Hamilton County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati, Hamilton County Educational Service Center and Cincinnati Public Schools. These representatives meet regularly for the purpose of case consultation, service planning, information sharing and intersystem collaboration. Staff or families can refer to this committee for consultation or expert assistance. Additionally, an intensive, individualized wrap around program is provided for children with multiple needs who cannot be served through traditional means. That program for multi system high need children is funded by county agencies in a shared pooling funding arrangement.

- **Family Empowerment:** strategies and outcomes
A Family Engagement Committee has developed a strategic plan to increase family involvement in the school life of their children. The Committee has developed a resource manual for of family engagement policies for school districts and a process to evaluate the family friendly practices of schools and recommendations to make schools more family friendly. The work has also included recommendations for training of teachers in communication with parents and vice versa, work with a few selected school districts to adopt and implement model family engagement policies and cultural competency training for teachers.

- **Early Childhood System of Care:** strategies and outcomes
HCFCFC has a very large, active Help Me Grow system of care for children ages 0 to 3 and their families. In FY '08, service coordination was provided to 4526 children and families and 3,436 newborn home visits were delivered.

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

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:** strategies and outcomes
HCFCFC became the administrator of the Children's Trust Fund dollars at the end of FY '08. The Child Abuse Prevention committee conducted a needs assessment, engaged in research about effective child abuse prevention programs and developed a plan for a model child abuse prevention program which has recently been implemented in a community with high child abuse rates. The provider who was selected during an RFP process has implemented the Strengthening Families Program in the specified community, developed a media campaign to promote the prevention of child abuse within the specified community, which will begin in FY 2010 and has developed a coalition of community leaders to lead a community wide child abuse prevention campaign within the targeted community. Child abuse rates in the targeted community will be measured at the end of FY 2010 and compared with baseline rates from CY 2008.

OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES: strategies and outcomes

HCFCFC administers the Child and Family Health Services Consortium, which provides health and auxiliary services to uninsured and underinsured women and children in Hamilton County. Funds for this are provided from a grant from the Ohio Department of Health. HCFCFC contracts with half a dozen agencies for provision of these urgently needed health care services to a very vulnerable population. HCFCFC operates the Hamilton County Child Fatality Review Team and has done so since its inception 13 years ago. The Team reviews the deaths of all Hamilton County residents ages 17 and under, makes determination about preventability of deaths and recommendations regarding how future deaths might be avoided. HCFCFC issues an annual child fatality review report that can be found on the HCFCFC website at www.hamilton-co.org HCFCFC provides the Children First Plan, a large school based program that provides a coordinator and a plethora of contracted services in school social and enrichment services to meet the needs of the children and families in FCF schools. Currently, the Children First Program is in 10 schools in Hamilton County. HCFCFC contracts with 20 agencies for services in those schools. Outcome data for students has been very positive every year. HCFCFC provides several trainings annually, including the very large Intersystem Training.

FUNDING:

Budget for FY09 is \$8,600,000. Budget for FY '10 cannot be determined until the state budget has been finalized.

STAFFING:

Executive Director, Fiscal Officer, Contract Manager, HMG Project Director, HMG Data manager, 7 coordinators for school program, 1.5 FTE administrative assistant,

CHALLENGES:

Finding adequate funding to support all the initiatives we undertake; getting all the players to the table at any given time.

FUTURE PLANS:

Implementing strategic plans as described above.

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