

Supporting Children and Families in 2015



Safety, permanency and well-being are the core elements of Franklin County Children Services' mission to protect children and strengthen families. In 2015, the agency plans to expand upon the work being done in these areas to benefit children throughout their journey in the child welfare system and when they leave. This will involve partnering with the community to develop innovative ways to serve the agency's growing population of adolescent youth and children and families impacted by violence and trauma.

"With a major focus on wellness or well-being, we hope to improve outcomes for our adolescent youth by linking them to appropriate services to meet their needs and connect them to bridges of support to help them successfully return to the community," said Franklin County Children Services Executive Director Chip Spinning. "This may require looking at our youth through a different lens, helping them realize their purpose and value, listening to them, or developing coaches to provide needed guidance. I believe there are many opportunities and partnerships we can explore."

Spinning said another area of focus this year will be strengthening the agency's Kinship Program which is valuable to the well-being of children and families. Results show that it's better for children and lessens

their trauma when they are placed with someone they know rather than with strangers. It is significant that in cases with kinship care, children are more likely to be reunited with their families compared to those in other types of care. Kinship is another way to build and maintain permanent connections for children.

The agency will also continue its cutting edge examination of how trauma or adversity impacts the well-being of children. Through the Gateway CALL federal grant, FCCS is working with partners to improve screening procedures at Intake and provide for comprehensive trauma assessment services for children. These assessments will help improve access to services for behavioral and mental health conditions.

To successfully move forward with efforts to ensure safety, permanency and well-being of Franklin County's children, the agency relies upon community partners, caring individuals and its professional staff. "The work of child protection is very challenging, especially for our staff on the front line," said Spinning. "Therefore staff retention will remain one of our continuing areas of focus for 2015 and beyond."

Visit our website to learn more about FCCS. http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/children_services/



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