



Fairfield County Family, Adult and Children First Council May 2020 Special Initiative Updates and Program Reports

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Executive Director's Report— Donna Fox-Moore

A link to a YouTube video is being circulated so you will be able to see many community partners and hear updates from them first-hand: <https://youtu.be/xRa8zXqsp-o>. Special thanks go to Dan Neely, Fairfield County Job and Family Services Deputy Director of IT, for lending his talents to make this production possible.

The pandemic has called for a new level of flexibility and creativity in how we go about our work and our lives. Many thanks to the staff and partners for all work-practice adjustments to enable continuation of services to families in the best manner possible during COVID-19 restrictions.

On March 13, we wished Ann Probasco farewell as she moved to a new career opportunity. She will be missed. We are thankful for her service with the Council in multiple roles during her eight years here. Due to the pandemic, we have had to delay filling her position. In the interim, please direct questions about Plans of Safe Care and Safe Communities / Safe Kids coordination to Donna Fox-Moore.

This report contains updates on programs and special initiatives—reports that typically would have been provided in person at the May Council meeting. We are always available to circulate community news to everyone through our weekly update-e-mail. Please feel free to send information to:
Donna.Fox-Moore@fairfieldcountyohio.gov.

Perinatal Leadership Group – Tiffany Nash, Chair

Meetings for Perinatal Leadership are continuing by using virtual platforms. We are working on sustainability of Perinatal and Plans of Safe Care community coordination of services.

The Fairfield Department of Health has applied for the Maternal Child Health grant which would tie into some of the activities of Perinatal Leadership including a Maternal Child Health strategic plan and Preconception care education and outreach.

The Perinatal Leadership groups typically meets on the second Monday of every month at 2:30 p.m.

Executive Committee Report— Aundrea Cordle, FACFC President

The Executive Committee will be holding a special meeting by teleconference on May 22 to review changes to the Prevention, Retention and Contingency (PRC) Plan proposed by Fairfield County Job and Family Services. Changes are being proposed at this time in response to the escalating need for assistance.

Building Trauma Informed Systems Initiative – Kim Devitt, Chair

Thank you for the support on our decision to cancel the 2020 Fairfield County Trauma Conference. It was a difficult decision during the early stages of our community's COVID response. Due to the logistics including the number of speakers and participants, we were unable to move to a virtual format at that time.

The BITS committee recently met and is discussing the possibility of providing a series of virtual presentations during the fall. We know that our community—including children, adults, families, and providers—is experiencing trauma in a variety of forms directly related to COVID-19. It is our hope that we can provide information and training to support our community.

Our next meeting is scheduled Thursday, June 4 at 1:30 via Zoom. You are welcome to join. Please contact Kim Devitt at kdevitt@faircaa.org to be added to the email list.

Older Adult Network – Linda McDonald, Co-Chair

The Older Adult Network held a Zoom meeting on Wednesday, May 13, 2020. Guest speakers were Tiffany Nash, Director of Nursing – Fairfield County Health Department, and Jon Kochis—Director of Fairfield County EMA.

Tiffany reported as of May 13, there were 192 COVID cases in Fairfield County; age range 3 years to 85 years. A Swab Strike Team is being developed with Larry Hannah. They're working on mass testing with Fairfield Medical Center for the facilities.

