



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

Aundrea Cordle, Executive Committee President, Director of Fairfield County Job and Family Services
Melissa Newman, Executive Committee Vice President, Parent Representative of the Council
Donna Fox-Moore, Executive Director

<https://www.facfc.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/FairfieldCountyFACFC/>

United Way

United Way's Day of Action was a great success with the distribution of 450 activity bags to children on June 19th. An additional 200 were passed out on two different days at summer lunch sites.

United Way is still accepting applications for our COVID relief fund with the Fairfield County Foundation. The application can be found on our website (www.uwayfairfieldco.org).

Andrea Spires, United Way of Fairfield County, 740-653-0643

Fairfield County 4-H holds Virtual Summer Camp!

Over 100 Fairfield County youth signed up to be **Quarantined in Space** for an out-of-this-world summer adventure.

We had 30 teens plan this camp and find ways for our campers to get out and explore the outdoors. This virtual camp was designed to be a self-paced, activity-based camp. Each day, new missions were posted for campers to participate in with family and friends. 50 campers participated in 2 live Zoom meetings where campers could interact with their peers and counselors. With COVID-19 changing how our summer looked, it was great to have so many youths participate in camp in this new way.

Aubry Fowler, Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development, OSU Extension, Fairfield County, 831 College Ave, Suite D, Lancaster, OH 43130, 740-653-5419 Office, Email: fowler.443@osu.edu Website: <http://fairfield.osu.edu>

we're all
IN THIS
together

In this Issue

The Fairfield County Family, Adult and Children First Council values the many productive partnerships in our community to improve quality of life for children, adults and families. Safety protocols that are necessary during the pandemic continue to prohibit holding the full Family, Adult and Children First Council meetings in-person at this time. In this newsletter, you will find success stories from community partners, updates about initiatives and services in the community, as well as program reports from the Council staff. Stay healthy and well!

Building Trauma Informed Systems Initiative – Kim Devitt, Chair

Based on the current COVID-19 status for Ohio and our county, the BTIS committee has decided not to offer an onsite Trauma conference for 2021. Planning for this conference starts in September and we anticipate continued limitations in group size gatherings making it difficult to plan. We are committed in continuing to provide information, resources, and training for our community to facilitate trauma informed practices in serving adults, children, youth, and families. To maintain this initiative, we will be offering a series of virtual trainings and establishing a mechanism to communicate all related free training that is being offered.

Virtual Training Series- We are planning several virtual trainings that will be offered from September-December on the Zoom platform from community area exports on a variety of topics.

Central Communication of trainings- The Family, Adult and Children First Council will be including a section on training resources through our BTIS group in the weekly email blast. We will also be adding these trainings on a Facebook page which was established for access to shared resources and materials. The Facebook page is Trauma Informed Fairfield County at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Community/Trauma-informed-Fairfield-County-110167537029082/>.

The next BTIS committee meeting will be held on Thursday, August 6 at 1:30 via Zoom. Please contact Kim Devitt at kdevitt@fairca.org to be added to the email list.

Fairfield County 2-1-1 COVID-19 Resource Updates

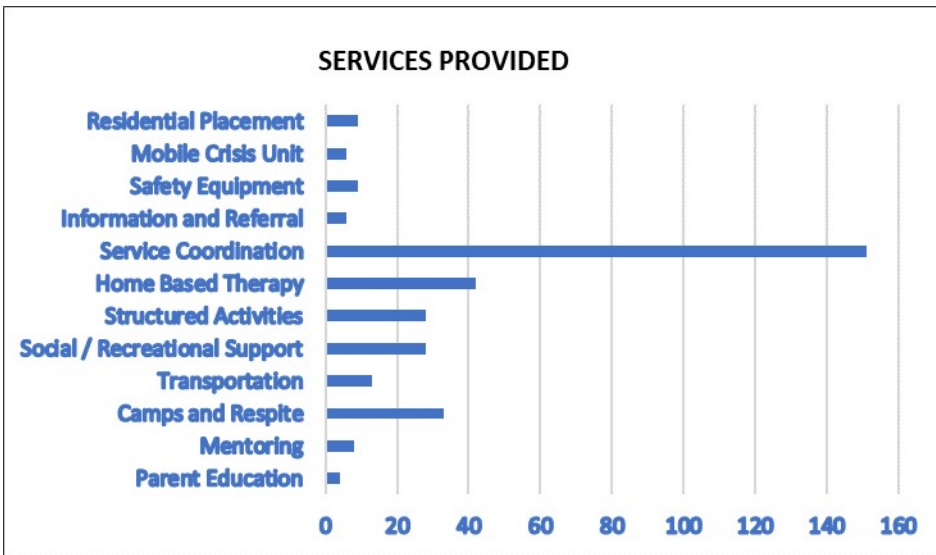
Daily updates about COVID-19 resources are being provided by **Fairfield County 211** and are posted at:

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

Multi-System Youth Report– Cindi West, MSY Coordinator

The Multi-System Youth (MSY) Coordinator 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 program year that ended June 30, 2020, 157 youth were served. A total of 118 referrals were received, and 64 new cases were opened.

