

2020 Annual Report

Washington County Family & Children First



*By working together, pooling our
resources and building on our strengths,
we can accomplish great things.* Ronald Reagan

A Message from the Council Director:

2020 was an unprecedented year for all. The pandemic produced numerous challenges for our office, staff, and the families we serve. However, I am proud to say that through it all, we continued to serve families in our Home Visiting, Early Intervention and Service Coordination/Wraparound programs. Most staff worked from home for 5 months by providing virtual visits to families, and after returning to the office in August, they continued this process. We stepped out of our comfort zone and became experts at utilizing technology to stay connected.

Although 2020 had its challenges, there were also positives. Washington County began utilization of our grant agreement with the Ohio Department of Medicaid for Multi-System Youth (MSY) funding. These funds target children/youth that have multi-system needs and are at risk for custody relinquishment. This funding source, along with the hiring of an additional Wraparound Facilitator, has proven to be a valuable addition to our local effort. We thank our Council partners (Job & Family Services and Behavioral Health Board) for their financial support to sustain the additional Facilitator and provide services to more families and children in need.

Thank you to all our Family & Children First Council members for their continued dedication and commitment to children and families in our community. Although it has been a difficult year for everyone, I'm amazed at the resiliency, persistence, dedication, and creativity of all our partners to carry on their great work!

Looking forward with hope and optimism for 2021!

Respectfully,

Cindy Davis

Washington County Family & Children First Council Director

MISSION STATEMENT

The Washington County Family and Children First Council promotes coordination and collaboration among county and local governments, non-profit organizations, businesses, schools and families in a manner which fosters wellness and self sufficiency for families and increases child well-being.

The **Vision** of the Washington County Family & Children First Council is that all children and families thrive and succeed within healthy communities.

CONNECTING THE PIECES FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN



2020 COUNCIL MEMBERS

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <i>Amanda Bohlen</i> | <i>Extension Educator, OSU Extension Washington County</i> |
| <i>David Browne*</i> | <i>Executive Director, Washington County Behavioral Health Board</i> |
| <i>Roger Coffman*</i> | <i>Administrator, Washington County Health Department</i> |
| <i>Jennifer Farnsworth*</i> | <i>Parent Representative</i> |
| <i>Denyse Fordham*</i> | <i>Parent Representative</i> |
| <i>Flite Freimann*</i> | <i>Director, Washington County Department of Job and Family Services</i> |
| <i>Anne Goon*</i> | <i>Health Commissioner, Marietta/Belpre City Health Department</i> |
| <i>Jeffrey Greenley*</i> | <i>Superintendent, Belpre City Schools</i> |
| <i>Michael Gulliver*</i> | <i>Development Director, City of Marietta</i> |
| <i>Will Hampton*</i> | <i>Superintendent, Marietta City Schools</i> |
| <i>Tammy Hanger*</i> | <i>Parent Representative</i> |
| <i>Derrick Huck</i> | <i>Director of Operations, L&P Services, Inc.</i> |
| <i>Dawn Rauch*</i> | <i>Dir. of Planning & Development, Wash/Morgan Community Action</i> |
| <i>Brenda Riffe*</i> | <i>Superintendent, Wash County Board of Developmental Disabilities</i> |
| <i>Kevin Ritter*</i> | <i>Commissioner, Washington County Commissioners</i> |
| <i>Rachel Shipley*</i> | <i>Director, Head Start</i> |
| <i>David VanCleave*</i> | <i>Parole Officer, Ohio Department of Youth Services</i> |
| <i>Jamie Vuksic</i> | <i>Administrator, Washington County DJFS/Children Services</i> |
| <i>Rae Ward</i> | <i>Court Administrator, Washington County Juvenile Court</i> |
| <i>Janet Wells</i> | <i>EVE, Inc.</i> |

*Indicates mandated member per ORC 121.37

COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL:

- Community Options Team
- Early Childhood Committee
- Finance/Audit Committee
- Membership Committee
- Pooled Funds Group
- Prevention Committee
- Shared Plan Workgroup

WHAT WE DO...

SERVICE COORDINATION and WRAPAROUND



Service Coordination and Wraparound offers families of children with multiple needs the opportunity to bring providers together at the same table in a coordinated manner to support and wrap services around the family, enabling youth to thrive in their home and school environment. The purpose is to prevent children or teens who are involved in multiple public systems, and their families, from falling through the cracks due to intake, eligibility, funding barriers, or lack of coordination, and to prevent removal from the home.

35 new referrals received in CY 2020

59 youth served in Service Coordination/Wraparound

MULTI-SYSTEM YOUTH (MSY) INITIATIVE

Through a Grant Agreement with the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM), Family & Children First was able to financially support services to children/youth in our Service Coordination Mechanism Process. Our Team was also successful in identifying new in-home providers to assist families in maintaining children in their homes. With these funds, along with the new providers and an additional staff member, more families received needed services. Total MSY ODM funds received in 2020 totaled nearly \$84,000 and provided much needed services and supports to vulnerable families.

9 children benefitted from this funding

OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS

Family & Children First coordinates services and funding for families whose child has been identified to need temporary out-of-home placement in a residential treatment facility. While our goal is to prevent removal of children from their home, the larger goal is for parents to not have to relinquish custody in order to receive services. Placements are made by families and funding supported by Pooled Funds from our DD, BHB, and JFS Council partners. Fortunately, through the above programs, parental placements have decreased substantially.



1 youth supported in Out-of-Home Placement with FCF Pooled Funds

WHAT WE DO...



