

Mercer County Summit on Children Council

July 22, 2008

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As they relate to the *safety, well-being and permanent home environments* for children in your county, please complete the following:

**WHAT ARE THE TOP FIVE ISSUES AFFECTING THE SAFETY, WELL-BEING AND PERMANENT HOME ENVIRONMENTS OF CHILDREN?**

1. Lack of Parenting Skills-Not able to provide adequate parenting.
2. Drug and alcohol use.
3. Powerlessness, hopelessness – low self esteem in children.
4. Poverty, a few teachers having problems with non-middle class lifestyles.
5. One-parent or broken families, parental grief for child who is developmentally disabled.

**WHAT ARE THE TOP FIVE STRENGTHS AND/OR RESOURCES IN YOUR COMMUNITY?**

1. OSU Extension Office is very involved in community- cooking classes
2. Community has an awareness of different values
3. Education- very high (97%+) High School graduation rate- In service for teacher on poverty issue in August 2008.
4. Community interest and commitment to work on issues – Community is stable
5. Faith based community is strong (Pastors, Priests)

**WHAT ARE THE TOP FIVE CHALLENGES FACING YOUR COMMUNITY?**

1. Schools have difficulty meeting all the legal mandates.
2. Transportation – rural area with little or no public transportation, with some exceptions.
3. MTV is cool – children and teenagers internalized values presented on TV.
4. Need to integrate services into early intervention for children.
5. Decreased funding, including for the Temporary Assistance for Families (TANF) effective July 1, 2009.

**POST-SUMMIT PLANNING FORM**

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As they relate to the *safety, well-being and permanent home environments* for children in your county, please complete the following:

**WHAT ARE THE TOP FIVE MOST-NEEDED SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES?**

1. Services for children and families in a home-based model.
2. Transportation.
3. Being able to see the situation from the child and/or parent's view.
4. Parenting and Life Skill programs.
5. Emotionally disturbed school-age children.

**WHAT ACTION STEPS WILL BE TAKEN LOCALLY TO DEVELOP NEEDED SERVICES OR ADDRESS LOCAL CHALLENGES?**

1. Utilize volunteers from among retired teachers, and other community members.
2. Additional Service Coordination
3. Develop and/or fund Equestrian therapy services where geographically needed.
4. Facilitate front-line worker collaboration activities.
5. Court orders for team or family building activities through the Juvenile Court.

**BEYOND FUNDING, WHAT ACTION DOES THE COUNTY NEED FROM THE STATE TO HELP THE COUNTY ACHIEVE ITS ACTION PLAN?**

1. Minimum rules and regulation.
2. Minimal requirements for funding designated or allocated to Mercer County.
3. Get Copies of speeches and videos from Summit on Children on DVD's.
4. Better communication-updates on what other counties are doing. It was stated at the conference that their would be email communication with county contact. To date, there has been none.
5. More discretion on how funds can be spent.