

Richland County Youth and Family Council Meeting

May 1, 2025

1:30 p.m.

Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities/Microsoft TEAMS

The following members were:

Present: Kevin VanMeter, Tara Lautzenhiser, Dan Varn, Joe Devany, Darrell Banks, Lori Bedson, Meghan Wheeler, Hannah Crouch, Michele Giess, Sherry Branham-Fonner

Absent: Kevin Kimmel, Stan Jefferson, Tiffany Ellenberger, Jodie Perry, Stevanie Brown, Lisa Benson,

Administrative Staff Present: Toby Borders, Michelle Miller

Present via Microsoft TEAMS: Miles Parsons, Jessica Caughlin, Molly Hemker, Shauna Shell, Sara Russell, Kris Dinny, Brice Eyerly, Sherry Gibson, Wendy Thompson, Terry Carter

Guests: Tracy Franko, Travis Porter, Leah Gesouras, Danielle Timmons, Whitney Lindsay, Siera Marth-May, Holly Christie, Emily Argo-Tate, Sarah Stevens, Kelly Pack, Brian Hunt, Breeann Lee, Olysse Walter

1. Call to Order & Introductions

President Dan Varn called the meeting to order and began introductions. A quorum was established with 10 voting members in attendance.

2. Approval of April 3, 2025, Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting (April 3, 2025) was made by Joe and seconded by Kevin V. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by voice vote.

3. Treasurer's Report

Toby advised Council members the report reflects expenditures and revenue through February. According to Toby, there was an increase in expenditures due to catching up on payments being held while the Auditor's office closed the year. Toby pointed out several expenses to members - FCSS, the annual website fee and the pay-out of the Agriculture Mini Grant.

Tara made a motion to accept the Treasurer's/Financial Report as written. Sherry seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by voice vote; the report is to be filed as written.

4. Old Business and Director's Report

A) Director's Report

- 1) **Service Coordination** – Michelle reported one youth's case has been closed and another youth moved out of county. According to Michelle, the following amounts are total spent under the Council FCSS funding subcategories:

\$28,000 – respite
\$6,200 – social/recreational activities
\$2,700 – structured family activities
\$1,200 – transportation

- 2) **Strong Families/Safe Communities Grant** – Michelle informed members the SFSC funds can be used to provide campership opportunities (such as NuHop) for youth.

- 3) **Banks Hair Salon** – Michelle reported the Banks Hair Salon event was a great success, providing ten youth with haircuts. Referrals came from Richland County Children Services, Richland Juvenile Court and Service Coordination.
- 4) **Leadership Unlimited** – Michelle shared she has been accepted to participate in the 2025 Leadership Unlimited cohort.

5. New Business

A) DCY Audit

Michelle informed members DCY regional representative Jenny Horner will be conducting an audit of the Youth and Family Council service coordination files.

B) Richland County Youth and Family Council Personnel Policies

During the April meeting, Michelle had distributed copies of personnel policies for Council review in anticipation of discussion and approval at the May meeting. Michelle explained to members the only revision was made to the sick leave policy. The policy in its original form did not clearly specify that sick leave is to be used to cover a medical event and if that event is a doctor's appointment sick leave only covers the amount of time it takes the employee to travel to and from the appointment and the time of the appointment.

Kevin made a motion to approve the policies. Lori seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by voice vote.

C) Youth Services Proposal

Michelle and Finance Committee members who reviewed youth services proposals asked members to approve a proposal submitted by CACY for suicide prevention services. Michelle explained the goals of the program are to decrease suicide by 10% countywide, increase awareness of the problem, and to increase access to suicide prevention education. Overall, the program will encourage positive mental health practices. CACY is requesting \$5,600 for the program.

Lori made a motion to approve the proposal request in the amount of \$5,600 for suicide prevention services. Tara seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by voice vote.

D) Guest Presentation – St. Vincent Family Services/Columbus

Sara R and Kris Denny of St. Vincent Family Services informed members of the residential treatment program being offered in Columbus for children ages 5 – 12. The program focuses on children who lack executive skills and struggle with academics. The youth are often involved with Children Services but are still within the parents' control; some youth may be funded through MSY. The program may also serve a child with autism if the child has an IQ of 70 or higher.

