



FAIRFIELD COUNTY
**Family &
Children First**
COUNCIL

2024 Annual Report



“None of us is as smart as all of us” – Ken Blanchard



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FAIRFIELD COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
2024 ANNUAL MEETING & AWARD PRESENTATION
NOVEMBER 21, 2024, 8:30 A.M.

Welcome	Jeannette Curtis, 211 Executive Director, FCFC Council President
Program Updates	Tiffany Wilson, FCFC Manager
Firefly Awards	<p>Our Firefly Award recipients are recognized for <i>lighting the way</i> for others to succeed.</p> <p>Presented by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tiffany Wilson: Help Me Grow Early Intervention• Tiffany Wilson: Safe Communities• Tiffany Wilson: Parent Education• Laurie Clark: Perinatal Cluster• Dennis Surbaugh and Audra Wolf: Multi-System Youth• Dennis Surbaugh and Audra Wolf: TREK Program
Presentation	Elisha Cangelosi, State FCFC Executive Director Colleen Tucker, State FCFC Assistant Executive Director
Mary Good Award	Sherry Kilbarger, 2023 Mary Good Humanitarian Award winner
FCFC Annual Report	Tiffany Wilson, FCFC Manager Laurie Clark, FCFC Perinatal Cluster Coordinator
Closing	Jeannette Curtis, 211 Executive Director, FCFC Council President



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Early Intervention

FCFC Manager/ EI Contract Manager: Tiffany Wilson



The Family and Children First Council (FCFC) partners with Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency (LFCAA) and the Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD) to provide Fairfield County’s Early Intervention (EI) Program. These agencies provide essential services to families of infants and toddlers (birth to age 3) with



developmental delays or disabilities. The program focuses on promoting child development, encouraging family involvement, and preparing children for school. Each family is supported by a team that includes a service coordinator, service providers, the family, and any additional support individuals the family chooses to involve. This team works together to create a coordinated plan, called an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP),



which builds upon the family’s existing resources and support systems to enhance the child’s learning and development. Services are delivered in the family’s home or other familiar locations the family regularly visits, ensuring a comfortable environment for growth. Ohio’s Early Intervention Program plays a key

role in reducing long-term developmental challenges by offering early, targeted support.



In SFY24, the Fairfield County Early Intervention (EI) Program achieved 100% compliance with both state and federal regulations that were monitored. This indicates that the program met all the required standards and guidelines during that period, ensuring quality and effective service delivery for eligible children and families.

Eligibility Reason	#	%
One or More Substantial Delay(s)	303	61%
One or More Mild Delay(s)	45	9%
Clinical Opinion	61	12%
Dx on Approved List	90	18%
Dx from a Doctor's form	1	0%
Total	500	

Service Type	#	%
Special Instruction	190	72%
Speech Therapy	24	9%
Physical Therapy	39	15%
Occupational Therapy	13	5%
Total	266	

Referral Source	#	%
Family or Caregiver	102	19%
Hospital	117	22%
Physician	168	32%
Protective Services	48	9%
HMG EI	74	14%
Other Sources	18	3%
Total	527	

Exit Reason	#	%
Reached age 3	152	60%
No longer eligible prior to age 3	50	20%
Withdrawn by parent (guardian) before age 3	31	12%
Attempts to contact unsuccessful	17	7%
Moved out of state	4	2%
Total	254	



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Multi-System Youth (MSY)

