

FY12 DECAT ANNUAL PLAN



**FAMILIES MAKING CONNECTIONS
FLOYD/MITCHELL/CHICKASAW
FY12 DECAT ANNUAL PLAN**

1. A description of the community planning used in developing the annual plan. This description should include information on the community members and organizations that were invited to and actually participated in developing the plan. Community participation can be achieved through strategies such as community forums, community education events, and community focus groups.

The FMC Decategorization Planning Team, known as Families Making Connections, plans, coordinates, executes and monitors the programs and services of projects under the guidance of the FMC Decat Coordinator, with final oversight by the FMC Decat Governance Board.

Families Making Connections continues to meet monthly and work toward the implementation of strategies that will produce desired outcomes. Planning Committee members focus on long range planning efforts directed to meeting Iowa's desired results. Current programs and resources are identified which enables communities to expose gaps in service. Families Making Connections establishes a continuum of service based on prevention services, intervention services and sanctions, then prioritizes the needs of children and families, thus building a comprehensive set of available services to meet the unique needs of families and children in the three county area. When necessary, sub-committees or work groups are utilized to plan and implement new programs and services.

Families Making Connections is actively involved in local programming, therefore becoming an integral part of monitoring the ongoing progress of the project. The Community (Decat) Coordinator and Planning Team continue to insure that community building is the core of the community planning process. Ongoing members attending are:

Representative Type	# Of Individuals
DHS	5
Juvenile Court Services	3
Elected County Officials	3
Sheriff's department	2
Empowerment	1
Attorney	1
Juvenile court judge	1
Schools	5
Substance abuse prevention	3
Public health	3
Faith-based organization	1
Work force	0
Local business	1
Community coalition	1
Youth	0
Other (Community Action, Child Care, Crisis Intervention, Provider Agencies)	8

2. A description of the Decategorization project's efforts to network and coordinate with other community planning initiatives [i.e. school improvement plans, Community Empowerment Areas, Community Partnership for Protecting Children projects, United Way, etc.] affecting children and families within the boundaries of their project.

Families Making Connections continues to work collaboratively with other local initiatives to build a long term, sustainable service system that supports the needs of families and children. Resource Development and partnering with existing services and programs is the key to the success of all program development.

The Community (Decat) Coordinator insures that community building is the core of the community planning process and plays an active role in the coordination and facilitation of the various planning efforts. In addition, the Community Coordinator takes the lead in assessing needs, planning strategies, implementing best practices and evaluating results. The Coordinator encourages both involvement and commitment of all community stakeholders. The Community Coordinator concentrates efforts to motivate and nurture the involvement of community partners and to instill a committed sense of "community" that makes all participants part of the solution rather than part of the problem. Meaningful participation will be the key to fostering the commitment of participants to the cause and assure the productivity and sustenance of their efforts.

Families Making Connections (referred to as FMC) is the umbrella for many new initiatives that enhance the community responsiveness to the specific needs. All activities of the FMC Decat Project are coordinated and consistent with the activities of other collaborative groups. These include (this is a partial list)

- **Floyd/Mitchell/Chickasaw Decategorization Project** - Decat serves as the community planning link for the three counties. The FMC Community Coordinator shares project coordination duties between Decat and planning efforts.
- **FOCUS on Healthy Youth Coalition** - This group is a Floyd County coalition established with a 28E Agreement between city, county, and schools to free our community of unhealthy substances (FOCUS) by addressing the needs of youth, promoting positive youth development and freeing our communities of substance use/abuse by emphasizing prevention. Floyd County focuses on environmental changes and has implemented science-based program models as curriculum in the school districts. Floyd County FOCUS has been a recipient of a Drug-Free Community Grant and leadership for a statewide alliance offering assistance to Mitchell and Chickasaw county coalitions, MCSAC and CCCPUD.
- **Strategic Prevention Framework-State Incentive Grant** – The FMC Community Coordinator serving as Technical Assistance to Chickasaw County chairs the Local Epidemiological Workgroup on needs based awarded prevention grant addressing both binge drinking and underage alcohol use. The FMC Governance Board entered into a memorandum of understanding as the Collaborative Council to advise the Chickasaw coalition through the project.
- **Transition Review Planning Committee** – The FMC Decat Coordinator assists the facilitation a group of community members that reviews plans for youth transitioning out of foster care. In addition, this committee oversees the Transitioning Youth Initiative.
- **FMC Empowerment** - Empowerment serves as an integral part of the community planning to ensure a seamless delivery system for families with children 0-5. There is a separate Empowerment Facilitator.
- **Community Partnerships for Protecting Children (CPPC)** – Families Making Connections serves as the local decision-making body. The CPPC strategy provides the three county area with a new approach to protecting children by educating and empowering the local community. Family Team Meetings are a key component that utilizes the meetings to develop individual plans for families.

