



## **Family Engagement Committee Strategic Planning Report**

**Reviewed & Accepted by the Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council  
February 8, 2010, Updated May 27, 2010**

# OFCF Family Engagement Committee Strategic Planning Report

## Problem Statement

In 2008, Ohio Family and Children First (OFCF) Cabinet Council explored the possibility of establishing a Center/Network for Family Engagement. Interviews and focus groups with parents, parent associations, state leaders, and other key stakeholders were held across the state. In addition, OFCF conducted an inventory of each OFCF cabinet agency to reveal the level of investment in family engagement. Both the research and the inventory revealed that Ohio is “rich” in resources to support families, but “poor” in the coordination of such resources; and thus, duplication and gaps exist. This is evident in that parents across Ohio struggle daily to locate the right services and/or supports for their children and family. Often times, the right services and/or supports do exist, but parents are unable to navigate among the systems to be connected.

## Strategic Intent

The Family Engagement Strategic Plan begins to address the lack of coordination among existing family involvement efforts. The OFCF Family Engagement Committee believes the state can have the most impact for parents and professionals while also achieving efficiency with its limited resources by increasing the coordination and awareness of Ohio’s family engagement efforts.

While the term family engagement is quite vague and can be interpreted on several different levels, this plan is focused on addressing the involvement and engagement of families at the *systems level*. Once this level is accomplished, the OFCF Family Engagement Committee is committed to exploring the other two levels, individual family level and state policy level. Therefore, the below plan is to be considered a starting place for aligning and improving family engagement across systems and throughout the state.

## Goals

- Increase coordination among existing and new family involvement efforts so to reduce duplication and increase the impact of existing and future efforts.
- Increase families’ awareness, access, and utilization of existing resources.

## Purpose

- To align, coordinate, and/or consolidate parent/family engagement resources, policies, services, and efforts across state departments.
- To better engage and serve families.

## Focus

**Systems Level Family Engagement** - *Systems levels family engagement includes family representation and involvement on case reviews; case level assistance with service coordination and treatment planning; case level advocacy and system navigation; input on system(s) development; advocate for more support services and broaden the issues being addressed; professional development on engaging families.* This plan specifically focuses on three systems level efforts: parent advocacy, parent training, and professional training.

## Target Population

The target population is parents including fathers, extended families, military families, and other caregivers with children, 0-25. The terms “family” and “parent” are seen as interchangeable throughout this plan.

*Refer to Addendum A and B for more background information and an overview of the committee and its process.*

## Priority 1:

### Cross-System Communication, Alignment, Efficiency, and Effectiveness

**Strategy 1: Develop a uniform approach for OFCF Cabinet Agencies to plan, communicate, fund, and evaluate family engagement activities throughout Ohio.**

*Rationale: In lieu of creating a formal Family Engagement Network, the Family Engagement Committee would serve this purpose with the authority and commitment from each member's state department. The committee will ensure the work continues and family engagement remains on everyone's radar so to ensure existing and future efforts are coordinated across departments. In addition, by pooling resources for family engagement this will further ensure cross-system coordination with the understanding that this is for the "common good".*

| Action Steps  | Lead Responsible  | Timeframe        | Outcome   |
|---|---|------------------|---|
| 1. Have Family Engagement be a standing agenda item for deputies so to ensure all agencies are aware of activities and efforts.       | Angela Sausser Short  | Ongoing          | Parent/ family engagement efforts are streamlined, effective, and efficient.                                      |
| 2. Maintain the Family Engagement Committee to carry out the strategic plan and maintain communication among departments and parents. | OFCF Cabinet/Deputies   | Ongoing          | Measures:<br>- Agencies provide better coordination and cost effectiveness.                                       |
| 3. Develop shared/pooled funding for family engagement state sponsored activities.  | OFCF Flexible Funding Committee and Family Engagement Committee | Feb - Sept. 2010 | - Agencies provide effective and efficient resources to families.<br>- Responsive service alignment for families. |

**Priority 1:****Cross-System Communication, Alignment, Efficiency, and Effectiveness**

**Strategy 2: Develop a universal Family Engagement Website to serve as a “network for parents and professionals” by raising awareness, promoting, and aligning parent trainings, educational resources, supports, and events.**

*Rationale: To assist families in accessing existing resources, the website would provide a central place to access parent training, educational resources, supports, and events based on their needs. Professionals would also have a central place to access professional trainings focused on family engagement, education resources, supports, and events. In addition, professionals would be able to use the website to provide information and referrals to parents based on their unique and multiple needs. The website would also allow state agencies to review and streamline resources and identify gaps in services.*

