



Wood County Family & Children First Council Strategic Planning Committee

CORE NEEDS, RECOMMENDATIONS, and ACTION STEPS

presented at October 2012 full Council Meeting

From Wood County FCFC By-Laws of 3/21/2007:

“The purpose of the Family and Children First Council is to provide a vehicle that brings together local leaders in political and administrative positions who value families and are committed to community services that raise the general health and well-being of children; and ... to participate in the development of a county wide, comprehensive, coordinated, multi-disciplinary, interagency system for infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities or delays and their families ... ”

“the partnership shall support programs for which Family and Children First Council has been assigned oversight responsibility and based on the following core values:

- Heighten the level of community advocacy on behalf of local children
- Provide collective direction to the local public system serving children
- Increase funding opportunities available for multi-need youth
- Resolve system barriers and disputes when they arise
- The local system of care is community based, with the focus of services, as well as management of these services and decision making responsibilities, resting at this community level
- The local system of care is child centered, with the needs of the child and family dictating the types and mix of services provides ... ”

Ohio Family and Children First Council

The purpose of Ohio Family and Children First is to help families seeking government services by streamlining and coordinating services, resources, and systems.

— Taken from Ohio Family & Children First web site: <http://www.fcf.ohio.gov/>

- I. NEED – Make best use of available resources & position W.C. for resource acquisition
RECOMMENDATION - **Actively promote inter-agency/department collaboration** – take to new levels – encourage shared/blended resource use for service delivery (in-kind & financial) wherever possible for both existing & potential resources – position Wood County for best resource use & acquiring emerging resources

Action Steps:

- 1) *Review purpose of FC2 with full membership and revise By-Laws, if needed, to elevate emphasis on collaborative efforts in responding to identified needs with existing in-kind and financial resources.*
 - 2) *Promote alertness of FC2 membership to potential resources that may be useful in advancing need-responsive initiatives.*
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- II. NEED – Multiple data sources exist but are not easily accessed
RECOMMENDATION - **Promote use of shared data** – FC2 Assessments, W.C. Youth Survey, Health Survey, & other data/information – accessible online/one web location

Action Steps:

- 1) *Make all child/family assessment data readily available on web site and/or through centralized database system (see V below.)*
 - 2) *Promote integration of various surveys/assessments to avoid duplication of effort and multiple requests on districts of student time to complete surveys.*
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- III. NEED – Lack of awareness of available resources persists among public
RECOMMENDATION – **Continue providing “No Wrong Door” trainings** – for new staff (turnover) of all levels: support, administrative, service, executive

Action Steps:

- 1) *Redevelop “No Wrong Door” committee and charge with developing continued training program for agency staff.*
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- IV. NEED – Lack of clarity about existing groups & what issues they are working to address
RECOMMENDATION – **Develop broad list & description** of child/family groups/entities
- a. **extend invitations for participation in Family & Children First Council**
 - b. coordinate resource map through “Balance Score Card” process

Action Steps:

- 1) *Survey FC2 members of awareness of child/family focused groups and committees, along with focus, purpose, members & leadership.*
- 2) *Compile into organized listing of groups and include in resource database.*
- 3) *Invite leaders of identified groups to attend and participate in FC2 meetings and initiatives.*
- 4) *Add mini-presentation (10 minutes) of a featured program/service/group to agenda of each Council.*
- 5) *Explore “Balanced Score Card” approach to resource mapping.*

V. NEED – Multiple resource listings, accessed differently

RECOMMENDATION – Work toward **integration of various resource listings** into one consolidated data set & access point – 211, Link, Pre-school Directory, Prevention Guide, Ohio’s “Red Treehouse” project, & others

Action Steps:

1) *Establish task group to develop a unified resource database accessible to agencies and public that is user friendly and maintained current as a primary/single source of service information.*

- *Incorporate 211, The Link, ATOD Resource Guide, Early Childhood resource directory, No Wrong Door, Red Treehouse Project, and others into a consolidated resource listing/database.*
 - *Meet with United Way 211 personnel to explore integration of resource listings.*
 - *Utilize offered staff resource of W.C. Juvenile Court & others to advance this effort.*
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VI. NEED – Barriers exist to county-centered service delivery

RECOMMENDATION – **Consider expanding service outreach in local communities/schools** as alternative to county centered service delivery – perhaps utilizing “Schools as Community Hubs” model – (may relieve portion of family transportation with local service access)

Action Steps:

- 1) *Develop task group to explore “Schools as Community Hubs” as service delivery model where needed in Wood County.*
 - 2) *Survey perceived service needs to support student success of each school district through Superintendents, Principals, and other key school personnel.*
 - 3) *Survey agencies and programs for interest and availability of potential service resources that might be delivered through a school-based model.*
 - 4) *Match school needs and available resources wherever possible on a district by district basis.*
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VII. NEED – Assessment data reveals needs at all age levels

[go to <http://wcsc.org/resourcess>, select **FC2 Documents tab** at top]

RECOMMENDATION – **Advance each focal age-level area** through Committees – utilizing existing groups where possible: Early Childhood (Early Childhood Collaborative), School-Age (Community Learning Centers/others), Adolescent (Prevention Coalition/ATOD), Transitional Youth/Young Adult (emergent/newly formed); Adult/Parent Support/Elderly (CRC, Parent Project, Guiding Good Choices/Senior Centers)

- a. Broaden membership of Family & Children First Council to include chairpersons of each Committee as full member
- b. Promote awareness & support of each Committee through inclusion on monthly FC2 agendas

Action Steps:

- ***Identify or develop a committee for each focal age level to advance need-responsive initiatives for their respective age levels (Summit issues.)***
 - *Early Childhood (Early Childhood Collaborative / Children's Advisory Council)*
 - *School-Age (Community Learning Centers/others)*
 - *Adolescent (Prevention Coalition/ATOD)*
 - *Transitional Youth/Young Adult (emergent/newly formed)*
 - *Adult/Parent Support/Elderly (CRC, Parent Project, Guiding Good Choices, Senior Centers)*
 - **Health Dept. has expressed desire to have an active representative participate in each of these groups.*
 - ***Promote and support their efforts by including updates on their work on the Agenda of each Family & Children First Council meeting.***
 - ***Consider include the chairperson of each committee as a full member of Family & Children First Council.***
 - ***Have each FC2 member organization nominate potential parents/family members that would be valuable additions to FC2 membership.***
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