

Partnerships for Success



"An initiative of the Geauga Family First Council"

Resource Assessment Report Work Group II Geauga County, Ohio

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Partnerships for Success - Geauga County, Ohio Resource Assessment Report

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Executive Summary: Resource Assessment

The Partnerships for Success process is a comprehensive planning progression of community mobilization toward assessment of youth needs, youth resources and the development and implementation of a strategic action to address identified gaps in available services to county youth. The Work Group II (WGII) mission was to assess the community youth services and programs relative the needs identified by Work Group I (WGI). The gaps identified by WGII will then be addressed with strategic solutions developed by Work Group III (WGIII).

The fundamental questions being addressed:

1. What community resources are currently devoted to addressing the identified Targeted Impacts and Risk and Protective Factors?
2. What types of services are available and which populations are these programs supporting?
3. What are the primary gaps between needs and services?

WGII solicited information from all Geauga County youth service organizations that could be identified and then assessed the information relative to ages served, types of services, eligibility requirements for participants and for the Risk factors, Protective factors and Assets that they addressed. WGII compared the results to the Targeted Impacts and needs previously identified by WGI and identified three primary gaps between needs and services (not determined in any priority order).

1) Gap: Community norms and programs supporting healthy development and anti-substance values

Risk Factor (RF), Protective Factor (PF) and Asset (A) gaps:

- RF Community norms tolerant of substance abuse**
PF Community norms against substance abuse
RF Lack of after-school supervision
RF Lack of community support for our youth
PF Positive adult role models

2) Gap: Family support/effectiveness/involvement to support healthy development and anti-substance values

Risk Factor (RF), Protective Factor (PF) and Asset (A) gaps:

- PF Families communicate supportively**
A Parent involvement in schooling
PF Adult mentoring and/or supervision

The continuum of care: gaps in the area of primary prevention. Proposed services or programs should be accessible to all people without qualification.

3) Gap: Programs for youth that will build resiliency resulting in healthy development and anti-substance values

Risk Factor (RF), Protective Factor (PF) and Asset (A) gaps:

- A Social competencies (category)
- A Positive personal values (category)

The continuum of care: gaps in the area of primary prevention. Proposed services or programs should be accessible to all people without qualification.

WGII noted that there is a significant gap in service in the primary preventative area. Geauga County seemed to provide highly qualified services in the areas of intervention and treatment (programs and services available to children who have been identified as possessing risk factors), but services offered in the areas of prevention are lacking. WGII felt that proposed services or programs should be accessible to all youth without qualification.

WGII also concluded that affordability and accessibility of services was an issue for many youth. Although programs and services may be available, there are often costs associated that could make it prohibitive for many families. Due to the rural nature of Geauga's communities, transportation to services continues to surface as a primary concern.

Summary of Community Needs Assessment WGI

The Needs Assessment portion of the Geauga County PfS Initiative took place between December 2004 and March 2005. During this time, information was collected about current trends and problem behaviors as they relate to six potential **Targeted Impacts**, which include **reducing delinquency, enhancing emotional and mental health development, reducing teen pregnancy and/or related issues, reducing violence, reducing substance abuse and reducing barriers to school success.**

This systematic needs assessment process determined that although all the Targeted Impacts are perceived by the community as important, the most pressing needs identified at this time are **Reducing Substance Abuse / Enhancing Emotional and Mental Health Development.**

The next step in the assessment process was to identify the **Risk and Protective Factors** that affect the health and development of our children in the areas identified above. **Risk Factors** are those elements within an individual or community which are associated with elevated levels of problem behavior. **Protective factors** are those elements within an individual or community that serve as buffers against risk and enhance positive youth development. WGI's systematic review determined which protective factors in the Geauga community appear to be most closely linked to our highly prioritized dual Targeted Impacts of Reducing Substance Abuse and Enhancing Emotional and Mental Health Development. These are the common themes that were identified:

Family: Families have a major positive impact on a youth's development when they provide a stable, caring environment, an adult influence that is available and effectively encourages and models appropriate behavior, standards and values, and strong support of children's involvement in school (places strong value on education) and after-school activities. (*For the purpose of the PfS process, we want the definition of family to be as inclusive as necessary to most accurately reflect the supports/resources needed to raise a child. This could include one or two parents, extended family, foster and adoptive parents, etc.*)

Constructive use of time: Constructive and positive use of time by youth, i.e. developing hobbies, special interests, volunteer opportunities, and activities they care about, significantly impacts their well-being.

Adult support: An adult who is close to, regularly involved with, and expresses an interest in a child tremendously influences his/her well-being.

