



**FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**FAMILY and CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL**

831 College Ave. Lancaster, Ohio 43130, [www.facfc.org](http://www.facfc.org)

2023 Annual Report



***Real strength has to do with helping others.***

-Mr. Fred Rogers



# Fairfield County

## Family and Children First Council

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831 College Avenue, Suite C, Lancaster, OH. 43130 ■ 740-652-7286 ■ [www.facfc.org](http://www.facfc.org)

### FAIRFIELD COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL

#### 2023 ANNUAL MEETING & AWARD PRESENTATION

NOVEMBER 16, 2023, 8:30 A.M.

#### Welcome

Carrie Woody, Services Safety Director  
City of Lancaster  
FCFC Council President

#### Business Meeting

Nominating Committee Report  
Election of Officers for 2024  
Jeanette Curtis, Executive Director of Fairfield County 211  
Joe Ebel, Health Commissioner of Fairfield County Health Department

#### 2023 Firefly Awards

Our Firefly Award recipients are recognized for lighting the way for others to succeed.

Presented by:

- Tiffany Wilson: Help Me Grow Early Intervention
- Tiffany Wilson: Safe Communities
- Brandy Heeter: Parent Education
- Laurie Clark: Perinatal Cluster
- Shannon Eads and Madison Niemann: Multi-system Youth
- Dennis Surbaugh, David Heeter, and Audra Wolf: TREK Program

#### Presentation

Sarah Fortner, Deputy Director of Protective Services

#### Mary Good Award

Tiffany Wilson, FCFC Manager

#### FCFC Council Annual Report

Tiffany Wilson, FCFC Manager

#### Closing

Carrie Woody, Services Safety Director  
City of Lancaster  
FCFC Council President

## Help Me Grow Early Intervention – Tiffany Wilson, Contract Manager



The *Help Me Grow Early Intervention (EI)* program provides coordinated services to families of eligible children under the age of three with developmental delays or disabilities. EI is an evidenced based system that is grounded on the philosophy that young children learn best from familiar people in familiar settings. Every family in the program will have a team that consists of a service coordinator, service providers, the family, and any other support that the family would like to add. The team will come together in the family’s home, or another place where the family frequently spends time to develop a coordinated plan called an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The team will work through the IFSP by using the family’s existing supports and resources, and build upon them, to learn to enhance the child’s learning and development.



In SFY 23, 525 children and their families were referred to HMG EI, 495 children were eligible, and 248 of the children served exited. Reports indicate that all children exiting demonstrated progress with social and emotional skills, acquisition and use of knowledge and skills, and taking action to meet needs.

Referral Source	#	%
Family or Caregiver	116	22%
Hospital	116	22%
Physician	155	29%
PCSA Form	42	8%
EI 8045	80	15%
All Other Sources	19	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>528</b>	



Eligibility Reason	#	%
One or More Substantial Delay(s)	336	68%
One or More Mild Delay(s)	38	8%
Informed Clinical Opinion	30	6%
Dx on DODD List	90	18%
Dx not on list	1	0%
<b>Cumulative Count</b>	<b>495</b>	
<b>Avg Point-in-Time Count</b>	<b>210</b>	

Service Type	#	%
Special Instruction	217	73%
Speech Therapy	38	13%
Physical Therapy	39	13%
Occupational Therapy	14	5%
<b>Total Initial IFSPs</b>	<b>297</b>	

Exit Reason	#	%
Reached age 3	161	67%
No longer eligible prior to age 3	49	20%
Withdrawn by parent (guardian) before age 3	17	7%
Attempts to contact unsuccessful	8	3%
Moved out of state	4	2%
Deceased	2	1%
<b>Total Exits</b>	<b>241</b>	
<b>Average Age at Initial E&amp;A Summary</b>	<b>20.6 months</b>	

## Parent Education Cooperative - Brandy Heeter, Coordinator

The Parent Education curriculums and parent discussion groups provided to the community through FCFC are made possible by the support of many partners, including Fairfield County ADAMH Board, Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission's CDBG grant, and Nationwide Children's Hospital.

Parent education classes offered through FCFC include: The First Five Years, Active Parenting, Active Parenting for Stepfamilies, Loving Solutions, Parent Project, Triple P Positive Parenting Program Level 3 seminars, Level 4: 0-12 Group, Level 4: Teen Group, and Primary Care. During SFY23, 233 parents attended at least one of the courses offered, most of which involve a commitment to complete multiple sessions.

