



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



**COUNTY: PREBLE**

**MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:**

The Preble County Family & Children First Council strives to provide multi-system service coordination for children and their families to support them in achieving their full potential. A major focus for Council in recent years has been to work collaboratively with all social service organizations to reduce out-of-home placements and increase local services to meet the needs of Preble County families. Council members actively participated on a Child Welfare Task Force prior to the Access to Better Care (ABC) Initiative. With ABC, an Intensive Home-Based Treatment approach was developed and the transition from the cluster model of service coordination to that of High Fidelity Wraparound took place. Currently, in collaboration with United Way and others, the Council is involved in an effort to identify and develop individual and community assets in an attempt to reduce identified risk factors and address the Six Commitments to Child Wellbeing.

**OPERATING STRUCTURE:**

The Preble County FCFC is comprised of 26 voting members and an additional 10 non-appointed community members who represent organizations serving children and families. All meetings are open to the public and visitors are frequent. The Executive Committee is responsible for governance and personnel. The Fiscal Committee manages the financial operations. Focused work groups, the Welcoming Committee, Impact Committee and Public Relations Committee, provide for the on-going work of Council. Ad Hoc committees address emerging issues.

**LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- **Community Capacity Building/Planning:** strategies and outcomes  
Preble County Family & Children First Council was awarded a Partnership for Success (PfS) Readiness Scholarship for SFY09. In addition to ongoing planning efforts around asset development and youth substance use, the Impact Committee/PfS Core members will be obtaining training and technical assistance in preparation for a 2010 PfS Planning Process.
- **Service Coordination:** strategies and outcomes  
Council collaborative efforts encourage all social service agencies and organizations to work together to meet the needs of Preble County citizens. Help Me Grow is the priority model of individual service coordination for children 0-3 and Community Wraparound is available for children three and older. All social service systems are encouraged to utilize a wraparound model of service coordination that engages the child, youth and family in the planning process.
- **Family Empowerment:** strategies and outcomes  
Preble County collaborates with Parent Advocacy Connection, Parent Mentors and the local NAMI organization to facilitate family empowerment. Developing natural support systems is a high priority for all Council planning efforts.
- **Early Childhood System of Care:** strategies and outcomes  
Preble County Family & Children First Council implements the Help Me Grow Program through a contract with the Preble County General Health District. The Early Childhood Coordinating Committee comes together every other month to share information and address gaps and needs in the local system of care for children 0-6 and their families.

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

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:** strategies and outcomes  
The Preble County Family & Children First Council has provided the local oversight to the Ohio Children's Trust Fund since 1997. In SFY 09 the evidence-based Strengthening Families Program will provide parenting instruction to Preble County families through a contract with the Preble County Juvenile TASC Program.

**OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES:** strategies and outcomes

Council members are working with a local not-for-profit housing organization, the Home is The Foundation, and the Ohio Department of Development to reduce homelessness and increase stable housing for Preble County residents. The Preble County Continuum of Care Committee is currently conducting a housing survey to better determine gaps in affordable housing and barriers to maintaining stable housing. A ten-year plan to end homelessness in Preble County is under development.

**FUNDING:**

In SFY 2007 Council had a total budget of \$242,761; leveraged an additional \$509,466 in grant funds of which \$448,219 was used for direct services. Additionally, \$344,537 was leveraged in local shared funds for the purposes of residential services for children needing the highest level of care. The SFY 2008 total Council budget was \$240,450.

**STAFFING:**

Preble County Family & Children First Council has three staff members; one Administrator and two Family Stability Counselors.

**CHALLENGES:**

Sustaining local initiatives with shrinking flexible dollars. Meeting increasing needs, and the related costs, for multisystem families.

**FUTURE PLANS:**

Entering into a Partnership for Success planning process to develop outcome and data informed planning processes across all systems.

**Contact Information:**

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