Resilience: A child who has developed strong coping skills, who feels empowered and who has developed a set of positive personal values has the resilience to adjust to a wide variety of risk factors.

Most importantly, the community perception is that most of the identified Targeted Impacts are interrelated. Each Impact is seen to happen along with, or as a result of, other Targeted Impacts. The cause, effects and results are difficult to separate. It is very significant that the above Protective Factor trends are nearly universal to all the Targeted Impacts affecting Geauga youth. The PfS focus on these trends will enhance the overall development and health of our children.

Definition of Terms

Family: For the purpose of the PfS process, we want the definition of family to be as inclusive as necessary to most accurately reflect the supports/resources needed to raise a child. This could include one or two parents, extended family, foster and adoptive parents, etc.

Resilience: A child who has developed strong coping skills, who feels empowered and who has developed a set of positive personal values has the resilience to adjust to a wide variety of risk factors.

Protective Factors: Those elements within an individual or community that serve as buffers against risk while enhancing positive youth development.

Risk Factors: Those elements within an individual or community that are associated with elevated levels of problem behavior.

Assets: The elements within individuals and the community that are generally associated with positive youth development outcomes.

Prevention: Programs/activities designed for all eligible participants and provided before any major problems are identified.

Early Intervention: Programs/activities designed for participants who have been identified as having problems but provided before those problems become entrenched.

Systems of Care / Treatment: Programs/activities designed for participants who have serious and chronic problems.

Continuum of care: Programs/activities designed to encourage healthy development as well as to address a range of problems through prevention, early intervention and/or treatment.

Gap: Specific areas identified in the community where services do not exist to meet identified youth needs.

Community Resource Assessment Work Group Process

The goal of the Community Resource Assessment Work Group (WGII) was to create a realistic profile of current programs, services and activities (interventions) in Geauga County related to the identified Targeted Impact areas identified by the Community Needs Assessment Work Group (WGI). This profile will ultimately allow communities to define and prioritize the strategic actions to be taken as related to already intact services.

The fundamental questions being addressed:

1. What community resources are currently devoted to addressing the identified Targeted Impacts and Risk and Protective Factors?
2. What types of services are available and which populations are these programs supporting?
3. What are the primary gaps between needs and services?

The completed Community Resource Assessment was then submitted to the PfS Planning Team and Family First Council for endorsement, and used as part of the Strategic Planning process.

The basic tasks of WGII:

1. Receive, understand and incorporate the WGI Needs Assessment which includes the research done by WGI members, the information from the Geauga Community Impact (GCI) survey, and the input from the PfS focus groups.
2. Apprise the Planning Team of all work done by WGII.
3. Identify community resources for youth related to the Targeted Impact(s) identified by WGI.
4. Through identifying and recognizing the available resources for youth, make determinations regarding existing gaps in community resources.
5. Report findings to WGIII for strategic action planning.

WGII addressed these tasks through the following process:

- Attended PfS trainings.
- Hosted WGI members at WGII meetings in order to better understand their findings.
- Listed all community resources serving Geauga youth that could be identified.
- Researched additional information through publications, community listings (such as United Way's "Directory of Health and Human Services"), interviews with professionals, and personal knowledge. Resources outside Geauga County were included if they served Geauga County youth.

- Resources were then matched to the PfS Continuum of Care (Preventive, Intervention, Treatment). If the resource did not "fit" in the continuum of care but was still a value to youth and their families in terms of the trends identified in WGII's reporting, that resource was documented as an "activity." An example of an activity would be the library story hour for pre-school children. While it is most certainly a valuable activity with great benefit to children, in areas addressed within the Targeted Impacts, those story hours were not designed as part of the continuum of care (prevention, intervention or therapy regarding any Targeted Impact).
- More than 230 youth resources were identified and a total of 168 were selected to receive the WGII survey as potential programs and services addressing the PfS Targeted Impacts. The survey further helped to assess specific services, the population served, any "limiting factors," (geographic service area, age, numbers able to be served, eligibility requirements, etc.).
- Resource providers who did not respond to the survey were individually contacted. In addition a "Resource Meeting" was held to provide a networking opportunity for providers, to gather more survey information and to provide further education to providers regarding the process and purpose of PfS, as well as the potential to them for future programming and funding. Approximately 50 individuals from 40 agencies attended the meeting.
- The resources were then further narrowed to the ones that specifically addressed the top prioritized Targeted Impacts: 1) Reducing Substance Abuse; and 2) Enhancing Emotional/Mental Health Development of Geauga youth. Local specialists, Jim Adams, Executive Director of Geauga County Board of Mental Health & Recovery Services and Vicki Clark, Associate Director of Ravenwood Mental Health Center, attended a meeting and shared their knowledge relative to community services in these areas.
- WGII identified the following gaps in services: transportation; parenting skills training; family support services; in-home services to stabilize families; supervised after-school activities; independent living skills; resiliency training for all children and youth; long-term, consistent mentoring; an organized continuum of care with customized wrap-around services; and a central collection point for all services offered.
- A chart was developed to include all information determined pertinent through WGII's resource research. The chart includes trends, risk and protective factors as they relate to the trends, programs, short descriptions of program focus, agencies that provide the programs, where the programs fall in the continuum of care, ages served, and any qualifiers that the programs have.
- After reviewing the chart the most significant gaps related to Risk Factors, Protective Factors, Assets (RPAs) and areas covered in the continuum of care were identified. Ten RPAs were identified as being of the highest priority and were categorized into the following major gaps between needs and services: Community support, Family support/Effectiveness/Involvement, and Building Resiliency.

