



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



**COUNTY: LAKE**

**MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:**

Lake County Family and Children First Council's mission is to ensure access to a seamless system of resources for the wellbeing of our families and children. The focus for this year is on Early Childhood.

**OPERATING STRUCTURE:**

Lake's FCFC has 31 Council members with equal voting privileges. Additional volunteers from a variety of other organizations are represented on a variety of Council committees. Committees are Steering Committee, Early Childhood Coordinating Committee, Finance, Public Awareness and Advocacy, Evaluation, School Readiness Implementation Team, and Children's Committee.

**LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- **Community Capacity Building/Planning:** strategies and outcomes  
Lake County's Council confirmed through a Council Retreat which was held this spring, their commitment to the utilization of the Partnerships for Success model for community collaboration and planning around the needs of families to ensure better outcomes for children in our community. Council drafted a new mission and vision statement and will be developing strategies around the expansion of staff and resources necessary to fulfill this vision. As a first step, a full time Council Director will be hired this fall.
- **Service Coordination:** strategies and outcomes  
The Children's Committee will continue to utilize strategies to increase understanding of the service coordination process by families and organizations in the community. Organizations will be invited to Children's Committee meetings and our Children's Committee Coordinator will continue to schedule speaking engagements to increase understanding of the process and resources available for children with multiple needs in the community.
- **Family Empowerment:** strategies and outcomes  
Council will continue to utilize Parent Advocates for our FAST programming and also for Service Coordination to empower families in our Service Coordination System. We will be seeking to recruit other parent advocates as the need demands. Council continues to try to recruit families for various projects and committees of Council in addition to seeking representatives for Council. Council Coordinator will be speaking at a meeting of the Lake County PTA Council to increase understanding of Council's role in the community and how we may work together on issues of mutual concern.
- **Early Childhood System of Care:** strategies and outcomes  
The HB 289 strategy our Council adopted was the development of a School Readiness toolbox and campaign around School Readiness. The short term outcome we wish to impact is to increase awareness of parents of children ages 3 and 4 of the skills their children need to enter kindergarten and the critical role they have in the development of these skills. Council is participating in the Born Learning Campaign developed by United Way of America around School Readiness.  
Through this initiative which will be piloted in 2 elementary schools in the county, we hope to enhance the cognitive, reading readiness, social and emotional skills children have when they enter kindergarten.

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

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:** strategies and outcomes  
Lake County selected the following intermediate outcome we will try to impact in the coming years:  
Reduce the number of reports of substantiated/indicated child abuse and neglect and founded dependency cases of children ages 0-5 where poor mental health (defined as emotional well-being) is a factor.  
The strategies we hope to utilize to assist in achieving these outcomes are a Respite Program for young, at risk children and their siblings to provide parents a break from childcare responsibilities and a Parent Help Line.

**OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES:** strategies and outcomes

Lake County will begin a more comprehensive assessment of children and family needs in our County through the Partnership for Success Initiative. The Planning Committee of Council will also be utilized in the development of initiatives around the prevention of drug and alcohol abuse through a grant from ODADAS secured by Crossroads, a child serving mental health organization in our county. A youth survey will be funded through this grant.

**FUNDING:**

In addition to the \$20,000 operational capacity building grant, Council is supported by 3.5% of the administrative fees allowed from the HMG program and 5% of the administrative fees from the Children's Trust Fund Grant. In SFY 2009 Council will receive the second year of a Partnership for Success Grant in the amount of \$100,000. Council's projected administrative budget submitted for SFY 2009 is \$142,390. Service Coordination plans are supported by shared funding from up to five systems.

**STAFFING:**

Lake County presently has a part time coordinator, a part time project assistant and a contract for service coordination. A contract with one of our member organizations was recently negotiated to provide project management of our School Readiness initiative.

**CHALLENGES:**

Fulfilling the requirements of HB 289 within the present infrastructure and resources of Council.

**FUTURE PLANS:**

To increase it's capacity to seek better outcomes for children in our community through the expansion of Council infrastructure and resources.

**Contact Information:**

**Mary Ellen Condon**  
**Lake County Family and Children First Council**  
**30 South Park Place, Suite 320**  
**Painesville, Ohio 44077**

**Phone 440-350-2125**  
**Fax 440-350-2951**  
**email [mcondon@lcghd.org](mailto:mcondon@lcghd.org)**