

Richland County Youth and Family Council Meeting
August 1, 2024
1:30 p.m.
Mental Health & Recovery Services Board/Microsoft TEAMS

The following members were:

Present: Lori Bedson, Darrell Banks, Dan Varn, Sherry Branham-Fonner, Michele Gless, Stan Jefferson, Kevin Kimmel, Nikki Harless, Kevin VanMeter

Absent: Joe Devany, Wendy Thompson, Lisa Benson, Hannah Crouch, Sherri Ramsey, Tiffiny Ellenbarger, Jodie Perry

Administrative Staff Present: Michelle Miller, Toby Borders

Present via Microsoft TEAMS: Richelle Ettel, Travis Porter, Meghan Wheeler, Janette Smith, Deborah Hill

Guests: Miles Parsons, Katie Gatten, Terry Carter, Melissa Swank, Patricia Dollisch, Scott Basilone, Jean Taddie, Ashley Leadingham, Kaye Clark, Anne Vermillion, Herbert Ross, Holly Christie

1. Call to Order & Introductions

President Dan Varn called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM and began introductions. A quorum was established with 6 voting members in attendance.

2. Approval of July 11, 2024, Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting (July 11, 2024) was made by Kevin K. and seconded by Kevin V. The motion was approved by voice vote.

3. Treasurer's Report

There was no Treasurer's/Financial Report this month as this is a month in which the Finance Committee is scheduled to meet after the full Council meeting.

4. Old Business

A) Director Updates

1) Service Coordination

Michelle informed members Rico is currently working with 20 youth (and their families); many of whom are involved with multiple systems.

2) NECIC Event – RICI Agricultural Site

Michelle stated she attended the NECIC/RICI Agricultural Event. The agricultural collaboration between NECIC and the Institute will offer work opportunities for inmates, enabling them to gain certifications which should enhance their employment opportunities upon release.

3) September RISE Event

Michelle encouraged members to attend the next RISE event hosted by CHAP. She added the location of the meeting has yet to be determined.

4) Pre-Natal 5 Committee Update

Michelle reminded members the Committee meets the third Monday of each month. Michelle stated there have been some roadblocks to implementing suggested processes. According to Michelle, representatives from NAMI, RCJFS, Catalyst, and similar agencies are participating in the committee meetings.

5) Youth Advisory Workgroup (VOICE)

Michelle reviewed the initial parameters of the Youth Advisory Group with the members. During the advisory workgroup meeting on July 11th, workgroup members decided to provide \$50 stipends to youth upon attendance at a scheduled meeting. Additionally, the youth/family will receive a \$10 gas card upon pick-up after each meeting. The meetings will be held at the YMCA the second Thursday of each month from 6:30 – 8:30 PM, beginning on September 12th (target date). A light dinner will be served at each meeting.

Michelle added the workgroup members are reviewing a draft application and will submit suggestions/changes to her by August 2nd. Workgroup members will refer youth participants to the group, asking the youth and parent/guardian to complete an application. The youth applications will be reviewed by the workgroup members in an effort to be more intentional in choosing youth participants who may need more support from peers as well as youth who can provide support to their peers. Michelle stated the initial target was to choose 10 -12 youth to participate; however, she has received 13 referrals for youth identified as potential candidates for the Advisory Group. Meetings will be suspended in November and December with possible youth and family activities being scheduled during those months.

5. New Business

A) September Meetings

Michelle informed members that several of the members would be attending a Youth Summit in Columbus on September 5th, the day of the next scheduled full board meeting. Michelle and Dan asked members if it would be possible to reschedule the meeting on September 12th. Additionally, Michele pointed out the next Finance Committee is scheduled on September 2nd which is Labor Day. Members discussed moving the Finance Committee meeting to September 9th. Sherry made the motion to move the Finance Committee and Council meetings to September 9th and September 12th, respectively; Darrell seconded the motion. The motion was approved by voice vote.

B) Shared Plan

Michelle asked members for feedback regarding the Shared Plan (outline distributed at the previous meeting for review). Michelle stated infant mortality had been addressed as an issue within the previous plan and she will compile data from the Health Department to report progress made by the county with respect to this issue. Members discussed the plan and determined there are no substantive changes to be made at this time. Michelle will update the data and send the plan to members for final review prior to the submission deadline.