Resource Assessment Chart

Targeted Impact Areas: Reduce Substance Abuse and Enhance Emotional/Mental Health Development

The chart below lists all of the reported programs that help to reduce substance abuse for Geauga County youth. The Organization hosts, sponsors, and/or facilitates the listed program. Type of Intervention indicates whether the specific program is Prevention, Early Intervention or Treatment. The Protective and Risk Factors are listed below. The Type of Evaluation indicates the form of assessment for effectiveness that is used for each program. There were four options from which program personnel completing the PCR Tool could choose how evidence of effectiveness is evaluated.

A. Family Protective Factors		A. Family Risk Factors	
Factor	Description	Factor	Description
1	Parents skilled in positive discipline techniques/consistent, age appropriate discipline	6	Inconsistent/inappropriate discipline
2	Family environment is stable and caring	7	Lack of attachment/relationship with parent
3	Family values education	8	Diagnosed disability/history of abuse or neglect or problem behavior
4	Family problem solving ability	9	Family history of problem
5	Positive and supportive family communication	10	Caregiver engages in problem behavior
		11	[Generational] poverty
		12	Favorable family attitudes toward problem
		13	Life trauma/chronic environmental stress
		14	Single parent family
B. School/Constructive Use of Time Protective Factors		B. School/Constructive Use of Time Risk Factors	
Factor	Description	Factor	Description
1	Religiousness	5	Academic failure/low grades
2	Opportunities exist for positive personal development(social, educational, civic)		
3	Has hobbies or interests		
4	Participation in constructive use of spare time		
C. Neighborhood/Adult Support Protective Factors		C. Neighborhood/Adult Support Risk Factors	
Factor	Description	Factor	Description
1	Adult monitoring and supervision	10	Lack of after-school supervision
2	Significant attachment to pro-social adult	11	Community norms tolerant of drug use
3	Supportive and safe school environment/relationship with teachers, coaches, counselors		
4	Family/parents involved in school		
5	Youth programs exist/community supports youth (libraries, parks, churches, youth-friendly places)		
6	Family/schools/neighborhood boundaries exist		
7	Positive role models/Caring, accessible role model or mentor/Caring neighborhood & other adult relationships/Adult role models-Parent(s) & other adults model positive, responsible behavior		
8	Volunteers in the community		
9	Community norms against substance abuse		
D. Resilience Protective Factors		D. Resilience Risk Factors	
Factor	Description	Factor	Description
1	Youth and family possess and use coping, restraint and resistance skills	7	Poor classroom behavior
2	Self esteem	8	Poor coping skills
3	Positive view of personal future	9	Poor impulse control
4	Positive personal values	10	Poor social skills
5	Friends disapprove of problem behavior	11	Friends engage/DO NOT engage in problem behavior
6	Feelings of empowerment and control		

Types of Evaluation are as follows:

I Experience

II Survey

III Interview

IV Literature

Targeted Impact Areas:
Reduce Substance Abuse
Enhance Emotional/Mental Health Development