| <b>Action Steps</b>  | <b>Lead Responsible</b>  | <b>Timeframe</b>      | <b>Outcome</b>  |
|--|--|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Family Engagement Committee works with key stakeholders throughout the state to identify existing and soon to be held parent trainings, educational resources, supports, and events.  | Family Engagement Committee  | May – September 2010  | All families and caregivers will know and have access to accurate and up to date statewide and local training, educational resources, supports, and events for parents and professionals.<br><br>Measures:<br>- Improved accessibility and increase utilization of existing resources for families.<br>- Responsive service alignment for families.<br>- Duplicative efforts for parent and professional trainings are reduced. |
| 2. Develop a website that can be easily navigated by parents and professionals and provide training on how to effectively use the website.   | Designated state department(s) or contracted individual/organization | July – September 2010 |   |
| 3. Develop a calendar within the website that tracks available events or activities throughout the state for parents and professionals.  | Family Engagement Committee  | January 2011          |   |
| 4. Incorporate research-based family engagement and family/professional partnerships training modules into the website.  | Family Engagement Committee  | January 2011          |   |
| 5. Incorporate advocacy training modules into the website.   | Family Engagement Committee  | January 2011          |   |
| 6. Maintain website at the state and local levels.   | Designated state department(s) or contracted individual/organization | Ongoing               |   |
| 7. Develop a statewide communication plan to include reaching parents with limited/no access to technology.<br>- Engage corporate partners to assist.<br>- Engage I&R systems to assist. | Family Engagement Committee  | January 2011          |   |

## Progress Notes:

Priority #1, Strategy #2 – Develop a universal Family Engagement website - will be addressed first by the Family Engagement Committee. To accomplish this strategy, there will be three sub-committees: (1) Website Development - developing the layout of the website; where located; sustainability plan, etc.; (2) Website Content - assessing and identifying trainings, events, resources, organizations, etc; (3) Social Marketing - promoting the website, resources, etc. Below are the current members of the Family Engagement Website Sub-Committees:

### Website Development

*Jennifer Vargo, Ohio Department of Education, Co-Chair*  
*Barbara Yavorcik, Autism Society of Ohio, Co-Chair*  
Sue Bitsko, ODE State Support Team Region 13  
Marjorie Cook, Parent/Ohio Federation for Children's Mental Health  
Kim Hettel, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction  
Mozelle Mackey, Ohio Department of Aging  
Karen Wagenbrenner, Parent/Developmental Disabilities

### Website Content

*Hannah Phillips, Ohio Department of Youth Services, Co-Chair*  
*Angela Schoepflin, Parent/Parent Advocacy Connection, Co-Chair*  
Kathy Bachmann, Ohio Department of Health  
Patty Dovell, Parent/Family Information Network  
Janice Houchins, Ohio Family and Children First  
Teresa Lampl, The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers  
Peggy Martin, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities  
Donna Owens, Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence  
Ruth Satterfield, Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services  
Jamie White, Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission

### Social Marketing

*Melissa Poole, Parent/Stark County FCFC, Co-Chair*  
*Yavonnea Harvey, Parent/Parent Advocacy Connection, Co-Chair*  
Linda Garrick, Ohio Department of Mental Health  
Shawn McElroy, Cuyahoga Community College  
Kathleen Nichols, Ohio Attorney General's Office  
Carmen Stewart, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services  
John Ratliff, Ex-Officio, Ohio Department of Aging

## Priority 2:

### Cross-System Trainings, Education, Activities, and Resources

**Strategy 1: Create a uniform cross-system training curriculum to empower parents to advocate for their own families and/or serve as formal advocates for other families.**

*Rationale: Ohio has no uniform parent advocacy training curriculum that is shared across systems. A uniform cross system parent advocacy curriculum is needed to streamline and make the most efficient use of parent education and advocacy training resources and efforts occurring in Ohio. It is also needed to provide consistency in curriculum content and processes to promote shared language, understanding and expectations around family engagement and parent advocacy efforts in Ohio. The work would also focus on the need to sustain and enhance Ohio's Parent Advocacy Connection (PAC) and other local parent advocacy efforts. Finally, there is a need to develop a cadre of informed parents and consumers who are knowledgeable, able to better navigate systems and partner with professionals, and who are empowered to be effective and life-long advocates for their own family and/or other families in Ohio.*

| Action Steps  | Lead Responsible            | Timeframe                 | Outcome   |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| 1. Develop a formal advocacy module with information on how to advocate for parents. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gather existing curricula and select a curriculum</li> <li>Explore how this will be offered such as via parent cafés</li> <li>Determine how to maintain.</li> </ol>   | Family Engagement Committee | April – September 2010    | Every parent or caregiver will be empowered to advocate for themselves and their families.<br><br>Measures:   |
| 2. Develop a cross-system parent advocacy orientation with modules on ethics, boundaries, confidentiality, meeting etiquette, and general system terminology. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gather existing curricula and select a curriculum to offer regularly</li> <li>Explore how to offer curriculum such as utilizing parent cafés</li> <li>Determine how the curriculum will be maintained</li> </ol> | Family Engagement Committee | September – December 2010 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parent advocacy is aligned among state departments.</li> <li>- Parents are knowledgeable about systems and system navigation.</li> <li>- Parent voice is heard and respected.</li> <li>- Parents are involved in state and local level system(s) development.</li> </ul> |
| 3. Develop training modules on each Cabinet agency's system that would include rules, terminology, and navigational tips. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a template with parameters to gather information from the Cabinet agencies and county level agencies.</li> <li>Gather state level information from each agency.</li> <li>Determine how it will be maintained</li> </ol>                       | Family Engagement Committee | January – February 2011   |   |
| 4. Post training modules on the new Family Engagement and Empowerment Website.  | Family Engagement Committee | February 2011             |   |

## Priority 2:

### Cross-System Trainings, Education, Activities, and Resources

#### Strategy 2: Promote and align research-based training modules on family engagement and family/professional partnerships.

