



# PICKAWAY COUNTY ESC MCKINNEY-VENTO NEWSLETTER



## PROJECT D.R.E.A.M

Project D.R.E.A.M has come about thanks to our grant. The purpose of Project D.R.E.A.M is to focus on the whole child in the county, provide wrap-around services, and meet the needs of students in a safe and healthy environment in which they feel supported and empowered. With Project D.R.E.A.M we are able to provide support to each district's homeless students to increase attendance, provide support to families, provide professional development to districts on awareness and coding of homeless students, and work to bring in community partnerships to help obtain the outcomes of the project. According to research by ODE, "When students are healthy, feel safe, have strong supportive relationships, are challenged and experience success, and are engaged in learning that is relevant and meaningful, they are more likely to enjoy learning, develop positive social skills and achieve greater academic success.", with this research the Project was able to be developed with all of this in mind. Working on this project is Kelcie Pierce, M.Ed., Academic Liaison and Dawn Whiteside, M. Ed., LICDC, LPC, Registered Play Therapist, Family, Community, and Counseling Liaison. If you would like to contact either individual, you can reach Kelcie Pierce at 740-701-9386 or [kelcie.pierce@cvcsc.com](mailto:kelcie.pierce@cvcsc.com) and Dawn Whiteside at 740-542-0797 or [dawn.whiteside@cvcsc.com](mailto:dawn.whiteside@cvcsc.com). We are so excited for this Project and hope you all feel the same. We will continue to update everyone along the way on how this Project is going!

## FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER INTRODUCTION

We want to start off this newsletter by introducing Dawn Whiteside, Pickaway County ESC's McKinney-Vento liaison. Dawn Whiteside is a Licensed Independent Chemical Dependency Counselor (LICDC), Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), and a Registered Play Therapist. She is a member of the American Counseling Association and Ohio Counseling Association. She graduated from Ohio Christian University with a Bachelor Arts, Substance Abuse Counseling. She then attended Lindsey Wilson College where she completed her Masters in Education, Counseling & Human Development. Dawn is a 2018 Association of Play Therapy Leadership Graduate. She is working for Pickaway County ESC as McKinney Vento Homeless Education Coordinator, Homeless Grant Education Coordinator Pickaway County Schools. Dawn coordinates activities throughout the district to address barriers and to coordinate district and community services for the benefit of homeless students and families within Pickaway County Schools. Her heart lies in serving others in various aspects of her life on a professional level and a personal level.

## RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

Each month we want to take a moment to spotlight a resource in the county. This month we want to talk about, Family and Children First Council (FCFC). FCFC's Executive Director is June Green (shown right). The Vision of the Council is that Pickaway County is a place where families and children thrive and are empowered to maximize their potential. The Mission of Pickaway County Family and Children First Council is to promote collaboration among community agencies to assure that services are available to children and families in need of assistance. The Council will apply the knowledge and experience of families and professional helpers toward the planning, development and implementation of community based, least restrictive programs, services, and resources to meet the diverse needs of children and families in the community. The Council further strives to develop culturally sensitive, cost-effective community programming with strong parental involvement through the Service Coordination Plan. Through this collaboration of public and private service agencies, Council is better able to serve the children and families of our community to accomplish the Ohio Family and Children First vision that all children will be safe, healthy and succeed in school. Assistance/resources are provided from birth-teens. You can find many resource links and other resources at [pickawayfamilyandchildrenfirst.org](http://pickawayfamilyandchildrenfirst.org). If you would like to contact June, you can reach her at 740-474-7529 or [pickaway.fcfc@pickawayesc.org](mailto:pickaway.fcfc@pickawayesc.org)