Service Coordinators: Audra Wolf and Dennis Surbaugh

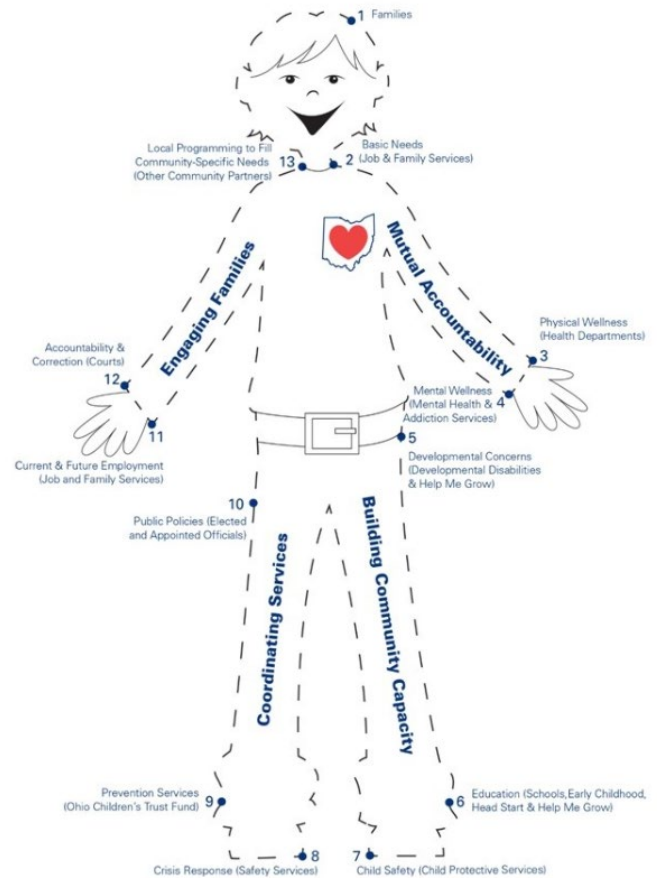
The Multi-System Youth program offers Service Coordination and Wraparound services for youth with complex needs and their families. This approach involves coordinating various agencies, resources, and services to address the unique needs of each child and family. With active family involvement, a personalized service plan is developed to enhance the effectiveness and responsiveness of services, ensuring they align with the specific goals and needs of the family.

Fairfield County collaborates to pool its resources and efforts, providing service coordination and a wide range of support, including and evidence-based interventions.

A key goal of the program is to reduce out-of-home placements for high-needs youth by serving families and youth in the least restrictive settings. In FY24, 109 youth were served, with only 2 placed out of home. Most youth who exited service coordination successfully achieved all the goals outlined in their service plans.



We Connect the Dots

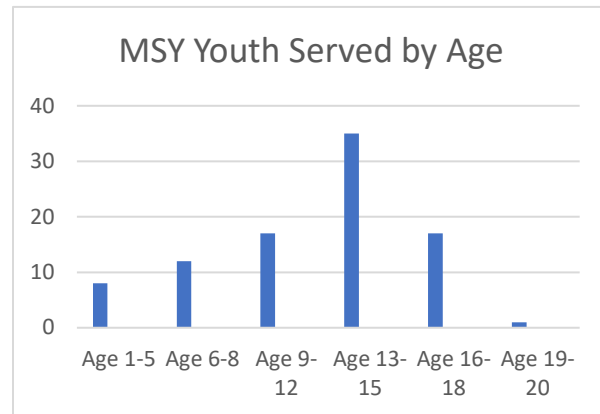
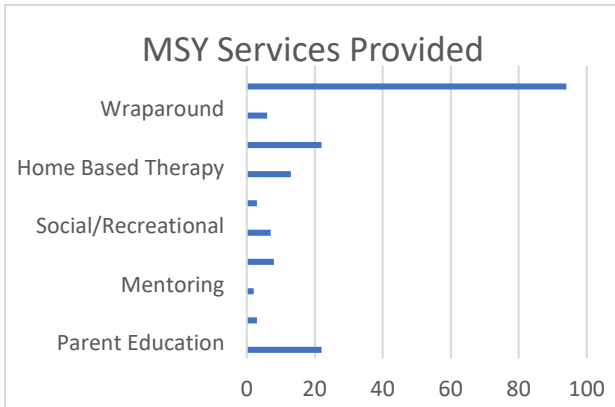


Multi-System Youth Program Pooled Funding Partners

- Fairfield County Board of County Commissioners
- Fairfield County ADAMH
- Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities
- Fairfield County Child Protective Services



