



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 or fax to: 614.387.9409

COUNTY NAME: MUSKINGUM

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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. Muskingum County's struggling economy is creating a huge impact on the community (significantly more need for social services, but families are not able to support community financially).
2. Lack of resources (down 80 physicians at the hospital, down child psychiatrists, counselors, teachers)
3. Family transiency. As families move from school to school district, academic failure follows. Transitioning incarcerated youth and youth involved in foster care into healthy adults with adequate supports as they re-enter the community.
4. Restrictions on Medicaid certification and return to a local health care delivery system. Maintain Medicaid eligibility during incarceration.
5. Non-academic barriers to learning across systems that lessen achievement and make for a difficult transition into adulthood.

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

1. Very strong Family and Children First Council
2. Collaboration between various agencies is outstanding.
3. City and county officials work well together to promote the area to business and industry.
4. Three Colleges/Universities within the county.
5. Large health care industry in the community.

WHAT ARE THE TOP FIVE CHALLENGES FACING YOUR COMMUNITY?

1. Muskingum County's economy.
2. Affordable Accessible Health Care.
3. Difficulty passing levies for schools and social services.
4. Lack of trained mental health and drug and alcohol counselors.
5. Infant Mortality Rate in Muskingum County especially among minorities is very high.

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

1. Affordable Accessible Health Care, including dental care.
2. Leave Medicaid Managed Care and return to a local health care delivery system. The managed care system is an absolute failure.
3. Mental health and drug addiction services.
4. Care Teams in all schools.
5. Adequate food, clothing, hygiene and affordable housing.

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

1. Combining programs to operate more efficiently, increase public awareness via 211 programs and changes to the Electronic Medical Records, transportation and lack of family support. Pregnant mothers are continuing to abuse drugs and alcohol and smoke while pregnant. Silo funding does not allow for multiple services at pre-natal visits which could include substance abuse counseling, smoking cessation and perinatal depression could all be provided during pregnancy pre-natal visits if they all didn't have different funding sources.
2. Train youth for gainful employment as soon as they return to the community from incarceration, while addressing housing, life skills, and health care. Provide support and services to youth beyond the age of 18. Without family support the community must be responsible until youth turn 21 yrs. of age.
3. Agencies would work together to coordinate developmental assests from birth to 21 years of age. Emphasis on family stability community-wide and make sure our youth are prepared for 21st century workforce. Youth would not be engaged in high risk behavior including, smoking, drinking or drug use.
4. Better coordinated communication, collaboration among agencies, civic groups, businesses, schools and faith based organizations. Funding for engagement of partners and program support.
5. Curriculum changes for social work and mental health professions. College curriculum would include importance of developmental assets and the value of community collaboration. Professionals would enter the workforce with a better understanding of community collaboration and asset building Agencies, Churches, Schools would all be building youth assets. There will be a focus on family stability, opportunities to improve parenting skills.

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

1. Flexible Funding. Allow counties to use TANF and RECLAIM dollars as best suits the needs of the clientele.
2. Revoke current Medicaid legislation. Bring dollars back to the community. Involve county in implementation.