



Fairfield County
Family, Adult and
Children First Council

2017

Presented November 17, 2017

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

831 College Ave.
Lancaster, Ohio

**FAIRFIELD COUNTY
FAMILY, ADULT AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
2017 ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM
NOVEMBER 17, 2017
8:30 A.M.**

Breakfast Buffet

Welcome and Remarks

Gary Barstow, Coordinator
Pickerington City Schools
FACF Council Chairperson

Roundtable Introductions & Announcements

Business Meeting

Gary B.-Election of officers for 2018
Marie Ward, Chairman Rhonda Myers, Vice-Chairman

FACF Council Annual Report

Tessie Swain, *Interim Executive Director*

2017 Firefly Awards

Presentation by FACF Council Staff
Pam Redding, *Parent Education*
Tiffany Wilson, *Help Me Grow*
Ann Probasco, *Injury Prevention*
Cindi West, *Multi-System Youth*
Tessie Swain, *Interim Executive Director*

Keynote Speaker

Marilyn Steiner,, Champion of FACFC

Closing

Gary Barstow, *Chairperson*

2017 Full Council Meeting Schedule
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, January 18, 2018
Thursday, March 15, 2018
Thursday, May 17, 2018
Thursday, July 19, 2018
Thursday, September 20, 2018
Friday, November 15, 2018 (**Annual Meeting**)

The Fairfield County Family, Adult and Children First Council is a partnership of public and private non-profit and for-profit child and family serving agencies and organizations committed to improving the well-being of children and families in Fairfield County.

OUR MISSION

In the pursuit of a better quality of life for the families, adults and children of Fairfield County, it is the vision of the Council to create and facilitate a coordinated system of services that responds to the strengths and needs of our community.



OHIO FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL

Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council was created in statute (ORC 121.37) in 1993 with the specific purpose: to help families seeking government services... by streamlining and coordinating existing services for families seeking assistance for their children.

Building Community Capacity

To build community capacity requires mobilizing communities to identify and address the ongoing needs of children and families through planning, implementation of effective strategies, monitoring and reporting, and evaluating progress toward achieving desired outcomes. It also requires leadership, partnership, and collaboration to truly building a community's capacity to address their greatest priorities and needs.

Coordinating Systems and Services

FCFCs streamline and coordinate existing government services for families seeking services for their children. FCFCs also annually evaluate and prioritize services, fill service gaps where possible, and invent new approaches to achieve better results for families and children.

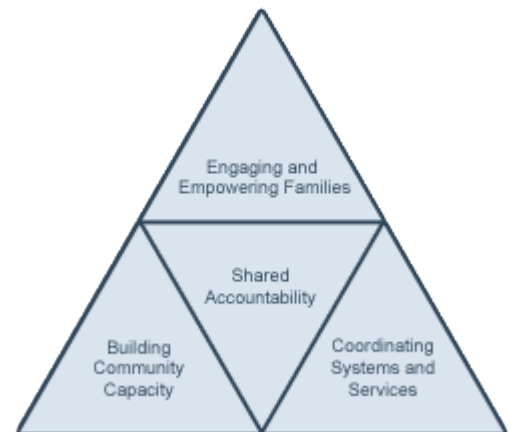
FCFC Service Coordination is not affiliated with any single system, but the results of service coordination impact family and community outcomes across all systems through a collaborative, coordinated, cross-system approach. The individual family service coordination process is family-focused and strengths-based. FCFC service coordination provides the venue for families with multiple and complex problems to effectively address their needs through a process that creates a unique intervention/ treatment environment which eliminates duplication and provides both traditional services and builds natural supports.

Engaging and Empowering Families

County FCFCs have a unique role to recruit and support parents to be active contributing members; be involved in key decision-making efforts; and serve as advocates for children, families, and communities.