CHILDREN SERVED BY AGE CATEGORY	
AGES 1-5	9
AGES 6-8	21
AGES 9-12	42
AGES 13-15	40
AGES 16-18	45
TOTAL	157



**Help Me Grow Early Intervention Report
Tiffany Wilson, Contract Manager**

The Help Me Grow Early Intervention (EI) 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.

240 children and families are currently being served — 177 with eligibility and 63 are going through the eligibility process.

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.

Families are encouraged to participate via technology. 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.

Many families served are becoming more comfortable with utilization of technology and would like to keep accessing it for now.

Fairfield County ADAMH Board, Opiate Task Force collaborates to offer free Narcan at local event

On Thursday, July 9, 2020, the Fairfield County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health (ADAMH) Board in partnership with Project F.O.R.T. (Fairfield County Overdose Response Team), Kroger, and the Fairfield County Opiate Task Force distributed potentially lifesaving Narcan kits to approximately 70 community members during the Be a Smart Cookie Drive-through Narcan Giveaway and Training event in the parking lot of the Kroger at 1621 N. Memorial Dr. in Lancaster.

Despite the extreme heat and humidity, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., staff members representing the Fairfield Department of Health, Lancaster Fire Department, Lancaster Public Transit, Lancaster Recovery Services, Lutheran Social Services, New Horizons, OhioGuidestone and The Recovery Center actually provided participants with a Narcan/naloxone kit, training, drug disposal (Deterra) bag, community resources, and a cookie, because July 9th happened to also be National Sugar Cookie Day. Counselors were also onsite for any needed assistance.

The event was free thanks to Grant No. GA1RH33529 from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an operating division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

**Parent Education Report –
Pam Redding, Coordinator, and Tiffany Wilson, Triple P Facilitator**

We have worked with community partners and parents on how to best deliver parent education services during the pandemic. It was necessary to look at appropriate virtual tools that best allow for interaction among participants. A new streaming option will be offered for First Five Years and Active Parenting. Triple P Level 3 groups will be held using teleconferencing technology. Triple P Level 4 is being offered through a new web-based platform.

Due to the cancellation of most family recreational events, the Summer edition of the Family Resource Calendar was reformatted as a guide that includes at-home family activities and virtual resources. This guide was distributed through the Fairfield County District Library and Lancaster AfterSchool summer lunch program. As we concluded the program year that ended June 30, the overall number of parents and caregivers served was equivalent to the 2019 program year, despite the cancellation of several classes due to the pandemic.

Parent Education Participation	PY 2020
Triple P Level 3	88
Triple P Level 4 – 8-Part Series	17
Triple P Primary Care	8
CARE Skills 2-Part Series	9
Parent Project - 10-Week Series	27
Parent Project Lunch and Learn - 10-Week Series	16
Parent Project Gatherings	10
First Five Years - 3-Week Series	21
Active Parenting - 4-Week Series	10
Loving Solutions 6-Week Series	2
TOTAL PARENTS/CAREGIVERS SERVED	208

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

Lancaster-Fairfield Public Transit launched EZfare, an app-based, cashless, fare payment solution to make riding public transit easier and more convenient than ever before. Lancaster-Fairfield Public Transit joined 12 other transit agencies that sell their fares on the EZfare app. All are members of NEORide, a council of governments comprised of 15 transit systems dedicated to the development and promotion of regional public transportation services. www.neoride.org

Available as a free download from both the App Store and Google Play, EZfare enables customers to purchase fares and travel to their destination with just a few touches and swipes of their smartphone or tablet screen. Detailed information about the app and download links may be found at www.EZfare.us In addition to the EZfare App, residents will be able to utilize the Trip Planning feature in the *Transit* app. This app easily allows riders to plan trips from one destination, with information on which buses are needed to reach their destination.

For additional information regarding EZfare contact Carrie Woody at 740-681-5086, cwoody@ci.lancaster.oh.us or visit the website at www.ezfare.us.

Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency Recycling Center

Recycling & Litter Prevention will be celebrating Plastic Free July. We are wanting to spread the word about single use plastics and will be handing out fun, educational take-home packets designed for elementary aged students on Friday, July 17th from 10:00am-2:00pm at the Recycling Center (located 1761 E. Main St. Lancaster). Packets will include reusable items, coloring pages, information and more! We will have designated parking spots marked for packet pick-up. Please honk or call 740-205-8027 when you arrive, and we will deliver your packets to your car. We are taking the extra precautions needed to ensure everyone's safety.

Keri Hunt, Environmental Education Specialist, Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency, Recycling & Litter Prevention, 1761 E. Main St. Lancaster, 740.205.8027

**Safe Communities / Safe Kids Coalition
Kirsten Persinger, Program Coordinator**

On June 15th we welcomed Kirsten Persinger as the new Safe Communities Program Coordinator. Kirsten has experience in healthcare and administration, as well as military service. She received an associate's degree with a focus on criminal justice and Bachelor of Science in Business.

Most planned Safe Communities' events have been cancelled due to the pandemic for the remainder of the program year. The Coalition has been exploring new ways to conduct education and outreach virtually for key traffic safety messages. Increasing social media presence and development of new partnerships have been priorities. The Coalition recently welcomed new members from Buckeye Honda, Learning Never Ends, the Fairfield County Board of DD Community Connections.

Ohio Office of the Consumers' Counsel – Utility Updates

In March the PUCO ordered utilities under their jurisdiction to suspend disconnections for non-payment, review their policies, and take measures to keep consumers connected during the state of emergency. Updates are posted on the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel's (OCC) website rotator Public utilities suspend customer disconnections during the health emergency at www.occ.ohio.gov. Many utilities also waived reconnection fees, late fees and deposits, and are providing extended payment arrangements beyond those described in Your Guide to Energy Disconnection and Reconnection.

Payment obligations were not waived, and customers were encouraged to try to remain current with payments to avoid issues when disconnections commence. Those who could not, should contact their utilities for payment plans and assistance options.

Utilities are beginning to file transition plans, here is information on Columbia's and AEP's transition plans:

Columbia began issuing termination notices on the June bill and will begin disconnecting customers for non-payment beginning July 29, 2020. Columbia's collectors will be contacting customers to offer bill payment assistance options. Columbia can resume collection activity in July, including visiting the customer's premise to collect delinquent accounts.

AEP filed its transition plan with the PUCO on July 6, 2020 and it has not yet been approved. Throughout the July and August billing cycles, AEP plans to use a variety of methods to inform customers that disconnections will resume. As proposed, September bills would contain a disconnect notice that provides the amount needed to maintain service and how to set up a payment plan as well as the expected disconnection date. Normal disconnection procedures would resume in September.

The Summer Crisis Program began July 1 and end September 30, 2020. Contact Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency to apply.

Scammers have been demanding immediate payment to avoid disconnection, requesting personal and account information for utility assistance and/or claiming customers have been overcharged. Caller ID spoofing can be used to change caller ID information to look like a trusted source. When in doubt, contact your utility at the customer service number on your bill. Learn about Avoiding Scams and Nuisance Calls and How to Avoid Utility Scams and Fraud.

In-person and meter readings and any other non-essential work were suspended in mid-March to avoid unnecessary social interactions. However, companies such as Columbia Gas, can now resume these activities based on their PUCO approved transition plans. Customers can avoid an estimated bill by reading their own meter. OCC's fact sheets Electric Meter Reading and Guide to Understanding Your Natural Gas Bill offer information on how to read your meter.

Andrew Tinkham, Senior Outreach and Education Specialist, Ohio Office of the Consumers' Counsel, Andrew.Tinkham@occ.ohio.gov

Fairfield County Virtual Community

We have held 17 Zoom meetings and our YouTube channel is growing tremendously! If you haven't been able to attend that's ok...you can view everything we have done so far here on YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCapwzmVJ5XGyQk4TvhGjyVg>. The Virtual Community is growing, and we are finding it to be a great way for to connect to our community and assist in teaching people what community can look like for them.

