

**Richland County Youth and Family Council Meeting**  
**July 11, 2024**  
**1:30 p.m.**  
**Richland County Children Services/Microsoft TEAMS**

**The following members were:**

**Present:** Lisa Benson, Lori Bedson, Darrell Banks, Dan Varn, Hannah Crouch, Kevin Kimmel, Michele Giess, Kevin VanMeter, Nikki Harless

**Absent:** Jodie Perry, Sherry Branham-Fonner, Wendy Thompson, Tiffany Ellenberger, Sherri Ramsey, Meghan Wheeler, Michelle Wood, Stan Jefferson

**Administrative Staff Present:** Michelle Miller, Rico Woods

**Administrative Staff Absent:** Toby Borders

**Present via Microsoft TEAMS:** Jessica Caughlin, Miles Parson, Melissa Swank, Jean Taddie

**Guests:** Katie Gatten, Julie Litt, Herb Ross, Joshua Tolliver, Taylor Moore, Greg Nikoli, Olysse Elkins, Ashley Leadingham, Anne Vermillion

**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 six voting members in attendance.

**2. Approval of June 6, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting (June 6, 2024) was made by Michele and seconded by Nikki. The motion was approved by voice vote.

**3. Treasurer's Report**

Lori reviewed the Treasurer's report (financial statement and expense report) for the month of May 2024 with the members. Lori informed members Michelle and Toby have been reconciling expenses to ensure all appropriate expenses have been coded to FCSS to close out the state fiscal year. Lori called attention to the expenditures area of the financial statement, noting the costs associated with staff (Director and Service Coordinator) have been combined. There were no questions regarding the report.

Joe made the motion to approve the Treasurer's report and Kevin K. seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by voice vote.

**4. Old Business**

**A) Director Updates**

**1) *Strong Families/Safe Communities Grant***

Michelle stated she is working with Toby to close out the 2024 grant funds for the Strong Families/Safe Communities grant.

Michelle reported 200 youth/families have been assisted by the grant funds for such services as iPads to communicate; risk reduction items; camp fees; items necessary to transition from high school to college and from high school to work; and graduation fees (13 youth).

## **2) July RISE Event**

Michelle thanked Newhope for hosting the July RISE event. Michelle stated Paige and Madi did a wonderful job outlining the programs administered through Newhope.

Michelle reminded members the August RISE event will take place at CHAP.

## **3) Pre-Natal 5 Committee Update**

Michelle reminded members the Committee meets the third Monday of each month. Michelle stated the Committee is focusing on lead exposure, adding Committee members hope to provide lead exposure training in the schools, possibly at Kindergarten screenings. Michelle stated Wendy has compiled statistics for Richland County and newspaper articles identifying lead in homes as a problem in the county. Hannah added informational booklets are available through Richland Public Health.

## **4) Youth Advisory Workgroup (Family and youth VOICE)**

Youth Advisory Workgroup participants met for the second time on July 11<sup>th</sup> to finalize parameters and guidelines for the Youth Advisory Council. Michelle informed Council members the group decided to target youth ages 13-17 years to participate on the Youth Advisory Council. The youth will be paid a \$50 stipend for attending a meeting and the family will receive a \$10 gas card upon pick up after each meeting. The Youth Advisory Council meetings will take place on the second Thursday of the month at the Y (at no cost to the Council/grant). Michelle stated the Y has offered to provide monthly memberships to the youth involved in the Advisory Council at a cost of \$8-\$9 per youth/per month. The VOICE grant and Strong Families grant can be accessed to cover the incentives being offered (gas cards, Y monthly memberships, etc.).

The Youth Advisory Workgroup has identified September 12<sup>th</sup> as the target date for the first Youth Advisory Council meeting.

## **5. New Business**

### **A) Family and Children First Directors' Meeting – Columbus**

Michelle informed members, several weeks ago, the Children and Family First Directors involved in that group's statewide Workforce Committee met with OhioRise representatives and representatives from the Department of Medicaid. Michelle stated the meeting was an opportunity for the Directors to express their concerns with the progress being made by OhioRise. According to Michelle, one suggestion made by the group was to add a box on the CANS Assessment that would enable OhioRise to contact the appropriate local Children and Family First Council when a youth is not eligible for OhioRise services. Michelle stated county Councils are experiencing similar issues with OhioRise in their communities.

### **B) CANS Assessment – Contract Amendment**

Michelle informed members the Council has entered into a contract amendment with DYS that expands the current contract to include updates on CANS Assessments for youth transitioning in 30 days. The amendment increases the current contract amount to include funding for up to 135 updates to assessments. Michelle added the updates take less time than the full assessments and do not require Court appearances. Michelle and Rico will be conducting the assessment updates as requested.

### **C) Meeting Agenda Items**

Michelle advised Council members to submit reports and agenda items to her no later than five days prior to a scheduled meeting. This will ensure the item is added to the agenda and she meets the

statutory requirement of posting the meeting and agenda items no less than two business days prior to the meeting.

#### D) EI Report

Julie provided the SFY2024 Early Intervention Service Coordination Report to Council members. According to the report, the major changes in Early Intervention taking effect as of July 1, 2024, include the following:

- 1) Once Part C eligible, the child remains eligible until no additional IFSP outcomes are needed.
- 2) Families in Early Intervention are eligible for 100 hours of services with no out-of-pocket expenses through System of Payment.
- 3) PII (personally identifiable information) will be shared with districts for all children in Early Intervention unless a declination form was signed prior to July 4, 2024.

According to the report, 186 children were referred to the program during the reporting period with 136 children determined to be eligible for services.

#### E) Shared Plan Review

Michelle distributed a copy of the Council Shared Plan that had been submitted to ODJFS prior to her employment with the county. Michelle asked members to review the plan and make suggestions prior to the next meeting. The plan has to be updated and submitted to the Department of Children and Youth (DCY) by August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

#### 6. Agency Updates

Village Network is taking referrals for foster care families.

Katie (Library) reminded members there are various summer events taking place at the Library. She mentioned a puppet show taking place the following week. According to Katie, 8,000 individuals have participated in Library summer events to date.

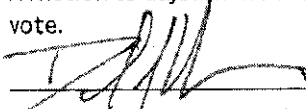
Lori (RCJFS) informed members the agency has been working with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to meet the requirements of the state's redesign of the SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) program. Caseworkers and supervisors have been participating in required training throughout the month of June and the agency is developing a county SNAP E&T plan that has to be submitted to ODJFS no later than August 9<sup>th</sup>. Lori will provide an overview of the program to agencies once the plan has been finalized. Additionally, Lori reported DCY has moved the determination of eligibility for early education programs from the grantees to county JFS agencies. County JFS agencies will attend a virtual meeting with DCY on July 24<sup>th</sup> to learn more about the process.

Melissa (YWCA) advised members of several programs being offered through the YWCA at this time: Parent Cafés, Book Buddy Program (a reading program for children ages 3-10) and Little Hands (a play group for children with disabilities ages 3-6).

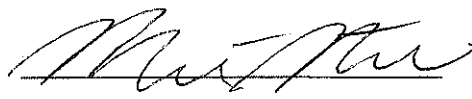
Jean (RCT) informed members RCT was awarded the mobility planning grant and will begin to work with NECIC and various partners to identify strategies.

#### Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Joe and seconded by Kevin V. The motion passed by voice vote.



Dan Varn, Council President



Michelle Miller, Executive Director