Shared Accountability

Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council and County Family and Children First Councils have a unique function to monitor, evaluate, and communicate progress on Ohio's commitments to child well-being. This shared accountability can only be achieved if the other three core functions are operationalized: engaging and empowering families, building community capacity, and coordinating systems and services. Shared accountability rests on all Family and Children First council members (state and local). A solidly funded infrastructure must exist for this work to be accomplished. This infrastructure is governed and supported by council members (state and local). It has mechanisms in place to allow for creative and innovative solutions that will streamline and strengthen the local service delivery system for children and families. When all functions of council are working in concert, the elements of collaboration can be found: common mission and goals, interrelated roles that constitute a division of labor, comprehensive planning, multiple channels of communication, dispersed leadership, shared risk, and shared results (Payne, Devol, and Smith; Bridges Out of Poverty; 2001).





The responsibilities of the Fairfield County Family, Adult and Children First Council include county-wide strategic planning, designing innovative approaches to meet identified needs, ensuring that the voice of the consumer is heard, and ensuring accountability for better results for children and their families. The local councils also have programmatic design and oversight responsibility for the Help Me Grow program, and Multi-System Youth Service Coordination.

Although implemented differently throughout the state and within each county Council, the clear intention of the local Council infrastructure is to coordinate services for children and families following an operating service coordination mechanism; work to ensure family service systems do not operate in silos; thereby, creating a more efficient family-friendly service delivery system. A primary focus is services for at-risk children and families.

The FACF Council is not a program, but an initiative or operating system aimed at coordinating a variety of human services and educational programs in our community.

Family and Children First Council Requirements as specified in O.R.C. 121.37

- Referrals to the cabinet council of those children for whom the county council cannot provide adequate services;
- Development and implementation of a process that annually evaluates and prioritizes services, fills service gaps where possible, and invents new approaches to achieve better results for families and children;
- Participation in the development of a countywide, comprehensive, coordinated, multi-disciplinary, interagency system for infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities or delays and their families, as established pursuant to federal grants received and administered by the department of health for early intervention services under the "Education of the Handicapped Act Amendments of 1986;"
- Maintenance of an accountability system to monitor the county council's progress in achieving results for families and children;
- Establishment of a mechanism to ensure ongoing input from a broad representation of families who are receiving services within the county system;
- Participate in the development of a county service coordination mechanism;
- An interagency process to establish local indicators and monitor the county's progress toward increasing child well-being in the county;
- An interagency process to identify local priorities to increase child-wellbeing. The local priorities shall focus on expectant parents and newborns thrive; infants and toddlers thriving; children being ready for school; children and youth succeeding in school; youth choosing healthy behaviors; and youth successfully transitioning into adulthood and take into account the indicators established by the cabinet council;
- An annual plan that identifies the county's interagency efforts to increase child well-being in the county;
- On an annual basis, the county council shall submit a report on the status of efforts by the county to increase child well-being in the county to the county's board of county commissioners and the cabinet council. This report shall be made available to any other person on request.

MULTI-SYSTEM YOUTH COMMITTEE SERVICE COORDINATION

The Multi-System Youth Committee (MSY) fulfills the statutory responsibility of Family & Children First Councils to provide and monitor a service coordination system for multi-need children and youth within their jurisdiction. Service coordination is a problem solving process that finds and organizes agencies, people and services for children and families. Then, with the family's involvement, creates a plan to create a coordinated service plan in an organized way that increases efficiency and responsiveness to each family's needs.

Activities of Service Coordination include:

- The coordination of evaluations and assessments
- The development & evaluation of a Comprehensive Family Plan
- The identification of available service providers
- The coordination and monitoring of service delivery
- Referral to advocacy services
- The development of a transition plan when service coordination ends
- A total of 104 youth and families have been served in FY17. Referrals continue to increase over time.



Supportive Services

Supportive services provided include those supports that enable the child to remain in their home. This category does not include respite, but activities such as sports and school co-pays, safety gates and locks, companion services, lessons, mentoring and other services that provide the family with alternative activities.

Respite Services

Respite services are another category of services provided through the Multi-System Youth Committee. During 2017, respite services became very difficult to arrange, because of the great demand for foster care. The Opiate Crisis has deeply impacted the number of children in placement. So, although, very helpful in reducing family tension, is not always possible to arrange.