*Rationale: The effectiveness of state funded services and supports are compromised when families are not equal partners in the design and implementation of needed interventions. Professionals must utilize the best practices of collaboration with parental expertise to improve outcomes for Ohio's children and families. Professionals will be trained across systems utilizing a universal training on how to engage and involve families.*

| Action Steps  | Lead Responsible            | Timeframe              | Outcome   |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------|---|
| 1. Inventory existing family engagement and family/professional partnerships trainings.   | Family Engagement Committee | April – September 2010 | Parents and professionals are equal partners.<br><br>Measures:<br>- Duplicative efforts for family/professional trainings are reduced.<br>- Agencies more informed by parents of their needs and concerns.<br>- Agencies provide effective and efficient resources to families. |
| 2. Align existing state sponsored training modules for reduction in duplication.  | Family Engagement Committee | June - July 2010       |   |
| 3. Identify additional research-based training modules for family engagement and family/professional partnerships.                | Family Engagement Committee | July – Oct 2010        |   |
| 4. Post family engagement and family/professional partnerships training modules on the Family Engagement and Empowerment Website. | Family Engagement Committee | February 2011          |   |

## Next Steps

The OFCF Cabinet Council approved the Family Engagement Strategic Plan on February 8, 2010 with the following next steps.

1. Convene a meeting with Parent Advocacy Groups and Parent Associations/Organizations to obtain their feedback and support for the plan using the six conversations format by Peter Block.
  - *Meeting was held on March 19, 2010.*
  
2. Identify where this work can connect to other state efforts, such as Family and Civic Engagement Initiative, the Center for Early Childhood Development, and the Senior Civic Engagement Initiative.
  - *The plan will be connected to other efforts. It has been connected with the FCE initiative.*
  
3. Based on the feedback from the Parent Groups and identifying other state efforts, the committee should work to prioritize some strategies over others based on leverage; overall support; funding/resources (further identify cost on the inventory); consistencies with policies and funding; time; etc.
  - *The Family Engagement Committee will invite external stakeholders from the 3/19 meeting to assist first in addressing Priority #1, Strategy #2, "Develop a universal Family Engagement and Empowerment Website to serve as a "network for parents and professionals" by raising awareness, promoting, and aligning parent trainings, educational resources, supports, and events".*
  
  - *To accomplish the above strategy, the committee will break into 3 implementation teams:*
    1. *Website Development*
    2. *Website Content*
    3. *Social Marketing*
  
4. Begin implementing those strategies/priorities which would include having external stakeholders (parents, parent groups) by identifying best practices (or Kernels) for parent advocacy, professional trainings, connecting with families, etc. Therefore, the committee may not want to promote one specific curriculum, but instead identifying key elements/approaches trainings should contain.
  
5. Develop or extend this plan to include a communication/outreach plan to parents without access to the internet.

## **Addendum A**

### **Background, Overview of Process, Committee Charter**

#### **Background**

In 2008, Ohio Family and Children First (OFCF) Cabinet Council explored the possibility of establishing a Center/Network for Family Engagement by contracting with Wholonomy Consulting, Inc. to conduct interviews and focus groups with parents, parent associations, state leaders, and other key stakeholders across the state. Wholonomy, Inc. quickly discovered Ohio is “rich” in resources to support families, but “poor” in the coordination of such resources; and thus, duplication and gaps exist. It also became clear during the research that most people mean a particular set of supports and/or activities when they use the term family engagement and family empowerment. Therefore, the term “family engagement” is quite vague.

The research did show though that family engagement could be categorized into three different levels:

1. Family Focused: to train, educate, and/or support families.
2. Systems Focused: to provide case level assistance in service coordination and treatment planning.
3. Policy Focused: to advocate for policy and funding changes

The research also identified recommendations from those interviewed on what Ohio needs to develop or strengthen related to the three above family engagement levels. The report concluded that Ohio should:

- Proceed with efforts to increase the engagement and empowerment of families in Ohio through the development of a mechanism such as a Center or Network.
- Increase coordination among existing and new family involvement efforts -- to reduce duplication and increase the impact of existing and future efforts.
- Proceed with implementing some or all of the below strategies that could help to build the momentum of developing a Center or Network for Family Engagement:
  - Regular Listening Sessions
  - Structure to Respond to Listening Session Input
  - Conduct Annual Family Engagement Cross Systems Congress
  - Create Cross Systems Learning Opportunities
  - Create Cross-Systems Family Leadership Opportunities
  - Develop Work Groups
  - Increase Awareness of and Utilization of Existing Resources

The OFCF Cabinet Council agreed to establish a Family Engagement Committee to explore the recommendations from the Wholonomy research and work to strengthen family engagement throughout Ohio.