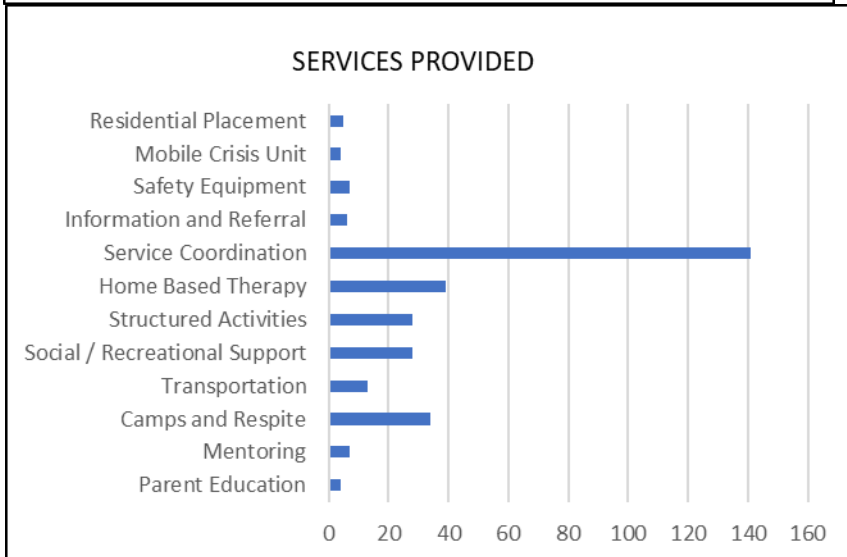
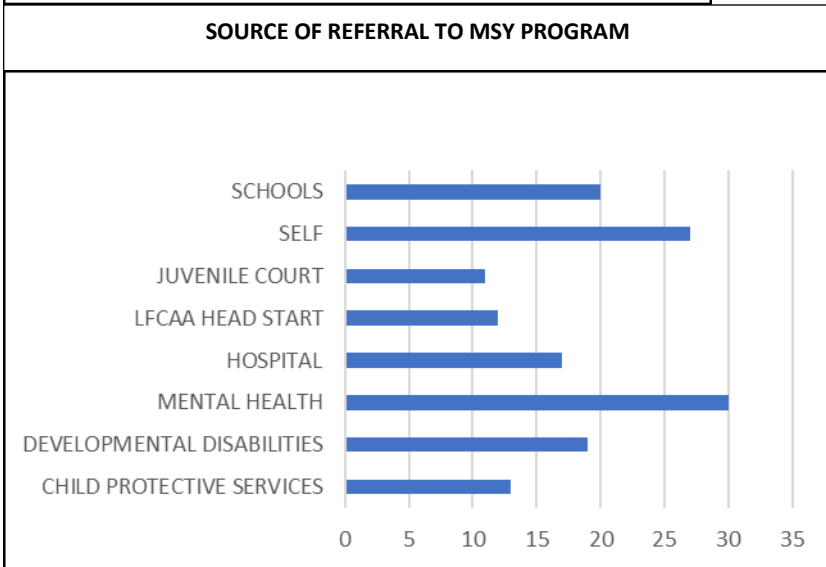
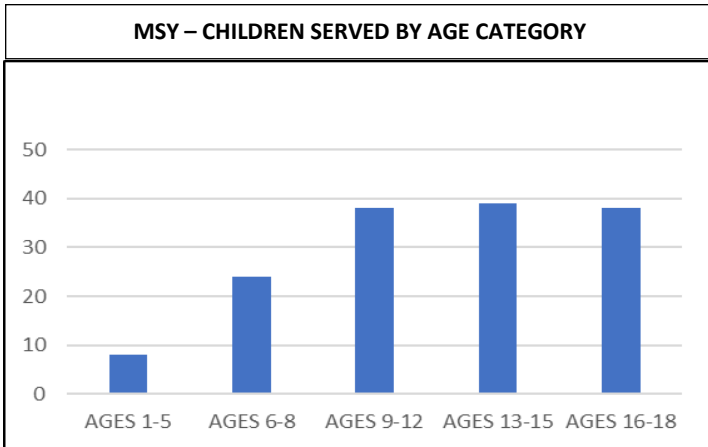
Jon Kochis reported that PPE has been coming from the state; the EMA office will continue e-mailing surveys to determine needs of PPE for distribution; a shortage of gowns continues.

The OAN community educational event is cancelled for 2020.

The next OAN meeting is July 9, 2020 at 10:00 am – type of meeting (in-person or Zoom) TBA; an email update will be sent out to remind members of the meeting.

Multi-System Youth Program – Cindi West, MSY Coordinator

The Multi-System Youth (MSY) program provides the service coordination system for multi-need youth that organizes agencies, people, and services to support the individual needs of children and families. With the family’s involvement, a coordinated service plan is formulated to increase efficiency and responsiveness to each family’s unique needs. In the Third Quarter of this funding cycle, 50 referrals were received, and 25 new cases were opened. Total served this fiscal year is 147, with 48 youth exiting.



