

## Parent Representative Responsibilities:

The Ohio Family and Children First Initiative promotes coordination and collaboration among state and local governments, non-profit organizations, business and families for the express benefit of Ohio's families. To provide family-friendly, efficient and effective services family representatives are needed to serve on the Richland County Youth and Family Council as the parents' voice.

A family representative should be receiving or have received services from an agency represented on the Richland County Youth and Family Council. The primary role of the family representative is to encourage parents/consumer to become effective at advocating for all children and families in Richland County be working in partnership with public and private agencies. The Council understands that parents are busy supporting their families. We invite and strongly encourage parents to participate in the following activities:

- Attend county, regional, and state meetings; serve on committees;
- Assist in educating the public about Council goals and activities;
- Promote family involvement in identify service gaps and assist in designing better services for families to fill those gaps;
- Serve as a liaison between the community and the Council;
- Advocate for parents in the community about current issues that impact families such as school levies, child abuse and neglect, quality childcare and early intervention to name just a few;
- Give updates to Council on family involvement and consumer concerns;
- Empower and educate other parents in the community of the importance of nurturing young children and the importance of prenatal care;
- Promote parental involvement to assist in solving community concerns by participating in community association meetings, voting in local and state elections, and raising concerns at all appropriate venues.

## Questions for a prospective Parent Representative:

1. Is your family currently receiving services from a Council agency? (Roster of mandated Council agencies is attached)
2. If not currently when did your family receive services from a Council agency?  
Which one(s) and approximate year(s)?
3. Where/are you pleased with the services that you are receiving/received?
4. Do you believe that there are existing gaps in services available in Richland County for children and families?

## Parent Representatives: Ohio Revised Code 121.37

- (a) **At least three individuals who are not employed by an agency represented on the council and whose families are or have received services from an agency represented on the council or another county's council.** Where possible, the number of members representing families shall be equal to twenty per cent of the council's membership.

# **Parent Representatives: Richland County Youth & Family Council By-laws**

## **III. Membership**

The Richland County Commissioners shall establish the Richland County Youth and Family Council hereinafter called “Family Council”.

The membership of Family Council shall be those as set forth in Ohio Revised Code §121.37 and locally defined as including;

- three parent representatives (where possible, the number of parents shall be equal to 20%, or at least 3, of the Family Council’s voting members) as selected in accordance with operational procedures established by the Family Council, fulfilling the section of the code §121.37 (B)(1)(a).
1. **Parent representatives on the Family Council will meet the requirements of the Ohio Revised Code section 121.37.**
  2. **Parent representative’s term on the Family Council will be three years.**
  3. **Parent representatives may serve two consecutive three-year terms, after which they must remain off the Family Council for a period of two years. At this time they become eligible for additional terms as previously indicated.**
  4. **Parent representatives will be compensated in the amount of \$35.00 for each Family Council meeting they attend, including attendance at committee meetings to which the Family Council appoints them.**
  5. **To assist in holding harmless parent representatives in matters related to the Family Council, the Family Council will secure liability insurance in the minimum amount of one million dollars for parent representatives.**

## **Council Agencies:**

<b>Agency</b>
<a href="#">Ohio Heartland Community Action Commission</a>
<a href="#">Mansfield City Board of Education</a>
<a href="#">Richland County Children Services</a>
<a href="#">Mid Ohio Educational Center</a>
<a href="#">United Way</a>
<a href="#">Richland Co. Dept of Job and Family Services</a>
<a href="#">Department of Youth Services</a>
<a href="#">Richland Newhope</a>
<a href="#">Richland Public Health</a>
<a href="#">Ohio Heartland Head Start</a>
<a href="#">City of Mansfield</a>
<a href="#">Mental Health and Recovery Board</a>
<a href="#">NC State/OSU-M Child Development Center</a>
<a href="#">Richland County Commissioners</a>

## **Excerpt ORC 121.37 – Council Mandated Membership**

(B)(1) Each board of county commissioners shall establish a county family and children first council. The board may invite any local public or private agency or group that funds, advocates, or provides services to children and families to have a representative become a permanent or temporary member of its county council. Each county council must include the following individuals:

(a) At least three individuals who are not employed by an agency represented on the council and whose families are or have received services from an agency represented on the council or another county's council. Where possible, the number of members representing families shall be equal to twenty per cent of the council's membership.

(b) The director of the board of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services that serves the county, or, in the case of a county that has a board of alcohol and drug addiction services and a community mental health board, the directors of both boards. If a board of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services covers more than one county, the director may designate a person to participate on the county's council.

(c) The health commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, of the board of health of each city and general health district in the county. If the county has two or more health districts, the health commissioner membership may be limited to the commissioners of the two districts with the largest populations.

(d) The director of the county department of job and family services;

(e) The executive director of the public children services agency;

(f) The superintendent of the county board of developmental disabilities;

(g) The superintendent of the city, exempted village, or local school district with the largest number of pupils residing in the county, as determined by the department of education, which shall notify each board of county commissioners of its determination at least biennially;

(h) A school superintendent representing all other school districts with territory in the county, as designated at a biennial meeting of the superintendents of those districts;

(i) A representative of the municipal corporation with the largest population in the county;

(j) The president of the board of county commissioners or an individual designated by the board;

(k) A representative of the regional office of the department of youth services;

(l) A representative of the county's head start agencies, as defined in section 3301.32 of the Revised Code;

(m) A representative of the county's early intervention collaborative established pursuant to the federal early intervention program operated under the "Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004";

(n) A representative of a local nonprofit entity that funds, advocates, or provides services to children and families.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the public members of a county council are not prohibited from serving on the council and making decisions regarding the duties of the council, including those involving the funding of joint projects and those outlined in the county's service coordination mechanism implemented pursuant to division (C) of this section.