Organization	Program Name	Type of Intervention	Ages Served	Protective Factors	Risk Factors	Type of Evaluation
Juvenile Court	(Geauga SAP)-Soberspace (private service or referred through court)	Early Intervention, Treatment		A5,D1	A9,B5	II, IV
Linda Myers	Turning Point (geared to Amish)	Early Intervention	16-18 (76%)	C9		II
Ravenwood	Early Warnings	Early Intervention	13-18	B2,D1		II
Ravenwood	Choices		6-18	D1		II
Ravenwood	Chagrin Falls Park (Kenston) Barriers to success include lack of parent participation, personnel and vols. & finding appropriate role models		6-18	B2,4,C1,5 D6	B5	I, II
Ravenwood	Teen Institute	Prevention	13-18	B2,4,C7,9		II, IV
Ravenwood	Adolescent IOP Program (adolescents w/diagnosis of substance dependence)	Treatment	13-18			II
Geauga County Board of Education	Geauga Teen Pregnancy Prevention	Prevention		A3,5,C7, D1	A12, D11	I,II
Geauga County Sheriff's Office	DARE Program	Prevention	6-15	C9,D1	C11,D11	I,II
Chardon Community Action Team	HANDS-Asset Building in Chardon (seek to develop programs to impact the 40 developmental assets)	Prevention	4-5 (6%) 6-18 (99%)	C5,9,D1	A12,C11	I,II
New Directions, Inc.	In-patient D&A, aftercare (adolescents & their families who are dealing with chemical dependency)	Treatment	13-18	C7	A9,D11	I,II
Society for Rehabilitation	SLP, PT, OT, Audiology & early childhood programs (direct service)	Prevention, Early Intervention, Treatment	0-5 (61%) 6-12 (26%)	D2	A8,D10	II, IV
Beechbrook		Treatment		A1,4,5,C2, 7, D1	A7	I
Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation	Employment support (low income qualifier)	Early Intervention				I
Mental Health Association	The Facilitator Newsletter (published 3x annually, free)	Prevention				I
Mental Health Association	ParenTalk Newsletter (published 3x annually, mailed to all first time parents)	Prevention	0-5			I
Mental Health Association	Very Important Kid (Self esteem building school program)	Prevention, Early Intervention	PreK, K and some day care centers	D1,2,6		II,III
Ravenwood	Outpatient psych. Services	Treatment		A4,D1,2,3	A8	II
Ravenwood	Community supported work	Treatment	School age	D1	A8	II
Ravenwood	Bridges-Youth/Partial Hospital Program (Open to Geauga County residents involved in multiple services)	Treatment	11-17	A1,4,5 C1,2, D1	A6,9	II
GCBMRDD	Family support services (Geauga County residents with disabilities eligible)	Treatment	0-18 (72%)	A4,5,D3		II
Ravenwood	One on One	Early Intervention		A4,D1	A12	I,II
Ravenwood	Parenting Classes	Preventive, Early Intervention		A1,D1	A6	I,II
Ravenwood	In-home/community-based therapy	Treatment		A4,D1	A12	I,II

Targeted Impact Areas:
**Reduce Substance Abuse
Enhance Emotional/Mental Health Development**

Organization	Program Name	Type of Intervention	Ages Served	Protective Factors	Risk Factors	Type of Evaluation
Ravenwood	Youth Center Therapy	Treatment	11-17	A4	A12	I,II
Big Brothers Big Sisters of NE Ohio	Mentoring	Preventive	6-8 (5%) 9-18 (95%)	C1,2,5,6,7 D5	B5	II,IV
JFS	Help Me Grow	Preventive, Early Intervention, Treatment	0-3	A3,C2,6,7 D1	A6,8,9 D11	I,II
GAPP/Catholic Charities	Geauga Youth LEAD (low-income youth with one or more barriers to success)	Early Intervention	14-22	D2,3	A11,B5	II,IV
JFS	Child Protective Services-spec. social services	Early Intervention	0-18	A4		I
JFS	ParentAides	Early Intervention		A1,4,5		I
JFS	Friends Mentoring (trains vols. to be positive role models)	Early Intervention	6-18	C2,7,D2,6	A14	I,II
Family Center by the Falls	Treatment (children & youth)	Treatment				I
Matt McClelland	Family Link	Treatment			A8,12	I
Family Pride	Intensive in-home	Treatment			A8,12	I
Catholic Charities	Parents and Children Together (PACT) (Focus on improving parenting skills & parent/child communication)	Preventive, Early Intervention, Treatment	18+	A1	A6	I,II
Catholic Charities	Counseling	Early Intervention, Treatment		A2	A9,10,12	I,IV
Catholic Charities	Community Support	Early Intervention		A4,C5		I, IV
Catholic Charities	Behavioral Health Services	Treatment	4-18			II
Century Village	Volunteer Opportunities		High School	B2,4,C5,8		II
OSU Extension	4-H	Preventive	6-18	B2,3,4,C5 D2,3		II
Geauga Humane Society, Rescue Village	Outreach visits to schools, camp and volunteer opportunities	Preventive		C7,8,D2		II
Girl Scouts		Preventive	6-18			II,IV
Red Cross	Babysitter training (Literature describes an educational opportunity available to youth teaching basic parenting skills)	Preventive	11-15	A1,C6,D1		IV
Womansafe	Child Therapy (Trained counselors aid clients in beginning to deal with the emotional impact of family violence)	Early Intervention, Treatment	0-15	C6,7 D1,3,6	A9,10,12 13	I,II
Womansafe	Violence Prevention Education	Preventive	13-18		C11 (Violence)	II
Cardinal School District	School counselor (provides academic tutoring, small group discussions, conflict mediation and individual counseling. Barriers to implementation: lack of parent cooperation/concern)	Preventive	9-15	C3,7,D2,3, 6	B5	II
Fieldstone Farm TRC	Volunteer Opportunities	Preventive, Early Intervention	14+	B2,4,C1,5 7,8		I
JFS	Children's Awareness Training (In-school Child abuse prevention & bullyproofing schools)		4-15	C3,D1		II

