

Richland County Youth and Family Council Meeting
November 7, 2024
1:30 p.m.
Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center/Microsoft TEAMS

The following members were:

Present: Joe Devany, Darrell Banks, Lori Bedson, Nikki Harless, Kevin Kimmel, Jodie Perry, Dan Varn, Michele Giess, Lisa Benson, Sherry Branham-Fonner

Absent: Wendy Thompson, Stan Jefferson, Meghan Wheeler, Tiffini Ellenberger, Kevin VanMeter

Administrative Staff Present: Toby Borders, Michelle Miller

Present via Microsoft TEAMS: Olysse Elkins, Michelle J, Ashley Leadingham, Hannah Crouch, Harold, Nicole Burgess, Shauna Shell, Bobby Rhea

Guests: Jennie Horner, Allison Ross, Anne Vermillion, Holly Christie, Rico Woods, Kaye Clark, Mitch Jacobsen, Stephanie Jakubick, Nicolle Cherry, Lydia Dennin, Kelly Pack

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 September 12, 2024, Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting (September 12, 2024) was made by Kevin K. and seconded by Sherry. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by voice vote.

3. Treasurer's Report

Toby reviewed the 2024 final/year-end financial report with Council members. Toby reported all appropriate funds have been claimed as reimbursements and all expenses paid out through the end of the year. Toby reviewed the 2025 budget, identifying contracts, pooled fund contributions and other income such as state grants. She drew Council members' attention to a new line item in Revenue under GRF Other Council Income, Council Reserves. Toby explained this line item will track reserved pooled funds being pulled forward to help cover yearly expenditures.

Joe made a motion to approve the financial reports and 2025 budget. Nikki seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by voice vote.

4. Old Business

A) Director Updates

1) Service Coordination

Currently 24 youth are involved in service coordination with Rico. Of the 24 youth, two youth have been placed outside their homes. According to Michelle, Rico is assisting the families to do what needs to be done to bring the youth home. Michelle reminded members FCSS funds can be used to provide services to youth involved in service coordination. The Strong Families grant and pooled funds are used to provide services to youth who are not participating in service coordination.

2) Deck the Halls

Michelle informed members the Council is participating in the community Deck the Halls event. The youth involved in YAC are developing a plan for a Winter Wonderland scene to decorate the Council's assigned room for the event.

3) Directors' Conference

Michelle provided several hand-outs related to the recent Directors' Conference she attended, a map with Youth and Family County Directors identified for each county and the biographical information of the presenters. Michelle stated she has been chosen to participate on the planning committee for the conference next year. Michelle responded to a question regarding the map, stating blank spaces associated with counties indicate there is no Youth and Family Council Director representing the area at this time.

5. New Business

A) State Updates – Jennie Horner, Ohio Family & Children First Regional Coordinator – Northwest Region

- OFCF has conducted an environmental scan of counties to identify the differences in county services, identify where programs could improve, and to establish a baseline of service coordination.
- A service coordination manual has been developed to assist counties in establishing service coordination policies/protocols.
- Enhancements have been implemented in OASCIS to assist the state in comparing data points between counties and to assist counties in transitioning youth in service coordination from one county to another.
- During the first year of implementation, OFCF will offer High Fidelity Wraparound Services training providing incentive funds for counties that attend the training. During the second year, Service Coordination training will be offered with incentive funds provided to counties that attend the training.
- OFCF plans to implement Regional Network meetings for Directors and Service Coordinators.
- The recent KIDS Summit in Columbus was a way for key Council members to engage to discuss the topics of safety, school readiness, kids in custody and placements, and to share county plans.

Jennie also shared several ideas from other counties such as the compilation of mental health ER data to be shared with Councils and "No Wrong Door Events".

B) Council Reports

The Early Intervention report was tabled; Julie Litt was not in attendance.

During the recent Community Baby Shower, over 100 individuals attended with 30 organizations participating.

Ohio Rise – Steve Case, Regional Coordinator/Kaye Clark, Manager

- Enrollments are climbing; Richland is serving 310 clients currently (2nd largest enrollment in the six-county area)
- Program is growing; there are currently 4 supervisors and 26 Care Coordinators in Richland
- Currently, there are four youth placed out-of-county, covered under MSY funding, and one youth pending placement

Kaye added Care Coordinators can use Flex Funds to cover some service costs based on the plan of care. According to Kaye, Flex Funds can cover YMCA memberships; security cameras; camperships; sports programs; Cedar Point passes; etc. Dan asked Kaye if she could share a list of services provided under the Flex Fund. Michelle added the Flex Funds are helping OhioRise pay for some respite services for youth whose Medicaid providers cannot move through certification under the OhioRise process. Kaye is working with AETNA to try to resolve this issue. Michele stated Newhope can get providers certified through Medicaid for other programs but can't get them certified through the OhioRise process.

