



A Report on Franklin County's
Efforts to Increase Child Well-Being
from the Franklin County
Family and Children First Council

PROMOTING Healthy Children, Strong Families and Thriving Communities

MAY 2013

A MESSAGE

To Our Franklin County Families, Funders, Colleagues and Friends:

Franklin County Family and Children First Council continues to advance its mission of family-first, results-oriented, personalized efforts to build strong youth in our community and to enhance access, capacity and effectiveness of services for our most vulnerable youth and families.

The year 2012 was filled with numerous initiatives to increase access to services to the youth and families we serve, particularly through the implementation of the Home Choice care coordination program, and the guidance of the Early Childhood/Trauma-Informed Care Advisory Group. We thank our community partners for helping us develop and deliver increasingly more effective services and trainings in our county.

Perhaps the most exciting set of initiatives launched in 2012 was in the field of child abuse and neglect prevention, launched with a week of presentations, conversations and trainings by Dr. Bruce Perry, the leading international authority on child trauma and brain development. Dr. Perry's presentations to more than 500 professionals from a variety of disciplines in April 2012 became the cornerstone for a number of projects focused around the impact of trauma on child brain development in the fields of child care, education, health care and child welfare.

In 2012, we also began an active dialogue with parents of the children we serve, convening the first of many focus group discussions. We gathered valuable feedback about the services we provide, as well as the needs of our families who face incredible daily challenges. We anticipate greater interaction with these parents in the coming years as we capture their stories to share with our community partners, county funders and state decision-makers and as they guide us in developing family and youth services.

We continue to work hard to maintain the strong family support services we have long provided through our Help Me Grow and Multi-System Coordination programs. Families and our partners in the community are learning firsthand that they can rely on us to help them navigate the myriad systems and services available in Franklin County.

We thank our Council members, event sponsors, funders and collaborators for helping us further our mission to serve the most vulnerable children and families in Franklin County.

Sincerely,

Jane Whyde

Executive Director

MISSION

The mission of the Franklin County Family and Children First Council (FCFC) is to increase the access, capacity and effectiveness of services for the most vulnerable Franklin County youth and their families. Our Guiding Values explain how we work with children and families to fulfill this mission.

GUIDING VALUES

1. Family First:

- Families thrive when we keep them at the center of our work.
- Families are respected and are active participants in service planning and decision making.
- Our ultimate goal is self-sufficient families that function successfully.

2. Personalized Approach:

- Each family's strengths and needs form the foundation for its unique service plan.
- Respect for the cultural, racial and ethnic differences of the families we serve is critical to our shared success.

3. Results Oriented:

- Ongoing evaluation of outcomes ensures effectiveness.
- Effective coordination of services for our families includes the following:
 - ✓ ensuring delivery of high quality services;
 - ✓ reducing and eliminating duplicative efforts among agencies and barriers to collaboration;
 - ✓ integrating community and family supports; and
 - ✓ fully utilizing funding resources.

A SNAPSHOT

of Children and Families in Franklin County:

- **23.8%** of the Franklin County population is under the age of 18. (2011)¹
- **1 in 4** Franklin County children live in poverty.²
- **1 in 3** Franklin County children receive food stamp assistance.²
- **30%** of all children under the age of six in Franklin County now live below the federal poverty level.³
- **60.5%** of Franklin County households are headed by married couples – the lowest percentage in Ohio.⁴
- **62.2%** of children under age 18 in Franklin County live in households headed by a married couple in 2010.⁵
- **30%** of children under age 18 in Franklin County live in households headed by a mother with no spouse present in 2010.⁵
- **7.8%** of children under age 18 in Franklin County live in households headed by a father with no spouse present in 2010.⁵
- There were **7,857 abuse investigations** in Franklin County in 2011.⁶
- There were **4,284 neglect investigations** in Franklin County in 2011.⁶
- There are **8.2 infant deaths per 1,000 live births** in Franklin County (vs. 7.9 in Ohio).² **Preterm birth and low birth weight** are the leading causes of death among all Franklin County infants.⁷
- **13%** is Franklin County's premature birth rate, almost double the U.S. public health goal and higher than the state overall.⁸
- **20%** of Franklin County children have asthma.⁹
- **6%** of children in Franklin County are immunized by age 19-35 months.⁹
- **161,500 public school students** live in Franklin County.¹⁰
- **29,242 private school students** live in Franklin County.¹¹
- **70.21%** is Franklin County's graduation rate.¹²

SOURCES

¹ <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/39/39049.html>

² 2013 Franklin County Children's Report: Why Neighborhoods Matter to Education, 2013 – liveunitedcentralohio.org/champion-of-children

³ <http://www.liveunitedcentralohio.org/news-newsletters/737-living-united-2012-issue-ii>

⁴ <http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2011/05/12/single-parent-households-increasingly-common-latest-ohio-census-data-show.html>

⁵ <http://www.liveunitedcentralohio.org/downloads/category/30?download>

⁶ http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/children_services/assets/pdf/brochures/FCCS-Prevalence-of-Abuse-2011.pdf