*Help Me Grow is the umbrella for two programs: **Home Visiting** through the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), and **Early Intervention** through the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD).*

Washington County FCF receives the Early Intervention Grant from DODD and is the Provider for the ODH Home Visiting Program.



Home Visiting— Home Visiting is a voluntary, confidential program offered to prenatal and new moms. FCF is affiliated with the national Parents As Teachers Home Visiting model. Credentialed Home Visitors provide the Parents As Teachers (PAT) curriculum; referrals and resources; developmental screenings; parenting tools assessments; and a Family Plan.

The 4 goals of the program are:

- To increase healthy pregnancies
- Improve parenting confidence and competence
- Improve child health, development and readiness
- Increase family connectedness to community and social support

FCF serves as the Home Visiting Provider in both Washington and Morgan Counties.

73 children served in HMG Home Visiting



Early Intervention— Ohio's Early Intervention System serves children from birth to age 3 who have a developmental delay or a diagnosed medical condition likely to cause a delay. Service Coordinators provide screenings, Individualized Family Service Plan development, transition services, referrals/resources, linkage to specialized services, and coordination of evaluations, assessment, and funding. The goals of the program are:

- To enhance the development of infants and toddlers with disabilities;
- To reduce educational costs by minimizing the need for special education through early intervention;
- To minimize the likelihood of institutionalization and maximize independent living;
- To enhance the capacity of families to meet their child's needs

153 children served in HMG Early Intervention

Central Coordination (CC)— Bright Beginnings of Cuyahoga County serves as the contractor for HMG Central Coordination through 7 regional sites. This is the statewide system for referring to the Help Me Grow Home Visiting and Early Intervention programs. All referrals must go through the central statewide system.

PARENTING PROGRAMS...

Washington County Family & Children First offers several Parenting Programs free to the public. They include:



Strengthening Families 10-14 Program is the #1 evidence-based parenting program that reduces substance abuse in youth. Trained Facilitators present the 7-week program and one booster session to parents and their youth between ages 10 - 14 with family strengthening activities. Funded through the Washington County Behavioral Health Board.



Incredible Years Preschool Program is an evidence-based parenting program that strengthens parent-child interactions and attachment; reduces harsh discipline; and fosters parents' ability to promote children's social, emotional and language development. Facilitators present the 14-week IYP program to parents with children ages 3-6. Funded through the Washington County Behavioral Health Board.



Parenting Wisely (PW) is an evidence-based interactive CD Rom program that is accessed individually at a computer and completed in a 2-3 hour session. PW provides skills that help in communicating and lowering children's risks for problems. Both **PW American Teens** and **PW Young Children** are available on an ongoing basis to allow immediate access to parenting skills training. FREE to the public at FCF office on a weekday basis.

4 parents participated in PW in 2020

Facilitators began both Strengthening Families and Incredible Years programs in late February of 2020. However, due to COVID-19, all classes were suspended and unfortunately we were not able to re-convene these in-person classes in 2020.

The Parenting Wisely program was put on temporary hold, however by mid-summer, it was available to the public once again, utilizing COVID-19 prevention protocols.

We look forward to be able to once again offer these programs to the public once in-person training can be held.

MORE PROGRAMS... and WHO WE ARE...

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY FITTING STATION

Family & Children First serves as an official Car Seat Fitting Station. Parents and other caregivers can receive education and training from certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians on how to properly install and use their child safety seat. Anyone can contact the FCF office during business hours to have a car seat checked. FCF's 2 trained technicians also provide Car Seat Classes and Events, in collaboration with the Marietta/Belpre City Health Department.



16 car seats checked in CY 20

HANDLE WITH CARE

Washington County FCF initiated the development of the *Handle With Care* program in our county. *Handle With Care* enables law enforcement to notify schools if they encounter a child at a traumatic scene, so schools and mental healthcare leaders can provide trauma-sensitive support right away. A Handle With Care notice gives teachers the ability to provide *care instead of consequence*. First responders obtain the child's name and school and share a "Handle With Care" notice with the appropriate school, and no other information is shared. Implementation of the program began in 2020.

OHIO FAMILY & CHILDREN FIRST (OFCF)

OFCF is a partnership of state and local government, communities and families that enhances the well-being of Ohio's children and families by building community capacity, coordinating systems and services, and engaging families. OFCF's vision is for every child and family to thrive and succeed within healthy communities.

Established in 1993, Ohio Family and Children First (OFCF) is defined as the Governor's Children's Cabinet with the purpose of streamlining and coordinating government services for children and families. The OFCF Cabinet Council is comprised of the following Ohio Departments: Aging, Developmental Disabilities, Education, Health, Job and Family Services, Medicaid, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, Rehabilitation and Correction, Youth Services, and the Office of Budget and Management. Locally, the county commissioners establish the 88 county Family and Children First Councils (FCFC).



**Ohio Family &
Children First**

FINANCIAL REPORT

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Revenue for CY2020 | | \$690,292 | |
| Expenses for CY2020 | | \$683,908 | |
| Administration Related | | Program Related | |
| FCF Administrative | 110,959 | Help Me Grow Program | 360,172 |
| | | Out of Home Placements | 67,557 |
| | | Service Coordination/Wraparound | 116,092 |
| | | Career Funds | 22,943 |
| | | Mentoring Program | 1,669 |
| | | Parenting and Prevention Programs | 4,515 |
| Percentage for Administration | | Percentage for Programs | |
| Total Administrative | 16% 110,959 | Programs | 84% 572,949 |
| REV vs. EXP DIFFERENCE | | \$6,384 | |

A community that is engaged and working together can be a powerful force. Idowu Koyenikan



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