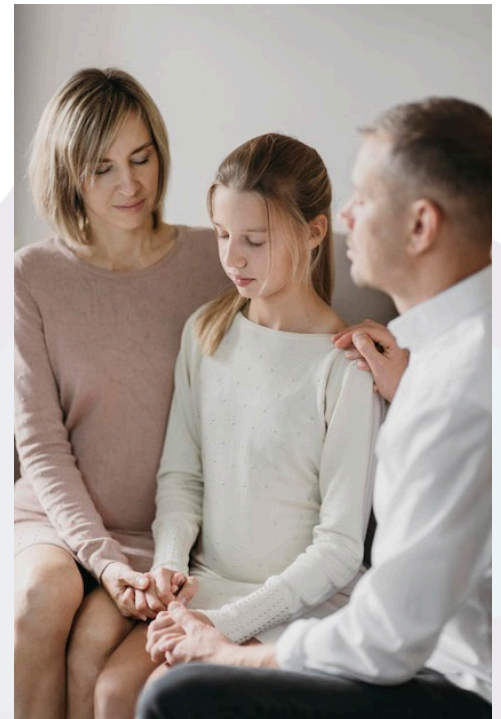
MSY FY 2024 MSY Program Data Snapshots



Multi-System Youth Success

A direct quote from one of our families

“Since our daughter's diagnosis, finding effective support seemed like an insurmountable challenge, leaving us feeling hopeless. But the Multi-System Youth Program reignited that hope. Our exceptional Ohio Guidestone therapist, who is provided by MSY, offered unwavering guidance and expertise, standing by us through even the darkest moments. The program far exceeded our expectations, providing invaluable navigation through the complexities of school and healthcare systems. From accompanying our daughter during difficult times to handling emergency calls at any hour, their dedication knew no bounds. Their tailored recommendations have so far yielded encouraging results. We wholeheartedly endorse the Multi-System Youth Program for its transformative support.”





Parent Education

The Family and Children’s First Council (FCFC) is committed to strengthening families in Fairfield County through a variety of evidence-based parent education programs such as *The First Five Years*, *Active Parenting for Stepfamilies*, *Parent Project*, and the *Triple P Positive Parenting Program* (including Level 3 seminars, Level 4: 0-12 Group, Level 4: Teen Group, and one-on-one *Primary Care*). These programs help parents manage challenges and promote positive family dynamics.

To ensure accessibility, transportation services are available at no cost, including gas cards and rides on *The Link* transit system. Additionally, some families receive concrete support to help apply parenting strategies and connect with local resources.

FCFC’s Parent Education programs are funded through partnerships with the Fairfield County ADAMH Board, Nationwide Children’s Hospital, the Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission’s CDBG grant, and the Ohio Children’s Trust Fund (OCTF), making these services accessible to families across the county.

SFY24	Groups offered	Participants
Triple P Level 3 Seminars	22	93
Triple P Level 4 Groups: Birth-12 years	4	23
Triple P Level 4 Groups: Teen	5	23
Triple P one-on-one Primary Care	13	13
First Five Years	2	17
Active Parenting for Stepfamilies	1	4
Parent Project	2	40
Total		213



FCFC also coordinates and facilitates the Parent Education Cooperative. This group assesses program offerings, identify gaps in services, and develop solutions to meet the needs of all families, including underserved populations. This advisory group plays a crucial role in shaping the direction of the parenting programs in Fairfield County.

FCFC also publishes and distributes the quarterly *Family Resource Calendar*, providing families with a comprehensive list of available resources. This guide is available online and in print, ensuring families have access to the most current information.

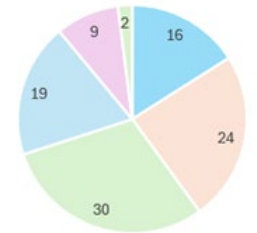
Through these efforts, FCFC continues to support Fairfield County families, building stronger, healthier communities. We are grateful for the ongoing support of our partners and the community.



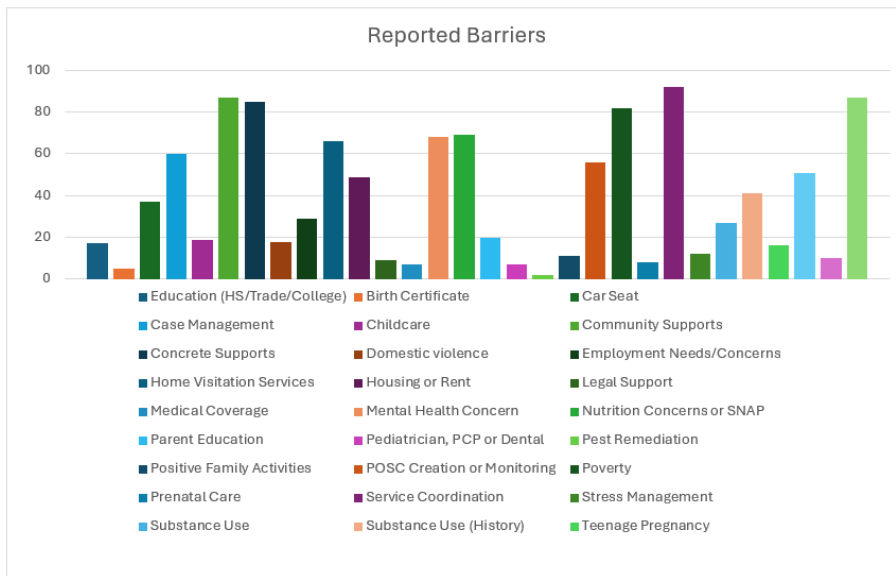
Perinatal Cluster
Laurie Clark, Coordinator