Out-of-Home Placements

Recent placements have been reduced by intensive interventions. FACFC Staff work with families and agencies that they are involved to access local services. Five (5) children were placed in out-of-home facilities funded by Fairfield County Commissioners, ADAMH Board, Fairfield County Board of DD, and Juvenile Court. Family's insurance and PASSS funding through adoptive services are used first and then other sources are accessed if necessary. This is a significant reduction to the past four years.

Demographic Data: Participants in Multi-System Youth Program

Male	Female
68	36

Participants by Age Range

Age	Number
2 to 3	5
4 to 9	28
10 to 13	32
14 to 19	38
20-21	1
Total	104

HIGH-FIDELITY WRAPAROUND PROGRAM & ENGAGE

The High-Fidelity Wraparound Program, funded by a Department of Youth Services (DYS) Competitive RECLAIM Category II Grant, was implemented in 2015 as a partnership between the council's Multi-System Youth (MSY) Committee and Fairfield County Juvenile Court. With program goals to reduce recidivism and out-of-home placements, moderate to high risk youth are identified by Juvenile Court and have access to services similar to traditional MSY: service coordination, parent education, respite, home-based counseling, positive activities, and mentors. Another funded activity of RECLAIM was The Parent Project. It is available to parents of teenagers and is a ten-week program to assist parents dealing with difficult behaviors.

Services are provided in a Wraparound process as identified by the National Wraparound Initiative. This planning process brings people together as a team from different parts of the family's life to work together coordinating their plans and activities while blending their perspectives of the family's needs, strengths, goals and supports. These families reflect diversity among socioeconomics, but all face multiple challenges which may include addiction and recovery and mental health concerns. These Wraparound services were also funded by OHMAS and Ohio Family and Children First through ENGAGE Funding.

A total of 32 youth were served through youth centered teams. 91% of the youth were diverted from residential placements. These youth had a 3% recidivism rate. The services as provided ex-

SAFE KIDS COALITION (OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CHILDHOOD INJURY PREVENTION PROGRAM)

Facilitation of the Safe Kids Fairfield County Coalition and a variety of childhood safety programs highlight the 2017 activities of the Childhood Injury Prevention project. Sports traumatic brain injury (TBI), early childhood falls, and bicycle helmet safety were identified as three critical areas of need during the most recent needs assessment.

The Sports TBI program partners with Fairfield Medical Center to provide educational programming for coaches and parents and works to disseminate information concerning concussion signs and symptoms as well as Ohio Return to Play policy. Schools are also being targeted as the coalition is working with the schools to develop a concussion team model to facilitate a students' reentry into the classroom following a TBI. A partnership with agencies who engage in home visiting activities, such as Head Start, Help Me Grow and Child Protective Services, is being implemented to encourage home visitors to assess homes they visit for fall risks for small children. Grant funds are available to purchase modifications and safety equipment (e.g. bed rails, stair gates, etc.) in identified homes.

Fairfield County child bicycle helmet use continues to be much lower than the state rates. Education regarding bike helmet safety and helmet distribution were priorities with close to 200 helmets being distributed throughout the county at events such as Kids and Cops Day and United Way Day of Action. Activities such as pedestrian and poison safety were presented at community events such as Safety Town and Walk to School Day. Additionally, the coalition provided free car seats and child passenger safety education as part of the Ohio Buckles Buckeyes program. This program is funded by the Ohio Department of Health and received additional grant funding for programming through AEP Ohio, South Central Power, Walmart, Safe Kids Worldwide and from donations from Southeastern Correctional Complex, the Kiwanis and other community members.

HELP ME GROW

Help Me Grow is a family support program for expectant mothers, children from birth to age three, and their families. It is designed to ensure that Ohio's children have the resources for a healthy and productive start to life. Help Me Grow equips parents with the means to help their children obtain the early building blocks necessary for long term success. These initial achievements last a lifetime, as scientific evidence strongly suggests that a child's success is determined by the quality of nurturing in the first three years. Help Me Grow provides education and developmental resources to families in order to enhance the development of their children during this critical period of life. Help Me Grow consists of two voluntary programs: Home Visitation and Early Intervention.

