



# HAMILTON COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL

## Children First Program

*Program Summary and Highlights 2007-2008*

### Brief Program Description

The Hamilton County Family and Children First Council (FCFC) promotes collaboration and coordination of services among its more than 70 agency members with whom it contracts to deliver services. The Council currently funds and sponsors prevention, intervention and education programs, including the Children First Program (CFP), and is responsible for ensuring that providers meet local, state and federal requirements. Providers are selected on the basis of their ability to provide cost-effective quality services that are tailored to meet the individual needs of the schools, their ability to work effectively within a school, their ability to work as a part of a team of providers at that school, demonstrated ability to achieve positive outcomes and their ability to be creative and responsive in designing services. CFP support “full service” schools that promote school achievement, positive youth development and family involvement. Services in each school are selected according to school needs and program foci may change each year depending on student needs and effectiveness data. All services and providers are overseen and coordinated by a full-time FCFC Coordinator who is housed at each school site. Programs are aimed at addressing one or more of the following CFP Priorities:

- **Priority 1:** To decrease rates of truancy, suspension, and expulsion.
- **Priority 2:** To decrease rates of drop out.
- **Priority 3:** To decrease rates of abuse and neglect.
- **Priority 4:** To increase school connectedness.

### Participating Agencies

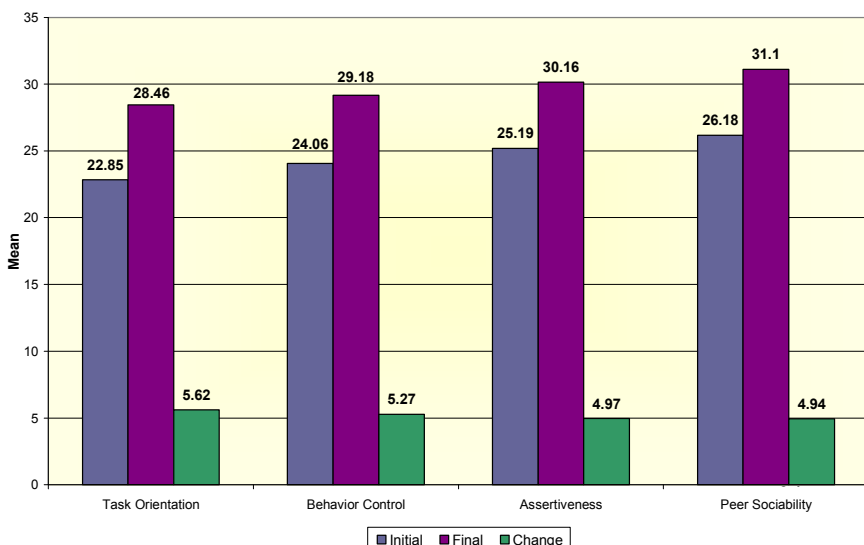
- |                                  |                                 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| - Ballroom Dancing by Bud Waters | - Positive Approach             |
| - Cancer Family Care             | - PregnancyCare of Cincinnati   |
| - Center for Peace Education     | - Sarah Center                  |
| - Family Services                | - Sparked                       |
| - Hamilton Co. Edu Service Ctr.  | - SUMA                          |
| - Jewish Family Services         | - Talbert House                 |
| - Live It Like You Mean It       | - The Children's Home of Cinti. |
| - Maureen Donnelly               | - Time II Advocate              |
| - New Image                      | - Thomas Edu. Consulting Svcs.  |

### Teacher-Child Rating Scale Results

Child behavior ratings were assessed using teacher-completed Teacher-Child Rating Survey pre and post tests which were completed on over 370 students receiving Children First Program services across 8 of the 10 schools. The TCRS consists of 32 items assessing strengths and limitations in a child's socio-emotional functioning.

The TCRS was administered in CFP schools and is summarized to provide pre-post changes on four empirically derived scales: Task Orientation, Behavior Control, Assertiveness, and Peer Sociability. These trends are notable given that results from all scales were found to be statistically significant (significant positive changes at  $p < .001$  across all schools).

Mean TCRS Scores Across All Schools



### Teacher Survey Results

174 teachers and staff completed surveys on the CFP in their school on elements such as:

- Performance of the Coordinator
- Coordination of services
- Program Activities
- Impact of Students
- Impact on School
- Impact on Community
- Impact on Teachers
- Recommendation of CFP Program to other schools
- Teacher Comments and Recommendations for Program Improvement

Overall, feedback was extremely positive:

- 81.2% teachers/staff either Somewhat or Very Satisfied with FCFC in their school.
- 96.2% would recommend CFP to other schools.

### Summary and Conclusion

Each agency submitted program proposals prior to the 2007-2008 academic year. These proposals included the project description, priority focus, proposed outcomes, measures and targets, and the anticipated number of participants to be served. Final reports included actual outcomes and the number of students served. Providers also measured their own set of program outcomes related to their program foci and goals.

At the end of the year, agencies submit a report that includes the information provided in the proposal as well as actual outcomes and the number of students served. A requirement for funding is that Children First Programs implement at least one program model or best practice in their work with children and families.

Hamilton County Family and Children First Council, the Children First Program, and its agency partners are advancing child and adolescent positive development by coordinating programs and services aimed at improving behavioral outcomes, decreasing the abuse and neglect, increasing school connection and bonding and reducing drop out rates. Priorities for 2008-2009 include increasing parent engagement, improving resource alignment with the needs of students and parents, and coordinating with districts to better understand student risk and resiliency factors over time. Expanding program foci in needed areas and continued funding are essential to optimizing students' positive academic and social-emotional development through FCFC programs.