⁷ http://publichealth.columbus.gov/uploadedFiles/Public_Health/Content_Editors/Reports/IMR2012Brief_9.24.2012.pdf

⁸ www.nationwidechildrens.org/Document/Get/52467

⁹ <http://www.nationwidechildrens.org/wellness-promotion-asthma>

¹⁰ <http://www.liveunitedcentralohio.org/downloads/category/30?download>

¹¹ http://www.privateschoolreview.com/county_private_schools/stateid/OH/county/39049

¹² http://www.odadas.ohio.gov/SEOW/Ohio%20County%20Map_files/2010%20HS%20Grad%20Rate.pdf

“ My family's story is that we ended up having to take our son to the hospital, in a sort of crisis and then from there we had to send him to a residential treatment facility. That was a really difficult and horrible process. And having Family and Children First with us and helping us make the decisions, to figure out what was best for our son was really, really essential.”

Lorna, mother





WHAT WE DO

MULTI-SYSTEM SERVICE COORDINATION

Most of our local resources are used to provide service coordination, which helps families and children use multiple county services most effectively. We connect agencies, people and services with families to create a coordinated service plan in an organized way that increases efficiency and responsiveness to each family's needs. When necessary, we also use locally contributed funds to purchase other community services for families.

The twin goals of Multi-System Service Coordination are to either divert youth from being placed out of their homes or to assist those returning from out-of-home placement to a home environment. In addition, we emphasize family stability by helping families navigate the various systems. Despite the fact that the overwhelming number of children and youth we work with have intense needs that would otherwise require a minimum of 24-hour psychiatric monitoring, we are able to coordinate teams that help nearly all of these youth remain in their home environment and receive this monitoring in a residential setting.

HOME CHOICE

Franklin County FCFC is an approved HOME Choice transition coordinator for youth leaving residential facilities. The goal of HOME Choice is to successfully transition qualifying individuals to a community setting from nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities for mental retardation/developmental disabilities (ICF-MR), residential treatment facilities (RTF) and hospitals. Eligible HOME Choice consumers may receive community transition services that could include goods and services to support the transition; respite services; independent living skills training; a community support coach; nursing; social work or counseling; nutritional consultation; communication aids; and service animals. FCFC's role as transition coordinator is central to its HOME Choice work, and we bring together a team of caregivers, system representatives and providers to create a transition plan that identifies and secures the necessary services and supports for the youth to return and successfully stay in the community.

HELP ME GROW

Help Me Grow (HMG) is a coordinated network of early childhood professionals that promotes community-based, family-centered services for expectant parents, newborns, infants, toddlers and their families in Franklin County. HMG is made up of two different programs: HMG Early Intervention (Part C) program and HMG Home Visiting program. The HMG Early Intervention program served 2,816 children and their families in SFY 2012. This program connects children with developmental delays or those who have a qualifying medical condition with appropriate services through the work of a Service Coordinator. The HMG Home Visiting program is for at risk expectant or new parents to help them prepare for the birth of their children and to provide support for families so they can meet their children's developmental needs. Franklin County HMG also distributes "Building Blocks: Play-to-Learn Activities for Child Development," an education program that encourages parents to actively participate in their children's development. On this DVD, parents demonstrate "play to learn" activities and tell their own stories. To receive a copy of this DVD, contact Franklin County HMG or Franklin County FCFC.



“That’s what I feel that I’ve gotten from FCFC, you know, is that I don’t feel so alone. And I think they understand what I’m going through and want to see my dreams come true for my grandchildren.”

Mary, grandmother

OHIO CHILDREN’S TRUST FUND

FCFC also receives annual funding from the Ohio Children’s Trust Fund. Created in 1984, the Ohio Children’s Trust Fund offers grants to Ohio counties for strategies designed to strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect. During the first half of calendar year 2012, FCFC worked with Columbus Public Health to provide Newborn Home Visits to families who have used birthing hospitals across the County. With the goal of preventing child abuse and neglect, nurses visited new mothers and provided wellness and child development education, linking them to community resources and offering supports specifically intended to strengthen protective factors for the parents and children, lessening the likelihood of abuse and neglect.

Also in early 2012, FCFC partnered with Ohio Children’s Trust Fund to sponsor trainings by Bruce Perry, M.D., Ph.D., of the ChildTrauma Academy in Houston, Texas. Dr. Perry is an internationally respected expert in the fields of brain development and child psychology. Over the past several decades he has created both a worldwide network of Fellows to advance this work and a menu of educational tools to guide professionals as they use developmental markers and neuroscience to help some of our society’s most challenged youth. In Columbus, Dr. Perry presented day-long training to more than 400 social workers, educators, child protection workers, therapists and others from child-serving agencies and organizations statewide. FCFC hosted a second day of smaller audience conversations between Dr. Perry and approximately 100 Ohio law-makers and Franklin County leaders.