Targeted Impact Areas:**Reduce Substance Abuse
Enhance Emotional/Mental Health Development**

Organization	Program Name	Type of Intervention	Ages Served	Protective Factors	Risk Factors	Type of Evaluation
Geauga Lyric Theater Guild	Young Star Showcase	Preventive	All youth	B2,4,C5,D2		II
Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities	F(amilies) U(nderstanding) N(eeds) - parent training (for youth with disabilities)	Preventive, Early Intervention	All youth	A2,3,5,C4	A8,D7	IV
Alateen	Light of Day	Preventive, Early Intervention, Treatment	9-18	D1		II
AA, Alanon				C5,D1,5	A9,10	I

Identified Gaps Between Needs and Services in Geauga County

A primary task of the Resource Assessment Work Group was to identify major gaps in services to be the focus of PfS strategic actions. The following gaps were prioritized upon completion of our detailed data collection and analysis:

1) Gap: Community norms and programs supporting healthy development and anti-substance values

Risk Factor (RF), Protective Factor (PF) and Asset (A) gaps:

- RF Community norms tolerant of substance abuse**
- PF Community norms against substance abuse**
- RF Lack of after-school supervision**
- RF Lack of community support for our youth**
- PF Positive adult role models**

The continuum of care: There are gaps in services in all areas (prevention, intervention and treatment). Proposed services or programs should be accessible to all people without qualification.

2) Gap: Family support/effectiveness/involvement to support healthy development and anti-substance values

Risk Factor (RF), Protective Factor (PF) and Asset (A) gaps:

- PF Families communicate supportively**
- A Parent involvement in schooling**
- PF Adult mentoring and/or supervision**

The continuum of care: There is a gap in services in the primary preventative area. Proposed services or programs should be accessible to all people without qualification.

3) Gap: Programs for youth that will build resiliency resulting in healthy development and anti-substance values

Risk Factor (RF), Protective Factor (PF) and Asset (A) gaps:

- A Social competencies (category)**
- A Positive personal values (category)**

Continuum of care gaps: There is a gap in services in the primary preventative area. Proposed services or programs should be accessible to all people without qualification.

Additional considerations for the strategic action decision-making process

- **There is a an over-riding gap in services offered to the general youth population (youth who have not been identified as having major problems/adjustments) and in prevention resources that are affordable and accessible to all families.** Geauga County offers programs in most areas of identified risk and protective factors; however these services are primarily available on a qualified basis. A large majority of services related to the Targeted Impacts are offered only to “at risk” youth or youth already “in the system.” A large majority of the remaining services have geographic restrictions or fee related limitations.
- **Constructive Use of Time** - Addressing the risk and protective factors associated with Community Norms, Parental Involvement and Resiliency will provide our youth with the tools needed to fill their time constructively **IF** opportunities exist that are **AFFORDABLE** and **ACCESSIBLE**.
- **Long-term programs** continuously available through a child’s life are most effective.
- **Mentoring component** – although this was listed as a primary concern by the Needs Assessment Work Group, the Resource Assessment Work Group was not able to validate, in its limited time, that this was a significant gap in Geauga County. Many programs claimed to provide mentoring opportunities, but relatively few youth may be benefiting from actual outcome-based mentoring programs.
- **Age related gaps** - While there appeared to be gaps in services for young children – especially under 9 years of age – WGII hesitated to identify age gaps in services for the following reasons: It was difficult to quantify the number of children actually involved in the services being assessed; many services had qualifiers that eliminated large portions of the populations relevant to eligibility; it was not clear if interventions and treatments were not available to certain age populations or if a limited number of children in these groups were in need of these services.