**Program:** Healthy Families, Healthy Ohio

**Situation:** Ohio has several urgent initiatives that prioritize the social, emotional, physical, intellectual, financial, occupational, environmental, and spiritual well-being of Ohio’s children and youth. Among these enterprises is the Third Grade Reading Guarantee; patient-centered healthcare; ending human trafficking, reducing the number of youth involved with the Department of Youth Services; ending Ohio’s opiate epidemic; and creating a strong workforce in Ohio. While schools and communities have a significant impact on children, parents are at the center of childhood development. Parents need a healthy environment and supports to rear healthy children. Research indicates that the greatest window of opportunity to develop our children’s social intelligence (attachment, independence, cooperation), emotional intelligence (trust and impulse control), motor development, vision, thinking skills (cause and effect, problem solving) and foundational reading skills (early sounds, vocabulary) is between the ages of 0 and 48 months. The greatest chance to enhance these areas of intelligence and competence is early school years through puberty (Schiller, 2009). Ohio has the talent needed to create opportunities for families to flourish, making our state the premier place to live, work, and raise a family. And we know that a one-size-fits-all approach will not allow the creativity of experts in local areas to generate responses that best use local resources available through private and public partnerships to meet the needs of parents and children in their communities. To this end, The Ohio Council proposes environmental and individual supports that promote healthy families and a healthy Ohio regardless of whether the family is in rural Ohio, Appalachia, an urban center, or suburban neighborhood.

**Inputs**
- Invest in local communities and private-public partnerships that yield healthy environments
- Create policies that promote the delivery of prevention services in primary care, behavioral health and family services
- Form an Ohio Family Trust Board of for-profit, non-profit, and government executives focused on multi-system support of Ohio families

**Activities**
- Create educational resources in natural environment of parents and youth
- Endorse policies that use Medicaid and private insurance for prevention services
- Streamline and coordinate resources to support current and future parents

**Outputs**
- Current parents and youth who may be parents in the future
- Medicaid Office, stakeholders
- Office of Healthcare Transformation

**Participation**
- Individuals and Households Level
  - Communities and Institutions Level
    - Private-public collaboration to create community action plan for healthy local environment
    - Businesses, arts, hospitals, criminal justice, faith-based, social services, private foundations, schools, libraries, local government
  - Policies and/or Practice Level
    - Endorse policies that use Medicaid and private insurance for prevention services
    - Streamline and coordinate resources to support current and future parents

**Outputs**
- Parents, Children, and Families
  - Communities and Institutions Level
    - Private-public collaboration to create community action plan for healthy local environment
    - Businesses, arts, hospitals, criminal justice, faith-based, social services, private foundations, schools, libraries, local government
  - Policies and/or Practice Level
    - Endorse policies that use Medicaid and private insurance for prevention services
    - Streamline and coordinate resources to support current and future parents

**Outcomes**
- Short
  - Gain awareness, knowledge, skills for rearing socially and emotionally intelligent children
  - Gain awareness of importance of for-profit, non-profit, and government collaboration in creating and sustaining healthy communities
  - Define priority areas for investment and identify resources to support families and child development with sustainability beyond State general revenue fund

- Medium
  - Incorporate skills and change behaviors to promote overall health and wellness for all family members
  - Develop plans to build on the appreciative aspects of existing resources to intentionally support families and children for the overall health of the community
  - Work toward needed changes to streamline resource allocation to promote resource opportunities that complement the existing resources in local communities

- Long
  - Increase parental resilience, social connections, concrete supports for parents, and social and emotional competence of children
  - Solve community problems related to all areas of wellness: physical, emotional, social, occupational, intellectual, financial, environmental, and spiritual
  - Update laws, policies, practices, and outcome measures to support the health and economic stability of Ohio’s families and the current and future workforce

**Assumptions**
- The State of Ohio invests significant resources in Ohio’s families and children, but these resources are not coordinated for maximum impact and lack the flexibility needed for local communities to most wisely use them in concert with existing private and public local resources.

**Resources and External Factors**
- We can learn from successful private-public models that exist in Ohio and nationally, promoting wellness for individuals, families, communities, and regions. Examples: Supporting Infants, Toddlers, and Families Impacted by Caregiver Mental Health Problems, Substance Abuse, and Trauma: A Community Action Guide; Summit County First Things First, and Triple P (Positive Parenting Program).

**The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers**
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