The Family Engagement Committee began meeting in June 2009. The committee was initially comprised of representatives from state departments and developed the below charter. In addition, the committee further researched family engagement activities in Ohio by:

- Conducting an inventory to capture all state department sponsored or led family engagement activities
- Categorizing the state sponsored family engagement activities into the three levels of family engagement
- Surveying associations and agencies providing family engagement activities on what type(s) of support or service they provide to families

In November 2009, the Family Engagement Committee was expanded to include parent representatives. At this same time, the Committee embarked in a strategic planning process that continued through January 2010. Two facilitators were obtained from the Ohio Department of Administrative Services.

The plan was approved by the OFCF Cabinet Council on February 8, 2010. The OFCF Cabinet requested several next steps (refer to page 7). One of the next steps was to convene a meeting with parent associations and groups that provide advocacy and support services to parents to solicit their feedback and possible commitment for the plan and for the Family and Civic Engagement (FCE) Initiative. The meeting with the parent associations and groups along with parent representatives was held on March 19, 2010. The participants were asked six conversational questions regarding the four key elements in the family engagement plan and the FCE initiative:

1. **Improved coordination of family engagement efforts in Ohio**
2. **Strengthened parent and professional partnerships**
3. **Empowered parents who can better navigate systems, advocate for their own families and/or serve as formal advocates for other families**
4. **Enhanced partnerships between schools, families and community organizations**

After the participants learned about the four key elements, each group was asked to summarize in one statement what possibilities open up for families from the Family Engagement Strategic Plan and/or the FCE Initiative. Below are the groups' responses to this conversational question:

#### **It is possible....**

- To build better relationships between parents and teachers through parent and professional development.
- To establish a parent support hotline for parents to call at anytime to discuss crises they are facing.
- For every family to have a voice for value, opportunity, engagement and empowerment.
- For a cultural change to happen that is built on relationships between parents and professional.
- To improve outcomes for the FCE initiative and family driven outcomes are based on family satisfaction.
- To move beyond just token parent involvement.
- To change the cultural environment by building relationship, changing middle management and improving communication by giving parents a voice.
- To change perceptions through enhanced collaboration, opening awareness of family support by creating buy in through creative thinking which recognizes cultural sensitivity.
- By opening conversation to open possibilities.
- To create interconnectedness of knowledge and schools with resources to families.
- To have agents of good customer service and have good services to families.
- By having family, school and community create a collaborative environment to create new engagement, success, and opportunity.
- Support the changes families face through linking supports and services.

The participants were asked at the Family Engagement meeting what worries or concerns the Family Engagement plan and/or the FCE initiative raise for them. Below are the group overall responses to this conversational question.

#### **Worries/Concerns with the Family Engagement Plan and/or FCE Initiative:**

1. All talk, no action. Fear the plan will not be implemented.
  - a. All Talk
    - i. No action!
    - ii. Listening
    - iii. Funding

- iv. True connections to families, not just lip service.
  - b. Too much talk not enough action.
  - c. Follow through
- 2. Bureaucratic barriers and politics will stall the efforts.
  - a. This initiative will not be successfully implemented if the people responsible to do so are not willing/comfortable to make to required changes for fear of impacting/losing their job. Radical change is needed.
  - b. Politics
  - c. Reaching and meeting the needs of families despite bureaucratic barriers.
  - d. Ambivalence in the middle. Resources
- 3. Parents not leading the effort.
  - a. Don't supplant the parent group with a paid person the parent group should be a partner.
  - b. Parents become scapegoats for system's failures.
  - c. Our worry is that family representation is not diversified enough, and through this family engagement movement will our families' voice continue to be heard?
  - d. How do we sustain the momentum at the family collaboration level?

There was overwhelming positive response to the work thus far and the participants urged the state to take action. Many of the participants agreed to commit time, resources, and/or support for the implementation of the plan and the FCE initiative (refer to Addendum C).

### **Strategic Planning Process**

The committee began strategic planning in November 2009. After reviewing the research, inventory, and other supporting materials, the committee agreed to do planning around the "Systems Focused" level with attention toward parent advocacy, training for parents, and training for professionals. Therefore, the committee was divided into three small groups to identify what activities the state should "keep", "stop", "hold", and "start". After several planning meetings, the committee came to the realization that it could not identify any family engagement activity related to advocacy or training that should be stopped or eliminated. Instead, the three groups identified quite a few activities that should be started or kept. Each group defined the targeted areas, developed specific outcomes, and top priorities.

### **Family Engagement Committee's Charter**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of OFCF Family Engagement Committee is to align or consolidate parent/family engagement resources, policies, services, and efforts among state departments.

#### **Target Population**

Parents including fathers, extended families, military families, and other caregivers with children, 0-25.

#### **State Level Outcome**

Parent/family engagement efforts are streamlined, effective, and efficient.

#### **Objectives**

- Align, coordinate, and consolidate policies and efforts within and among state departments focused on parent/family engagement.
- Align, coordinate, and possibly blend state resources at the state and local levels supporting parent/family engagement.
- Identify major gaps in policies, efforts, and resources for parent/family engagement.