Following up on this work, again with the support of Ohio Children’s Trust Fund, FCFC formed the Early Childhood Trauma-Informed Care Advisory Group – comprised of community leaders in early childhood services, including education and development, child care, health, developmental disabilities, mental health and child protection – to help FCFC set priorities for raising awareness and increasing practices in our county around developmentally appropriate trauma-informed care. This work included developing a common language and terminology around trauma, developing trainings for child care providers and supporting community partners advancing this work.

During the last half of 2012, FCFC worked with Nationwide Children’s Hospital and Educational Service Center of Central Ohio to increase the capacity of local practitioners to provide “Incredible Years” parenting classes and small group therapy for children. Incredible Years is a related collection of research-based, proven effective programs for reducing children’s aggression and behavior problems and increasing social competence at home and at school.

With funding from our Ohio Children’s Trust Fund allocation, Educational Service Center of Central Ohio has been providing professional development opportunities for hundreds of educators, social workers and others serving children and families throughout Franklin County. They hosted the online “Stewards for Children, Darkness to Light” curriculum on preventing child abuse and neglect and developed a teacher in-service curriculum based on the Strengthening Families concepts to build parental resilience and strengthen child protective factors.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

FCFC collaborates with a variety of community initiatives that promote child well-being and strong families, including the following: Behavioral Health Juvenile Justice (BHJJ), Multisystemic Therapy (MST), Multisystemic Therapy-Problem Sexual Behavior (MST-PSB) and Functional Family Therapy (FFT).



Franklin County and Children First

COUNCIL MEMBERS

(2012 State Fiscal Year)

- **Bart Anderson**
Educational Service Center of Central Ohio
- **Steve Curl**
Ohio Department of Youth Services
- **Kerri Griffin**
Franklin County Juvenile Courts
- **Denise Harris**
Parent Representative
- **Gene Harris**
Columbus City Schools
- **Teresa Long**
Columbus Public Health
- **Jennifer Moore**
Parent Representative
- **Jed Morison**
Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities
- **John O'Grady**
Franklin County Commissioner
- **Valerie Ridgeway**
United Way of Central Ohio
- **David Royer**
ADAMH Board of Franklin County
- **Chip Spinning**
Franklin County Children Services
- **Susan Tilgner**
Franklin County Public Health *** Council Chair
- **Anthony Trotman**
Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services
***Children's Cabinet Chair
- **Jane Whyde**
Franklin County FCFC Executive Director
- **Bill Wise**
South-Western City Schools





FCFC is funded by contributions from our Council partners, county support and state and federal grants. In addition, significant in-kind support through staffing, materials and other resources greatly increases our capacity to coordinate services for Franklin County children and families.

“ Family and Children’s First Council stepped in and began to run those meetings at our request....They’re creative. They know the systems that are out there. They know the providers, both public and private... We didn’t have a team before. We were dealing with these folks here and these folks there and getting whipsawed back and forth and Family and Children’s First Council helped us make sense of it.”

John, father



FINANCIALS

Statement of Fund Activities for SFY 2012 Franklin County Family and Children First Council July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2012

SOURCES OF FUNDS

Beginning Fund Balances

Help Me Grow	\$780,541
Multisystem	\$688,467
Administrative	\$197,340

Sources of Funds (Grants, State, Federal Funding)

Help Me Grow	\$3,977,295
Home Choice	\$38,483
FCBDD	\$133,333
MIECHV Intake	\$14,563
Ohio Children’s Trust Fund	\$373,274

Total Grant, State, Federal Funding \$4,536,948

Sources of Funds (Multisystem Funding)

FCSS	\$250,220
FCCS	\$400,000
FCBDD	\$280,000
ADAMH	\$50,000
Columbus City Schools	\$15,000

Total Multisystem Funding \$995,220

Sources of Funds (Administrative Funding)

State Funding Administrative Sources	
Help Me Grow	\$237,868
State Administrative Grant	\$15,750

Total Administrative Allocation from Grants \$253,618

Local Funding Administrative Sources

ADAMH	\$50,000
FCCS	\$52,152
FCBDD	\$52,152
FC Juvenile Court	\$52,152
FCDJFS	\$52,152

Total Local Administrative Funding \$258,608

TOTAL SOURCES OF FUNDS \$7,710,741

USES OF FUNDS

Administrative/Management Related

Administrative Salaries/Benefits	\$280,209
Administrative Operating Expenditures	\$72,455

Total Administrative/Management Related \$352,664

Program Related

Help Me Grow Provider Contracts	\$3,482,882
Help Me Grow Program Expenditures	\$1,132,655
Home Choice	\$5,053
Ohio Children’s Trust Fund	\$373,274
FCBDD	\$59,712
Multisystem Practice	\$909,811

Total Program Related \$5,963,387

TOTAL USE OF FUNDS \$6,316,051

“ I think if it were not for the services [FCFC offers], there would be no way for people to fully succeed... I know my hopes and dreams are for my grandkids to be functional citizens. And I need assistance to do that. I'm disabled, by myself and I need to be able to feel as if there are people that care about my circumstances...for education, for clothing, for housing.”

Mary, grandmother



Franklin County Family and Children First Council
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