

Clermont County Family & Children First Newsletter

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Spring 2005

Ohio Children's Trust Fund programs chosen

The mission of the Clermont County Family and Children First Council is to promote and facilitate communication and collaboration among Clermont County child and family serving agencies to ensure that Clermont County infants, children, adolescents and their families receive the most appropriate services to enable youth to develop adequate skills in preparation for a successful adulthood.

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BACKGROUND:

The Ohio Children's Trust Fund (OCTF) was created in 1984. It is the only dedicated public funding source in the state for primary and secondary child abuse/neglect prevention. OCTF funding is not available for tertiary prevention. Revenue for the OCTF is generated through a \$3 surcharge on copies of birth and death certificates and a fee of \$11 on divorce and dissolution filings. The Trust Fund Board makes funds for prevention programs/services available to each of Ohio's 88 counties on an annual basis. Monies are allocated to each county based on their percentage of children (under age 18) in the county in relation to the number of children in the state, according to the most recent census. A Local Prevention Advisory Board identifies and prioritizes the needs within the county and determines which programs/services will receive funding.

CLERMONT COUNTY PROGRAMS:

Child Focus, Inc will continue to receive funding for their Home Visitor program. This program focuses on serving high-risk parents and their children who have been referred by any referral source, including self-referral. Parents who have open cases with Children's Protective Services are not eligible. The family must have a child who ranges in age from birth to 12 years old. The program can screen children up to age 5 for potential developmental delays and make referrals to the appropriate resources for services. The program provides weekly in-home visitation for 10 weeks to provide intensive parent education, training and support.

If you would like to make a referral to the Home Visitor Program, please call 752-1555.

Primary Prevention: Activities and services provided for the general public which are designed to strengthen and support families and prevent child abuse/neglect before it occurs.

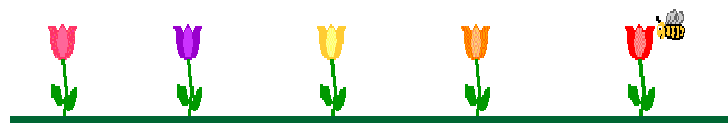
Secondary Prevention: Activities and services that are targeted to individuals or families having risk factors for child abuse/neglect.

Tertiary Prevention: Activities and services, which take place after abuse/neglect, have occurred and include protective intervention, social services, and/or treatment intended to prevent the re-occurrence of abuse/neglect.

Clermont County Children's Protective Services (CPS) will use OCTF to promote child abuse/neglect awareness during April, Child Abuse and Neglect Awareness Month. Each year CPS receives approximately 1000 calls to report abuse or neglect. Many of these are cases in which the families did not have appropriate resources or knowledge to care for their children in an appropriate manner. There are many programs in Clermont County that can assist and support these families if they were aware of the programs. Through pamphlets, public service announcements, posters and speaking engagements regarding abuse and neglect, CPS will be able to provide this information to the community at large due to OCTF funding.

Ohio's commitments to child well-being, are:

- 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



Jean Houston honored

At the February 24th Clermont 20/20 Salute to Leaders Award Banquet, Jean Houston was honored with the Human Services Award. Jean is a member of the FCF Council. She is the co-founder of Families Connected, a grass-roots

family advocacy agency, appreciated! Jean works tirelessly to advocate for children and families in Clermont and surrounding counties. Jean has a passion for educating parents to advocate for their children and her hard work is very much



Looking for a Support Group?

Clermont County has numerous support groups you may be interested in.

- * **Divorce & Loss.** For boys & girls 6-13 and their parents who could benefit from a group dealing with divorce issues and other issues associated with loss. Child Focus, Inc. 752-1555. Mondays 4:30-6pm.
- * **Helping Children Through Grief.** Free grief support services for children 5-18. Willow Wood. 753-6464.
- * **ADHD Treatment Program.** For boys and girls 6-13 and their parents. Child must have an

ADHD diagnosis. Focus is on improving impulse control, self-esteem and frustration tolerance. Child Focus, Inc. 752-1555. Wednesdays 5:30-7pm.

- * **Transitions Program.** For 11-14 year old males & females who have been placed in foster care or removed from their home. Issues covered: the stigma of being in foster care, feelings associated with it, day to day issues in the foster family. Child Focus, Inc. 752-1555. Thursdays 6:30-8pm

* **Survivors After Suicide.** For adults who have lost a loved one to suicide. Contact Liz Atwell 724-9222.

