



August 2010

This has certainly been a challenging year for Family and Children First Councils! Most council member organizations have seen budget reductions. Many organizations, serving children and families, have had to reduce staff, stop or reduce programs, and/or establish waiting lists. Family and Children First coordinators and directors have seen the impact first hand within their counties. We understand that constriction of services in one system impacts all systems. We understand that a reduction in alcohol and drug treatment services impacts child protection. We understand that fewer child care slots impact school readiness. We understand that fewer mental health services impacts domestic violence. Most importantly, we understand that the challenges providers and agencies are experiencing are even more significant in light of the challenges being faced by Ohio's children and families. Unemployment is higher. Budgets are tighter. Relationships are more strained. It is ironic that fewer services and resources are available at the same time that the need for such services and resources are needed. Within this environment, it is more important than ever to put "family and children first".

Local Family and Children First Councils are charged with four areas of responsibility: system and service coordination, building community capacity, engaging and empowering families, and shared accountability. Despite the fiscal environment, or perhaps, because of it, each of these functions has grown in importance over the past year. Advances and successes have been realized in counties in each area. Family-focused service coordination is taking place in every county to help families navigate the often confusing world of human and social services. Through *Family and Community Support Services* (FCSS) funds, local cross-system teams are able to stabilize family situations by meeting needs as defined by the family. These flexible funds allow local councils to fill the gaps that cannot be met by categorical funding that is often restricted in use and target population. FCSS funds reflect true state level collaboration. Ohio Department of Job and Family Services funds were matched by several Cabinet Council members: the Ohio Department of Mental Health, The Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Services, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, and the Ohio Department of Youth Services. The ability of local councils to build community capacity has been strengthened through the purchase and distribution of equipment and software that allows counties to more efficiently conduct needs assessment and analyze outcome data. Funds from the Ohio Children's Trust Fund, passed through the Department of Youth Services, helps counties identify priorities, measure the effectiveness of programs, and assess the impact of services. Such information helps councils make data informed decisions, putting funds and effort in those areas that help families the most. Through the *Family and Civic Engagement* (FCE) Initiative, sponsored by the Ohio Department of Education, councils are working with their local Educational Services Centers and local school districts to develop strategies that will strengthen parent and community involvement to improve academic achievement by addressing non-academic barriers to learning. Twenty-five counties received funds to pilot this initiative so that the lessons learned at the local level can inform and guide the process. Finally, local councils have begun a transition to developing cross-system aligned and shared plans. These plans will identify priorities, desired outcomes, and strategies across service systems. Over the past year, selected counties are working with state partners, including the Ohio State University's Center for Learning Excellence, to develop a process that truly works at the local level.



The challenges we have faced this past year will continue in the coming year. Communication, cooperation, and collaboration must continue to be the framework within which we approach our work. The association has made great strides in ensuring that the local cross system perspective is heard at both the local and state levels. As a group, we are increasingly being offered a “seat at the table” by our state partners and sister associations. Association members are meaningfully involved in discussions about how we can all help children and families in this difficult and challenging environment. More than ever before, those association members come to the table representing not only their own county’s voice but also the voices of all councils. For example, as an association we are working to explore how local Family and Children First Councils and local Early Childhood Coordinating Committees can support and contribute to the significant changes taking place in early childhood.

As president of the Ohio Family and Children First Association, I want to thank local council members for the work they do every day to help Ohio’s children and families weather this economic storm. Your willingness to look outside your own agency’s boundaries is critical. I also want to thank our state department and state association partners for their support and understanding of the work we do. Your willingness to listen, as well as guide, is appreciated. Finally, I want to thank members of the association, local coordinators and directors, for their dedication to Ohio’s children and families, their skill in thinking outside the box, and showing up for work every day. Your job is not easy. As Casey Stengel said, "Gettin' good players is easy. Gettin' 'em to play together is the hard part."

Sincerely,

Sue Giga, President
Ohio Family and Children First Coordinators Association
Director, Greene County Family & Children First Council

**Ohio Family & Children First Coordinators Association
2010 Annual Report**

Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Family and Children First Council Responsibilities	1-2
HB 289 – Community Planning for Child Well-Being	3
Early Childhood / Help Me Grow / Ohio Children’s Trust Fund	4
System of Care	5
Family-Centered Services and Supports	6
Family and Civic Engagement	7
Position Papers	
Collaboration in Education	8-9
Partnership for Success	10-13
Article – Children, Families and the Courts	
The Supreme Court of Ohio – Ohio Bulletin	
Ohio Family and Children First	
by Hunter Hurst IV, NCJJ	14-21
Ohio / County Map Designated by FCFC Regions	22
FCFC County Update Population Category Information	23
Ohio / County Map Designated by Population Size	24
Small Counties Map	25
Adams County	26-27
Carroll County	28-29
Champaign County	30-31
Coshocton County	32-33
Defiance County	34-35
Fayette County	36-37
Gallia County	38-39
Hardin County	40-41
Harrison County	42-43

Table of Contents (continued)

	<u>Page</u>
Small Counties (Continued)	
Henry County	44-45
Hocking County	46-47
Holmes County	48-49
Jackson County	50-51
Meigs County	Not Available
Monroe County	52
Morgan County	N/A
Morrow County	53-54
Noble County	55-56
Paulding County	Not Available
Perry County	57-58
Pike County	Not Available
Putnam County	59-60
Van Wert County	Not Available
Vinton County	61-62
Williams County	63-64
Wyandot County	65-66
Medium – Small Counties Map	67
Auglaize County	68-69
Brown County	Not Available
Clinton County	70-71
Crawford County	72-73
Fulton County	74-75
Guernsey County	76-77
Highland County	Not Available
Logan County	78-79
Madison County	80-81
Mercer County	82-83
Ottawa County	84-85
Preble County	86-87
Shelby County	88-89
Union County	90-91
Medium Counties Map	92
Ashland County	93-94
Athens County	95-96
Belmont County	97-98

Table of Contents (continued)

	<u>Page</u>
Medium Counties (Continued)	
Darke County	99-100
Erie County	101-102
Geauga County	103-104
Hancock County	105-106
Huron County	107-108
Jefferson County	109-110
Knox County	111-112
Lawrence County	113-114
Marion County	115
Miami County	116-117
Muskingum County	118-119
Pickaway County	120-121
Ross County	122-123
Sandusky County	124-125
Scioto County	126
Seneca County	127-128
Tuscarawas County	129-130
Washington County	131-132
Large Counties Map	133
Allen County	134-135
Ashtabula County	136-137
Clark County	138-139
Clermont County	140-141
Columbiana County	142-143
Delaware County	Not Available
Fairfield County	144-145
Greene County	146-147
Licking County	148-149
Medina County	150-151
Portage County	Not Available
Richland County	152-153
Warren County	154-155
Wayne County	156-157
Wood County	Not Available

Table of Contents (continued)

	<u>Page</u>
Metropolitan Counties Map	158
Butler County	159-160
Lake County	161-162
Lorain County	163-164
Lucas County	165-166
Mahoning County	167-168
Montgomery County	169-170
Stark County	171-172
Summit County	173-174
Trumbull County	175-176
Major Metropolitan Counties Map	177
Cuyahoga County	178-179
Franklin County	180-181
Hamilton County	182-183
Contacts and Resources	184
Executive Work Group	185-186
Council Contacts	187-192
State Contacts	193
Regional Contacts	193
Cabinet Council Contacts	194
Alternate Alphabetic List of All County Pages	195-197