

FAMILIES IN CRISIS COMMITTEE

One of the outcomes of the spring, 2009 FCF retreat was a decision to focus on the needs of Children's Services for their high-risk families. In particular, JFS has asked for assistance in implementing the Families in Crisis model.

Towards that end, FCF has convened a committee of providers and Children's Services staff to determine how best to implement this model in Hamilton County. JFS representatives expressed the need for intensive and immediate interventions for families who have had a child removed who is soon to return or families on the verge of having a child removed. JFS is not able to purchase needed services due to budget constraints and would like to realign the services that are already present so that they can be accessed quickly and without additional cost.

As part of the process of identifying needed services and gaps, the providers who were members of the committee were asked to supply a succinct description of services provided by their agencies that could be relevant for the Families in Crisis target population. The Summary of Services of Provider Agencies for Children's Services Families is a compilation of those service descriptions.

The FIC committee is continuing to meet on a bi-weekly basis. During those meetings, Children's Services representatives are presenting cases and providers are offering services for those families. Follow up reports are given several weeks later. The Committee feels this is a good process for identifying needs, service availability, and gaps in addition to getting appropriate services assigned quickly to these families. While it is too laborious a process to do this on a case-by-case basis indefinitely, it is a good way to gather information about service and system needs. The Committee will then be in a better position to draw some conclusions about what is needed and what kind of a system can be set up to accomplish the goal of getting these high risk families into services at no cost to JFS pretty quickly.

The conclusions and recommendations of the Families in Crisis Committee will be published on this website when they are available.