**County Commissioners**

One of the unique functions and a mandate of the Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council and County Family and Children First Councils is to coordinate child and family serving partners to identify and address the needs of children and families through ongoing planning, implementing effective strategies, monitoring & reporting, and evaluating progress toward achieving desired outcomes.

**Why you are here.**

* To provide leadership on the council as a county leader.
* To advocate for state and federal policies that affect families and children.
* To ensure services for families and children positively affect the quality of life for residents in the county. This is, secondarily, attractive to new businesses for recruitment and retention of employees (and potentially increases the tax base).
* To advocate for local policies, foster and collaboration among agencies, & allocate resources where needed.
* To support funding for Family and Children First (FCFC) and children and families.
* To encourage membership and involvement from all county mandated agencies, as you provide oversight to county agencies.
* To support the FCFC Administrator by attending council meetings and keeping in regular contact, along with advocating for the youth and families of your community.
* To fulfill governance and fiduciary responsibilities with respect to the operational and fiscal operations of the council.

**How you can support the system of care efforts in our community.**

* Bring awareness of service gaps to the community as indicators for the [Shared Plan](https://fcf.ohio.gov/fcfc-resources/shared-plan-and-updates/shared-plans-and-shared-plan-update).
* Share funding opportunities for families and/or providers; support economic development (new resources/providers).
* Share county-wide data, funding support/structure/county resource dissemination when appropriate/indicated; data on large swaths of the child and family population, as well as business/organizations to help identify trends, needs and gaps in the community.
* Be a champion for the Family and Children First Council.
* Provide information and updates on projects you are working on that others can assist with or simply need to be aware of.
* The County Commissioners are involved in a multitude of areas and services that directly impact children/youth and their families, including Job and Family Services, Child Support, juvenile court funding, housing, health, etc.  Commissioners have access to data related to each of these areas.
* Speak at meetings on things that are happening in the community for families and youth, share trends on what is needed in your community (homelessness, teen pregnancy, infant death, etc.) sharing on projects the commissioners are working on, any information they have personally seen in the community.
* Provide in-kind support with technology, payroll, office space, and/or supplies.