Upcoming for July: 7/21 The Humble Crate Artisan Marketplace Pickerington; 7/23 David Uhl and Mayor Scheffler; 7/28 Double Edge Brewing Co.; 7/30 Candy Cottage

Each event in July can be viewed by joining Zoom from this link

<https://fairfielddd.zoom.us/j/98111268298>

Meeting ID: 981 1126 8298

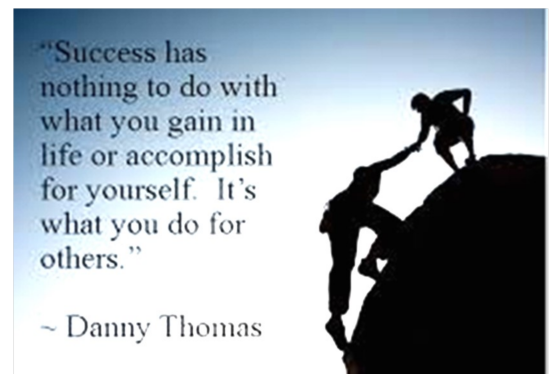
Upcoming for August: 8/4 Recycling Center tour/ Bottle Cap to Benches project; 8/6 Fairfield Heritage Association-The Georgian Museum; 8/11 Crazy 4 Popcorn; 8/13 Big Brothers Big Sisters; 8/18 Natural Remedies; 8/20 BEEpothecary; 8/25 Coffee, Tea & Autism; 8/27 Fairfield Heritage Association-The Sherman House Museum

Each event in August can be viewed by joining Zoom from this link

<https://fairfielddd.zoom.us/j/93648765461>

Meeting ID: 936 4876 5461

Rachel McCoy, Community Connections Coordinator, Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities, rrmccoy@fairfielddd.com



Fairfield County Housing Coalition — Co-Chairs, Lynda Berge Disser, Director of the City of Lancaster’s Community Development Department and Randall Hunt, Deputy Directory/Housing Director, Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency

Additional funding was received for Emergency Shelters for the Homeless Crisis Response Program (HCRP) through the CARES Act funds. The allocation will be distributed across the five-county Homeless Planning Region, which includes Fairfield, as follows: \$25,000: Salvation Army in Newark; \$20,000 Lutheran Social Services; \$5,000: Kno–Ho–Co Community Action (Knox, Holmes, Coshocton Counties); \$10,200 in reserve. These funds will assist shelters with staff, cleaning, and supplies.

COVID-19 funds for Rapid Rehousing/Homeless Prevention were allocated to the five-county Homeless Planning Region from the Ohio Housing Finance Agency. These funds will provide Rapid Rehousing/Homeless Prevention assistance to households with needs resulting from the pandemic, such as job loss. Contact Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency to make referrals.

Lancaster Fairfield Community Action is receiving \$285,500 in HCRP funding through the CARES Act for rapid rehousing and homelessness prevention to be allocated across the multi-county Region. The Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA) added a sixth county to Homeless Planning Region 9 —Muskingum. In this county, the Salvation Army provides rapid rehousing, and Muskingum County Community Action provides homelessness prevention)

Homeless Youth and Homeless Pregnant Youth Grant: One of the deliverables for the Ohio Department of Health Homeless Youth Grant, administered by LFCOA, was to contract with at least two local partners to provide innovative activities that augment the Comprehensive Plan. An RFP was issued, and three local Partners were funded; Fairfield County Adult and Children’s First Council for \$10,000, Kno–Ho–Co Community Action for \$15,000 and Licking County Coalition for Housing for \$25,000.

Fairfield County CDBG and CHIP: Lancaster Fairfield Community Action manages the County’s CHIP funding and held a 1st Public Hearing on June 2nd in conjunction with the County Commissioners meeting. The 2nd Public Hearing for both CDBG and CHIP funding to the County was held on July 16th.

Fairfield County is applying for CHIP funds for the following housing activities:

Homeowner Housing Rehab in the amount of \$225,000 for a minimum of 5 homes over 2 years (Averages \$25,000 - \$35,000 each with a maximum amount of \$46,000)

- Emergency Home Repair, \$ 80,000 for a minimum of 8 homes over 2 years; averages \$10,000 per home
- Habitat for Humanity of Fairfield County - \$25,000; Habitat is providing a \$70,000 match for 1 new build home
- Tenant Based Rental Assistance – \$24,000
- Administration and Fair Housing – \$46,000

Columbus Springs Update

Columbus Springs East and Dublin are running business as usual. 24/7 crisis assessments and access to inpatient.

Adult IOP and PHP is running in person and virtually. People can attend over the computer, at our East location, in Dublin or Pickerington Location. Youth and teen IOP and PHP iare running in person and virtually.

Summer Camp: We have extended hours for the youth and teen program meeting from 9 AM to 4:30 PM. Transportation available on a first-come first serve basis.