The Fairfield County Parent Education Cooperative meets quarterly to review availability, optimal scheduling, and gaps in population-specific education. This is an important advisory group to inform the direction of our parenting support activities in our community. We value and appreciate their willingness to offer their advice and expertise.

The council continues to develop and distribute the quarterly Family Resource Calendar. The resource guide is available on the Council's website and is printed each quarter and distributed throughout Fairfield County.

### Triple P Curriculum

	# of groups offered	# of participants who attended session
Level 3 Primary Care	11	11
Level 3 Discussion Groups	34	131
Level 4 0-12 Group	6	36
Level 4 Teen Group	3	11
<b>SFY23 Totals</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>189</b>

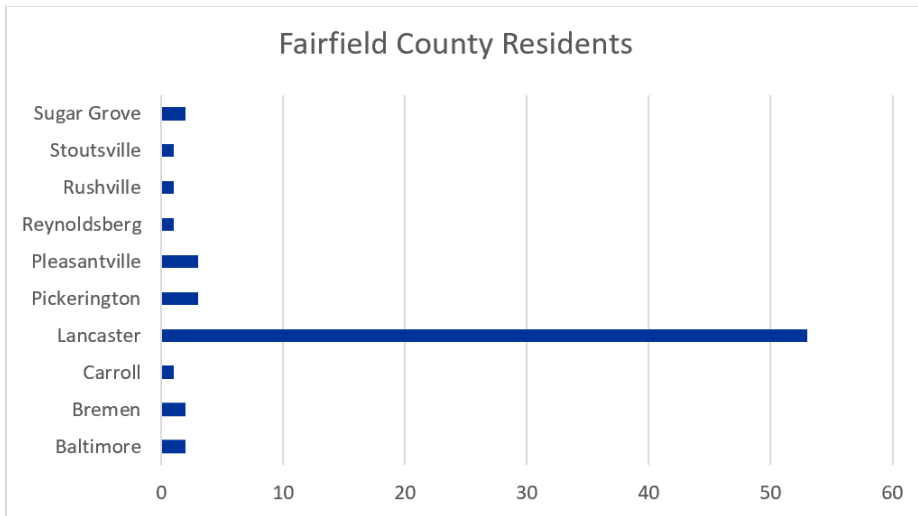
### Active Parenting and Parent Project Curriculums

	# of groups offered	# of participants who attended session
First Five Years	2	4
Active Parenting	2	8
Active Parenting for Stepfamilies	2	2
Loving Solutions	2	10
Parent Project	2	20
<b>SFY23 Totals</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>44</b>

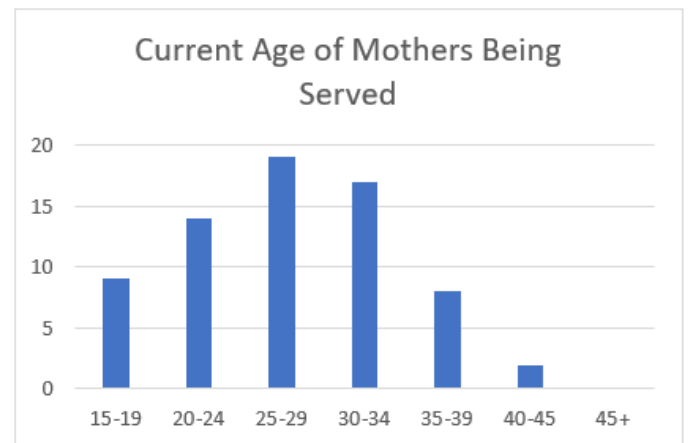
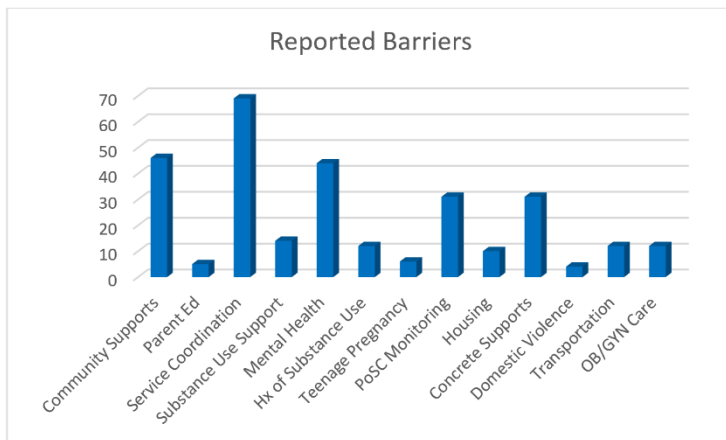


