



# Ohio Summit on Children

65 South Front Street Columbus, Ohio 43215-3431

## Post Summit Planning Form

To be completed by August 1, 2008

Email to: [summitonchildren@sc.ohio.gov](mailto:summitonchildren@sc.ohio.gov) or fax to: 614.387.9409

**COUNTY NAME: MORROW COUNTY**

**CONTACT NAME: SHARLA O'KEEFFE**

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As they relate to *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. Ability to create sustainable prevention programs (funding)
2. attracting quality/educated staff into community service agencies (funding)
3. Small town thinking in a changing world, 70% of population does not live in a town or village – rural community
4. Lack of parental involvement in children's lives – especially as they grow into teenagers
5. Nothing for kids to do. Even when there are activities, transportation is an issue in getting kids there.

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

1. In a small county we can quickly identify all the players (we all know each other)
2. Progressive in case management JFS/Children Services – the cases are filed in the court are cases that really need to be there.
3. Court works hard to be innovative
4. Community Training
5. Collaboration as far as communication regarding cases

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

1. Funding for all service Agencies
2. Affordable public transportation
3. Rural community – no real population center hard to centralize services
4. Rising Juvenile Crime rate
5. Parents not wanting to parent their children

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

1. Affordable transportation
2. Affordable and flexible service options (counseling, drug/alcohol etc)
3. Less restrictions on existing funding
4. More flexibility in options/rules/policy and procedure
5. Community awareness and a willingness to become involved.

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

1. A Morrow County Summit on Children was held on October 9, 2008. Over 50 community partners attended and a list of Problems and solutions were created.
2. We are building on an existing team that has been in place since 2005 to incorporate the schools and other community partners to more closely examine the problems/solutions and see which can be put into place.
3. We plan on strengthening current programs that are effectively collaborating on behalf of children and families – such as the school based STARS program

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

1. More flexibility in existing funding
2. Legislative initiatives to allow for flexibility in funding and policy
3. Our State Officials need to make children a priority in Ohio.