We are now in network with Buckeye Medicaid, united healthcare community’s Medicaid and are very close to a contract with Paramount. We take almost all private insurances and all Medicaid except Paramount.

K. Preston Moore

School & Community Liaison | Changes - Columbus Springs - Pickerington & Dublin, Cell: 979-255-3057, prestonmoore@spsph.com

Belmont Pines Update

Belmont Pines has bed availability on acute AND residential right now! We also have virtual availability in our LGBTQ outpatient group. Our 19-bed expansion is still on track to be finished fall of this year.

Ainsley Brougher, *Business Development Liaison*, Belmont Pines Hospital, 615 Churchill-Hubbard Rd, Youngstown, OH 44505

Meals on Wheels – Fairfield County

Meals on Wheels staff and volunteers have been serving more seniors than ever! We're helping them keep some familiarity in their lives, so they don't feel so isolated, and navigate through the changes in their lives due to the COVID-19 Virus. We're doing this by:

Tele-a-Friend – a program offered by Meals on Wheels – Fairfield County to help seniors stay connected and have some friendly conversation. Joyce McGinnis, Care Coordinator, calls seniors on the Tele-A-Friend list every week and makes a total of over 200 calls per month. Seniors appreciate her calls and being able to share what's happening in their lives. The program continues to grow. Every week, we receive 2 to 3 new names of clients that have requested to be added to Tele-a-Friend.

Emergency Food Delivery (EFD) – Over 50 seniors have called in to request receiving EFD meals. Fourteen frozen meals are delivered to their home in two-week intervals. Seniors can also choose our regular meal delivery plan to receive a hot meal every day Monday through Friday.

Emergency Grocery Delivery – Many seniors are staying in their homes and unable to go to the grocery store to pick up essential items. Meals on Wheels has an Emergency Grocery Delivery service for clients that request essential grocery items.

Senior Care Bags were delivered to 800 of our clients that receive Home-Delivered Meals. The bags were funded in part by Meals on Wheels, Meijer and Walmart. Essential items included toilet paper, tissues, hand sanitizer, soap, toothbrushes/ toothpaste and some fun word puzzles, coloring pages and games.

Gina Holbrook, Activities Coordinator has also been sending/ delivering activity packets to seniors. She has started "Zoom Bingo" which has been well received. Seniors are excited to see one another and to play bingo with their friends.

Virtual Programming – We're shifting to some programming through virtual meeting platforms, which will enable us to continue to provide essential social connections for seniors. Older adults can take part in classes from their home and not have to worry about being in contact with someone that has the COVID-19 Virus.

We are serving more seniors than ever and continually looking at new ways of focusing on our purpose – to bring older adults together to grow, learn, and live life to the fullest!

Linda McDonald, *Director of Aging Services*, Meals On Wheels Fairfield County Senior Services Center, Phone: 740-681-5050.

Older Adult Network – Linda McDonald, Co-Chair

The Older Adult Network held a Zoom meeting on Wednesday, July 8, 2020. Guest speakers were Ernie Doling, Adult Grief Support Coordinator, and Tracey Miller, Adult Grief Support Manager, from Fairhope Hospice presenting, "**Altered Reality for 2020.**" Their presentation covered perspectives about the COVID-19 Virus and how everyone's entire focus in life has changed. The speakers discussed how people have lost everything that is familiar. Identities have changed, jobs have changed, and things will continue to change – sometimes hour by hour as new regulations are directed through the state and CDC. The meeting was filled with a lot of helpful information.

Next meeting is September 9, 2020 at 10:00am – type of meeting (in-person or Zoom) TBA; an email update will be sent out to remind everyone of the meeting

The OAN Community Educational Event is cancelled for 2020.

FAIRHOPE

FAIRHOPE's Grief Support services are now being provided via telehealth using Zoom or FaceTime. Our adult groups continue to meet virtually.

One gentleman in his 80s lost his spouse and had attended the group for months. Feeling the need to continue receiving support, he purchased his first piece of technology -- an iPad -- so he could continue with the group. We've also had clients check in from their vacations to receive ongoing support. Our children's program, PALS for grieving children, continues to meet virtually as well. Self-care bags are delivered prior to the session series beginning. Children, in real time, are sharing pictures and linking objects of their deceased love one. Our school-based direct program will continue to be offered as the alert guidelines permit.

Tracey Miller M.S. CCC-SLP,
GC-C, CTP, Grief Support
Manager, FAIRHOPE Hospice &
Palliative Care, Inc.
Main office: 740-654-7077



THANKS TO OUR CARING COMMUNITY

We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone.

—President Ronald Reagan