

POST-SUMMIT PLANNING FORM

To be completed by August 1, 2008

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

1. AOD
2. The impact of the economy on poverty (more "working-poor" families).
3. Children with mental health or other developmental concerns need identified earlier.
4. Parents lack appropriate skills/parents don't understand child development.
5. Composition of the family unit puts children at risk (ie: if the family unit experiences domestic violence or child abuse then the children's well-being and permanent home environment is at-risk)

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

1. Low crime rate.
2. Strong schools, good attendance and graduation rates.
3. Good collaboration among agencies.
4. Parents receive good support from extended family members.
5. Resources are readily accessible to help defer out of home placements.

What are the top five challenges facing your community?

1. Dealing with AOD issues in children and families.
2. Addressing the needs of cultural minorities.
3. Increasing levels of "working poor" families.
4. Transitioning children to permanent environments when they leave placement.
5. Stigma of receiving mental health and/or other public services.
6. Natural disasters: county has had two major floods and a tornado in last 12 months

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

1. Parenting education needs to reach the most at-risk families in order to break cycles of poor parenting, neglect and violence.
2. Early childhood mental health activities/programs/services utilizing screening, referral and treatment approaches.
3. Engaging the parents of adolescents receiving treatment / intervention.
4. More options for respite to occur locally.

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

1. Involving other key stakeholders in the efforts to address these needs.
2. Removing barriers to parenting education by improving communication and face-to-face contacts with schools and law enforcement who are needed as referral sources.
3. Train / teach life skills to adolescents who are seen repeatedly in juvenile court due to reoccurring offenses.
4. Provide information/awareness to schools on Family & Children First Council referral process for Level 1 & 2 service coordination.
5. Better engage the faith-based community in these planning efforts.

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

1. Access to technical assistance from OSU Center For Learning Excellence.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

END