

## Community Planning Team Defines Role

On August 25<sup>th</sup>, 15 members of the Community Planning Team met and learned what implementation under the PfS Model will involve. Each of the four active workgroups presented their top priority initiative for implementation. Community Planning Team members asked useful questions and offered valuable advice on resources and individuals to consider, and on evaluation issues. Several CPT members offered to meet quarterly to hear updates and provide advice to the workgroups as they move forward.

The PfS Core Team asked the CPT to consider its role as we enter this year. A candid discussion took place, addressing items such as the interest of community funders, the implications of recommendations from the CPT, and the benefits of having identified several evidence-based strategies for well-documented community needs.

The conclusion of this discussion was that the workgroups, several funders, and the members of the CPT see continued value in providing oversight and advice. The CPT will continue through this second year, but without expectations to serve as direct liaisons to workgroups, or as a body which verifies adherence to specific planning processes. In essence, the CPT will continue to provide expertise and experience to those working within this process to make a significant impact on life in Clark County.

To ensure the CPT functions well in this role, the Core Team will continue to engage community leaders. We will clarify the time commitment and expectations of the members, and actively seek to increase the diversity of the CPT membership. If you know someone we should include, please contact any member of the Core Team!

### WOW!

As many of you know, one frustration during the PfS planning year has been the realization that, even with cooperative planning, our ability to impact the high priority issues in our community is limited by our funding. PfS brings additional dollars to Clark County to implement Youth and Families initiatives this year, but we all know that there is a need to do even more.

Thanks to the quick work of many of our PfS participants and other community members, a Federal Grant application was submitted in late April. Springfield was awarded approximately \$2.5 million for the first year of a three year, renewable grant which will enable our community to address many non-academic barriers to school success.....turn to page 3!!

The Implementation Year has Begun...

The PfS Strategic Plan was presented to the community at a mid-July presentation at the Heritage Center in Downtown Springfield. Since then, the highlights have been presented to local service groups, our written plan has been distributed to more than 100 individuals and organizations, and this plan has been posted on our website.

As we enter the Implementation Year, the initiatives moving forward are:

- \* Engaging Parents in Positive Behavior Supports with the Springfield City Schools Middle Schools;
- \* Implementing an obesity intervention program for adolescents, which involves their families, housed at the Springfield YMCA;
- \* Designing and implementing a counseling referral program for homeowners who are delinquent, but not yet in foreclosure, in partnership with affected lenders; and
- \* Increasing public awareness of the importance of birth to three period in a child's development.

If you are interested in being part of the efforts, in any way, by donating your own time or other resources, contact Kim Fish or Marilyn Demma (contact info on the last page of this newsletter).

**Visit us on the Web!**

[www.clarkfamilyfirst.org](http://www.clarkfamilyfirst.org)  
PfS reports, newsletters, and more!

### Upcoming PfS Meetings

**Early Childhood Education—September 30, 11:30 to 1:00 Clark Room, DJFS, 1345 Lagonda Avenue.**

**Youth and Families— September 30, 3:30 to 5:00, Springfield Room, DJFS, 1345 Lagonda Avenue.**

**Public Health—September 21st, 9 –10, Rocking Horse Center**

**Housing and Neighborhoods—tbd, late September**

**Community Planning Team—Quarterly Implementation Review— tentative date: Dec 14, 9 to 11 AM**

## **STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS FINALIZED .....NOW WHAT?** **A brief overview of Implementation in Partnerships for Success.**

PfS is a “data-informed” process for developing strategic initiatives to address community issues. Like many other processes, we’ve produced a plan with our recommendations—but we aren’t done!

The second year of PfS in Clark County has just begun. We are forming workgroups to address the recommendations in five areas:

Youth and Families (School Success, Violence)  
Early Childhood Education (Birth to Three, Preschool)  
Housing and Neighborhoods (Foreclosures)  
Public Health (Obesity Intervention)

We are also looking for additional members of the Community Planning Team, as we’d like this oversight group to broadly represent the leadership and experience of all facets of life in Clark County.

### **Implementation has just begun!**

On August 24<sup>th</sup>, several members of the Early Childhood Education Workgroup, the Youth and Families Workgroup, the Housing and Neighborhood Workgroup, and the Public Health Workgroup met with Dr. David Julian of Ohio State University’s Center for Learning Excellence. During this three hour workshop, they learned about the next phase of the PfS Process: Implementation.

The second year of this two-year, grant funded process requires that Strategic Initiatives are thoroughly described so that implementation is as successful as possible. This requires the group to:

- o construct a logic model to articulate how their work will directly influence the outcome they seek;
- o compile an detailed plan of the steps, people, and other resources involved in implementing the initiative; and
- o define the parameters for evaluation of success and data collection needs before the initiative begins.