**Outputs**

- Parent advocacy is aligned among state departments.
- Duplicative efforts for parent training are reduced.
- Improved accessibility and increased utilization of existing resources for families.
- Responsive service alignment for families.
- Parents involved in state level policy making.
- Agencies provide better coordination and cost effectiveness.
- Agencies more informed by parents of their needs and concerns with state level policy making.
- Agencies provide effective and efficient resources to families.

**Action Steps and Timeline**

|   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| a. Convene Committee  | a. Convened            |
| b. State plan developed and signed off by Cabinet.  | b. December 2009       |
| c. Shared with stakeholders.  | c. December 2009       |
| d. Plan implemented with at least one area of family engagement aligned or consolidated.  | d. January – July 2010 |
| e. Feedback on alignment impact from local level is gathered.                             | e. August 2010         |
| f. Feedback on alignment impact from state departments is gathered.                       | f. August 2010         |
| g. Report on efforts aligned and future recommendations provided to Cabinet and Governor. | g. September 2010      |

**Composition of the Committee**

The committee will be comprised of representatives from state agencies that are directly involved in parent/family engagement efforts (as identified on the inventory), along with other interested state agencies’ staff. Once the state efforts have been identified to be aligned or consolidated, external stakeholders, including parents, will be asked to join the committee. See below for current list of committee representatives.

**Committee Operations**

The committee will make policy and funding recommendations to the OFCF Deputy Directors group for review. The recommendations will then be shared with the OFCF Cabinet Council for discussion and approval for submission to the Governor’s Office.

## **Family Engagement Committee Members for Developing the Strategic Plan**

### *State Departments*

Mozelle Mackey, Ohio Department of Aging  
Ruth Satterfield, Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services  
Peggy Martin, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities  
Jennifer Vargo, Ohio Department of Education  
Kathy Bachman, Ohio Department of Health  
Sam Chapman, Ohio Department of Health  
Wendy Grove, Ohio Department of Health  
Sue Williams, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services  
Debbie Nixon-Hughes, Ohio Department of Mental Health  
Kay Rietz, Ohio Department of Mental Health  
Kimberly Hettel, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction  
Rob Manning, Ohio Department of Youth Services  
Hannah Phillips, Ohio Department of Youth Services  
Kristen Rost, Ohio Children's Trust Fund  
Tracy Robinson, Ohio Commission on Fatherhood  
Rose Reed, Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission  
Janice Houchins, Ohio Family and Children First  
Angela Sausser Short, Ohio Family and Children First

### *Parent Representatives*

Melissa Poole, representing Ohio Family and Children First  
June Rich, representing Ohio Family and Children First  
Vernon Jackson, representing the Ohio Fatherhood Commission  
Glenn Harris, representing the Ohio Fatherhood Commission  
Joyce Dennis, representing the Ohio Department of Aging  
Betty Willis, representing the Ohio Department of Aging  
Scotte Elliott, representing the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities  
Karen Wagenbrenner, representing the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities  
Carol Keltner, representing the Ohio Department of Health  
Angela Schoepflin, representing the Ohio Department of Mental Health  
Juanita Ray, representing the Ohio Department of Mental Health  
Marjorie Cook, representing the Ohio Department of Mental Health  
Karen Ezirim, representing the Ohio Department of Drug and Addiction Services

## Addendum B

### **Crosswalk of Existing State Efforts Identified on the Family Engagement Inventory as of 11/09 with the Three Defined Levels of Family Engagement**

| <b>Family Focused Engagement Level</b>   | <b>Systems Focused Engagement Level</b>  | <b>State-level, Policy-focused Engagement</b>   |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to access system</li> <li>• Informing parents on disease processes, what is coming, rights, how to advocate, participate</li> <li>• Hotlines, support groups</li> <li>• Training for parents</li> <li>• Feedback; Survey tools</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family representation on local case reviews</li> <li>• Provide system navigation support; input on how the system supports parents</li> <li>• Advocate for more services; kids in home</li> <li>• Training professionals</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State legislator lobbying</li> <li>• Rallies at state house</li> <li>• Testifying before hearings; contacting elected officials</li> <li>• Standard setting</li> <li>• Advocating to change, improve policies</li> </ul> |
| Family Advisory Council (DODD)   | Family Advisory Council (DODD)   | Family Advisory Council (DODD)  |
| Family Chats (DODD)  |  |   |
| Family Re-entry (DRC)  |  |   |
| Ohio Benefit Bank (DRC)  |  |   |
|  | Family Council (DRC)   |   |
| Parent Academies (ODE)   |  |   |
|  | State Superintendent Parent Advisory Council (ODE)   | State Superintendent Parent Advisory Council (ODE)  |
|  |  | Ohio's Academic Content Standards (ODE)   |
| Just for Families website (ODE)  |  |   |
|  | Parent Involvement Survey (ODE)  |   |
| Parent Mentors (ODE)   |  |   |
| Ohio Coalition for Children with Disabilities (ODE)  | Ohio Coalition for Children with Disabilities (ODE)  |   |
| Surrogate Parent Training (ODE)  |  |   |
|  | Title 1 Parent Coordinators (ODE)  |   |
|  | School, Family, & Community Partnerships (ODE)   |   |
|  | Family Friendly Partnership Schools (ODE)  |   |
|  | State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children (ODE)  |   |
| Parent Information Network website (ODE)   |  |   |
| Family Guides to early Learning  |  |   |