C) Annual Directors' Conference

Michelle asked members for authorization to register for the annual Directors' Conference at Deer Creek on October 21-22, 2024. Michelle stated there is no registration fee for parent representatives attending the conference but there will be a registration fee to cover her attendance. Additionally, the hotel costs may be about \$139.99 per night, although the block of rooms has not been finalized at this time. Michelle also asked for approval to provide a \$75 per day stipend to the parent representatives who plan to attend (Hannah and Sherri) as well as to cover their mileage costs. Kevin V. asked if the Council has ever set a per diem rate for such activities. Council members agreed there has not been an established per diem amount for conferences, etc. Since some costs have not been finalized, members discussed approving the attendance by Michelle and the parent representatives and capping the expenditure amount. Kevin made

a motion to approve the attendance of the Director and the parent representatives, daily stipends of \$75 for the parent representatives and mileage coverage for the event with expenses capped at \$1500. Sherry seconded the motion.

6. Agency Updates

Herbert (Family Life Counseling) stated Family Life Counseling is gearing up for the school year.

Jean (Regional Planning) informed members this is Day 1 of the workforce planning grant and they are working on contracts with an emphasis on early morning and after-hours transportation.

Darrell (BOC) stated the second-floor elevator at the Courthouse has been inspected and should be operational next week; the air conditioning is functioning. He added the Clerk of Courts area will be finished soon and a meeting room will be available for use by the public when it is not being used by the Prosecutor's office.

Melissa (YWCA) shared several flyers/brochures with members to inform them of upcoming services and programs: Foster programs, Little Hands Sensory Group, engagement events for infants and toddlers.

Katie (Library) shared OSU Family Engagement bookmarks with members. She added the summer programs have ended and the Library is preparing for Fall events such as a Homecoming for Kids in October.

Holly (Mansfield City Schools?) asked members to reach out to her if they needed a contact within the schools.

Kaye (OhioRise) informed members OhioRise currently has four managers and 30 Care Coordinators in the area and they are working with just under 300 families. She added they are looking for a new location and hope to move in November. OhioRise is compiling data to share.

Stan (Mansfield City Schools) stated the 1st Annual Peace on My Block for 9th-12th grades will be held on August 13th from 2:00 – 6:00 PM at Mansfield Senior High School. He added the previous event for younger students was very successful and there are currently 30 community partners registered for the event. The purpose is to provide literature to families and provide students with non-violent alternatives to resolving issues.

Kevin (Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center) informed members Mid-Ohio is preparing for the "Welcome Back to Administrators" in-service; Jim Tressel will address the group. Kevin stated the conference center has undergone some renovations and carpeting has been replaced in the area occupied by The New Store. Kevin added, after two years of trying to hire a board-certified Behavioral Analyst, Mid-Ohio has decided to "grow its own", offering to pay for schooling to become licensed in return for an agreement to work in the district for five years. Kevin stated Mid-Ohio is collaborating with Akron Children's Hospital for professional development and mental health wellness activities for staff.

Sherry (Mental Health & Recovery Services Board) reminded members the Mental Health Board funds wellness teams in the schools and every school in the county is participating. The Board collaborates with Family Life Counseling and Catalyst to offer the services. Sherry stated she would like the Board to collaborate with Mid-Ohio to provide services as well. The Mental Health and Recovery Board Annual Dinner is scheduled on September 17th and formal announcements will be forthcoming so guests can RSVP. September is Mental Health Month and the Board has various activities planned. Sherry will include agency events in the Board's list of upcoming events if the information is sent to her. Additional announcements include:

Overdose Awareness – Lexington Community Park on August 31, 2024 at 6:00 PM

WoodPointe – Catalyst will begin offering case management to youth 18-21 years living at WoodPointe and participating in the transitional program. Youth will receive classes in topics such as budgeting.

Marketing Plan – The Board is developing a marketing plan to market the services offered through the Board.

Building Updates – Renovations will begin upstairs in the Mental Health building as the area is modified to provide transitional, time-limited treatment placements to help decrease the need for hospitalization. Additionally, construction on a new structure to provide apartments for permanent, supportive placements is slated to begin Spring 2025. Sherry added there are plans to make other improvements/renovations to various buildings and apartments. The Board is pursuing funding opportunities through the State of Ohio.

Due to the renovations, the Mental Health Board will not be available to host the Council meetings September through December. Kevin offered the use of the Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center for the meeting on September 12th.

Terry (211) Informed members, as part of the accreditation process for 211, initial data from a Customer Service survey will be submitted August 15th; however, the survey will remain open for a year. Terry stated this is the last element of the accreditation process.

Ashley (CHAP) announced there will be a meeting on August 6th from 3-4 PM to finalize the plans for a Community Baby Shower. Ashley added there are several, upcoming quarterly Lunch & Learn events being hosted by CHAP.

Michelle added she and Mary Stephens from Richland County Children Services recently helped a youth transitioning into college by helping fund much needed items to begin college and furnish his dorm room.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Michele and seconded by Sherry. The motion passed by voice vote.



Dan Varn, Council President



Michelle Miller, Executive Director