Help Me Grow Early Intervention- Tiffany Wilson, Contract Manager

The Help Me Grow Early Intervention (EI) program serves children birth to three years of age who may have developmental delays and disabilities by providing the needed assessments and coordinated services. EI is an evidenced based program that believes children learn best from familiar people in familiar settings.

Early Intervention team members from Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency and the Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities adjusted processes to serve families through virtual platforms, ensuring that needs are being met and services are being provided safely during the pandemic.

July-April

- 270 children and families currently being served.
- 208 with eligibility.
- 62 going through the eligibility process.
- Help Me Grow Early Intervention is continuing to operate during the current pandemic.
- Families that are currently enrolled are being served via technology.
- When new families are referred, they are given an option to continue with the eligibility process via technology or to wait and have a Service Coordinator check in with them in two weeks.
- Signatures are being collected via the mail or electronically.
- Evaluation and Child Assessments will be conducted by video chat.
- IFSP and transition meetings will be conducted by either video chat or phone.

Parent Education – Pam Redding, Program Coordinator

The following Parent Education classes were held January through March 2020:

- First Five Years: Offered twice during this period -- January 7-14 at TeenWorks for 7 parents; February 12-27 at the Ag Center, 11 registered, 5 attended and completed the series.
- Parent Project : Offered once at the Agriculture Center, 13 parents registered, 12 attended at least one session, and 7 completed the entire 10-week series.
- Parent Project Retrospective Gathering and Survey: 6 parents that attended PP Fall 2019 gathered at Donato's on January 23; a survey was administered that indicated all parents continue to use and benefit from the skills acquired in this program.

Other activities have included:

- Family Resource Calendar: 1500 copies printed and distributed throughout the county.
- Parent Education Cooperative Meeting: Held January 28, 2020; Discussed needs of families in the community and content of Family Resource Calendar.
- Loving Solutions: First series was scheduled for 6 weeks beginning March 26, 2020. Due to Coronavirus pandemic, the series was postponed. (Seven parents had already registered at the time of cancellation.)
- CARE Skills (Child Adult Relationship Enhancement): Presented by NCH on February 12 & 19; CARE is a trauma-informed set of parenting skills for adults interacting with children (2-18 years); 9 parents attended both sessions; satisfaction surveys results were very favorable.
- Triple P offered (This is funded through Nationwide Children's Hospital)
 - Level 4 -- The 5-week series began at the Head Start / Sanderson Center on March 4, 2020. It is now on hold due to the Coronavirus pandemic; 6 parents began the program.
 - Level 3 -- The 4 individual topic workshops were offered at the Pickerington Public Library in February; 36 parents attended at least one of the workshops; the workshop "Dealing with Disobedience" was presented to 3 parents at the Lighthouse March 6th.

Fairfield County Transportation Coalition— Carri Woody, Director, Lancaster-Fairfield Public Transit System

The Coalition works cooperatively to provide safe, cost effective, accessible transportation throughout Fairfield County. The goals are to: continually assess community needs for transportation in Fairfield County; ensure self-selected transit; maintain and improve access to transportation throughout all of Fairfield County; provide cost-effective services for providers.

Our coordinated plan helps improve transportation options for Fairfield County. Our August 28th meeting will be conducted to update that plan. Anyone with suggestions to improve any and all transportation options OR help identify gaps in service/needs, is encouraged to contact Carrie Woody at: cwoody@ci.lancaster.oh.us. For information about LFPTS services, to to the City of Lancaster's website at: <https://www.ci.lancaster.oh.us/242/Transit>

Plans of Safe Care Coordination

The Plans of Safe Care initiative is continuing to provide community coordination of services to address the needs of substance exposed infants and their families. The Perinatal Cluster is the community work group providing clinical review and consultation.

