

Ohio Family and Children First

Logistics

Name of Coordinating Body: Ohio Family and Children First

Administrative Home: Ohio Family and Children First is currently housed under the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, which serves as the fiscal agent.

Staffing: The staff is composed of a director, a financial analyst and two regional coordinators.

Funding: The administrative budget for the office of Ohio Family and Children First is funded by contributions from each cabinet agency. State General Revenue Funds (GRF) are allocated annually to the county Family and Children First Councils (FCFCs) to assist in the maintenance and operations of the county FCFC offices. At times, state-sponsored initiatives are connected to and through county FCFCs.

Membership: The Cabinet is comprised of the following Ohio Departments: Aging, Developmental Disabilities, Education, Health, Job and Family Services, Medicaid, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Opportunities for Ohioians with Disabilities, Rehabilitation and Correction, Youth Services, the Office of Budget and Management, and a representative from the Governor's Office. The governor is responsible for convening the cabinet and appointing a chair.

Structure

- *Children's Cabinet meetings:* Usually take place quarterly or when there are actionable items to review.
- *Deputy Directors meetings:* Usually take place monthly. This is the working group of the cabinet..
- *Staff meetings:* Take place monthly.
- *Stakeholder meetings:* As needed or required.

History

Year & Method of Establishment: Established in 1993 when it was legislatively codified by Section 121.37 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Duties/Responsibilities/Goals: Ohio Family and Children First's main priority is creating shared planning and accountability. Their model emphasizes the importance of incorporating three core functions in order to be successful: engaging and empowering families, building community capacity, and coordinating systems and services. Creating shared planning and accountability stems from a streamlined state and local level. When all functions of FCFC are working in concert, the elements of collaboration can be found.

Current Work

Ohio Family and Children First currently focuses on developing systems of care for multi-system youth, the reduction of custody relinquishment of youth in order to access needed services, and increasing the capacity of the county Family and Children First Councils.

Priority Projects/Initiatives

- System of Care Expansion
- Increasing consistency and accountability
- Data Sharing Across Systems
- [Family and Youth Engagement](#)
- [Flexible Funding](#)
- [Help Me Grow Early Intervention](#)
- [Youth and Young Adults in Transition](#)

Accomplishments

The cabinet is proud of their state and local collaboration across 88 counties. There is genuine communication from both the top down and the bottom up.

Contact Information

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Words of Wisdom: *Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet agencies' work on coordinating efforts for multi-system youth has proved both difficult and rewarding. The benefit of this collaborative work is not only streamlining processes locally for multi-system youth and families, but it is also saving state resources that can be reinvested to develop future cross-system efforts.*

Links

Council website: <http://fcf.ohio.gov/>

Work Plan: Work Plan for SFY 2020-2021 biennium is currently under development.