



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



COUNTY: WYANDOT

MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:

The mission of the Wyandot County Family and Children First Council is to provide strategic leadership and community-based solutions to strengthen families, positively impact child well-being, and improve the overall quality of life for families and children.

OPERATING STRUCTURE:

The Wyandot County FCFC operates as a department of the Wyandot County Commissioners. The Commissioners also serve as the FCFC administrative and fiscal agent. The Wyandot County FCFC structure consists of 32 members, which includes an executive committee and four workgroups. The four workgroups include the Help Me Grow/Early Childhood Collaborative Committee (ECCC); the Wyandot County Child Well-Being Workgroup (HB 289) (formerly the Community Outcomes Committee); the Service Coordination Plan Workgroup; and the Grants/Resource Committee.

LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Community Capacity Building/Planning:** strategies and outcomes
Results-based budgeting: Strategic and intentional planning has cultivated Wyandot County's capacity to develop an interwoven design and implementation of feasible evidence-based practices, which has enhanced Wyandot County's capacity to attain needed resources for families and children. FCFC builds community capacity by mobilizing child and family serving partners to address the needs of children and families through planning and implementing evidence-based programs.
- **Service Coordination:** strategies and outcomes
FCFC provides a formalized venue to facilitate the alignment of resources, policies, and services with and for children and families. Decisions regarding service planning and system design are data informed and evidence-based, whenever possible. Wyandot County FCFC partners work to reduce administrative barriers to inclusive, collaborative integrated services as the uniqueness of families and community is valued and respected.
- **Family Empowerment:** strategies and outcomes
FCFC works to engage and empower families. We recruit and support families to be active contributing members on council and advocate on behalf of children and families. FCFC works with parents Families are a vital voice for consumers and community, and active participating family members ensure the FCFC's direction is congruent with community values in balance with statistical data. Wyandot County FCFC strengthens the local family voice by having revised their by-laws to call for five voting family members, rather than the mandated three.
- **Early Childhood System of Care:** strategies and outcomes
Help Me Grow supports many early childhood professionals from a variety of backgrounds. Early childhood professionals link families and children in a collaborative network to meet children's unique needs by providing the following: Home visits to assess the health of the newborn and mother; Information to new parents about child development; Information to parents to available programs and resources; Early identification of children with developmental delays; Guidance and available therapeutic interventions; Screening for children's nutrition, hearing, vision and overall development; and Literacy training for all parents while supporting them as full partners in their child's first three years of life..

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

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:** strategies and outcomes
Wyandot County implements two components of child abuse and neglect prevention efforts. Component 1 is a program designed to provide a positive interaction between adolescent youth and their parent(s) in a controlled environment. Building Parent/Child Relationships through Cooking is designed around cooking and family mealtime activities. The program is configured to enhance parent-child relationships by reinforcing supportive behaviors of parents and changing ineffective or harmful behavioral practices. Component 2 is the Strengthening Families Program (SFP). The SFP is a nationally and internationally recognized parenting and relationship strengthening program for high risk families. SFP is an evidenced-based family skills training program which significantly reduces problem behaviors, delinquency, and substance abuse in children, and to improve social competencies and school performance. Child maltreatment also decreases as parents learn more effective parenting skills.

OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES: strategies and outcomes

The Wyandot County Youth Commission was created in September, 2003 after a comprehensive community needs assessment was conducted, and determined youth issues needed to be the highest priority. The community responded more effectively to issues which negatively impact our young people. The YC partners work to provide more opportunities for families to participate in community events at little or no cost to the family, and creates and promotes a more family friendly community.

FUNDING:

The Wyandot County FCFC receives funding for direct services through the Ohio Department of Health, Job & Family Services, the Mental Health & Recovery Services Board in the form of Access to Better Care (ABC) and Family & Systems Teams (FAST), Ohio Children's Trust Fund, and local service and veterans organizations for juvenile diversion programming. A portion of FCFC's operational funds are garnered through Ohio FCF and some membership dues from local FCF member organizations. The average annual budget of the FCFC and all programs is \$220,000. Dollar for dollar, for every \$1 dollar invested by local FCF organizations for operations, an average of \$17.00 is gained from other revenue sources for Wyandot County families and children.

STAFFING:

The FCF Council oversees one full time staff person, the FCF Council Executive Director (ED). The FCF Council ED oversees two program directors (ABC and HMG). HMG staffs 5 part time individuals.

CHALLENGES:

Cost shifts from state and federal agencies to the local communities calls for de-categorization of public funds and increased local flexibility and control, while locally maintaining protection of underserved populations. There is a compelling need for adequate, dedicated funding streams for front-end, prevention services and child welfare programming that is comprehensive and provides for full continuum of care. Local challenges also include the capacity to meet the requirements of ORC 121.37: Human capacity; Fiscal capacity; and Physical capacity, i.e. material resources to help families.

FUTURE PLANS:

The Wyandot County FCFC will expand upon the goals of long-term child and family well-being and intentionally target parents in order to break destructive family cycles as Wyandot County families face difficult economic times. We will continue to work with community partners and employers to build upon community assets to ensure the most efficient and effective use of limited resources, and work toward strengthening families and children from expectancy and infancy to successful transition into adulthood.

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