



The Ohio Federation for Children's Mental Health Annual Report Fiscal Year 2009 – 2010

Our initial challenge of the 2009/2010 year was funding support. As seen throughout our country by government, business and citizens, the recession has hugely impacted the amount of money available to support mental health programs. The Federation was fortunate to be one of the few organizations that sustained base funding without cuts. This support from the

Block Grant awarded through the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) has allowed us to maintain ongoing programs and projects. The Ohio Federation was 1 of 6 states to receive a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Statewide Family Network Grant last fall. The seventy thousand dollar grant allowed us to expand office staff, equipment and our education program. We've also made progress on youth programming; the Federation is sponsoring Youth M.O.V.E Ohio. A part-time youth coordinator and youth engagement specialist have shared youth voice in many policy arenas. A comprehensive Youth M.O.V.E website is under development. Communication outreach information efforts will be enhanced by our internet and social networks.

The expansion of our staff and the addition of student interns have allowed us to be more accessible and responsible to our constituents. This has also allowed some release from managerial and reporting duties for Terre. Also, increased staffing has allowed for the evolution of the Federation's board from a working governance relationship to an advisory governance capacity. Committees of the board have maintained diligent oversight of our finances, have undertaken the revision of bylaws and have supported the development of new member packets and materials.

The Federation has continued to provide leadership and family voice to several statewide initiatives; Resiliency, MacArthur Mental Health/Juvenile Justice Action Network and Family and Civic Engagement Initiative. In partnership with Center for Innovative Practice (CIP) and ODMH, Resiliency awareness and training has been shared at meetings, workshops and conferences throughout Ohio. In collaboration with Ohio Department of Youth Services, the Federation provided training to juvenile justice workers and families; the development of family engagement strategies for court involved youth and their families is an ongoing development. The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) has launched a statewide Family and Civic Engagement Initiative in which the Federation administered family voice and direction. The Federation continues to raise youth and family voice in many policy arenas.

We continue to uphold our mission to promote a family driven system of care to empower children, youth and families to achieve Resiliency. The Federation's goal is to support children and families to move toward self-sufficiency and well-being. Many thanks for your support and care as we move forward.

Respectfully Submitted on behalf of the Board of Directors
Ohio Federation for Children's Mental Health
Pete Schoepflin, Board Chair
Terre Garner, Executive Director

