



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



COUNTY: SENECA

MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:

Seneca County's Mission Statement: To achieve, through community collaboration, an effective system which empowers families and children to proactively affect their lives, resulting in enhanced family stability.

Local Focus: Children and Youth Succeed In School

OPERATING STRUCTURE:

25 Council Members (18 mandated, 7 non-mandated) Standing Committees: Finance, Service Plan, Clinical, Public Relations, Personnel, Bylaws/Organization, Evaluation, and Family Advisory.

LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Community Capacity Building/Planning:** strategies and outcomes
Executive Director serves on numerous county committees and boards, as well as oversees SCFCFC committees to analyze and address local concerns, needs, and services. In addition, Director is the President of the Health Alliance which conducts community health assessments at 3-4 year intervals. Data collected is analyzed for priorities and community resource allocation.
- **Service Coordination:** strategies and outcomes
Provide Wraparound coordination to any and all interested families.

Provide community-wide service coordination for families in need as referred by self or community partners.

Responsible for creating plans and administering System of Care funds to families.

The FCFC facilitates monthly School/Agency Consortium meetings in the two largest school districts. Smaller county school staff are invited to attend the meeting that best fits their schedule. These meetings provide a means to communicate prevention, intervention, treatment and advocacy services available to students and families. Consortiums also educate school personnel on programs, grants and other services available through community agencies. These consortiums are valuable partnerships between school and community providers and assist both parties with tools for reducing non-academic barriers.
- **Family Empowerment:** strategies and outcomes
FCFC Family Representatives have created a support group: Caregivers Connect. This support group is offered bi-weekly for any caregiver with children with behavioral needs. The group offers support and shares trials and tribulations of parenting. They have created their own website: caregiversconnect.com for families that are unable to attend the meetings.

The Strengthening Families Programs (for families with children ages 6-14) are operated through Juvenile Court.

The Incredible Years programs are offered through Firelands Counseling & Recovery Services.
- **Early Childhood System of Care:** strategies and outcomes
Responsible for the oversight and compliance of the Help Me Grow Program, which is contracted out to three local entities.

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

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:** strategies and outcomes
Parenting classes
After-School programs
Parent respite

OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES: strategies and outcomes

Scholastic Books/Volunteers of America book distribution - The FCFC facilitates the receipt, sorting and distribution of donated books. To-date, over 1/2 million books have been given to at-risk youth in Seneca County.

FUNDING:

OCBF, HMG, OCTF, Wellness, Multi-Systemic Therapy, Wraparound Coordination, Local Grants, State Grants, Pooled Funding from Local Entities

STAFFING:

1 Full Time Executive Director, 1 Full-Time Wraparound Coordinator, 1 other contract positions.

CHALLENGES:

Sustainable funding is our primary challenge. We have been somewhat successful in receiving grant funding. This however is only for a one to three year period. We are challenged to find funding to sustain worthwhile programs that we start.

FUTURE PLANS:

The FCFC is working with Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Erie and Seneca Counties to expand mentoring services in Seneca County. Prior to January 2009, Seneca County had been without traditional mentoring services since Big Brothers/Big Sisters left over five years ago. The FCFC Director and the BB/BS Director have created a plan for recruiting Big Brothers and Big Sisters from area colleges and the community. Big Brothers/Big Sisters and the FCFC are planning to offer a school-based mentoring program in the fall of the 2009-2010 school year.

The FCFC is working with the Muskingham Valley Educational Service Center to implement Care Teams in the Tiffin City and Fostoria Community Schools.

In addition, the FCFC is collaborating with the Mayor's Task Force to increase the communities understanding the issues surrounding generational poverty by offering The Bridges Out of Poverty and Getting Ahead In A Just Getting' By World programs to community partners.

The FCFC plans to continue to collect data and analyze the needs of the families and children in Seneca County. The FCFC will revise, add or discontinue services, based upon data collected, to best meet the needs of our community.

Contact Information:

Sharon George, Executive Director
Seneca County Family & Children First Council
201 S. Washington St.
Tiffin, OH 44883

Phone 419-443-0981
Fax 419-443-1192
email sgeorge@ncoesc.org