The Perinatal Cluster Program supports mothers facing barriers to safe and healthy births. The Perinatal Cluster Program is a critical community resource designed to support mothers who face significant barriers to having a safe and healthy birth and through the baby’s first year of life. This program addresses the unique needs of pregnant women who encounter challenges such as poverty, inadequate access to healthcare, and substance use issues. By offering service coordination tailored to *100 mothers and their infants in SFY 2024*, the program has been able to help improve maternal and infant health & well-being outcomes.

Mothers Age at Program Entry



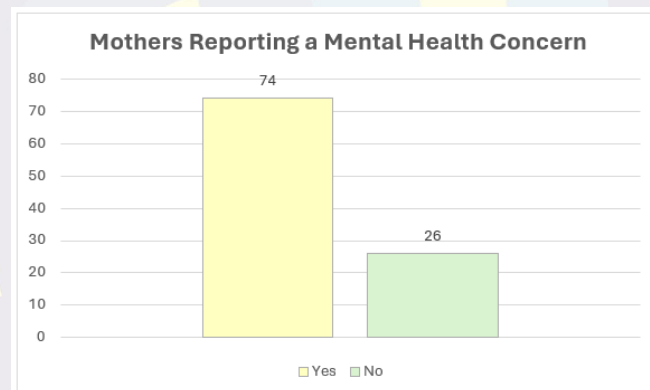
■ 15-19 ■ 20-24 ■ 25-29 ■ 30-34 ■ 35-39 ■ 40-45



A significant portion of the mothers enrolled in the program struggle with substance use, which poses a substantial risk to both the mother and the baby. The Perinatal Cluster Program works closely with these mothers by connecting them to substance treatment programs, offering referrals for counseling services, and providing education on the effects of substance use during pregnancy. Through these referrals, the program aims to reduce substance exposure in utero and support mothers in their

recovery journey.

For mothers dealing with substance use disorders, the program implements and/or monitors a **Plan of Safe Care (POSC)**, a critical component in ensuring both mother and baby are safe and supported. The POSC outlines specific actions and resources that will be provided to address the health, treatment, and well-being of the family. *During SFY 24, 54 of the 100 mothers had a POSC.* This plan often includes referrals to addiction treatment programs, parenting classes, housing support, and coordination with social services to create a secure environment for the newborn. The POSC not only focuses on





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the mother's needs but also includes plans to protect and support the baby's health, ensuring that both mother and child are cared for in the long term.

The Perinatal Cluster Program recognizes the social and emotional challenges that mothers may face, including isolation, mental health struggles, and lack of family or community support. Through counseling services, peer support groups, and case management, the Perinatal Cluster Program helps mothers build a support system that fosters emotional well-being and strengthens their ability to care for their newborns.

The Perinatal Cluster Program plays an essential role in supporting mothers who face significant barriers to having a safe and healthy birth. By providing access to healthcare, substance abuse support, and creating Plans of Safe Care, the program ensures that vulnerable mothers and their babies receive the comprehensive care they need. Through this holistic approach, the program not only addresses immediate needs but also promotes long-term family stability and well-being.

Perinatal Cluster

Success Stories

"Hi! I entered the perinatal cluster program last year when I was pregnant with my now 1 year old little boy. This program has been a huge help in my life especially last year. I found out that I had a brain tumor in July of 2023, I was 8 months pregnant and was told I needed to have brain surgery. I reached out to Laurie and when I say she was there every step of the way. She helped me get the majority of my baby items considering the fact I couldn't work due to me already being high risk in my pregnancy. She has gotten me connected to different services in the community to help both my children and I. If I could rate this program and working with Laurie, I would give it a MILLION stars because this program really made me feel like I had someone in my corner every step of the way in my pregnancy and after my pregnancy. This program took a lot of stress off of me that would normally happen in pregnancy with trying to get the essential things a baby would need, and I really feel like a huge weight was lifted off my shoulders so I could just focus on my pregnancy and staying healthy for baby! Thank you, Laurie, for everything you have done for my children and I! You made a huge impact in our lives, and we will forever appreciate you for that!"



