



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



COUNTY: MORROW

MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:

The mission of the Morrow County Family and Children First Council is to partner with the community to assess, plan, coordinate, share and evaluate resources that support the preservation and self-sufficiency of families and promote the well-being of our children. Our county is in the bottom tenth in population size among Ohio's counties. We realize the need for collaborative efforts. Our county resources, public and private, are striving to work together to maximize our impact for good upon our families and children.

OPERATING STRUCTURE:

The Morrow County FCFC consists of 45 members from within the community. Active participants include those mandated members and parent representatives and agency workers that specialize in serving families with children. Many of our members are in multi-county agencies. This could divide their participation, but our FCFC has found there are many benefits to Morrow County's relationship with other counties in the stretching of resources and the accessing of expertise.

FCFC Full Council Structure: Council / Executive Committee (chair, vice-chair, secretary, administrative agent) / Agency Directors / Help Me Grow / Early Childhood Coordinating Committee.

Additional Council work is conducted in sub-committees, as needed.

LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Community Capacity Building/Planning:** strategies and outcomes
The Morrow County FCFC has worked collaboratively with county and private agencies in efforts to build community capacity. Support has been given this past year to our County Health Department and our County Board of MR/DD as each has had a difficult time passing county-wide renewal levies. Both levies failed, but by narrower margins than in previous ballot elections. Additionally, through our HB 289 planning, we have opened wider the process for what are needs and gaps in services within our county.
- **Service Coordination:** strategies and outcomes
Our county has been doing Service Coordination since before there were FCFCs and it continues to be one of our strengths. Those who come to the Youth Cluster table often remark that we really do know one another and see each other as members of the same team on behalf of the children and families in focus. We have found few barriers to Service Coordination, and the responses of children and parents have been very favorable.
- **Family Empowerment:** strategies and outcomes
This has been a year of transition for our Council, but we have a renewed pool of parent representatives that are now active. Their input was a vital directing influence in our HB 289 planning. In addition to integrating a full roster of parent representatives, our next step will be in enlisting additional parents for sub-committee and initiative service.
- **Early Childhood System of Care:** strategies and outcomes
The Morrow County FCFC implements the Help Me Grow program county-wide through service provided by our Program Director, service coordinators, and family advocates. The FCFC and Help Me Grow contracts with providers from the Morrow County Health Department and Morrow County MR/DD.

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

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:** strategies and outcomes
Our selected emphasis of SFY 2009 in our focus on the prevention of child abuse and neglect was parent education. From our received Requests for Proposals we chose to fund the program Parenting Wisely and it is being provided by Recovery and Prevention Resources and Highland Schools.

OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES: strategies and outcomes

An adjunct of our Youth Cluster is the STARS program. STARS (Students Achieving Results with Support) is a school-based weekly gathering of agency reps and school officials who meet with a family to network available services. It is currently in operation (for three years) in our Northmor school system, and expanded to Highland Schools this year, with the goal of operating in all four school districts

FUNDING:

STAFFING:

Currently the Morrow County FCFC is staffed by a part-time coordinator.

CHALLENGES:

The primary challenge before the Morrow County FCFC is making the most of our limited financial resources. There is a valued history of collaboration and a low level of barriers to service coordination. Participation from the mandated members is highly commendable, but we do lack the consistent participation from school administrators.

FUTURE PLANS:

Future plans include expanding the STARS program, drawing more community leaders and parents into the Council's work, and developing further our Council workings and community capacity building.

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