



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



COUNTY: SHELBY

MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:

To empower parents by offering means to nurture and motivate their children to realize their potential. To provide a comprehensive and effective network which supports families in their responsibility to build independent and productive lives for children. To mobilize community resources and create partnerships designed to improve results for families and children. To increase the responsiveness and integration of the human and social services system to better support families and children. To equip parents and families with the necessary education, skills, network, and tools to support children in the earliest years of life and beyond.

Our local focus is on collaboration and community needs identification. Collaboration is key in all of the families we serve. Families in the community are not dealing with one issue but multiple issues. We strive to work together to provide the services in the most effective way for the families, to link everyone together and to work together. We work with many agencies in the community to identify service issues or gaps in services and addressing these barriers. It is a team approach when it comes to discussion of current or needed services. Shelby County works well together in both areas to make the community the best it can be while providing services to the families and children within the community.

OPERATING STRUCTURE:

The Family and Children First Executive Council is comprised of 13 voting members and 34 advisory members. There is an executive committee comprised of the officers and the previous chair as well as a financial committee, a House Bill 289 subcommittee and a grant review committee.

LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Community Capacity Building/Planning:** strategies and outcomes
Shelby County Family and Children First will complete a strategic planning process in 2009. There is discussion of partnering with other local agencies to complete a new community needs assessment. We have identified some areas of concerns that need addressed, and need to move the process further along to implement plans for identified areas within the community.
- **Service Coordination:** strategies and outcomes
Shelby County Family and Children First continues to educate the community on the role and benefits of service coordination. This is done through outreach presentations to community agencies, schools and the public. Shelby County uses the Diversion Assessment team as its channel through which service coordination occurs. The Diversion Team is comprised of 10 members who review referrals on a bi-monthly basis. Through this mechanism families can receive the services that are needed. The Diversion Team served 55 new families in 2008.
- **Family Empowerment:** strategies and outcomes
Shelby County Family and Children First implement family team meetings as a way to include the families and their support systems in the decision making process. The Parent Advocate for Shelby County is involved in numerous families within Shelby County as well is involved in our DAT team, and our Council meetings. It is our goal to gain further involvement from the families within the community in our Council and therefore in the decisions we make locally for families and children

- **Early Childhood System of Care:** strategies and outcomes
Shelby County FCFC implements the Help Me Grow program through a contract provider. The FCFC Director is actively involved in working with the HMG project director. In 2008 there were 602 new Newborn referrals, and 344 new referrals to the HMG program.

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

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:** strategies and outcomes
Shelby County Family and Children First completed its state plan to focus on parent education. The funding was awarded to our local Shelby County Educational Service Center to support a parent education program.

OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES: strategies and outcomes

Through HB 289 Shelby County Family and Children First is working with children who exit HMG. We are working to get these children connected to services. Our commitment is Children are Ready for School.

FUNDING:

Shelby County Family and Children Firsts total budget including Help Me Grow is approximately \$510,000. This includes local council contribution.

STAFFING:

There is one staff member, the Director, who splits her job duties assisting the HMG program, operating the FAST/ABC line items and operating the RIF and OCTF programs. As well, the Director serves as the Diversion Assessment Team facilitator providing and connecting these families to all their programming needs.

CHALLENGES:

Shelby County Family and Children First has found challenges in data gathering at both the local and state levels. As well, it has found it challenging to meet the increased level of need for services.

FUTURE PLANS:

Shelby County's future plan includes completing a strategic plan that will involve increased representation from a broader portion of the families and agencies within the community. We hope to complete a new community needs assessment to help further our ability to meet the needs of the community.

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