



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



COUNTY: MERCER

MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:

The mission of FCFC is to promote the delivery of effective and efficient services to meet the needs of Mercer County residents through the organization of existing resources. The vision of Mercer County FCFC is: "To seek a safe and healthy environment throughout Mercer County - To foster a community in which all families can grow and prosper."

OPERATING STRUCTURE:

Mercer County Family & Children First (known as C.O.L.T.) brings together 25 members of community agencies along with volunteers to share in collaboration and cooperation. Monthly meetings as well as committee meetings help identify our strengths and assess needs found throughout our county. By sharing information and knowledge we are able to work together to create better family relationships and perhaps help in preventing child abuse and neglect.

LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Community Capacity Building/Planning:** strategies and outcomes
We work together as team members. We continually look for and plan to bring about successful outcomes among our children, youth and families. The Coordinator serves on various committees along with our FCFC (COLT) and continue to address local concerns, needs and services.
- **Service Coordination:** strategies and outcomes
The Mercer County FCFC is committed to working with Job & Family Services, Juvenile Court, Public School Systems as well as other systems to bring about needed service coordination. We provide services coordination for families that request it as well as those who are referred to us.
- **Family Empowerment:** strategies and outcomes
Providing hands on education through classes in parenting, budgeting, job skills and communication, and working with agencies to help improve the circumstances of daily family life can help provide families with the knowledge of making it work. This is achieved through cooperation within FCFC and those involved in our County. Working together with behavioral health services, churches, volunteers, and those willing to assist families can bring outcomes desired.
- **Early Childhood System of Care:** strategies and outcomes
Help Me Grow is a vital part of our early childhood system of care. We continue to see the numbers of families/children served grow. Help Me Grow is operated through O.U.R. Home Family Resource Center.

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

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:** strategies and outcomes
Collaboration between agencies to help bring added results is something we strive to do.

OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES: strategies and outcomes

Making families more aware of where help can be found - sharing information between all programs. Summit on Ohio Children has been a recent project we have found to give new insight into needs.

FUNDING:

Grants, state and local as well as pooled funding from local entities.

STAFFING:

Part-time FCFC Coordinator and Part-Time Contract position for Service-Coordination,

CHALLENGES:

To do the best job possible - finding the funding and the time to do such.

FUTURE PLANS:

Expand involvement throughout our county and try to bring about better results to more families and children as possible.

Contact Information:

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