- * **Family of Alcoholics.** For

people whose lives are affected by someone else's drinking or substance abuse. Clermont Recovery Center. 735-8100. Thursdays 6pm.



- * **Sexual Assault Support Group.** For survivors who are experiencing the effects of sexual abuse, sexual assault, incest or rape. YWCA Batavia. 1-800-644-4460.

- * **Growing Up With Kids.** Support group for any parent who would like to improve their parenting skills. Family Services Eastgate Center. 753-5030.



Helpful Clermont County Websites

If you are looking for information regarding services in Clermont County, try looking at the following websites:

- www.networkofcare.org gives information about various agencies in the county, support and advocacy groups, and links to other helpful sites.
- www.mentalhealthassn.org has information about support groups, events, and a list of resources. To access the resource list, click on "Prevention Connection." At the bot-

tom of the page, choose which resources you would like to look at.

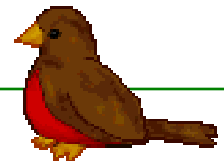
- www.child-focus.org gives information about Child Focus programs, employment opportunities, and trainings.
- www.recoveryctr.org gives information about Clermont Recovery Center's services, offers resource links, and has many other options.
- www.clermontcounseling.org offers information on Clermont Counseling Center's programs and

Phoenix Place.

- www.clermonthelpmegrow.com provides information on the Help Me Grow program including services offered and how to make a referral.

Other county websites:

- www.clermonthelthdistrict.org
- www.co.clermont.oh.us/djfs/
- www.ccmhrb.org
- www.ccmrdd.org



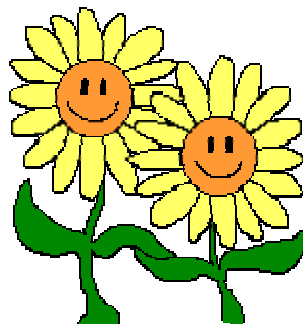
FCF spotlights... Angie Rohde

Angie joined the Family & Children First staff July 1, 2004. She has recently taken over the Clinical Coordinator position and works closely with agencies to "cluster" children. She is also involved in the recruitment of new providers.

Angie is a Licensed Professional Counselor. She enjoys the direct contact with agency staff, families and children that is part of her job.

Prior to her work with FCF, Angie worked for Child Focus as the Contract Evaluator for Clermont County Job & Family Services and Clermont County Mental Health &

Recovery Board. Angie has also worked in residential drug treatment and provided therapy to children at Child Focus.



A graduate of the University of Cincinnati, Angie received her Master of Education

in Community and Agency Counseling from Xavier University.

Angie is a life-long resident of the Cincinnati area, currently residing in Northside. She enjoys going on hot air balloon rides, golfing, gardening and trying different restaurants.

Angie has an 11 year-old beagle-mix named Sidney who keeps her entertained. She readily admits to spoiling Sidney.

Neighbors & Friends

Neighbors & Friends is a new community-based volunteer mentoring program in the Felicity area. Neighbors & Friends is working to build natural support systems through neighborhood relationships. Their goals are to prevent the need for a child's removal from the home whenever possible, to develop a network of family foster care that is more neighborhood-based and located primarily in the communities in which children live, to reduce reliance on institutional care, to increase the number of skilled foster

parents, to reunify children with their families as soon as that can safely be accomplished, to reduce the amount of time children are in out-of-home care, and to decrease the overall number of children requiring out-of-home care.

Volunteer mentors receive training including safety, mandatory reporting, substance abuse prevention and treatment, prevention of family violence, con-

flict resolution, parent training and community resource awareness. Mentors may work with families on assisting in finding basic needs, parenting skills, home management, skill building, gaining employment, or developing hobbies/interests.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or know of a child or family in the Felicity area in need of community support, please call 732-7173 or 732-STOP.

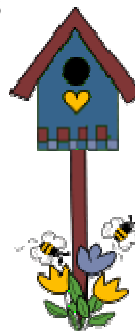


Did You Know?

- In 2001, 80 children died as a result of abuse of neglect in Ohio.
- Of the 14,136 children leaving out-of-home care in 2001, 62% were reunited with their families.
- In 2002, more than 87,851 Ohio grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.
- In 2002, Head Start served

38,081 Ohio children.

