



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



**COUNTY: MEDINA**

**MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:**

Formally initiated in 1995, the Medina County Family First Council is dedicated to supporting and strengthening families by providing or facilitating family centered, coordinated, community based, preventative and comprehensive services that identify and respond to health, human, and social services needs of Medina County Families.

Medina County Family First Council continually challenges public agencies and private partners to coordinate and streamline services to better serve parents, children and their families and use available resources more effectively as well as explore solutions to identified gaps in community programming.

**OPERATING STRUCTURE:**

The Medina County Family First Council is made up of 16 mandated members and 26 elected members who comprise the Wellness, Membership, Family Advisory, PR, Administrative, Bylaws, Planning, ICAT, Early Childhood County Collaborative Group, PfS Sustainability Team and Senior Focus committees.

**LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- **Community Capacity Building/Planning:** strategies and outcomes  
One strategy that Council has initiated and sustained is CareTeams. These are multidisciplinary teams that meet to assist at-risk youth with lowering the development of behaviors associated with mental illness. The predominant outcomes relate to reducing disruptive behavior and truancy and improving academic performance. This initiative addresses one of the state's commitment to youth well being which is youth choose healthy behaviors.
- **Service Coordination:** strategies and outcomes  
Our County Service Coordination plan is put into place through the Medina County Intersystems Collaborative Assessment Team (ICAT). ICAT members consist of agency representatives from schools and county agencies. ICAT is designed to address the needs of multi-system, high-risk youth and their families. The goal of ICAT is to design and coordinate a family focused, wrap-around plan that will allow for the child to succeed in the least restrictive environment possible. Four agencies involved with the ICAT process provide funding for a pooled funding account to be used for difficult, at-risk youth.
- **Family Empowerment:** strategies and outcomes  
Our Family Advisory Council is very active with nine committee members including 2 that have served as Chair of Council. They meet regularly to address family engagement issues and new ways to enhance family involvement with the FFC. They also are responsible for coordinating back to school fairs with the local school districts to assist families with obtaining school supplies each fall. Members of our Family Advisory Council have played an active role in the parent advisory component of FAST and we are working towards expanding that piece of the committee.
- **Early Childhood System of Care:** strategies and outcomes  
Our HMG service system is a key component of this system and integrates with other systems via our Youth Advisory Consortium. Contracts are established with four community systems to provide care, all of which are housed in one facility. Our HMG system has met or exceeded all goals and incentives.

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

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:** strategies and outcomes  
Our initiative targets a predominant number of high-risk families and funds a continuum of programs utilizing best practice or evidence based approaches.

**OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES:** strategies and outcomes

Our Council embraces a life span approach and utilizes a similar youth service coordination process to serve multi-system mid-age and older adults. The goal is to keep individuals in the least restrictive environment utilizing wrap around services.

**FUNDING:**

Our Council operates on a \$1.2 million budget. This does not include the pooled dollars to fund residential services. Six key systems pool funds for both administrative and program purposes.

**STAFFING:**

The Medina County FFC is comprised of 4 staff members which includes the Executive Director, HMG Project Director, ICAT Service Coordinator and Administrative Assistant.

**CHALLENGES:**

Our predominant challenge is operating efficiently with all of the cuts in the TANF arena. In addition, funding cuts in other areas often influence a "Silo" mentality that challenges the system to collaborate on behalf of families.

**FUTURE PLANS:**

Council is in the process of expanding services to the "Mid-cat" population that incorporates service coordination to individuals and families age 22 through 60.

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