



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



COUNTY: JEFFERSON

MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:

The Jefferson County Family and Children First Council's mission is to foster collaborative problem solving in order to promote healthy families and children by planning, developing and supporting cooperative, family centered, culturally sensitive, community based services.

OPERATING STRUCTURE:

Operates as a department of the Jefferson County Juvenile Court, Administrative Agent of the Council.

LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Community Capacity Building/Planning:** strategies and outcomes
Council will continue to engage community partners to increase membership to help identify gaps in services to improve the lives of children and families in Jefferson County. Through the HB 289 process, Council identified the need for school based mental health and piloted in one district. Plan is to introduce the program into the other districts in 2009 and 2010.
- **Service Coordination:** strategies and outcomes
Council will continue to work to try to improve Service Coordination using Council as the main point of contact..
- **Family Empowerment:** strategies and outcomes
Council instituted a stipend for all parent representatives for attending Council meetings. Parent reps are utilized on committees for Council projects and also for recruiting new parent representatives.
- **Early Childhood System of Care:** strategies and outcomes
The Early Childhood Coordinating Committee (ECCC) of the Council continues to increase in membership in helping to identify the needs of the 0-5 population. An advisory board has been created to lead the way and will be looking at several new areas in FY09 where the ECCC can become involved to help better the lives of this young population.

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

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:** strategies and outcomes
Council will be leading a county wide campaign using community outreach, radio/tv ads on the importance of parents being involved in the lives of their children, and parenting classes to improve the quality of parenting for at-risk families. Our goal will be to increase the parental knowledge of effective parenting skills, illustrated by a decrease in problem behaviors both in the home and in the school setting.

OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES: strategies and outcomes

Council continues to be involved in projects through Big Brother/Big Sisters, Suicide Prevention through the local Prevention/Recovery Board, Retired and Seniors for Volunteer Program (RSVP) and several others.

FUNDING:

Jefferson County FCFC operates on funding from HMG, the Occupational Capacity Building Fund, and the Ohio Childrens Trust. Annual contributions (vary from year to year) from MR/DD, the Prevention and Recovery Board, and the local DJFS.

STAFFING:

The Council employees one full time Council Coordinator.

CHALLENGES:

Lack of funding to initiate new and creative programs to help serve Jefferson County families.

FUTURE PLANS:

Continue to work hard and keep the spirit of FCFC alive and productive.

Contact Information:

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