



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



COUNTY: HANCOCK

MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:

The Hancock County Family First Council, in partnership with families, will prioritize and evaluate services, and implement processes to address gaps and promote the strength of families.

OPERATING STRUCTURE:

The Hancock County Family First Council has a 22 member Council plus other additional community members that join the group. These members help to make up the committees of Council, including: Executive, Finance, Services Intervention/Family Stability Family Advisory, and Early Childhood Coordination Committee (ECCC).

LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Community Capacity Building/Planning:** strategies and outcomes
The Hancock County Family First Council works actively with many local agencies to continue to increase capacity and identify gaps in capacity. Some examples of cross-system initiatives in Hancock County are: Asset Team and "100 Best Communities for Young People" Awards, Stuff the Bus program, Prosperity Task Force, Coordinating Council, ECCC School Readiness initiative, Early Reader Group and Prenatal Coalition.
- **Service Coordination:** strategies and outcomes
The Hancock County Family First Council works closely with Family Resource Centers (FRC) to provide Service Coordination and WRAP services to county families. The FFC and FRC work hard to keep the community informed of the services available and how to refer. The Services Intervention/Family Stability Committee is able to coordinate services for the children with more complex needs
- **Family Empowerment:** strategies and outcomes
The Hancock County Family First Council works actively with many local programs to boost community knowledge of services. One example: the Help Me Grow program is currently collaborating with Blanchard Valley Hospital to increase signage, in the hospital and physicians offices, and to improve community knowledge of both agencies and services. Also, at each ECCC meeting, parents are encouraged to voice concerns/problems in getting services. One such parent concern lead to our local Family Center, which houses over 20 agencies, to create signage to better inform clients of availability.
- **Early Childhood System of Care:** strategies and outcomes
The Hancock County Family First Council implements the Help Me Grow (HMG) program county-wide through a central coordinating site. Family First Council assists the HMG program by providing financial oversight to the program, as well as direct supervision to the Project Director. The number of families continues to increase and currently HMG is serving 180-195 children at a time.

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

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:** strategies and outcomes
For FY 2009, the Hancock County FFC will be supporting programs that encourage good parental mental health. One focus for our county will be supporting Family Resource Center's newly developed Maternal Mental Health program, which includes a home visitation program and curriculum for expectant and new mothers.

OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES: strategies and outcomes

The Hancock County Family First Council, in collaboration with Findlay City Schools, supports and actively supervises a Summer Food Service program that is doing very well. Ten local agencies have volunteered this year to provide programming to the children at the Food Service Program. Also, the County has a very successful "No Wrong Door" program. This program provides service referral guides to agency personnel and provides training to front-line staff on how to provide assistance to individuals that may call their agency for services they do not provide and how to make referrals to agencies that could help them.

FUNDING:

The Hancock County FFC runs on an approximately \$65,000 budget, partially supported through state FCFC, local Council membership support dollars and various local grants. Total funding, including Help Me Grow, is approximately \$400,000.

STAFFING:

Hancock County Family First Council supports one employee, which is the Council Coordinator. The Family First Council and Help Me Grow are housed together and Help Me Grow has a staff of eight employees.

CHALLENGES:

Large need for more state funding to help support more staff for Hancock County.

FUTURE PLANS:

The Hancock County will be continuing to use the HB 289 Planning/Update processes to evolve services as community needs arise.

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