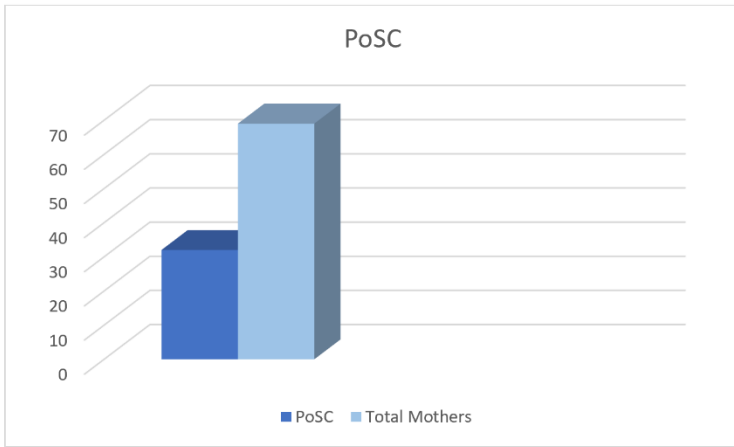
## Perinatal Cluster - Laurie Clark, Coordinator

*Perinatal Cluster* is an integrated team of providers representing multiple systems. The objective of the Perinatal Cluster team is to implement trauma-informed care plans to address prenatal care, childbirth and postpartum care, substance use prevention and treatment, housing and basic needs and care for the mother & baby. This cross-system initiative is designed to lead to better pregnancy and recovery outcomes by facilitating better communication, clearly defining the roles of the various professionals who serve these mothers and families while maximizing the resources of multiple stakeholders who have a vested interest in accomplishing these shared goals.



Perinatal Cluster serves & supports mothers from all walks of life and from all over **Fairfield County**. These mothers often face more than one barrier that keeps them from maintaining health and safety for themselves and their children.





## Plan of Safe Care (PoSC)

PoSC describes the services and supports needed to comprehensively address the needs of infants prenatally exposed to the use of impactful substances (both legal and illegal) and their families. This graph shows how many mothers received service coordination from Perinatal Cluster this year and have needed and received a PoSC.

## Perinatal Cluster Impact

FCFC does not always know what the full impact will be for mothers in the perinatal cluster program, but by providing service coordination for medical & mental health care, employment stability, nutrition, education, disability services, public health screenings, and healthy, safe environments the cluster team is able to help shape interventions that support children and families.

Here are a few mothers who have shared their experience with Perinatal Cluster.



*"I just wanted to let you know I have really enjoyed the massage therapy. Omg that is amazing and helped my stress level so much I look forward to going again. Thank you for everything it has truly been a blessing for you to be a part of my life in this time."*

*"I am writing you honestly and completely emotional and the amount of gratitude I have for you and this program is beyond words. Since before my daughter was born, I was all over the place completely stressed out. We set a date to deliver but I ended up having to deliver earlier. Due to the fact that I was not prepared for my daughter to undergo open heart surgery I was trying to do my mom responsibilities not just for her but for my oldest daughter too. Things were so hard then you called me, and I thought honestly, it's too good to be true. I was wrong, it was definitely really true and this program and you Laurie I am so grateful for. I am in tears at the amount of help I received. I am blessed because without it, idk what I would of done honestly. My job didn't pay me for maternity leave, yet I was completely out of money no way to buy the things I needed for my daughter no way to continue to afford gas money from driving one to school then back and forth from children's hospital and I had no way to pay my rent and keep a roof over me and my children's heads!! I was beyond stressed and had no idea what I was going to do but you guys helped me in a way I'll forever be in debt to. My daughter not only got everything she needed and was able to come home but I was able to continue and keep a roof over our heads. This program I pray to God will forever stay because it helped me release so much stress it helped me completely catch up on my rent and get back on my feet and receive everything I needed for my daughter. I will forever be grateful to you guys, and I pray you guys are able to help more struggling mothers who are doing it completely by themselves like I am as you have helped me!!!! THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR EVERYTHING TRULY THANK YOU THANK YOU I CANT SAY THANK YOU ENOUGH TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE!!!!!!"*