- **Board of Health** – Families Making Connections provides the Board of Health and Public Health with an essential part of their community health assessment.
 - **Comprehensive Substance Abuse Prevention** – A representative attends all meetings and plays an integral part in the substance abuse coalitions.
 - **Community School Improvement Plan/No Child Left Behind** – Families Making Connections continues to collaborate with community school districts by sharing information and promoting new outlets for coordinating local resources. Positive youth development is the ultimate goal for Families Making Connections and local school districts.
 - **Serious Emotional Disturbances** – Through Families Making Connections, Community Consultation Opportunities are available when children and families experience issues related to their safety, well-being, permanency or academic achievement. The consultation service team will generate and recommend options that address specific issues, be convened based on a specific child and family's needs and address related behaviors and/or other concerns. The FMC Decat Coordinator facilitates this leadership group monthly.
 - **Community Wellness** – The FMC Decat Coordinator co-facilitates a school-based coalition formed under a Floyd County Public Health grant that received funding to address mental health issues among youth, suicide prevention efforts, and community education to reduce the stigma associated with the diagnosis of “mental health”. Expanding to address in-school mental health services for New Hampton schools has created new opportunity to form a similar consultation team in Chickasaw County.
3. *A description of any community needs assessment process and/or data [child welfare outcomes data, need indicator data from other systems such as health, education, community empowerment, etc.]. that was used in developing the annual plan to enhance child welfare and juvenile justice service systems in the area.*

Our needs assessment is based on a **community-building platform** that follows a six-step process:

1. Desired Outcomes or Results.

All the work we do in Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice and Community Planning is directed toward safety, permanency and well-being for children, for families and for communities. This is reflected in the seven federal Child and Family Service Review desired outcomes and the six BR4K desired

2. Assess Existing Services.

There are Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Services currently in place that contribute to meeting safety, permanency and well-being outcomes. These services are delivered and/or managed either by our own staff, allied agency staff or purchased service providers. When we fail to look at existing services in our community building efforts, we can end up creating a service that duplicates or overlaps existing services.

3. Identify Gaps or Needs in Existing Services.

It is important to identify areas where existing services are not sufficient to meet identified needs. These are services that, if added to what currently exists, would increase our capacity to improve outcomes for children, families and communities.

4. Develop Related Strategies.

Strategies are the individual, organizational or community courses of action we develop and implement to fill identified gaps in services. Strategies are our vehicles to improve outcomes.

5. Involve Key Players to Implement New Strategies.

“Players” in this context refer to the community’s shared decision-makers, families, partners, agencies and staff who are involved in the implementation of community strategies to support positive outcomes.

6. Determine Resources (Financial and Non-financial) to Support New Strategies.

We look at all avenues and all resources to address needs in the community.

Community collaboration promotes the sharing of funds and non-financial resources (people, time, office space, etc.) to support existing services and to fill the gaps for needed services to improve identified outcomes.

4. A description of the project’s specific and quantifiable short term plans and desired results for the state fiscal year; as well as a description of how these short term plans align with the project’s longer term goals for improving outcomes for children and families.

The community-building platform reflects the seven federal Child and Family Service Review desired outcomes and the six BR4K desired outcomes. The FMC Community Building Platform is being sent as an additional document to this plan.

5. A description of the project’s proposed plans to use funding available within their Decategorization services funding pool during the fiscal year, including plans to use their available carryover funds- resulting from Decategorization operations during the previous fiscal year- by the close of the current state fiscal year.

Fiscal Year 12 priorities for services are listed below.

Community Coordination that brings together community members and pools resources to achieve the all other service priorities (including central resource and referral).

Service priority:

- ◆ **Coordination services**

Prevention of Out-Of-Home Placement. (Localized services, particularly for children 6-18 that includes intensive family support, mental health services, utilizes the family team meeting concept, keeps the family intact, connects them to community-based services, and maintains family unity.)

Service priority:

- ◆ **Crisis/Early Intervention services for 21 days**
- ◆ **Mental Health**
- ◆ **Substance Abuse Prevention, Interventions and At-Home Aftercare**
- ◆ **Aggression Replacement Therapy and other in-school remedial services**

Prevention of Abuse and Re-Abuse (multi-disciplinary teams, localized services such as intensive home visitation that provides family team meetings, flexible services, access to mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence, and more foster homes that will keep children in the community) and Alternative/Out-of-School Programming (before, after, summer, suspension, child care, mentoring).

Service priority:

- ◆ **Parent Partner Program**
- ◆ **Mentoring**
- ◆ **Family connection support and services as listed above.**

Reunification and Permanency Services (neighborhood networking, affordable/meaningful consequences for youth, community support, mediation, family team meetings, flexible services, services to foster parents, and transportation).

