

Operationalizing the OFCF Cabinet Council's Role

Approved by the OFCF Cabinet Council – 12/15/08

Guiding Principles

The OFCF Deputy Directors will provide the operational arm that informs and makes recommendations to the OFCF Cabinet Directors. The deputy directors will develop the processes and procedures that define the action steps necessary to achieve the OFCF cabinet purpose and will function in a manner consistent with the following operational purposes:

1. Unified recommendations (consensus) are made by the OFCF Deputy Directors to OFCF Cabinet Council.
2. The OFCF Deputy Directors operate as honest brokers.
3. Collaboration that requires exchanging information, altering siloed activities, sharing resources, and enhancing the capacities of the departments to achieve the Cabinet Council's intended purpose.
4. Strategic emphasis and targeted actions that have the greatest probability of being implemented, have broad community support, and are associated with outcomes that can be realistically achieved.
5. Data and county informed decision-making guides the work and decisions.
6. Ongoing community input and feedback is sought.

Operational Principles

The OFCF Cabinet and the 88 county FCF councils are the critical opportunity structure that is needed for Ohio's economic future. The OFCF Cabinet is responsible for:

1. Advising the Governor, General Assembly, and local government regarding the state's provision of services and the needed alignment of resources to build a coordinated service delivery system for children and families. This level of accountability would ensure the Cabinet is working to improve the well-being of children, families, and communities.
 - o Deputy Directors will make recommendations to the Cabinet Council to advise the Governor, General Assembly, and local government on alignment progress, needs, regulation changes, etc.
 - o Deputy Directors will make recommendations to the Cabinet Council to advise the Governor, GA, and local government on SFY budget cuts, developments, and/or reductions based on the deputies collective review and in the future, the Children's Budget.
 - o Deputy Directors will make recommendations to the Cabinet Council to advise community advocacy partners on the collective efforts needed for children and families.
2. Serving as the Governor's clearinghouse for federal and private grants that often requires a collaborative structure for the application and implementation of the grant. By collaborating on grants, departments can share resources in preparing for grants; align existing and future efforts; maximize our potential for recognizing and obtaining federal and private monies; and be more successful in obtaining federal and private monies.
 - o At the beginning of each year, the OFCF Deputy Directors will share each department's plan in an effort to seek alignment and identify areas for future collaborative grant seeking.
 - o Cross-system, change type of competitive grants departments may be applying for/seeking related to children and families (including kinship care) will be shared at OFCF Deputy Directors' meetings or via email from the Deputies. The primary purpose of sharing is to foster ideas and value added feedback.

- Formula block grants are not included.
 - Only grants that when released have more than a 45 day response time and are over \$250,000 need to be shared. If the grant is time sensitive, the OFCF Deputy Director will email a summary of the grant and/or the department's draft proposal/thoughts for the grant.
 - Non-financial, technical assistance, inter-system grant opportunities focused on children and families will be shared with the Deputies.
 - For grants that require collaboration, the OFCF Deputy Directors may identify a committee to respond to the grant.
 - Grant proposals will be shared with the OFCF Cabinet Council for discussion and approval when the Cabinet is deemed as the collaborative body or the grant requires such approval.
 - Memorandum of Understandings between departments may be shared and reviewed with the OFCF Deputy Directors and/or OFCF Cabinet when needed.
3. Aligning services, resources, initiatives, policies/rules, and planning requirements across departments. This would reduce the duplication of efforts that often occurs across and within departments and thus, reduce the fiscal impact on the state.
- As initiatives, task forces, workgroups, and/or committees are being identified by departments or the Governor's Office such opportunities are brought to the OFCF Deputy Directors to discuss, review, and make recommendations to the OFCF Cabinet Council.
 - If the work is time sensitive, the lead department responsible for pulling a group together will email the OFCF Deputy Directors about the proposed work group, seek comments, and forward recommendation to the OFCF Cabinet Council for awareness, and approval as needed.
 - Identify policies, rules, and administrative requirements (such as local planning) and work to make alignment to better improve the local service delivery system.
 - Using a data-informed process, identify cross-system outcomes for children and families and needed efforts that require alignment to achieve those outcomes.
4. Strengthening the county FCF councils by providing leadership, outreach, and being responsive to locally identified barriers impacting service delivery to children and families. Services, supports, and resources are provided locally, not at the state level. Therefore, it befits the Cabinet to strengthen the local service delivery structure so a seamless system of care does exist for all children and families.
- The Deputy Directors will identify means to support and strengthen specific county FCFCs; develop leadership within counties; respond to request for assistance from counties.