*"I want to thank you for helping me and my little girls with our rent and providing my baby with a crib. Also, I was able to get scheduled with the counselor you referred me to. The help that you provided has really helped me. I am so appreciative to have support from you and the program. Thank you again. Oh, and my old daughter starts Head Start soon too!"*

## Multi-System Youth Initiative

Shannon Eads, MSY Service Coordinator      Madison Niemann, MSY Service Coordinator

The Multi-System Youth (MSY) program provides Service Coordination and Wraparound for multi-need youth and families by organizing agencies, people and services to support the individual needs of children and families. With the family's involvement, a service plan is formulated to increase efficiency and responsiveness to each family's unique needs and goals. Fairfield County pools its resources and efforts to provide service coordination, as well as a broad range of support and evidence-based interventions.

Reducing out of home placements for high need youths and serving families and youth in the least restrictive setting is one of the goals of this program. During FY 2023, 147 youth were served. There were three youths that were in out of home placement. Most youths exiting service coordination achieved all the goals of their service plan.

### Multi-System Youth Committee Structure

Interdisciplinary Team for youth from birth up to age 21  
Executive Cluster for out-of-home placements and overall strategies

### Multi-System Youth Program Pooled Funding Partners

ADAMH  
Juvenile Court  
Board of Developmental Disabilities  
Fairfield County Job and Family Services  
Board of County Commissioners



### MSY Successes in FY 2023

The Multi-System Youth Coordinators see many successes in working with families; from small victories such as bridging the communication gaps between involved providers and the family, to dramatic changes in behaviors and decision-making skills by the youth with the support of the family and team.

One youth came to MSY as parent was concerned about potentially problematic sexual acting out, stealing, aggressive behaviors, and a need to build strong self-regulation and self-awareness skills. "A year ago, I was questioning even getting him anything for his birthday because he was stealing? I am beyond grateful for your help. He's come so far." This parent felt as if there was no hope and had no idea where to begin to get their child the support and services that were needed to gain positive skills and behavioral changes. The youth was verbally and sometimes physically aggressive to parent and sibling, had damaged walls in the home, and lashed out at his family out of anger and frustration. Now the youth has learned critical self-regulation skills through Intensive Home-Based Therapy along with becoming more aware of his triggers and moods so that he can identify when he is feeling escalated before things get out of hand.

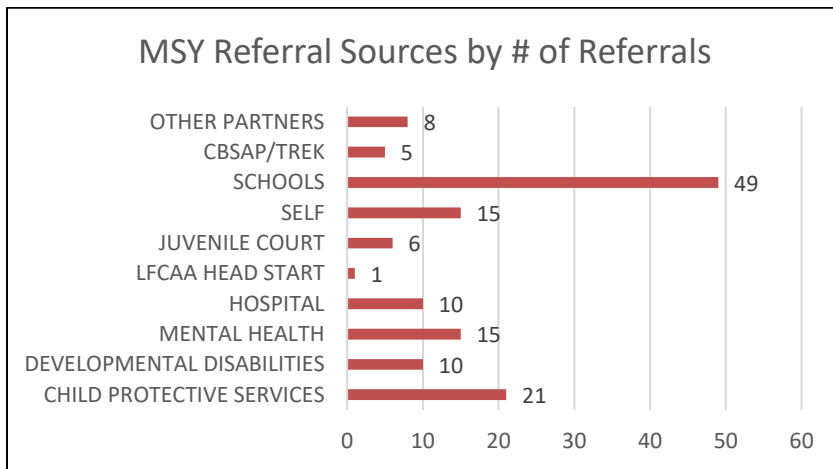
Another family came to MSY on the verge of an out of home placement and were willing to try the Intensive Home-Based Therapy program. The youth's parents stated that the youth had undergone a dramatic change in personality and behavior over the last year. This youth had been a star athlete,

## Multi-System Youth Initiative

Shannon Eads, MSY Service Coordinator

Madison Niemann, MSY Service Coordinator

received excellent grades, no attendance issues, and was friends with everyone. Suddenly the youth became withdrawn, pushed away friends, started extensive self-harm behaviors, would have angry and aggressive outbursts, and spoke often about not wanting to live anymore. Through Intensive Home-Based Therapy, the family was able to obtain a better understanding of the diagnosis and needs of their teenage daughter, as she was able to adopt healthier coping skills and work to replace self-harm with other positive activities (body art markers and mindful hobbies). There has been a dramatic decrease in the self-harm and self-destructive behaviors that brought this family to MSY. The youth now has a job, is attending school again, and through utilizing learned skills is able to communicate with providers and parents more effectively to self-advocate for needed services and supports. She is even able to look forward and make plans and ideations about what the future may hold.