Service priority:

- ◆ **Family team meetings, transportation, supervised visits and flexible services**
- ◆ **Multi-Disciplinary/Child Consultation Teams**
- ◆ **Social/Recreational**
- ◆ **After-School**

Outreach and marketing (including social marketing) to gain community support and increase the community's awareness and involvement.

The Service Area Manager reviewed the Child Welfare service needs within the Families Making Connections Decategorization Project and proposed to transfer the following funding amounts to the Families Making Connections Decategorization Project Governance Board to be used for the following services to support the achievement of the Child Welfare outcomes for children/families served by the Iowa Department of Human Services in accordance with the Special Terms and Conditions as outlined below:

1. \$1,000.00 for DECAT Coordination Services
2. \$2,013.00 to support sample collection and substance testing for the Service Area contract.
3. \$23,000.00 to support Parent Partner initiatives, to include, but not limited to:
 - A.) Coordination of existing Parent Partner Programs
 - B.) Activities to maintain existing Parent Partner Programs, such as ongoing trainings, Building a Better Future training, and Parent Partner stipends and mileage
 - C.) Activities to prepare communities for the initiation of a Parent Partner Program, such as Building Better Future training.
4. \$24,000.00 for expenses necessary to:
 - A.) Reduce the re-abuse of children;
 - B.) Support placement stability for relative and suitable-other families receiving DHS/JCS services.
 - This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Services to provide limited respite-type care for non-placed children as identified through a Family Team Meeting
 - Contracted clinical case consultation for DHS/JCS cases
 - Flexible supports identified via a Family Team Meeting and with supervisory approval to enhance parental capacity, safety and/or the timely achievement of permanency that are unavailable through other community agencies, resources, or familial supports.
5. \$15,000.00 for an integrated response for prevention of out-of-home placements and formal system involvement, particularly for children ages 6-18, that includes an intensive 21 day intervention strategy involving family supports, Family Team Meetings, and connections to community-based services.
6. \$23,980.00 to meet other service needs as identified at the discretion of the Governance Board.

Total Child Welfare funds to transfer: \$88,893.00.

The 1st Judicial District Designated \$5,000 for services to serve at-risk youth.

The 2nd Judicial District designated \$17,500 for After-School Services and/or mentoring and for Coordination Services.

6. *A description of the project's plans to track results and outcomes achieved by funded programs during the year.*

Service providers are expected to provide measurable outcomes in a specified result area for children. These will be reviewed annually when all service providers' year-end summary reports have been submitted. The Governance Board will use these reports to determine the overall effectiveness of the programs/services that were funded before renewal decisions are made.

The Community Coordinator oversees the collaborative and evaluation process, maintains baseline indicators, coordinates the collection of outcome indicators and is responsible for internal and external reporting. Evaluations and reports will determine if the Project is meeting the outcomes and will allow us to adjust our strategies to better meet the desired outcomes. As needs of families and children change, the plan is adjusted to better meet their needs, allowing for total quality improvement.

On a Quarterly basis the Decat Coordinator, on behalf of the Department, will review work performed by the contractor and progress towards reaching expectations as set forth in the Scope of Services and Performance Measure Section of the contract.

The review may include on-site visits.

7. *A description of the project's plans to monitor and maintain fiscal accountability during the year [fiscal accountability includes monitoring the performance and results of contractors receiving funding and monitoring expenditures for Decategorization services during the year].*

The Decat Coordinator will monitor the performance of the Contractor by inspection of the contractor's performance through monthly review of invoices itemizing work performed and quarterly progress reports to determine if the contractor is meeting the deliverables of the resulting contract.

The Governance Board consists of six members and meets on a monthly basis. Evan Klenk, Service Area Manager or Jan Streich, Community Liaison, represent DHS and other members include: Bob Marreel, Mitchell County Board of Supervisors; Mark Kuhn, Floyd County Board of Supervisors; Jim Wilson, Juvenile Court Services; Gerald Magee, Senior Judge; Sheila Kobliska, Chickasaw/Mitchell Case Management. The Governance Board is the decision-making body of Families Making Connections. Recommendations are given to the Governance Board regarding issues, but the Governance Board administers state, federal, local and private moneys made available to the Community Board. They are also responsible to set the budget, determine Contractor payments, and address issues regarding non-compliance of performance expectations and monitor performance and results of contractors, including the contract for Community coordination.

The Decat Governance Board also conducts an Annual Review of the work performed, at a minimum of one month prior to the close of the contract period.

Respectfully submitted by-

Shelley Smith
Families Making Connections Community Coordinator