



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



COUNTY: HOCKING

MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:

Hocking County Family & Children First Council's goal is to nurture and preserve families and children through a committed collaborative social network and community effort. Reaching this goal can be achieved through the empowering of the family to meet their spiritual, physical, mental, and economic needs. The outcome will be an enrichment of our lives and our community.

OPERATING STRUCTURE:

Council has 19 members including 13 mandated members. Sub-committees of the Council include the Finance, Personnel, Community Relations, Audit, Policy, and Program Planning Committees.

LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Community Capacity Building/Planning:** strategies and outcomes
During community analysis work in 2006, Hocking Schools reported a need for mental health services during the day in the schools. Collaboration between the school system and the local community mental health agency has yielded combined mental health and special education programming in the school targeted to the most severe SED students. Ending the second year in June 2009, this program is showing prodigious reductions in law enforcement calls and positive changes in reading achievement and reduction of absences of these special students. Plans are to initiate a similar program in the middle school in the 2009-2010 school year.
- **Service Coordination:** strategies and outcomes
A family can either self-refer or can be referred by an agency. This begins the service coordination process with family team meetings progressing to Intersystems "Cluster" group and Council if needed. In 2006, 218 family team meetings were held. In 2007, 148 family team meetings were held. Outcomes of the family team meeting system for both years resulted in only seven children being referred to Intersystems" Cluster" and FCFC Council.
- **Family Empowerment:** strategies and outcomes
During an Early Childhood Committee of Council meeting, a parent noted the lack of any handicap accessible playgrounds in Hocking County. Agencies and community members worked hard holding bake sales and writing grants persistently for four years and a new "all-accessible" playground addition was finished in April, 2008.
- **Early Childhood System of Care:** strategies and outcomes
FCFC has oversight over Hocking County Help Me Grow. In the past, they provided services to approximately 200 children on a yearly basis. Due to budget reductions, HMG is in transition and the full scope of services that will be available in the future has not been determined.

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

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:** strategies and outcomes
Data revealed that more referrals were made to Hocking County Children's Services in the newborn to 6 years old age group than in the 7 to 18 year age groups combined. Incredible Years, an evidence-based parenting program targeted to parents of younger children, has been chosen for prevention of child abuse and neglect. Hocking County will be collecting data on referrals to CSB.

OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES: strategies and outcomes

Since it was documented with data from the Communities That Care [CTC] survey in 2003 that Hocking youth had higher substance abuse rates than both the state and national averages, HCFCFC through the PFS process voted to focus on evidence-based substance abuse programs. Hocking received a grant from Ohio Department of Youth Services to implement the LifeSkills program. The program's outcomes have been successful but the grant ended in September 2008 and unfortunately, no further funding has been located. This program successfully melded social services with faith based organizations and provided the program at two faith-based sites

FUNDING:

\$16,000 OCBF; \$15,000 OCTF; ABC; and pooled funding contributed by six County Council members.

STAFFING:

Sole staff is Director/Coordinator.

CHALLENGES:

Locating funding for a small rural county with a high unemployment rate and all the social problems associated with poverty.

FUTURE PLANS:

Locate funding for:

- 1.] Programs to provide behavioral interventions for children in their early years
- 2.] evidence-based substance abuse prevention programs throughout the county

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