Services Utilized:		Ages of Youth Served:	
Mental Health	125	0-3	0
Intensive Home-Based Therapy	13	9-Apr	26
Concrete Supports/Respite	7	13-Oct	49
Positive Activities/Camps	17	14-18	72
IEP/504 Accommodations	100	19-21	0
Board of Developmental Disabilities	16		
Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities	7		

## Safe Communities- Kim Coward

The Safe Communities Coalition promotes safe driving practices and creates awareness of behaviors that prevent traffic crashes, injuries, and fatalities. Safe Communities Coalition initiatives are made possible through a grant from the Ohio Traffic Safety Office and in-kind support from local community partners.

This year, the Coalition applied for and received a State Farm Insurance Foundation grant to present a special event at Lancaster High School — ThinkFast® Interactive — a program that educated students on pedestrian and traffic safety in a fun and relaxed environment. This program engaged participants through Audience Response Technology.



## Early Childhood Safety Initiative (ECSI)-Kim Coward

As Ohio's sole public funding source dedicated to child abuse and neglect prevention, the Ohio Children's Trust Fund (OCTF) is at the fore front of prevention activities throughout the state. OCTF continues to work with organizations across the state to provide the ECSI initiative. FCFC is a Provider for ECSI.

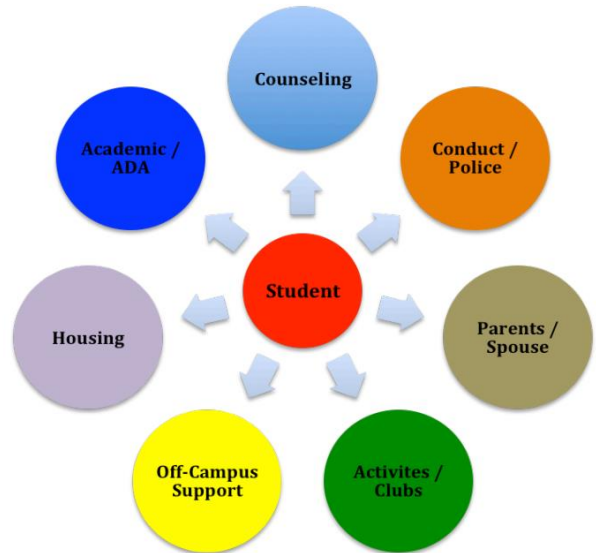
By increasing the distribution of parent education materials related to topics like infant safe sleep practices, childhood development, child safety as well as increasing access to concrete safety-related supports we can: better support new parents, decrease risk factors related to infant and child mortality and potentially prevent injury-related deaths.



## TREK – Community Based School Attendance Intervention

Audra Wolf – TREK Case Manager  
 Dennis Surbaugh – TREK Case Manager  
 David Heeter – TREK Case Manager

TREK is a journey with a family to navigate the challenges in getting their youth to attend school. A TREK Case Manager will partner with the youth, family, and other community supports to improve the youth’s participation in their education system. TREK is a voluntary program that gives families the opportunity to work on their school attendance related issues informally, within the community. The goal of Trek is to link youth and family with needed community resources and supports and prevent involvement with the juvenile justice system.



Every family in TREK will meet with a Case Manager who will explain what to expect from the program and how the family can stay away from the juvenile court system. The Case Manager will continue to check in with the family and youth regularly. This will include in-person meetings and phone calls. These meetings are to prepare for the upcoming Family Team Meeting. During one of the initial meetings, the Case manager will conduct an assessment. The purpose of the assessment is to determine what resources would benefit the youth and family.

The TREK Facilitator will use the information gathered in the assessment to guide the team in creating an Enhanced Absence Intervention Plan (EAIP). The EAIP includes goals that the team would like to achieve and who will take what steps and actions to help meet those goals.

