

ACCESS TO BETTER CARE

SUMMIT COUNTY'S ASSURANCES

1. Family Inclusion

Summit County's Transformation Plan and the Service Coordination Plan both reflect the importance and value placed on parent involvement at both the case and system level. One of FCFC's guiding principles is that parents should have voice, access and ownership. The Cluster has included parents in the parent/professional staffing to determine services that their child and family needs but the Peers Project (parent advocacy) will assist us in extending parental involvement at the system level and also to offer parent advocates at the case level. The Peers Project has a core of trained parents that wish to be involved; therefore, this addition to FCFC is a great asset. FCFC anticipates this partnership growing as the committee develops their vision, roles and responsibilities.

2 Cultural Competence

One of FCFC's guiding principle is that services should be culturally, ethnic and race sensitive. This principle is put into practice by including the parent in the discussion and development of their individual case plan and encouraging them to invite informal supports to the meeting. Cultural sensitivity is also part of the Cluster's Cross System Training Program. Summit County is also fortunate to have the International Institute whose expertise can be utilized on an individual case or as a trainer for case managers on cultural competency. Many of the agencies that are members of FCFC already have a contract in place with the International Institute for interrupters and staff with the availability to sign for deaf clients.

3. Resources

FCFC through their strategic planning process to complete this plan and the Service Coordination Plan have discussed and agreed on fiscal strategies to maximize resources. New funds such as FAST and ABC dollars have assisted the county in expanding and/or developing new resources to transform our system of care. The funds will be utilized to further develop a wraparound model, parent advocates, ITC etc. One of the major planning considerations is how to sustain efforts financially over time. The Cluster also maximizes funds on an individual case basis by utilizing Shared Pool, IVE, Social Security, SSI and parent support if applicable. Cluster has designated a portion of the Shared Pool for wraparound services.

4. Academic Achievement

All individual service coordination plans developed through the wraparound planning model look at life domains. One of those domains are education/vocational; therefore, a school representative is invited to attend each individual parent/professional staffing and every individual service coordination plan contains steps to address academic achievement. PfS has also identified school success as their primary indicator and will measure success by increasing the percent of students passing the fourth grade proficiency test in those elementary schools with the lowest success rates.

Representatives from Akron City Schools and Summit County Schools also sit on the Cluster. These representatives are able to assist with individual cases but also at the system level. An example of the latter is that the Director of Special Education for Akron City Schools will present training on the new/improved IDEA reauthorization to case managers.

5. Technical Assistance

At this time we are not requesting technical assistance. Summit is a PFS county and has used the lessons learned through this process and their tools to assist in the development of this plan.

6. Evaluation/Reporting

Summit County will assure that all evaluation and reporting requirements from ODMH will be met.

i. Out of Home Placement Data

A method to arrive at the number of youth in FY05 that were specifically placed across systems specifically related to behavioral health needs is extremely difficult. The majority if not all youth placed not only had mental health needs but were also abused, dependent, unruly and/or delinquent, and MRDD eligible or a combination of issues. It is a rare case where the mental health issue stands alone. Children Services does not maintain data that could determine this number nor is it our belief that juvenile court grants CSB custody for the sole reason of behavioral health needs. This is why in our FAST report we stated that there were no youth placed in CSB custody for the sole purpose of behavioral health needs.

Summit County, for this report, made the decision to look at Cluster cases in FY05 and made a judgment that the youth placed were placed primarily due to behavioral health needs. Secondly, the placement agency was identified as the lead case manager due to that system involvement. The number is unduplicated. Also in all cases even if behavioral health needs were identified as primary also had involvement with other systems. As stated on the Transformation Plan, FCFC will schedule another planning meeting to try to determine a method to more accurately track this data if possible.

Summit County determined the number of youth (unduplicated) placed outside of their home due **primarily** to behavioral health needs is **21**.

Breakdown of Cluster Cases by Lead Agency Placed Primarily for Behavioral Health Needs

Child Guidance/Mental Health: 11

MRDD: 0

Juvenile Court: 7

CSB: 3

Cluster: In FY05 the Cluster placed and paid for part of placement costs through the Shared Pool in addition to cluster agencies contribution for youth. This will be the base line data for FY05. As stated in the plan, their will be further discussion on this issue.

ii. Cluster Relinquishment: Out of Home Placement Data

CSB was asked to furnish data for FY05 of all children placed in CSB's custody even for one day based on a dependency, neglect/abuse, delinquent and/or unruly filing. The data below represents adjudications for the FY05 (July 1, 2004-June 30, 2005) for children that entered care and an adjudication was made during the year. The first set of numbers represents all adjudications (which include more than one adjudication per child). The second set of numbers represents those children that only had one adjudication. The second set of numbers is a subset of the first set.

All CSB Adjudications for FY05

Delinquency:	2
Abuse:	99
Neglect:	200
Dependent:	369
Total:	661

Subset of the above-only one adjudication – Represents CSB Children that had One Adjudication

Dependency:	161
Abuse:	7
Neglect:	17
Total:	185

It should be noted that the Summit County Cluster is proud of the fact that the Shared Pool through payment of residential and/or services has assisted parents in maintaining custody when a youth is placed for behavioral health needs without having to give up custody for financial reasons. Cluster data collected from 2001 through 2004 demonstrated that 66-69 percent of parents maintained custody of their youth while in residential placement.

As stated in the plan, their will be further discussion on this issue.

iii. FCFC assures that outcome data related to transformation strategies as outlined in D, Chart 2 will be shared with ODMH.