Home Visitation

Help Me Grow's Home Visitation program serves expectant and new mothers by providing information, support, and encouragement. Home visitors educate at-risk parents about the importance of the early years of a child's life through high quality and evidence based home visiting services. The program creates a strong foundation for future achievements by supporting positive interaction with children in a stable and stimulating environment.



Early Intervention

Help Me Grow's Early Intervention program serves children birth to three years of age who have developmental delays and disabilities. Help Me Grow communicates with parents, doctors, hospitals, child care providers and other community agencies to identify children with existing developmental delays or those with medical diagnoses with a high probability of resulting in a delay. Infants or toddlers are evaluated, using appropriate diagnostic tools, by an interdisciplinary team at absolutely no cost to the family. If needed, individualized services are provided to the child and family through a Service Coordinator who guides the family through every aspect of the process, from program entry until the child transitions out of the program by age three.

Program Eligibility is limited to a child under the age of three who also:

- Has a qualifying medical diagnosis,
- Has a signed form from a licensed professional stating that the child has a condition that is likely to cause a developmental delay,
- Is determined eligible through an evaluation by an interdisciplinary team,
- Is determined eligible through Informed Clinical Opinion.

85% of contractor's capacity goes to:

Families consisting of first-time, expectant mothers with a family income less than 200% of federal poverty level
A first-time mother with a child less than 6 months of age with a family income less than 200% of federal poverty level

15% of contractor's capacity goes to:

Families consisting of a first-time, expectant mother
Families consisting of a first-time mother with an infant or toddler under three years of age
Families consisting of a first-time father with an infant or toddler under three years of age
Families consisting of an infant under six months old and a biological or adoptive mother, biological or adoptive father, or an individual acting in place of a parent with whom the child lives
Families consisting of an expectant mother or parent with a child under three years of age who provide documentation of a family income not in excess of 200% of federal poverty level
Families with a child under three years of age being referred to home visiting by a Public Children Service Agency



PARENT EDUCATION COOPERATIVE

The Fairfield County Parent Education Cooperative continues to meet to review availability, optimal scheduling, and gaps in population specific education. The parent education curriculums offered by the Council, *1,2,3,4 Parents!-First Five Years* was facilitated for parents at Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action for Head Start and Early Head Start parents, at TeenWorks for students with children, and at Lancaster City Preschool. The *Parent Project* was offered twice during FY17 and Active Parenting was offered quarterly.

In FY 17, programs provided included:

- **1,2,3,4 Parents! – First Five Years-42 parents attended the program.**
- **Active Parenting – 31 attended Active Parenting, which is a four week series now.**
- **The Parent Project – 30 parents attended The Parent Project in FY17.**

The development and distribution of the quarterly Family Resource Calendar continued to be a priority for 2017. The calendar is available on our website and 2000 calendars are printed each quarter. Information about the parent education classes and the promotion of other programming offered throughout the community such as *Family to Family*, *Family Grief Camp* and *Children In Between* is shared through the quarterly Family Resource Calendar.

Thank you to the many organizations that provide their parent education and opportunity information to the Council for inclusion in the calendar. This ensures they are packed full of useful information for parents and providers alike. Thank you also to all of the agencies who distribute the calendars. A word of special thanks to the Children's Committee for funding the printing of the Fall 2016 calendar.

ADAMH Board

The ADAMH Board began funding Parent Education Programs offered at FACFC beginning July 1, 2016. This support funds classes focused on child abuse and neglect prevention activities. *1,2,3,4 Parents!-First Five Years*, *Active Parenting*, and a portion of the *Parent Project* series are all funded by the ADAMH Board in addition to the Family Resource Calendar. *Parent Project* is also financially supported through the Fairfield County Juvenile Court.



OTHER COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Fairfield County Perinatal Cluster

The FACF Council partnership with the Fairfield Department of Health, Ohio Department of Health, ADAMH Board and the Recovery Center is addressing the county's relatively low number of women who access prenatal care in the first trimester, specifically those women who are drug-dependent. This initiative is addressing the issue of pregnant women in Fairfield County who are actively using substances and the potential effects on the infant. The goal is a health pregnancy with a healthy outcome.

