



Ohio Summit on Children

ACTION UPDATE ■ APRIL 2009

NEWS & NOTES

2009 REGISTRATION


It's not too early to prepare for the 2009 Summit. Registration material will be available in July.

SOUND ECONOMIC SENSE

As travel budgets for public agencies are cut or eliminated, the 2009 Summit on Children offers a unique opportunity for juvenile court judges, children services providers and local funding authorities across Ohio: A chance to gather to exchange ideas without taxing already strained public coffers.

Because it is funded with a combination of federal and private foundation grants designated to support collaborative planning between the courts and agencies responsible to ensure the safety, well-being and permanent home environments of children, the 2009 Summit, like the 2008 Summit, can cover registration, hotel, meals and parking for up to five participants per county.

NEW COUNTY PLANS SUBMITTED

Thank you to the officials in Fayette, Pike, Morrow and Seneca counties. Your county plans and those of others throughout Ohio can be found on the Summit Web site in the Resources section. 

SUMMIT WEB SITE UPGRADED

The Summit on Children Web site has added a page on the federal Child and Family Services Review process.

The page includes a primer about the federal review of state performance on foster care and adoption standards and access to a Data Analysis Page with interactive, county-specific data. Each data report includes an easy-to-understand description of how to use the report and suggested questions for planning teams when discussing their county's information.

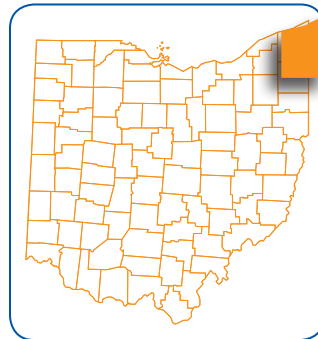
To use the interactive data files, you must have Adobe Reader 9 and Adobe Flash Player, which are available at the following Web sites:

www.adobe.com/products/reader/

www.adobe.com/products/flashplayer/

The new CFSR page is accessible off the home page 

COUNTY PROFILE | Ashtabula



“A big pep rally” was how one of the principals involved in Ashtabula County’s Summit on Children described the atmosphere.

Magistrate Edith Hough said more than 250 people attended

the October event, which was used to create enthusiasm among agencies working with children. “Hopefully, we’ve rejuvenated people who work with children,” she said.

“We are also hoping that people work a little better with different agencies. We were finding a lot of duplicate services because agencies didn’t know about the others working with the client.”

Ashtabula County Probate/Juvenile Judge Charles G. Hague also commented on the turnout. “I am overwhelmed by the response,” he said. “We leave open many doors we will definitely follow through in 2009.”

Hough said churches, school districts, counselors, law enforcement personnel, county agencies and specialty programs like Head Start participated. The program included motivational speakers, break-out exercises and professional mediators who facilitated “getting-to-know-you” sessions.

A follow-up summit this year will focus on ideas generated at the first summit, as well as compile and provide some context to the data gathered from participants. Future plans also include breaking down barriers among different agencies serving children, targeting specific training needs and possibly holding multiple smaller summits for like-minded groups.

Hough said Ashtabula County — as a result of the local summit — is investigating the possibility of establishing a shelter for runaway children.

A working group held a preliminary meeting to outline goals for the shelter project and to determine if the idea is logistically and financially feasible. The group plans to visit and observe operating shelters in nearby counties. In addition, the group will meet with U.S. Rep. Steven C. LaTourette (R-Ohio) to get his advice on available funding. Finally, Hough said, the group has been scouring other local programs already under way to see if there is a way to piggyback off their efforts. 