Photo used with permission of subjects

"I wanted to thank you for being my rock for always being there for getting everything I need for zi bug for always talking to me when I was stressed you were honestly the best person I have met since I had her. Your program saved me and allowed me to get on my feet and I will forever be in your debt. I told my friend to contact you she's really struggling she hasn't had a baby in 9 years and now she's about to have a little boy in 24 days and she's freaking out cause she's not prepared."



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Safe Communities

The Safe Communities Program in Fairfield County aims to promote safe driving practices and reduce traffic-related injuries and fatalities. Funded through a grant from the Ohio Traffic Safety Office (OTSO), the program is administered by the Fairfield County Health Department, with funds passed through from the Fairfield County Family and Children First Council (FCFC). The health department plays a key role in



**Ohio Traffic
Safety Office**



implementing the program, organizing educational campaigns, community events, and workshops to raise awareness about safe driving behaviors. The initiative focuses on high-risk groups, such as teens, young adults, and older drivers, and targets areas with higher traffic incidents, such as school zones and busy holiday periods.

Key components of the program include:

1. Educational Campaigns: Using media and outreach to inform the public about distracted, impaired, and unsafe driving.
2. Community Events: Interactive workshops and events that teach safe driving habits.
3. Local Law Enforcement Partnership: Collaborating with police for enforcement and awareness efforts.
4. Teen Driver Safety: Special initiatives aimed at educating young drivers.
5. Data Collection: Analyzing traffic data to track progress and identify areas needing further attention.



Fairfield County
**Health
Department**

commitment to safer roads.

The program has helped reduce traffic accidents and fatalities in the county while increasing community engagement with traffic safety education. By continuing to adapt to local needs, the Safe Communities Program remains a vital part of Fairfield County's





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Early Childhood Safety Initiative

The FCFC Early Childhood Safety Initiative, funded by a grant from the Ohio Children’s Trust Fund, helped families provide safe environments for young children by offering up to \$500 in safety equipment. This program targeted families with children under the age of 3, providing essential items like car seats, baby gates, outlet covers, corner protectors, and smoke detectors to prevent injuries at home.



Administered by the Fairfield County Family and Children First Council (FCFC), the program passes through funds to eligible families who meet specific criteria, such as income level and household size. Families can apply for safety equipment to address their specific needs.

The initiative has proven beneficial in reducing childhood injuries, especially for families facing financial challenges who may not have otherwise been able to afford such equipment. Through this program, FCFC and the Ohio Children’s Trust Fund are promoting child safety and well-being in the community.

Families served	Funds spent
113 families	\$38,299.94

Ohio Buckles Buckeyes (OBB) Program

The Ohio Buckles Buckeyes (OBB) program, administered by the Ohio Department of Health’s Child Passenger Safety Program, aims to increase the availability and proper use of child safety seats for low-income families across Ohio. The program provides eligible families with convertible and booster car seats and offers essential education on the correct installation and use of these seats.



Families in Fairfield County can access this program if they meet income eligibility requirements. To receive a car seat, parents or caregivers must attend an educational session conducted by trained staff. During this class, participants learn how to correctly install the seat in their vehicle, as well as proper usage for their child's specific needs

Families served	Car Seats Distributed
39	43



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TREK

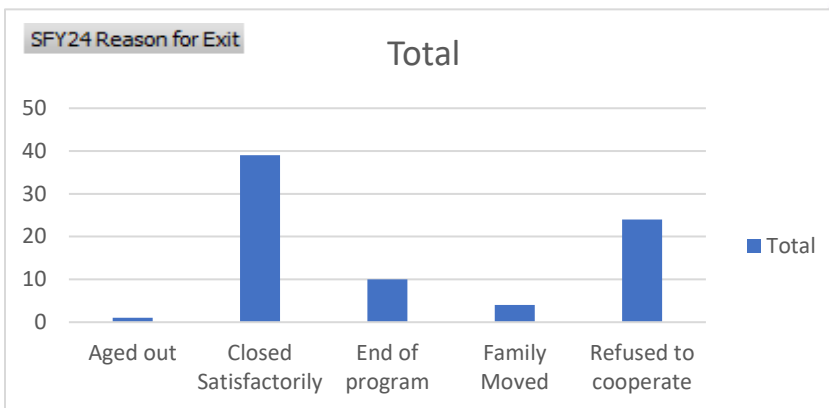
The TREK Program was designed to provide support for children and families dealing with truancy. The main goal of the program was to improve school attendance by addressing the root causes of truancy and building strong partnerships between students, their families, and schools.

