

CASEY CONFERENCE - ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE

The third annual Ohio Casey Conference sponsored by the Annie E. Casey foundation, the PCSAO and the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program took place on May 10-11, 2000 in Columbus, Ohio. This year's event entitled: The Integration of Family-Centered, Neighborhood-Based Services In Ohio and Around the Nation was highly interactive and dynamic. With the help of 33 panelists from Ohio and around the nation, more 140 Conference attendees had an opportunity to listen, learn and dialogue with professionals who have been working toward FCNB integration anywhere from 1 year to 10 years.

The topics for the panels were selected as a result of the four primary areas of FCNB: Developing a Local Self-Evaluation Team; Partnering with Foster Parents; Developing Partnerships with Private and Public Providers; and Building Bridges with Neighborhoods. A fourth panel was added to heighten awareness regarding the needs of the youth residing in foster care and emancipating from our system.

As part of the Conference, several counties and a foster family was recognized for their hard work and efforts in moving towards an integrated service delivery system founded on the principles and practices of a family-centered, neighborhood-based approach to service delivery. These counties included Athens County Children Services, Holmes County Department of Jobs and Family Services and Lucas County Children Services. The foster family that was recognized this year for outstanding FCNB service to the children, families and communities was Mrs. and Mr. Mullet with Trumbull County Children Services.

Participants left the Conference at the end of two jammed packed days of activities feeling energized and ready to implement some of the ideas, strategies and interventions learned. Here is what some Conference attendees had to say as they were leaving:

- Enjoyed panels and information offered, especially Independent Living panel and foster parent panels - very, very good!
- Award presentations were a nice way to encourage foster parents and county agencies.
- Both foster parent panels were very informative.
- I enjoyed/learned from Julia Arbini-Carbonell on Latino-American culture.
- I knew quite a bit about F2F initiative before attending this workshop, coming from a child welfare and family preservation background. This workshop sort of ties everything together.
- Received a great amount of useful information.
- The panels were an excellent idea. The panel of foster parents was great. The panel for Independent Living was wonderful!
- Outstanding conference!

PCSAO has appreciated the opportunity to provide this important Conference for Ohio's practitioners each year for the past 3 years. It is the experiences and contribution that the attendees make that produces the kind of outcomes experienced as a result of participating in the event. We hope that as a result of the Conference, Ohio's child welfare professionals are better equipped for the challenges and joys of integrating family-centered, neighborhood-based services in their respective counties.

PCSAO has already started planning for Conference 2001. We are anticipating using new and innovative approaches toward conferencing but want your input. If you have attended these Conferences in the past and have some ideas that you want to share with us, please do so by contacting Angela Sausser-Short at saussershort@aol.com. ■

| |
|---|
| <p><i>28 Ohio Counties and 16 Ohio Private Providers attended the 2-day conference with more than 120 professional social workers from the public and private sector and 20 foster parents in attendance.</i></p> |
|---|