



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



COUNTY: WASHINGTON

MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:

The Washington County Family & Children First Council promotes coordination and collaboration among county and local governments, non-profit organizations, businesses, schools and families in a manner which fosters wellness and self-sufficiency.

The Washington County FCFC is committed to the core responsibilities of Councils including identifying community gaps and priorities. Council has reached out to the business community to address career planning and awareness for youth in order to impact the community's concerns of lack of a skilled workforce for available jobs.

OPERATING STRUCTURE:

The Washington County FCF Council has 21 members including mandated membership as well as 3 parent representatives and 5 community members. Standing committees include: Executive; Pooled Funds Group; Family and Community Enrichment Team (FACET); Early Childhood; Membership, Personnel, Prevention; Finance. The *Teen Career Awareness Workgroup* is an ad hoc committee of Council.

LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Community Capacity Building / Planning:** *strategies and outcomes*
Through HB 289 efforts, the Washington County FCF Council engaged in three planning retreats. Top concerns and priorities were identified and gap analysis completed. The results of this planning established a *Teen Career Initiative*. Grassroots local funding is being identified to support the Initiative in contracting for a county Job Shadowing Coordinator.
- **Service Coordination:** *strategies and outcomes*
Washington County FCFC utilized FAST funding to support service coordination services to families through a contract agency. Intake is completed at the FCF office and referred to the contracting agency's service coordinator. The FACET Committee of WCFCF is available for consultation by community teams and to approve requests for service and support funding for families in service coordination.
- **Family Empowerment:** *strategies and outcomes*
The Washington County FCFC encourages family input into processes. Three parents serve as parent representatives on Council and each Council committee has a parent representative. A parent advocate has been identified and trained under PAC to serve as a parent advocate for families in the county service coordination mechanism. Community input from parents is sought during community needs assessments.
- **Early Childhood System of Care:** *strategies and outcomes*
The Washington County FCFC administers, as well as houses, the Help Me Grow program. The FCF Council Coordinator serves as the HMG Project Director and all components and staff are part of the FCF/HMG team. The County Board of Developmental Disabilities is contracted as the developmental evaluation team.

LOCAL CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND RESPONSIBILITIES

• Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:

The Washington County FCFC serves as the Local Advisory Board for the Ohio Children's Trust Fund (OCTF). A full planning process, including a community survey, was conducted prior to SFY 09. The process led members to identify a desire for evidence-based parenting programming. An application for the *Strengthening Families 10-14* program was awarded funding for SFY 09 and SFY 10.

OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES: strategies and outcomes

- *The Right Path for Washington County* Positive Youth Development Coalition began in 2005 under a SIG grant and utilized the *Communities That Care* planning process. The coalition provides youth activities throughout the county and supports the Positive Action program in the schools. The goal is reduction in substance abuse.
- A *Safe Sleep Task Force* was developed in 2008. This collaborative effort between numerous county partners including hospitals was created to address the need for countywide education on Infant Safe Sleep. Training has been provided to all members who in turn offer trainings in the community.
- In fall 2008, WCFCF formed a collaborative *Parenting Task Force*. The mission of the Washington County Parenting Task Force is to make a positive difference in the lives of parents and children in Washington County through collaboration to identify available services, gaps in services, resource development and dissemination of information to assist families in accessing parenting training and skills development, so that all parents are equipped to help themselves and their children grow and flourish as they become confident, competent, and caring individuals.

FUNDING:

WCFCFC funding includes our OFCF state allocation; funding from our Administrative Agent (County Commissioners), as well as some funding from members. The total FCFC budget including all sources such as Help Me Grow, OCTF, and Pooled Funds is approximately \$600,000.

STAFFING:

Washington County FCFC supports a full time Council Administrator, Office Manger/HMG Intake and Fiscal Manager, as well as seven Help Me Grow staff members. The FCF Council Administrator also serves as the HMG Project Director and supervises all FCF and HMG staff.

CHALLENGES:

Challenges include: increasing mandates without resources and the collaboration level required to fulfill those mandates; the increasing number of multi-system, multi-need youth with behavioral health issues and our limited resources to support them.

FUTURE PLANS:

Continue efforts in the following areas: Teen Career Initiative; multi-need youth issues including behavioral health and placement costs; enhance collaboration efforts; develop county-wide parenting series; incorporate wraparound into our service coordination mechanism.

Contact Information:

Cindy Davis, Council Administrator
Washington County Family & Children First
202 Davis Avenue
Marietta, Ohio 45750

Phone: 740-376-7081
Fax: 740-376-7084
email: fcc@suddenlinkmail.com
Website: www.wcfcfc.org