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Content Standards (ODE)   |   |   |
|   | BCMh Parent Advisory Council (ODH)                              |   |
| Family to Family Information Health centers (ODH)               | Family to Family Information Health centers (ODH)               |   |
| Family Information Network (ODH)                                | Family Information Network (ODH)                                |   |
|   | Help Me Grow Advisory Council (ODH)                             |   |
| FASD Parent network (ODADAS)                                    |   |   |
| Parents Who Host Media Campaign (ODADAS)                        |   |   |
| Resources Clearinghouse (ODADAS)                                |   |   |
| Local Provider Parenting Programs (ODADAS)                      |   |   |
| Ohio Federation of Families for Children's Mental health (ODMH) | Ohio Federation of Families for Children's Mental health (ODMH) | Ohio Federation of Families for Children's Mental health (ODMH) |
| National Alliance on mental Illness (ODMH)                      | National Alliance on mental Illness (ODMH)                      | National Alliance on mental Illness (ODMH)                      |
| NAMI Hand to Hand (ODMH)  |   |   |
| Parent Advocacy Connection (ODMH)                               | Parent Advocacy Connection (ODMH)                               |   |
| Minority Community Recruitment Initiative (ODMH)                |   |   |
| Resiliency Workgroup (ODMH)                                     |   |   |
| Ohio Mental Health network for School Success (ODMH)            | Ohio Mental Health network for School Success (ODMH)            |   |
| Reentry Jobs Program (ODYS)                                     |   |   |
| Ohio Benefit Bank Training (ODYS)                               |   |   |
| Family Justice Center-Juvenile Relational Inquiry Tool (ODYS)   |   |   |
| Video conferencing visits (ODYS)                                |   |   |
| Transition Weekends (ORSC)                                      |   |   |
| OFCF Family Rap Newsletter                                      |   |   |

## Addendum C

### Commitments to the Family Engagement Plan and the FCE Initiative

Participants were asked at the Family Engagement Meeting held on March 19, 2010, what contribution they were willing to make in their work, school, and/or community to move this work (possibility) forward. Below are the commitment responses with identified participants and non-identified participants. The commitments have been organized around the 4 key elements of the Family Engagement plan and the FCE initiative. If a commitment did not fit into an element, it has been captured as “other”.

#### Key Elements:

1. Improved coordination of family engagement efforts in Ohio (Priority #1, Strategy 2)
2. Strengthened parent and professional partnerships (Priority #2, Strategy 2)
3. Empowered parents who can better navigate systems, advocate for their own families and/or serve as formal advocates for other families (Priority #2, Strategy 1)
4. Enhanced partnerships between schools, families and community organizations (FCE initiative)
5. Other comments/commitments

| <b>Commitment</b>  | <b>Participant</b>         | <b>#1</b> | <b>#2</b> | <b>#3</b> | <b>#4</b> | <b>#5</b> |
|--|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| I am willing to continue to work and partner with state agencies, policy makers, and our schools – administrators & educators – to bring education & information to parents and families about helping their children be successful and to be a powerful voice for all children                    | Debbie Tidwell<br>Ohio PTA | X         |           |           | X         |           |
| I am willing to serve as a trainer in the various cross-training proposed.(I would, however, expect to be fairly compensated, as I cannot afford to do this for free)  | Kitty Burgett              |           | X         | X         |           |           |
| I am willing to take to the school district and agencies in my county about the family engagement initiative to learn what is happening locally and inform them.   | Patty Dovell               |           |           |           | X         |           |
| I am willing to continue serving on the JJF Family engagement committee to serve as a liaison with the FESPR and F & CEFT, I will follow up with the creation of a local parent support group in my county. I am willing to advocate for a family support hotline if it's considered as an option. | Peggy Hanna                | X         |           |           |           | X         |
| I am willing to be the gadfly to move policy and bureaucrats to give real power to families.   | Patrick Lanahan            | X         |           |           |           | X         |
| I am willing to share my experience, voice, time and trainings, and my commitment to Family Voice “nothing about us without us.”   | Angela Schoepflin.         |           | X         | X         |           |           |
| I am willing to include parent voice in OCTF programming.  | Kristen Rost<br>OCTF       | X         |           |           |           | X         |
| I am willing to continue to support and promote juvenile court collaboration in local community planning groups. In  | Steve Hanson               | X         | X         |           |           |           |

