



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



COUNTY: OTTAWA

MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:

Mission Statement: "The Family & Children First Council will serve as an agent of collaboration for all public and private agencies willing to participate as partners in the effort to help families stay together. Partnerships will be developed as necessary to meet the needs of our children and their families."

Our Vision: "That every child in Ottawa County will feel safe and secure within the environment of a healthy family."

Our Focus: Children & Youth Succeed in School.

OPERATING STRUCTURE:

The Ottawa FCFC Council has 19 mandated members, including five parent representatives. Membership also includes five invited participants, including one student representative. Three standing committees: (1) Early Childhood Coordinating Committee with 25 members, (2) Strategic Planning Committee, and (3) Finance Committee chaired by JFS Director as Administrative Agent. Two Select Committees also function within the Council: (1) Committee on Rules & Regulations and (2) Committee on Parental Involvement. An Executive Committee, consisting of the Council officers, also meets regularly and has authority to take action on behalf of the Council. HMG is monitored by an administrative team consisting of the County Health Commissioner, MRDD Superintendent, WSOS (Community Action Agency) Supervisor, and JFS Director. The FCFC Director also serves on all committees.

LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Community Capacity Building/Planning:** strategies and outcomes
The Ottawa FCFC collaborates with multiple county agencies to assess community resources and needs. One such collaboration is the Family Preservation Program. The Ottawa FCFC uses the Wraparound process for family and children case management with the focus that children succeed in school. With a goal of 30% of participating school-age children receiving a minimum 2.0 GPA, the Family Preservation Program was able to nearly double its annual goal with 58% of participating school-age children receiving a minimum 2.0 GPA.
- **Service Coordination:** strategies and outcomes
The Ottawa FCFC has hired a full-time Service Coordination Specialist. The Service Coordination Specialist receives all new referrals, sets up intake appointments, completes initial assessments for service coordination, and assists Job & Family Services Income Maintenance in establishing PRC eligibility. The Family Preservation Program served 53 families in '07-'08, reaching 123 children.
- **Family Empowerment:** strategies and outcomes
The Family Preservation Program is available to all families in Ottawa County thanks to funding from United Way. Ottawa FCFC is also being assigned a NAMI Representative to serve as an advocate for families with children on an IEP.
- **Early Childhood System of Care:** strategies and outcomes
Ottawa FCFC sponsors and monitors the HMG program providers. Ottawa County Health Department provides Newborn Home Visits, Ottawa County MRDD provides early intervention for children with developmental delays, and WSOS-Community Action Commission provides early

intervention for children who are defined as at-risk. Ottawa County also has a very active 25-member Early Childhood Coordinating Committee.

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

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:** strategies and outcomes
Ottawa County's FCFC director serves as the contact agent for Ohio Children's Trust Fund. Ohio Children's Trust Fund allows Ottawa County to provide the CAP (Child Assault Prevention) program. The CAP program provides child abuse and neglect recognition and reporting skills training to the children and adults.

OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES: strategies and outcomes

The Ottawa FCFC in collaboration with other community agencies, officials, and leaders sponsor and organize a Parent's Week breakfast. The Parent's Week Breakfast honors essay winners and their parents from all Ottawa County Schools' 4th grade classes.

FUNDING:

The Ottawa County FCFC programs are funded by several funding streams: Help Me Grow's state and federal funding, Family Preservation Program's local United Way grant, Child Assault Prevention, Ohio Children's Trust Fund, Family and Children First Council's administrative grant, ABC, FAST, & MHRB funds also contribute to a variety of FCFC activities and operations.

STAFFING:

Ottawa County FCFC has a part-time FCFC Director, part-time Wraparound Coordinator, part-time HMG Project Director, a full-time Service Coordination Specialist for FCFC, and a full-time Case Manager for TANF eligible families. Ottawa County FCFC also receives in-kind services from four Ottawa County DJFS (FCFC Administrative Agent) staff members.

CHALLENGES:

With a focus on children succeeding in school, some challenges include: inadequate parenting skills, a lack of tutoring/mentoring services, and a lack of advocacy services for children with IEP's.

FUTURE PLANS:

The Ottawa County FCFC will continue its efforts to find funds to implement the Moving on Up project that works with teens that are at-risk for juvenile court involvement during the transitional years from elementary to middle school.

Contact Information:

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