Building Trauma Informed Systems

Driven by the collective understanding of the effect of child maltreatment and the ways that multiple systems can utilize brain research and best practice, a work group has been meeting to review the research and literature, learn from those in the field who are using the concepts of trauma informed care and proposing both macro-educational opportunities as well as agency-to-agency collaborations to work together for the best outcomes for children. Representatives from all sectors of the child and family serving systems in Fairfield County have come together to listen and learn from statewide leaders in this field. These efforts continue to build trauma-informed systems in Fairfield County.

Healthier Buckeye Council

Healthier Buckeye Council received funding in June from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to implement comprehensive anti-poverty programs that are designed to lift families out of poverty and support them to reach self-sufficiency. The program will allow local service providers and community partners to better promote optimal health and well-being for those in need in Fairfield County. Funding for this initiative will be ending December 31, 2017. The Sharing Hope activities will proceed with the support of community volunteers.

Saturday Cinemas

The summer of 2017 saw the continuation of the Saturday Cinema partnership between the FACF Council, its members and Destination Downtown Lancaster (DDL). Beginning in 2012, this family focused project offers a family outdoor movie the first Saturday of every month, May through September, in the square in downtown Lancaster. Anywhere from 100 to 200 children and their families are drawn to the events, settling in for a free night of film under the stars.

Mary M. Good Humanitarian Service Award

In 2002, The Fairfield County Family and Children First Council created a tribute to Mary M. Good for her years of compassion and service to the community on behalf of children and families. Mary M. Good was a teacher with the Lancaster City Schools, Christian educator at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, park leader with the United Way Summer Park program in Pleasantville, Peace School coordinator, social worker, scout leader, and so much more. Mary had a passion for children and the arts. Mary's life was cut short in January of 2002, leaving a void in the Lancaster and Fairfield County community. It is hoped that this award will encourage and recognize others who share Mary M. Good's zest for children, for life and for taking the "road less traveled". Holly Bennett with Lancaster City Schools, was the 2017 recipient of the Mary M. Good Award.

2003—Keith Tremblay

2004—Debbie Rockwood

2005—Jenny Ruff

2006—Carol Wagner

2007—Cyndi Laver

2008—Amanda Wilkins

2009—Phil Mackie

2010—Jack Blankenship

2011—T. Ryan Snyder

2012—Cathy Crawford

2013—Michael Orlando

2014—Diana Williams

2015—Andy Phillips

2016—Melodi Slater

2017—Holly Bennett



2017 FACF COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

*Gary Barstow, Coordinator—FACF Council Chairperson
Pickerington Local School District*

*Marie Ward, Superintendent—FACF Council Vice Chairperson
Fairfield County Education Service Center*

*Kristi Burre, Director
Fairfield County Child Protective Services*

*Valerie M. Browning-Thompson, Superintendent
Pickerington Local School District*

*Kim Devitt, Early Childhood Director
Lancaster Fairfield Community Action*

*Dave Levacy
Fairfield County Commissioner*

*Tony Motta, CEO
New Horizons Mental Health Services*

*Rhonda Myers, Executive Director
ADAMH Board*

*Aundrea Cordle, Director
Fairfield County Job and Family Services*

*Sherry Orlando, Executive Director
United Way of Fairfield County*

*John Pekar, Superintendent
Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities*

*Gwen Shafer, Director of Nursing
Fairfield Department of Health*

*David Smith, Mayor
City of Lancaster*

*Mary Jo Smith
City of Lancaster Community Development*

*Marilyn Steiner, Director
Fairfield County District Library*

*Steve Wigton, Superintendent
Lancaster City Schools*

*Judge Terre Vandervoort
Fairfield County Probate & Juvenile Court*



FAIRFIELD COUNTY

FAMILY, ADULT AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNTY

Tessie Swain, Interim Executive Director

Amanda McCrady, Fiscal Specialist

Ann Probasco, Childhood Injury Prevention Coordinator

Pam Redding, Parenting Education Coordinator

Cindi West, MSY Coordinator

Tiffany Wilson, Help Me Grow Project Director