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| addition, to also promote training for court staff on how to engage families.   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| I am willing to help parents to understand their rights as parents and help administration to accept parents and community members as their partners in the education process of all children.  | Sheila Ragland                          |   |   | X | X |   |
| I am willing to support the Family Engagement Strategic plan/professional/parent development specifically in my professional and person (as a parent) "lives."  | Linda Garrick<br>ODMH                   |   | X |   |   |   |
| I am willing to start with myself to inform agencies of their customer service habits and practice in order for them to listen to me and other parents.   | Yavonnea Harvey                         |   | X |   |   |   |
| I am willing to commit and give information of the importance of the effect it has on families. Also, being a parent who has faced challenges.  | Karen Ezirim                            |   | X |   |   |   |
| I am willing to assist in promoting the training of Parents and Professional Development for building relationships between all to show respect, how to assist each other, build up the working together relationship needed to accomplish a better atmosphere to promote the progress. | Gloria Cazan                            |   | X |   |   |   |
| I am willing to contribute time to working in developing. Training and Modules to address parent/professional development around building relationships.  | Rebecca Wheelersburg                    |   | X |   |   |   |
| I am willing to send the parent training flyers out to all from our agencies (Ohio Coalition for Disabilities and Parent Mentors)   | Margaret Burley<br>ocecdmbi@verizon.net | X |   |   |   |   |
| I am willing to commit to expanding customer service to parents at DYS.   | Hannah Phillips<br>ODYS                 | X | X |   |   |   |
| I am willing to commit to be hopeful despite the tenure and current situation of OFCF that family voice will be heard in the state administration of services to children and families.   | Dora Sterling                           |   |   |   |   | X |
| I am willing to participate as a parent, provide input and voice my concerns to improve family engagement for all families. In addition, I am willing to support initiative that work and have positive results for children and families.  | Scotte Elliott                          | X |   | X |   |   |
| I am willing to spend the time exploring existing family engagement resources   | Jennifer Vargo<br>ODE                   | X |   |   | X |   |

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| before creating something new.   |  |   |   |   |   |  |
| I am willing to start connecting family resources throughout our region through the Parent Advisory Council members.   | Tanya Braden<br>SSTR1  | X |   |   |   |  |
| I am willing to be a voice for and provide support to and opportunities for families' voices to be heard.  | Barbara Turpin   | X |   | X |   |  |
| I am willing to work with parents & teachers on building relationships to better serve the families. This can be done by putting some form on 101 training modules that will include parent involvement in putting this training module together.  | Pat McCollum   |   | X |   | X |  |
| I am willing to collect & connect more organizations & agencies thru our email address network. We send out thru vertical response group emails. Also with our new website I will gather more resources from the ones that are here today to add to our resource list on website.                                  | Lee Ann Derugen, Co-Director<br>Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities<br>800-374-2806<br><a href="mailto:ocecdlad@verizon.net">ocecdlad@verizon.net</a><br><a href="http://www.ocecd.org">www.ocecd.org</a> | X |   |   |   |  |
| Reach out to the rural areas more, also to the military families connecting the families to resources that are available and to educate other parents to stand up for their rights as advocates.   | Lyla Kepler  | X |   | X |   |  |
| I am willing to help spread the word to all grandparents/kinship care parents about Family Engagement.   | Mozelle Mackey<br>ODA  | X |   |   |   |  |
| Offer the Ohio PIRC website and parent information line (toll-free) as a resource available to families now to access for free across the state of Ohio.<br>1-888-OHPIRC9 (647-4729)<br><a href="http://www.ohiopirc.org">www.ohiopirc.org</a>   | Talicia McNealy<br>Ohio PIRC   | X |   |   |   |  |
| I am willing to promote the Family Engagement thru the parent mentor newsletter I send out. Both parents and school districts will receive this info. Also to work with the Family & Children First Council in which I serve in our county. It's a start for our county....  | Cathy Ruiz<br>Parent Mentor  |   |   |   | X |  |
| I am willing to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be a part of my County FCE team</li> <li>• Engage my school district in conversations</li> <li>• Question my children about possibilities</li> <li>• Learn from other parents / teachers</li> <li>• Educate the community / schools / parents</li> </ul> | Melissa Poole  |   |   | X | X |  |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be a voice for parents</li> <li>• Be positive about FCE initiatives</li> <li>• Answer all questions honestly</li> </ul>   |   |   |  |   |   |  |
| I am willing to passionately advocate for a culture change that empowers families and advocate for / with all families.  | Peg Burns   |   |  | X |   |  |
| I am willing to be hopeful that something will change cultural climate of schools & agencies to accept / embrace / value parents. I will commit to clinging to hope that positive relationships can change.  | Terre Garner  |   |  |   | X |  |
| I am willing to devote my time to better help families by giving them a voice and partnering with parents.   | Rob Manning<br>DYS  |   |  | X |   |  |
| I am willing to work toward creating an integrated model of family engagement that ensures personalized support to families on request.  | Donna Owens   | X |  |   |   |  |
| I am willing to work with my local school districts to help them clarify what they need to do to carry out the initiative. I would also be willing to work with the school districts to make sure all schools strive to become family friendly, welcoming environments for parents.  | Ann Maguire<br>Parent Mentor<br>Beavercreek City &<br>Sugar Creek Local<br>School Districts |   |  |   | X |  |
| <p>I am willing to provide my voice, knowledge, my experiences I have had advocating and the organization I represent today experiences, knowledge, and advocating materials for the use of increase family engagement. As well as offering information in regards to what is currently going on to increase family engagement such as IWG, OCALI, DD Council and so forth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vanderbilt's Volunteer Advocacy Project trains 12-15 families at a time at a cost of \$30 and then each one advocates for 3 to 4 families.</li> </ul> | Marla Root<br>Autism Society of Ohio  |   |  | X |   |  |
| I am willing to network and attend trainings so that I increase my knowledge on how to engage all parents in bridging the gap between home and school & school and home, and empower them to increase their knowledge to effectively communicate with professionals. I believe that "once an advocate, always and advocate". I am currently serving as a parent consultant in Columbus City Schools and I am also a state-wide facilitator for the Parent Leadership Institute through Parent's for Public   | Tyrrea Byrd   |   |  | X | X |  |

