

Richland County Youth and Family Council Meeting

August 7, 2025

1:30 p.m.

Richland County Mental Health Board

The following members were:

Present: Tara Lautzenhiser, Michelle Miller, Darrel Banks, Joe Devaney, Kevin VanMeter, Kevin Kimmel, Hannah Crouch, Tina Germann, Toby Borders, Wendy Thompson

Absent: Sherry Branham-Fonner, Michele Giess,

Administrative Staff Present: Michelle Miller, Toby Borders

Guests: Alana Shiera Richland Outreach, Julie Litt, Joshua Tolliver, Kelly Pack, Rico Woods, Bree Lee, Sarah Stevens, Terry Carter, Travis Porter, Melissa Swank, Joni Reynolds, Milly Hemker, Kim Miller, Amanda Solven, Wendy Thomspon, Alexie Lorenz, AJ roll

1. Call to Order & Introductions

Chairman Joe Devaney called the meeting to order and began introductions. A quorum was established with 7 voting members in attendance.

- 2. Approval of June 17, 2025, Minutes.** The minutes were sent out. They were approved with Wendy Thompson making a motion and Tara seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by voice vote.

3. Treasurer's Report

Toby had to leave the meeting so these will be discussed and approved during the next meeting on October 6, 2025.

4. Old Business and Director's Report

A) Director's Report

- 1)** Michelle and staff have been busy getting their fiscal and MSY contracts for DCY and submitted to the State.
- 2)** Rico is supporting 30 youth and other needs in the community.
- 3)** Michelle is going to attend the YFC conference this weekend.

5. New Business

A) Ohio Family and Children First council: recently our family reps couldn't be employed by members of council. Now we can; the only criteria is that they can't vote on anything that would be a conflict. We have 3 and Michelle is really thankful for them. Superintendents, Kevin Kimmel and Stan Jefferson can send a designee that will count for a quorum but they have to be able to make decisions for their agency. There is also an "Opt Out" option for the Children and Family First Council. The county would have to show that an agency can do all of the things that the YFC can and Tara (RCCS), Lori (JFS), and Michele Giess (RCBDD) would also have to approve. The Ohio Children and Family First Council was the first in Ohio.

B) Potty training workshop for all kids and any developmental stages that they are in will be on 8.19.25 from 600pm to 830pm. They have only 3 spots left out of 30. It is a free event. Wonderful workshop.

6. Council Reports

A) Julie Litt-Early Intervention handed out the final grant year report that is submitted to the council and to the State. Next month there will be a comparison. There were 347 referrals from July 1 2024 to June 30 of 2025. Referrals don't increase with outreach but it is more of an understanding for the community of services. They are working more collaboratively with Early Head Start. They have started to do pilot rethinking and how to prepare the classrooms. They are doing 3 trainings with Head Start to help teachers from all 4 counties. EI team will be doing that and it will help staff prepare. A lot of staff are new.

Referrals are separated from local vs other county and they have decreased from EI. Individual plans were around 600 with families. There was only one Isp that was not completed on time. They will have 5 coordinators on Monday (new one starting). In the first half of the year, there were 3 issues that had to be resolved with families and the 2nd half there were none. They were at full compliance with goals. Transition to school districts were all completed. Caseloads are around 60. Richland Source did an article that shows the great collaborative work within our community. They also work with Clearwater Cog to best support the children who need therapy.

B) Ohio Rise- Whitney Lindsay stated that they are serving 500 youth, 22 referrals in the queue and 40 coordinators now. They have new staff as well. They just hit their 3 year anniversary and are really proud of how far they have come. Currently they are focusing on ways to communicate and collaborate within the community.

C) Pre-Natal to 5 Committee- Wendy Thompson spoke and stated that during the last meeting they looked at the new program year and each month decided on what they need to advocate for; car safety, lead safety, etc. They hope to have the report ready in Sept. and would like to partner with other agencies to help get the info out.

7. Updates/Announcements

***Baby shower-** if you want to be a vendor or sponsor let them know as soon as possible. Event on 10.16. Will be offering a meet and greet for the vendors prior to the clients coming so that they can learn about different services being offered to referred.

Outreach center: Alana Sherra stated that they are providing diapers and wipes for families and feed the homeless the 2nd weekend of the month. They are also serving military veterans. Thei big event is "Whoville" and have about 1000 kids that pick out toys and get assigned a shopper. They have a grinch, Santa Claus with a real beard, pictures, hot cocoa, hats and mittens, and blankets for all kids. Need volunteers and if anyone is willing to do a toy drive. Michelle stated that this is a good opportunity for teens to get volunteer hours. FFA and 4H need service hours as well so maybe reach out to clubs and schools. Need the toys by 12.1.25 and event is 12.13.25. Diaper pantry is 8.12.25.

AJ Roll: spoke with Michelle about an idea regarding non-perishables . He was adopted at the age of 1 and they came up with welcome boxes for children entering foster care (in packets) like essentials, toothbrush, etc. extras like small toys, non perishables, hygiene items. They are packaged into different age groups. Amazon boxes are in bulk (150 of them 28.99) this is average for anything in bulk. Alana asked what are they putting them in. He said that they will be in cardboard boxes. She suggested that they put in a suitcase.

Darrell: commissioners have no desire to disban YFC. He stated that they really appreciate what the YFC does for the community. Currently, there is remodeling in the court house and it might be done in a couple of months.

Etna ohio rise: have expanded to include incontinent supplies.

Bree: The DV Shelter began their "Room to heal campaign" and they need sponsors for bedrooms. They are also starting a community support group that will be the last Thursday of the month. Julie asked about childcare and it is being provided.

Nami-looking for volunteers; new perinatal program

Village newtwork: neighboring county backpack giveaway in Knox

Joni—Windsor Laurelwood- the crisis unit did drop to 6 yrs old through adult

Headstart will have their open house on Monday and Tues will have a peace on my block event (Rico)

YWCA- updated programming fliers will be handed out. Tots together and an infant/toddler play group need to have sites to host those.

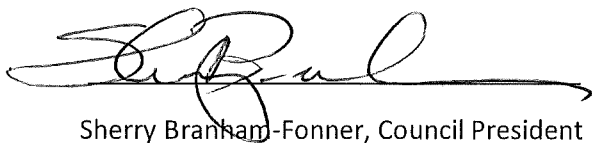
Kevin Kimmel: The student center is hosting an all day conference on Tuesday that focuses on school based professionals.

NCSC-bringing back AA-ED program and are now able to hire a faculty member and coordinator to grow the program. They will be going into a new buildin but it won't be ready for about 2 years. They will keep everyone posted.

Headstart is safe for another year. Weatherization program (Working in conjunction with appliances, gas, electric, etc) is back. There are not too many on the waitist. Will get with Michelle to see if any needs from the clients. The community service block grant is still being reviewed. HEAP helps with utility bills and is heavily supported will be put into the budget. Won't know anything until after Sept. Julie commented that we need to think about staff who are in need that would qualify.

Adjourn

Kevin VanMeter made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Kevin Kimmel seconded the motion. The motion was approved by voice vote.



Sherry Brannan-Fonner, Council President



Michelle Miller, Executive Director