Each workgroup started to outline their next steps – and for many of them, that will involve selecting the right people to populate the workgroups, and setting meeting schedules. These workgroups are intended to be small – about 5 people. Those five people will coordinate with a much larger group as the initiatives are implemented.

If you’d like to join us, call Kim at 525-6703, or Marilyn, at 327-1991



**\*\*\* Safe Schools, Healthy Students Grant \*\*\***

The Springfield community has been awarded a three-year Safe Schools, Healthy Students grant funded by the US Department of Education, the US Department of Health and Human Services, and the US Department of Justice. The grant award is \$2,567,124 for each of three years.

The grant is awarded to a "Safe Schools Healthy Students Partnership" that includes the Mental Health and Recovery Board of Clark County, the Clark County Juvenile Court, the Springfield City Schools, the City of Springfield Police Division, the Nehemiah Foundation Ministry Leaders Forum including Children's Rescue Center and Tri County Women's Network, and the Clark County Family and Children First Council.

- 1 The new grant funds cannot be used to pay teachers, or to buy books and computers, or to heat buildings or run buses.
- 2 However, the funds from the grant can and will be used by agencies and organizations in the community to provide programs and services to help families overcome challenges so that more children come to school ready to learn.

As required by the federal grantor, the Springfield City Schools serves the Partnership as fiscal agent for the grant. In this role, the Springfield City Schools will oversee distribution of the funds to the various local agencies that were named in the grant. The SCS does not have the ability to use these funds for operating the schools.

The successful grant proposal was based on the Partnerships for Success Needs Assessment completed in February. This project identified "School Success" as the top priority for the Springfield community.

The community wasted no time in using the Partnerships for Success data as the supporting evidence in the search for additional funding. This coordinated and timely work will allow local agencies and organizations to help children and families overcome many challenges which are beyond their own ability to conquer. As a result, we will be a community with safer schools, and healthier students. Ultimately, our teachers will welcome more children who enter their classrooms ready to learn, and thus, ready to succeed in school.

---

Administration of this grant will be under the oversight of a group comprised of a representative from each of: the Clark County Family and Children First Council, The City of Springfield Police Division, the Clark County Juvenile Court, The Nehemiah Foundation, The Mental Health and Recovery Board of Clark County, and the Springfield City Schools, and a representative of the SSAFE Advisory Council.

Springfield was one of only two communities in Ohio to receive this grant!  
To learn more about this grant, contact Marilyn Demma at 327-1991.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Clark County  
Partnerships for Success**

Clark County DJFS  
P.O. Box 967-A  
1345 Lagonda Ave.  
Springfield, Ohio 45501  
Phone: 937-525-6703  
Fax: 937-327-1910  
Email: pfs@clarkdjfs.org



We're on the WEB!  
[www. Pfsacademy.org](http://www.Pfsacademy.org)  
Click "across Ohio"  
Then click "Clark"

Or

Visit our very own site:

[www.clarkfamilyfirst.org](http://www.clarkfamilyfirst.org)

You will find PfS reports,  
our newsletters, pdf files of the graphics  
in our reports and presentations,  
and much more.....

information about the many other initiatives  
of the Family and Children First Council  
and many relevant links!

On September 16, our PfS Academy Coach, Mindy Hutcherson met with Clark County's Core Team to discuss Technical Assistance Needs for the coming year. We are planning to provide some interesting local workshops, as well as opportunities to attend some special seminars in Columbus.

The topics include:

Positive Youth Development Programs—  
Including program components which enhance success.

The Asset Development Concept in Positive Youth Development

Evaluation: Understanding Various Approaches, and Choosing What's Right for Your Program or Agency.

Watch your email for announcements related to these and other learning opportunities, and please forward them to colleagues as you see fit!



Partnerships for Success is supported by several people who are willing to help you at almost any time.

**If you have questions, call a member of the Core Team:**

Kim Fish, PfS Coordinator	525-6703
Marilyn Demma, Family & Children First Council	327-1991
Doug Lineberger, United Way	324-5551
Robin A. Pfeil, Springfield Foundation	324-8773

**PfS Funding Partners**

- Alcohol Drug Mental Health Board
- Center City Association
- City of Springfield
- Clark County Combined Health District
- Clark County Commission
- Clark County Dept. of Jobs and Family Services
- Clark County Family and Children First Council
- Della Selsor Trust
- Nehemiah Foundation
- Springfield Clark County Chamber of Commerce
- Springfield Foundation
- Turner Foundation
- United Way of Clark and Champaign Counties



Robin Atwood Pfeil, Kim Fish, Doug Lineberger, Marilyn Demma