

POST-SUMMIT PLANNING FORM

County Name: Summit

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

1. Lack of early childhood behavioral readiness for school
2. Mental health issues of youth and families
3. Substance abuse issues of youth and family
4. Poor economic conditions
5. Need for parent education

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

1. Strong collaboration between agencies
2. Strong infrastructure of services
3. Community Learning Centers in Akron
4. Summit 2010 which conducted a community needs assessment and set forth priorities for the community
5. Strong agency leadership that is willing to collaborate and explore creative methods for tackling problems

What are the top five challenges facing your community?

1. Need for additional funding.
2. Lack of short-term in-county residential treatment and/or step-down treatment for youth with mental health and/or substance abuse issues
3. Confidentiality concerns make it difficult to share information across systems.
4. Lack of a model for transitioning youth from adolescent to adult services.
5. Persons in one part of the county may have difficulty accessing services in other parts of the county.

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

1. Short-term in-county residential treatment facility for youth with co-occurring substance abuse and mental health needs that could also be used for step down
2. Parent training that could assist families in readying their children for school.
3. A defined model for transitioning youth to adult services.
4. A program to inform youth of educational and employment opportunities at an early age.
5. Mentors for youth and parents/caregivers

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

1. The Summit on Children Task Force will continue to meet along with community stakeholders to develop a plan for streamlining the transition from adolescent to adult services.
2. The Summit on Children Task Force will continue to meet along with other community stakeholders to explore the appropriate means to secure in-county short-term residential placement for youth with co-occurring substance abuse and mental health issues that can also serve as a step-down for youth coming from more intensive residential or Department of Youth Services placement.
3. The Summit on Children Task Force will continue to meet along with community stakeholders regarding a community initiative that will focus on ready children, ready families, a ready community and ready schools for issues concerning the lack of behavioral readiness for school.
4. The Summit on Children Task Force will co-ordinate its efforts with the MacArthur Grant project focusing on providing a Mental Health Responder that will work with the schools to divert youth with mental health issues to treatment as opposed to delinquency proceedings.
5. The Summit on Children Task Force will continue to meet on a consistent basis to develop and implement a plan that meets the needs and concerns of all involved agencies and the diverse population these agencies serve..

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

1. The development of a state-wide model for transitioning youth from adolescent to adult services which includes mental health, substance abuse, MRDD, employment and educational components.

2. Assistance in dealing with the best means to share information across systems to service children and families in light of confidentiality concerns.
3. Development of a system for communities to learn about programs that are working in other areas of the State and Country that includes the funding sources that are being used to pay for those programs.