



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



**COUNTY: TRUMBULL**

**MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:**

The Trumbull County Family and Children First Council shall promote and facilitate the highest level of collaboration to provide effective, accessible and efficient services for families.

**OPERATING STRUCTURE:**

Trumbull County Family and Children First Council has forty-two members, including three parent representatives, the mandated members and twenty-six community agency representatives. A twelve-member Executive Board provides leadership and meets every month. The full Council meets every two months. The Council by-laws specify four standing committees in addition to the Executive Board. These are Systems Integration Committee, Communication and Information Committee, Family WrapAround Oversight Committee, and Early Childhood Collaborative Committee. Additionally, there are several ad-hoc committees and workgroups organized to address specific needs within the community. Trumbull LifeLines, the county's ADAHMS Board, serves as fiscal and administrative agent for the Council.

**LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- **Community Capacity Building/Planning:** strategies and outcomes  
The Council leads some planning efforts and supports many others. The Council has three work groups comprised of representatives from community agencies, both Council members and non-Council members. These work groups are addressing three Council-identified issues: transportation, services for 3-5 year olds and recruiting foster and adoptive parents. The Council Coordinator is the facilitator of a Community Assessment Committee that examines community needs. The Coordinator also chairs Parent Power, a cross-systems committee that plans parenting workshops. The Council Coordinator represents the Council with other planning groups such as the Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention, Suicide Prevention Coalition and the Tri-County Family Violence Prevention Coalition.
- **Service Coordination:** strategies and outcomes  
Trumbull County's Wraparound Oversight Committee oversees and guides a Wraparound process in Trumbull County. This successful cross-systems committee is supported by the leadership of the Council and by the individual agencies represented on the committee. Wraparound teams, led by trained facilitators from community agencies, provide strength-based, family centered service coordination, using Wraparound as the model. When Wraparound plans require funding, the Wraparound Oversight Committee reviews and approves budget requests using locally pooled funds, ABC and FAST allocations and an award of PRC funds from the local Department of Job and Family Services. A skilled mental health professional serves as the county's paid Wraparound Coordinator.
- **Family Empowerment:** strategies and outcomes  
The Council has committed parent representatives on the Council and a parent serves as Vice Chair of the Council. There is a parent representative on each of the Council's standing and ad hoc committees. Parent representatives attend regional parent rep meetings to network and learn new methods of engaging additional families. All families that are involved in the Wraparound process are offered a parent advocate to bolster their confidence and sense of empowerment. The county has a plan to recruit and train additional parent advocates.

- **Early Childhood System of Care:** strategies and outcomes  
In addition to Help Me Grow, there are a number of projects supporting early childhood development in Trumbull County. The Council participates in the Lead Task Force, First Books, the early childhood mental health collaborative, and a maternal depression screening project. Help Me Grow staff provide developmental screenings at health fairs, WIC, day cares and Even Start. Help Me Grow also does parent education for Even Start. The Council participates in the Child and Family Health Systems Committee. The Help Me Grow Project Director serves on a state service delivery committee to help develop policy and practice.

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

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:** strategies and outcomes  
The Trumbull County Family and Children First Council serves as the local advisory board for the Trust Fund, and in 2009 provided funding to three organizations.

Services included: Support groups for children of domestic violence victims, teen dating violence education in schools, drug and alcohol prevention skills for parents and children and a youth intervention program for first time drug and alcohol offenders.

**OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES:** strategies and outcomes

Parent Power - Monthly workshops for parents

County-Wide Orientation - Every other month tour of Council agencies for employees, board members and others

Maternal Depression Project, including screening for postpartum depression and locally sponsored conference for professionals

**FUNDING:**

In 2009 Trumbull County's funding was approximately \$1,850,000 and is comprised of Help Me Grow funds, Ohio Children's Trust Fund allocation, the Operational Capacity Building Fund grant, FAST, ABC, non-behavioral health funds, local pooled funds, membership dues, and grants and contracts from local partners.

**STAFFING:**

The Council has only one paid staff person, the Council Coordinator.

**CHALLENGES:**

Discretionary funding to support locally identified projects is the greatest need. There is also a need for data collection methods that do not overtax the system but provide reliable information about service coordination and other programs. Parent advocacy for families continues to be a challenge.

**FUTURE PLANS:**

Trumbull County FCFC will continue to provide leadership in addressing locally identified problems and will seek resources to address them.

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