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| Schools of Greater Cincinnati.   |                                   |           |           |           |           |          |
| I am willing to help develop a navigation system centered at the schools – bringing resources to families rather than families struggling to find assistance. This would help to humble those at agency levels to see the difficulties families face and maybe help change how services are delivered. | Sharon Honnert                    | X         |           |           | X         |          |
| I am willing to help educate other parents to take out the “token parent” so their voice is heard.   | Patricia Long<br>Parent PAC       |           |           | X         |           |          |
| As a parent, I am willing to start with myself to inform agencies of their customer service habits and practices, in order for them to listen to myself, and other parents.  | Yavonnea Harvey<br>Parent of NAMI |           | X         |           |           |          |
| <b>TOTAL with identified participants</b>  |                                   | <b>18</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>4</b> |
| I am willing to work, advocate, to have family input and voice in all community commitment work with family communication educational awareness.   |                                   |           |           | X         | X         |          |
| I am willing to carry forth the need for family engagement to be part of statewide policy across multiple agencies. To be specific, I will especially advocate for families to be at the table of policy making groups and organizations.  |                                   | X         |           |           |           |          |
| I am willing to undertake community wide activities to bring families, schools personnel and community together.   |                                   |           |           |           | X         |          |
| I am willing to promote & not allow for parental voice to be “talked” about but actually to be done. Not allow for parental involvement be trivial but a true voice in local, state decisions.   |                                   |           |           | X         |           |          |
| I am willing to become more educated & aware so that I can help bridge the parent & professional partnerships and help with family, school & community partnerships.   |                                   |           | X         |           | X         |          |
| I commit to leading my organization to fully empower parents to go in a direction I did not intend.  |                                   |           |           | X         |           |          |
| I am willing to talk about importance of parent advocacy while training. Make connections with local FCFC.   |                                   |           |           | X         |           |          |
| I am willing to volunteer my time in order for the strategic planning report and the civic engagement initiative is a success. I am willing to monitor that the interests of the families are being met.   |                                   | X         |           |           | X         |          |
| I will help develop network collaboration to facilitate family –directed opportunities that track outcome data of family satisfaction.   |                                   | X         |           |           |           |          |
| I am willing to become more educated on empowerment and work to continue to build  |                                   | X         |           |           | X         |          |

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| bridges between families and agencies.  |  |           |           |           |           |          |
| I am willing to learn, instruct, write and coach teachers and others in building effective, real, caring relationships with parents for the betterment of their children.   |  |           | X         |           |           |          |
| I am willing to continue to educate the community providers I work with about the importance of allowing families to lead the “parent / family and professional team” and to lead the agencies toward an intentional focus on building equality between families and professionals.   |  |           | X         |           |           |          |
| I am willing to be mindful of and action oriented about incorporating family engagement and empowerment principles into our capacity building efforts in support of the 25 counties participating in the Family & Civic Engagement in Schools Initiative.   |  |           |           |           | X         |          |
| I am willing to be able to work with families (parents) to advocate & help them in any way to understand the system.  |  |           |           | X         |           |          |
| I am willing to continue to advocate for rational policies that support the relationship between families and service providers so families receive the service they want and need in their communities.  |  | X         | X         |           |           |          |
| I am willing to invest time and to continue to keep informed of what changes are needed and to work with parents and professionals to find a better way to assist families in need.   |  |           | X         |           |           |          |
| I am willing to help communities connect the dots with all of the initiatives and how to engage families and communities.   |  | X         |           |           |           |          |
| I am willing to be a strong advocate for strengthening and building relationships between schools and families and communities.   |  |           |           |           | X         |          |
| I am willing to become involved in our district Family Engagement Initiative to incorporate the voice of families with children with disabilities to improve family policies related to all families. I am willing to be involved in FCFC in my local community to help bring parent perspective to those at this table who make the decisions. |  |           |           |           | X         |          |
| I am willing to look for – ensure opportunities to include families & parents in our learning – for guidance, advice, direction, support, feasibility, anchoring, practicality.....   |  |           | X         |           |           |          |
| <b>TOTAL for unidentified participants</b>  |  | <b>6</b>  | <b>6</b>  | <b>5</b>  | <b>8</b>  | <b>0</b> |
| <b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>  |  | <b>24</b> | <b>17</b> | <b>17</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>4</b> |