



# Ohio Family and Children First

Angela Sausser Short, Director

# Historical Background

- **Began as Children's Clusters in late 1980s**
- **Codified in Statute in 1993 by then Governor Voinovich as Ohio Family and Children First (OFCF) Cabinet Council with 88 County Family and Children First Councils (FCFC)**



# OFCF Cabinet Council

- Convened by the Governor
- Chaired by the First Lady
- Directors of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services; Budget and Management; Health; Job and Family Services; Mental Health; Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities; Youth Services; and the Superintendent of Public Instruction (Education)
- Will be adding Director of Rehabilitation and Corrections
- Ohio Department of Mental Health serves as the Fiscal Agent for the Office of OFCF Cabinet



## Local FCF Councils

- Convened by the County Commissioners
- 17 mandated members consisting of Directors of county governmental agencies; City representative; School Superintendents; non-profit organizations; early childhood representatives; Head Start representative; and at least 3 family representatives.
- May have additional members beyond the mandate



# OFCF Mission & Vision

## MISSION

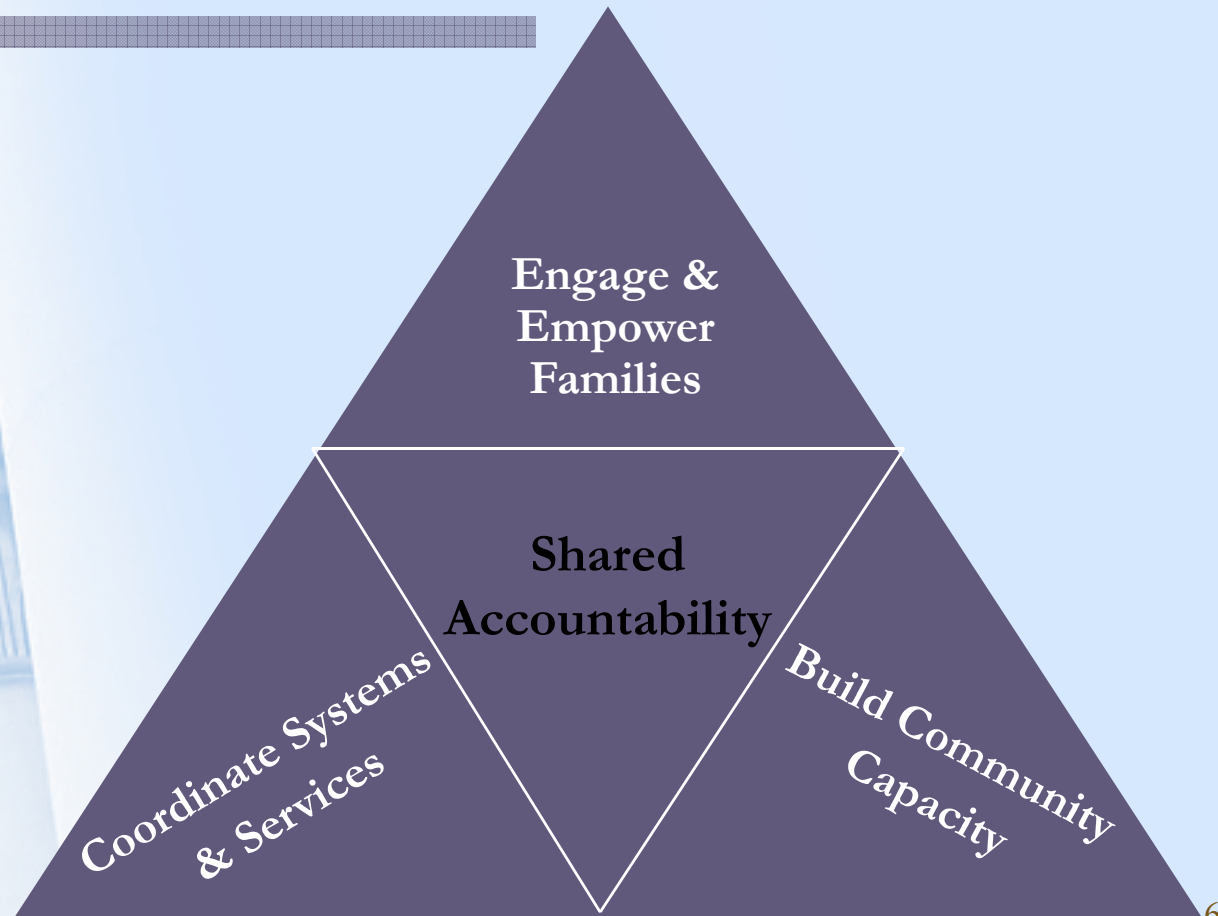
A collaborative partnership of state and local government, communities and families that enhances the well being of Ohio's children and families through building community capacity, coordinating systems and services, and engaging and empowering families.

## VISION

Ohio's families and children will thrive and succeed.



# OFCF Core Functions



## Getting Results at the Local Level

- \* **Partnerships for Success**
- \* **H.B. 289 (August 2006)– requires local & state annual planning & reporting progress with impacting child well-being**
- \* **6 Commitments to Child Well-Being with Indicators**
- \* **Planning & Reporting Guidance based on a sound Logic Model**
- \* **Tracking Outcomes at State Level**



# Ohio's Commitments to Child Well-Being

- Expectant parents and newborns thrive
- Infants and toddlers thrive
- Children are ready for school
- Children and youth succeed in school
- Youth choose healthy behaviors
- Youth successfully transition into adulthood



## **Additional Accountability Efforts**

- \* **Web-based platform to collect & analyze child, youth & family service coordination outcome data at the local level**
- \* **Regional Family Advisory Networks**
- \* **Annual administrative grant application to capture progress and goals for the core functions**
- \* **Cabinet level Advisory Board**



# Vision Moving Forward

- ✓ New Governor and Administration with *Leadership* provided by the First Lady as Chair
- ✓ First Lady visiting the 88 County FCF Councils
- ✓ Partnering Together at the State and Local Levels to Achieve Better Outcomes for Children and Families – *tearing down the silos*



## Ohio's State and Local Collaborative Family and Children First Model To Establish Priorities for Families and Children



### 88 County Family and Children First Councils

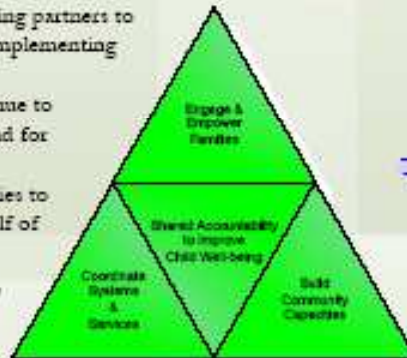
**County Priorities**  
County Family and Children First Councils determine, develop and implement strategies to achieve their own county's highest priorities  
and  
Implement strategies that make a positive impact on state initiated priorities

**Build Community Capacity** - mobilize child and family serving partners to address the needs of children and families through planning and implementing evidence-based programs;

**Coordinate Systems and Services** - provide a formalized venue to facilitate the alignment of resources, policies, and services with and for children and families;

**Engage and Empower Families** - recruit and support families to be active contributing members on council and advocate on behalf of children and families; and,

**Share Accountability for FCF's Vision** - monitor, evaluate, and communicate progress and successes for each of Ohio's commitments to assure that all Ohio families and children thrive.



### Ohio Family and Children First



**Data Informed Policy Making**  
88 County Family and Children First Councils inform the development and implementation of future state & local intersystems priorities and funding

**State Department Priorities**  
State Departments determine which of their agency priorities require state & local government, communities & families to address their priority's)



# Thank You

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