- In 2000, 77% of all 18 to 24 year olds in Ohio had at least a high school degree or equivalent.
- In 2001, 277 babies in Ohio were born to girls younger than 15.
- In 2002, 46,858 children younger than 18 were ar-



rested in Ohio, a 25% decrease from 1998.

- In 2002, 64 Ohio children younger than 20 committed suicide.

Information taken from the Child Welfare League of America's website: www.cwla.org

In 2001, an estimated 40,000 children ages 12-17, and 138,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.

Learn More About... The Human Services Council

The Mental Health Association would like to invite you to attend the Human Services Council. This is an informal group that meets the second Wednesday of each month at 11am at Clermont County Department of Job & Family Services, Room 103.

Each month a speaker presents on a topic related to human services. The presentation is about

1 hour long. Those attending are welcome to bring a lunch to enjoy while listening to the presentation.

When you attend the Council's meetings, you will have an opportunity to meet new people and network with members of the community.



Recent presentations include: Bioterrorism and Positive Assets. The Mental Health Association sponsors the Council's presentations and offers 1 free CEU for attendance.

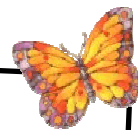
If you have a topic to suggest for a Council meeting or would like to find out more about the Council, please contact Liz Atwell at 724-9111.



Clermont County Family & Children First

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The vision of the Clermont County Family and Children First Council is to ensure intersystem collaboration to improve the well being of the children and families



Cluster information

- * Anyone (parent, CPS, Juvenile Court, provider, school) can refer a child to Cluster.
- * Cluster is the place where a comprehensive service plan is developed and agreed upon by those in attendance.
- * The family's strengths and needs are discussed, with some of the most valuable information coming from the family.
- * Goals are set for the child and/or family. Timelines are set for achievement of the goals and at the next meeting a review of the goals occurs.
- * To request more information on how to make a referral to cluster and to schedule a Cluster, please call Angie at 732-5413.

Shaken Baby Syndrome

What is shaken baby syndrome?

Shaken baby syndrome (SBS) is a term used to describe the constellation of signs and symptoms resulting from violent shaking or shaking and impacting of the head of an infant or small child. The degree of brain damage depends on the amount and duration of the shaking and the forces involved in impact of the head.

What are the signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome?

The most common symptoms of shaken baby syndrome are subdural hematoma (bleeding on the brain), cerebral edema (massive brain swelling) and retinal hemorrhages (bleeding inside the eye). Most shaken baby injuries include one or more of these symptoms.

-Subdural hematoma-When a child is violently shaken, the motion causes the blood vessels around the brain to stretch and tear.

-Cerebral edema-Violent shaking causes the brain to swell, increasing the pressure inside the victim's head, which can lead to massive brain damage or death.

-Retinal hemorrhages-The same kind of violent motion that happens in the brain during shaking also occurs in the eye. This type of bleeding can only be seen with special medical equipment.

What is the outcome or prognosis of victims of shaken baby syndrome?

Approximately 20% of cases are fatal in the first few days after injury and the majority of the survivors are left with handicaps, ranging from mild—learning disorders, behavioral changes—to moderate and severe, such as profound mental and developmental retardation, paralysis, blindness, inability to eat or exist in permanent vegetative state.

How can shaken baby syndrome be prevented?

It is important to note that SBS is preventable. Shaking occurs frequently when a frustrated caregiver loses control with an inconsolable crying baby. It is important to realize that just saying, "don't shake a baby" is not enough. A plan of action or suggestions to deal with the situation needs to be offered. Parents and other care providers need assurance that allowing a baby to cry is okay if all their needs have been met. The care provider should address their stress level and try stress management. Parents should share the message of the dangers of shaking with all who care for their infant or child, including spouses, their own parents, siblings, day care providers and others. Parents need to let those caring for the infant know it is okay to call for help when needed.

Can tossing or rough play cause shaken baby syndrome?

Shaken baby syndrome, which may result in severe brain trauma, is caused when a child is violently shaken such that the head is subjected to back and forth motion in one or more directions resulting in rapid repeated severe acceleration and deceleration of the head. Activities involving an infant or a child, such as tossing in the air, bouncing on the knee, placing a child in an infant swing or jogging with them in a backpack, do not cause the brain and eye injuries characteristic of shaken baby syndrome.

This information was taken from the National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome's website: www.dontshake.com