Programming includes psychiatric care; on-call nursing/daily nursing services; individual counseling; recreational activities; daily life skills activities; and academics to include onsite tutoring (IEP and non-IEP classroom). Speech and occupational therapy are offered through the Columbus City Schools. The program utilizes evidence-based treatment practices, including collaborative problem-solving and Ukeru (restraint reduction). The families of the children are included in the treatment practices when appropriate. Youth typically remain in the program for six-nine months and engage in local community activities while in the program.

The program is QRTP certified, maintains a child to staff ratio of 4:1 and has an 80% success rate with children returning home or to a lower-level care facility.

6. Council Reports

A) Early Intervention

There was no Early Intervention report provided during the meeting.

B) Ohio Rise

Whitney stated she had no report at this time. Sarah Stevens reiterated there was no Ohio Rise report, but she would answer any questions members might have. There were no questions.

C) Pre-Natal to 5 Committee

Wendy informed members a parent joined the last meeting to share her child's journey with lead poisoning. Wendy stated the committee is seeking suggestions on advocacy.

7. Updates/Announcements

Michelle reminded members of several upcoming Council and community events:

Parent Education Resource Fair – May 4, 2025 – Sponsored by NAMI and RCYFC, free to the community

Aging Out of Foster Care Forum/OSU – May 15, 2025 – Collaboration between Richland County Children Services and Richland County Youth and Family Council

City of Mansfield Parks & Recreation – North Lake Park Youth activities throughout the summer (contact Angel Singelton)

Trauma Informed Care – May 17, 2025 at DLX/3:00 – 7:00 PM - Sponsored by Nationwide Children's Hospital, RCYFC and the YWCA (50 childcare providers registered for the event)

Kevin V. (Richland/Mansfield Public Health Department) reminded members there are reports of measles around the state and the medical bus has been traveling around the county. Kevin stated residents can call the Health Department to schedule the measles vaccination.

Danielle T. stated the Parent Cafés are continuing, and YWCA CCR and R continues to recruit foster parents.

Travis P. informed members Village Network is also continuing to recruit foster parents.

Darrell (Richland County Board of Commissioners) encouraged members to go out and vote on May 6th, emphasizing the importance due to Issue 2.

Sherry (Mental Health and Recovery Board) shared May is Mental Health Awareness Month. She thanked the Commissioners for the proclamation. Sherry informed Council members the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board has been working on a web-based network that will provide local residents easy access to mental health and recovery services available within the community. A primary goal of the Richland Recovery Network will be to brand services offered through the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board. The network will help to educate the community about mental health services in preparation for a levy the Board plans to place on the ballot in November. According to Sherry, the levy would provide \$2 million in flexible funding the Board could use in various ways.

Michele (Richland County Board of DD) invited members to the Sterkel Park ribbon cutting ceremony on May 23, 2025.

Joe (HeadStart/CAC) stated he continues to wait for funding information.

Brian (Catholic Charities) stated Catholic Charities is continuing to provide emergency rental assistance, prescription assistance and transportation assistance for employment.

Stevanie (Buckeye Community School) informed members students can continue through the summer if they need credits to graduate.

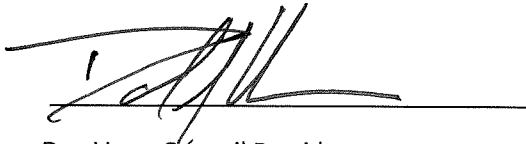
Holly (Mansfield City Schools) reminded members of the upcoming Peace on My Block event and let members know the City Schools will be providing summer programming.

Leah Gesouras (Richland Source/Community Investment) informed members Richland Source is launching a "solution journalism project" in cooperation with Mansfield City Schools, YWCA and the Women's Foundation to address the crisis in childcare.

Terry (211) stated funding for Ohio 211 did not make it into the budget that progressed through the Ohio House; the association will work with the Senate to try to introduce the funding. Additionally, Terry reported the local 211 program has received accreditation.

Adjourn

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

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dan Varn', written over a horizontal line.

Dan Varn, Council President

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Miller', written over a horizontal line.

Michelle Miller, Executive Director