



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



COUNTY: TUSCARAWAS

MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:

Tuscarawas County Family & Children First strives to mobilize a network of funding and services for Tuscarawas County Families and Children.

OPERATING STRUCTURE:

Tuscarawas County Family & Children First has 29 members who are organized into three Outcome Committees in addition to our Council's five standing administrative committees. During SFY09, we began the Partnerships for Success process and are transforming our structure into the various workgroups associated with PfS. The various committees/workgroups include members from outside Council as well. Each Outcome Committee is addressing community needs as determined through our House Bill 289 Plan. Each standing committee addresses the day-to-day operation of the Council as it pertains to that specific committee. Some of these duties have been shifted to the Mobilization, Assessment, and Evaluation Workgroups.

Standing Committees of Tuscarawas County Family & Children First: Executive, Funding, Early Childhood Coordinating Committee, Creative Options, and Animal and Child Abuse Prevention

House Bill 289 Planning Committees: Outcome 1-Increase awareness of the effects of drug, alcohol, and tobacco use during pregnancy; Outcome 2/3-Increase public awareness of child abuse & neglect; and Outcome 4-Increase high school completion rates.

LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:

Community Capacity Building/Planning: strategies and outcomes

Tuscarawas County Family & Children First chose to address the long term outcomes of Expectant Parents and Newborns Thrive and Infants and Toddlers Thrive.

For intermediate Outcome 1, Council chose to focus on reducing substance abuse by working with local ob/gyn's to determine the educational materials available to expecting moms regarding the effects to their unborn child as a result of their drug use, tobacco use, and alcohol use during pregnancy. Intermediate Outcome 2/3 both focus on reducing child abuse and neglect for both of the above mentioned long term outcome. This outcome incorporates a public awareness strategy as well. This Outcome Committee has transformed into the Mobilization Workgroup as part of our Partnerships for Success Structure. Outcome 4 focuses on increasing parenting skills by identifying local resources a student can utilize to support high school completion.

Service Coordination: strategies and outcomes

While Tuscarawas County Family & Children First has a service coordination mechanism in place, this area has been targeted for improvement by our Council. It is the identified goal of the systems involved with service coordination to review and improve this process. We plan to develop a more family-friendly intake process and to educate agency personnel on when to appropriately utilize service coordination through Council.

Family Empowerment: strategies and outcomes We currently have a strong core group of parents involved with our Council. These parents are active with committee work both locally and on the state level. Additionally, our service coordination process depends on input from families. Through this process, parents are encouraged to connect with family advocates to help them navigate the systems so they can obtain the best possible services for their child/family. Parent involvement is always encouraged!

Early Childhood System of Care: strategies and outcomes

Tuscarawas County Family & Children First contracts with Personal & Family Counseling Services to implement Help Me Grow. For SFY9, 224 newborns received a home visit from the Help Me Grow nurse. Additionally, 188 Part C children and 186 at risk children received ongoing services through Help Me Grow.

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

Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention: strategies and outcomes Tuscarawas County Family & Children First has oversight for the Ohio Children's Trust Fund allocation to our county. This allocation provides partial funding for the Positive Parenting Program operated by Personal & Family Counseling Services. This program provides personalized assistance to parents as they struggle with various issues of raising their children and is available to any parent in Tuscarawas County without charge to the family.

OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES:

The Animal & Child Abuse Prevention Committee of Tuscarawas County Family & Children First works with the Mobilization Workgroup to develop a community awareness of the link between animal abuse and child abuse. Each year, the committee organizes a calendar contest and an essay contest for school children throughout the county utilizing specific themes as chosen by the committee. Various community members serve as judges and review all entries. Students with winning entries receive recognition specific to each contest. Next year will be the ninth year for this project, which continues to grow in popularity. Additionally, the Mobilization Workgroup partners with local agencies to organize a Pinwheels for Prevention Walk for families and their pets. Through these initiatives, Council has engaged local businesses and media for their support as well as families and their children.

FUNDING:

Tuscarawas County Family & Children First operates with the \$20,000 from the Operational Capacities Building Funds allocation, \$14,703 from Help Me Grow Administration (3% of the total county allocation), and \$1456 from the Ohio Children's Trust Fund allocation (5 % of the total county allocation). Our total budget is \$36,159.

STAFFING:

Tuscarawas County Family & Children First has a part-time coordinator who utilizes office space from a Council member agency.

CHALLENGES:

Working with our community's growing Hispanic population, meeting the ever increasing demands from the state level with limited resources, and maintaining fidelity to the Partnerships for Success model as we strive to accomplish the outcomes of our HB 289 Plan continue to challenge our Council.

FUTURE PLANS:

Tuscarawas County Family & Children First will continue working through out outcome committees as identified during our House Bill 289 planning and continue to work toward refining our outcomes utilizing the skills learned from the Partnerships for Success process. While committees/workgroups will work independently, they will also convene to revisit their progress as a group. This allows committees/workgroups to gather input from all Council members. Additionally, committee/workgroup chairs report their progress to full Council on a monthly basis.

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