Parent Representation

Dan informed members Parent Representative Sherri Ramsey has resigned from the Council due to family responsibilities. Dan asked for a motion to accept Sherri's resignation. Joe made the motion to accept Sherri's resignation with regret and Darrell seconded the motion.

A description of the role of the Parent Representative is included in the meeting packet. Dan asked members to contact Michelle if they know of anyone who might be interested in the position. He reminded members the Council needs three parent representatives to remain in compliance with state guidelines.

Ties for Guys

The Ties for Guys event has been scheduled at JC Penney on December 4th and December 11th. The event will involve "dressing days" for seniors graduating from Richland County. JC Penney is offering 30% off the purchase. The event will provide formal attire for seniors to wear for employment interviews, college interviews, etc. Applications must be submitted to Michelle no later than November 20th. Several representatives from the community will be assisting the youth in assembling their outfits.

Risk Reduction Initiative

The Council is participating in the state-wide Risk Reduction Initiative. The Initiative makes outlet covers and stove, door and cupboard latches available to families.

Service Coordination Mechanism Review

Michelle has included the draft of the Service Coordination Mechanism in the meeting packet. The final plan has to be submitted to OFCF by the end of December. Please review the plan and submit your suggestions/comments to Michelle no later than November 25th so she can revise the plan for approval at the December meeting.

Summer Youth Employment

Mitch Jacobsen, Catalyst Life Services, advised members Catalyst will work with Richland County Job and Family Services, the Council and community partners to provide youth with paid work experiences during the summer of 2025. Youth Specialists will identify worksites in the community; take referrals and applications for youth; provide orientation to youth and worksite supervisors; and ensure youth have transportation to and from worksites (bicycles, gas cards, ride-share, etc.). Youth will be provided an opportunity to work up to 25 hours per week at a worksite for 12 weeks, earning \$13 per hour. Priority of service will be given to multi-system youth and youth who have not participated in the program in the past. Funding for TANF eligible youth (families) will be provided by Richland County Job and Family Services.

Dr. Magalotti – Akron Children's Hospital

There are three main services: Partial hospitalization (12–18-year-olds); Outpatient; and Therapy. There is no wait list for partial hospitalization and up to a month wait list for therapy services. At this time, the child should not have to wait to receive services if the child/family has active services with an Akron Children's Hospital provider. According to Dr. Magalotti, there is a sliding fee scale for families that don't have insurance/Medicaid. Families should be referred to Social Services for assistance.

Sherry stated she had the opportunity to tour the facility and get an understanding of the services to be provided. According to Sherry, the services should fill some gaps in the community.

6. Updates/Announcements

Kevin announced next Thursday is the Student Leadership Council and Mid-Ohio expects 300 students from Richland, Crawford and surrounding counties to be in attendance.

Sherry stated construction is going well and the Council should be able to move back to the Mental Health Board building for meetings in January. Additionally, she stated WoodPointe has openings for youth. WoodPointe will now be offering case management to youth with a high level of needs. Sherry mentioned there is a new referral form for WoodPoint. On behalf of the Mental Health Board, Sherry submitted a grant for SOS 4.0 funds (up to \$1.9 million), but she has not received any information regarding funding at this time.

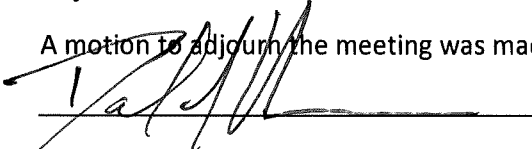
Michele informed members the playground at Sterkel Park has been installed. She plans to schedule a ribbon cutting in the Spring.

Tionna Purdue, NECIC, stated NECIC is partnering with RCT on a transportation project.

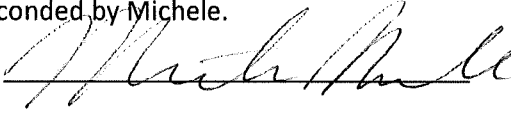
Joe announced Ohio Heartland is no longer looking for teachers. At this time, the Centers are at full enrollment. He added, there are long waiting lists in Richland and Marion counties.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Kevin and seconded by Michele.



Dan Varn, Council President



Michelle Miller, Executive Director