

Ohio Summit on Children
Post Summit Planning Form

County Name: Crawford County

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What are the top five issues affecting the safety, well-being and permanent home environments of children?

1. Increased psychopathology in alcohol and drug use. This is evidenced by an increase in opiate use. There appear to be more children and youth with extreme mental health issues. Adults and kids are exhibiting more serious mental illness. There are more challenges keeping kids in homes. The level of pathology displayed by parents makes it more difficult to reunify families.
2. Parental involvement is lacking. This is evidenced by ineffective parenting skills. There are many parents who exhibit poor coping and communication skills. There is lack of structure within homes and young people do not have established rules within their homes. This creates conflict in the home, school and community. There are a lot of out of wedlock births, both to teens and those over 18. This contributes to a fragile family structure, poor parenting and diminishing resources.
3. Transportation is an ongoing, persistent problem in our rural area. This impacts accessing services.
4. Fragmented jurisdiction. There are 3 cities, 6 school districts, two hospitals and two health departments for a population of less than 50,000.
5. The economic climate has an impact on the community.
6. There is a lack of substitute care resources in the community.

What are the top five strengths and or resources in your community?

1. Quality mental health and substance abuse treatment services: We have access to alcohol and other drug and mental health treatment services. The typical wait time is less than two weeks. We have a full time child psychiatrist, unusual for a rural area
2. We have good communication between CSB and the MH/AOD system and there is longevity in tenure in agencies/courts/services within the county.

3. The size of the county allows us to know the people we serve better than in urban areas and the county is pretty homogenous.
4. There is a good mixture of people involved who are planners and implementers and there is cooperation among those involved.
5. In addition, we have a relatively sufficiently funded child welfare system and we have a general consensus on the core problems

What are the top five challenges facing your community?

1. Increased psychopathology in alcohol and drug use. This is evidenced by an increase in opiate use. There appear to be more children and youth with extreme mental health issues. Adults and kids are exhibiting more serious mental illness. There are more challenges keeping kids in homes. The level of pathology displayed by parents makes it more difficult to reunify families.
2. Parental involvement is lacking. This is evidenced by ineffective parenting skills. There are many parents who exhibit poor coping and communication skills. There is lack of structure within homes and young people do not have established rules within their homes. This creates conflict in the home, school and community. There are a lot of out of wedlock births, both to teens and those over 18. This contributes to a fragile family structure, poor parenting and diminishing resources.
3. Transportation is an ongoing, persistent problem in our rural area. This impacts accessing services.
4. Fragmented jurisdiction. There are 3 cities, 6 school districts, two hospitals and two health departments for a population of less than 50,000.
5. The economic climate has an impact on the community.
6. There is a lack of substitute care resources in the community.

What are the top five most-needed services for children and families?

1. We need a locally based Treatment Foster Care network for Crawford County Youth.
2. We need more in the way of parenting programs, something in line with a parent mentoring program once people have completed Family Preservation.
3. Transportation.
4. Increase in alcohol and drug treatment services.

What action steps will be taken locally to develop needed services or address local challenges?

1. We want to conduct an evaluation of existing foster home network with a multi-disciplined team. This evaluation would look at the quality of communication between homes and CSB and other systems of care (schools, courts, mh, etc.) for involved children. (Date Ste: 8/12/08)
2. We hope to implement a quality rating system that would reward valuable homes and put in place a system of improvement for homes that are challenged to provide quality services. We will use this evaluation to place children (Date set: 8/12/08). Develop a plan to reach out to TFC networks operating in the county to see if they have an interest in being involved in our locally based TFC network.
3. Assess access to current parenting services. Identify barriers in participation and identify solutions to increase access.
4. Develop a list of core community values and a communication plan to create awareness about those values to the community at large.
5. Develop a wrap around program using CTF funds that will strengthen existing services and help fill the gap for at risk youth and their families.

Beyond funding, what action does the county need from the state to help the county achieve its action plan?

1. We want the state to look at the issue of paper work to see if some forms can be reduced. We specifically ask that ODMH look at the requirements for SOQIC forms.
2. We want the state to communicate with treatment foster systems that place kids in counties other than their county of origin and work with them to understand the challenges and limits of rural systems and the potential culture shock for children from urban areas.
3. We hope the state can help provide technical assistance with regard to Treatment Foster Care models and a list of consultants to help us with this process.
4. We hope the state takes a look at the Ohio Revised Code and coordinates rules with regard to confidentiality that conflict from one department to another and come up with one standard that is consistent throughout all systems.