Through personalized case management, the TREK Program worked with each family to create a plan tailored to their specific needs. Case managers offered guidance and connected families with important community resources, including mental health services, transportation assistance, and social support programs. By helping families overcome these barriers, the program made it easier for students to attend school regularly.



One of the key strengths of the TREK Program was its collaboration with a wide range of educational institutions. TREK worked closely with eight school districts and numerous online schools, ensuring that students had the support they needed, whether they were attending in-person or learning remotely. This partnership allowed TREK to support a variety of students and meet their unique needs, no matter their learning environment.

In addition to supporting families, the program emphasized communication between schools and families. Case managers worked with school staff to monitor student attendance, identify any academic or behavioral challenges, and set achievable attendance goals. This teamwork helped ensure that students received the proper support both at home and at school.



The program also engaged parents and guardians by educating them about the impact of truancy on their child's education. TREK provided families with practical strategies to help improve attendance, such as establishing consistent routines and offering positive reinforcement. By involving families in the process, the program helped create a stronger support system and fostered a sense of accountability for both students and

parents.



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JFS Oversight

Fairfield County Job and Family Services (FCJFS) plays a vital role in providing ongoing oversight and collaboration with the Council. The JFS Assistance Director, Heather O’Keefe, works closely with the FCFC Manager, offering guidance, supervision, and strategic direction through regular meetings and active participation in key decision-making processes. This collaboration enhances the overall functioning of the Council, ensuring smooth communication and the implementation of best practices. Additionally, FCJFS provides robust financial oversight, managing the Council’s financial records, monitoring expenditures, and ensuring compliance with all necessary regulations. This comprehensive support from JFS helps the Council maintain transparency, accountability, and efficiency in its operations, ultimately contributing to the success of its initiatives and services.



2025 Meeting Schedule

Full Council

Time: 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.

Location: Agriculture Building
(Annual Meeting will be held at Alley Park)

Dates:

- January 16, 2025
- March 20, 2025
- May 15, 2025
- July 17, 2025
- September 18, 2025
- November 20, 2025 (Annual Meeting)

Executive Committee

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Location: Agriculture Building

Dates:

- February 21, 2025
- April 18, 2025
- June 20, 2025
- August 15, 2025
- October 17, 2025
- December 19, 2025



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The **FCFC Executive Committee** plays a crucial role in overseeing the strategic direction and decision-making processes of the organization. Composed of key leaders, this committee is responsible for ensuring that the organization stays aligned with its mission, goals, and values. It reviews and approves major initiatives, budgets, and policies, providing guidance on critical matters that affect the organization’s operations. The Executive Committee also evaluates the performance of programs and services, ensuring they meet the needs of the community and stakeholders. Through regular meetings and close collaboration with other committees and staff, the Executive Committee helps ensure effective governance and leadership, steering the organization toward long-term success.



Amanda Wattenberg	Ohio Guidestone, Regional Vice-President
Chris Briggs	Pickerington Local Schools Superintendent
Christine Simmons	United Way CEO
Corey Clark	Job and Family Services Director
Dana Hoff	Community Action-Early Childhood Programs Director
Danny Fisher	Fairfield Community Health Center CFO
Dave Levacy	Fairfield County Commissioner
David Uhl	Board of Developmental Disabilities Superintendent
Jeannette Curtis*	Fairfield County 2-1-1 Executive Director
Joe Ebel**	Fairfield County Health Department Health Commissioner
Marcy Fields	ADAMH Executive Director
Marie Ward	Fairfield County Educational Service Center Superintendent
Marvella Allen	Pickerington Schools Executive Director of Prevention & Intervention
Melissa Newman	Parent Representative
Nathan Hale	Lancaster City Schools Superintendent
Sarah Fortner	Deputy Director of Protective Services
Shannon Seesholtz	Lancaster City Mayor’s Office
Terre Vandervoort	Juvenile & Probate Court Judge