The group's work is being conducted in collaboration with the case manager of Excel Court, Caitlin Eller. The initiative is part of the Juvenile Court – Job and Family Services partnership for the Quality Improvement Center – Collaborative Community Court Teams (QIC-CCCT) project that concludes in September.

The Perinatal Leadership Group has served as the steering committee for the Plans of Safe Care process and is advocating for resources to sustain this initiative in our community beyond the QIC-CCCT grant period.

Fairfield County 211 COVID-19 Resource Updates

Daily updates about COVID-19 resources are being provided by **Fairfield County 211** and are posted at:

<https://www.fairfieldcounty211.org/COVID-19-Resources.html>

**Fairfield County Housing Coalition—
Lynda Berge Disser, Director of the City of Lancaster’s
Community Development Department**

Lynda is the new Chairperson of the Housing Coalition, taking over from Mary Jo Smith who was the previous Chairperson. Randall Hunt, Deputy Director / Housing Director of Community Action is continuing as the Vice-Chairperson.

The members of the Coalition are all working hard to meet the increased needs in the community as a result of the coronavirus, especially those who serve the homeless. Others are anticipating a surge in need once COVID-19-related supplementary payments are no longer available. We are all doing our best to collaborate together to serve our community and fill the gaps.

Here are some specific updates:

Homeless Crisis Response Program – There are two additional funding resources coming to Region 9. The first is \$149,111.98 from OHFA to assist with Rapid-Rehousing, Homeless Prevention and Rental Assistance for low income persons facing possible loss of housing due to COVID-19. The other source of funding is \$60,200 in CDBG funding from Ohio Development Services Agency through the Balance of State Homeless Continuum of Care. These funds are for shelter operations such as staff support, supplies, and hotel vouchers to reduce shelter concentration. The money goes to the County first and is then passed through to Community Action as the lead for Region 9.

Homeless Youth and Homeless Pregnant Youth Grant – Being led by Community Action, the first Deliverable of the \$600,000 grant from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to provide services to Homeless Youth and Homeless Pregnant Youth in the Region 9 Balance of State Territory was to submit a Comprehensive Plan to ODH by March 30, 2020. The Plan was submitted and approved on April 3, 2020. With the Plan approved, Community Action was able to draw the first \$100,000 to ramp up and begin implementing the Plan. The Plan is available on the Community Action website under New Articles.

Habitat for Humanity – Fairfield County is now under Habitat of Southeast Ohio (Kenneth Oehlers, Executive Director), which serves eight counties. Their office is based in Athens, and they will also have an office in Lancaster. They will be launching a micro finance program soon to provide \$1,500 zero interest loans re-payable over a year to address quality of life issues surrounding housing sustainability. Loans could be for appliances like a washer and dryer or car repair. Income limits will be 20% to 80% AMI eligibility.

Safe Communities Coalition Update

State Farm Foundation awarded a grant that allowed the Safe Communities Coalition to conduct the *Thinkfast* interactive, traffic safety program. *Thinkfast* was conducted at Lancaster High School in early March.

By mid-March the Office of Traffic Safety lifted grant requirements to hold monthly outreach events through the month of May. This caused cancellation of the St. Patrick’s Day DSOGPO outreach. However, a video was produced by local law enforcement officials and circulated via Facebook. To view the video, which was taken at O’Huids, go to the Fairfield County Safe Communities Coalition’s Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Government-Organization/Safe-Communities-of-Fairfield-County-458923141180834/>

Vehicular traffic has declined during this time of COVID-19 restrictions, and with fewer cars on the road, crashes have also declined. The Coalition reported that year-to-date traffic crashes are down 25% in comparison to the same time period last year, according to data compiled by the Ohio Department of Traffic Safety.

The Coalition has a supply of magnets with key safety messages — *Click It or Ticket, Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over, and Don’t Text and Drive*. If you would like to be a partner in circulating these items in our community, please contact Donna Fox-Moore at: donna.fox-moore@fairfieldcountyohio.gov.

THANKS TO OUR CARING COMMUNITY

When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.’ To this day, especially in times of ‘disaster,’ I remember my mother’s words and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers – so many caring people in this world.

— Fred Rogers