Cases	
Current Open	34
Total Cases in 2023	109
Cases closed in 2023	76
Return to Prosecutor	45
Closed Successfully	33



## TREK – Community Based School Attendance Intervention

Audra Wolf – TREK Case Manager  
Dennis Surbaugh – TREK Case Manager  
David Heeter – TREK Case Manager

The length of stay depends on the youth and family’s level of involvement with the program. The sooner the goals on the EAIP are met and regular school attendance is achieved, the sooner the family can exit the program successfully. TREK is a voluntary program that aims to keep families and youth out of the juvenile court systems. **If a family chooses to not participate, their case will be sent back to the Prosecutor’s office and the family will be assigned to the Court system.**

Risk Factors									
Parents in home:		Learning Plan:		Safety issues:		Abuse:		Mental Health:	
2 Parent	3 2	504	3	Drugs	8	DV	0	ADHD	6
1 Parent (dad)	6	IEP	1 2	Alcohol	2	Sexual	3	Spectrum	1
1 Parent (mom)	3 6	DD	0	Homeless	4	Physical	4	BiPolar	0
Foster	0	None	2 7	Food Insecurity	1	Verbal	2	Depression	4
Grandparent	6			Multi	0	None	6 2	Anxiety	8
Other	1			None	6 7	Multi	6	Schizophrenia	0
						Neglect	4	Multi	1 9
								None	4 2
								Suicide Attempt	1



## Ohio Buckles Buckeyes (OBB) Program - Brandy Heeter, Coordinator

The Ohio Department of Health's child passenger safety (CPS) program, Ohio Buckles Buckeyes (OBB), provides child safety convertible and booster seats to eligible, low-income families in all Ohio counties. The overall goal of the program is to increase the availability of child safety seats for families who could not otherwise afford them and to increase correct installation and proper use of child safety seats. To receive an OBB seat, income eligible families must attend an educational class provided by trained local CPS staff. In this session, the parent/caregiver(s) receive important education on how to properly use the car seat for their child, they are instructed on how to correctly install the seat in their vehicle, and practice correct installation. This program provides: child safety convertible car seats, child booster seats and CPS education.

During FY23, FCFC provided 80 car seats to families.

	# of convertible car seat provided to families	# of booster seats provided to families	# of car seat checks preformed	# of car seats installed correctly during car seat check	# of car seats installed incorrectly during car seat check
October 2022-December 2022	14	1	0	0	0
January 2023-March 2023	14	4	3	2	1
April 2023-June 2023	15	1	4	2	2
July 2023-September 2023	27	4	3	0	3
<b>FY23 Totals</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>



## 2023 FCFC Executive Committee Members

Amanda Wattenberg	Ohio Guidestone, Regional Vice-President
Carrie Woody	City of Lancaster Service Safety Director
Corey Clark	Job and Family Services Director
Dana Hoff	Community Action-Early Childhood Programs Director
David Levacy	Fairfield County Commissioner
David Scheffler & Shannon Seesholtz	Lancaster City Mayor Office
David Uhl	Board of Developmental Disabilities Superintendent
Dr. Cathy Ely & Dr. Chris Briggs	Pickerington Local School District
Dr. Marie Ward	Fairfield County Educational Service Center Superintendent
Jeannette Curtis	Fairfield County 2-1-1 Executive Director
Joe Ebel	Fairfield County Health Department Health Commissioner
John Pekar	Board of Developmental Disabilities Superintendent
Lisa Evangelista	Fairfield Community Health Center CEO
Melissa Newman	Parent Representative
Nathan Hale	Lancaster City Schools Superintendent
Sarah Fortner	Deputy Director of Protective Services
Terre Vandervoort	Juvenile & Probate Court Judge

## Fairfield County FACFC Staff

- Tiffany Wilson, FCFC Manager, EI Contract Manager
- Laurie Clark, Perinatal Cluster Coordinator
- Brandy Heeter, Parent Education
- Shannon Eads, Multi-System Youth Program
- Madison Niemann, Multi-System Youth Program and Perinatal Cluster
- Kim Coward, Safe Communities Coordinator
- Dennis Surbaugh, Community –Based Attendance Program
- David Heeter, Community –Based Attendance Program
- Audra Wolf, Community –Based Attendance Program

