

**Richland County Youth and Family Council Meeting**  
**February 5, 2026**  
**1:30 p.m.**  
**Richland County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board**

**The following members were:**

**Present:** Tara Lautzenhiser, Dan Varn, Kevin Kimmel, Joe Devaney, Darrell Banks, Scott Basilone, Lori Bedson, Megan Wheeler, Michele Giess, Natasha Harris (DV shelter), Kimberly Miller, Wendy Thompson, Anne Vermillion, Stevanie Brown, Hannah Crouch, Wendy Thompson, Molly Hemker

**Absent:** Eric Turlo, Jodie Perry, Tiffany Ellenberger, Sherry Branham-Fonner, Toby Borders, Julie Litt, Rico Woods, Stan Jefferson, Kevin VanMeter, Lisa Benson, Julie Chaya, Jodie Perry,

**Administrative Staff Present:** Michelle Miller

**Guests:** Jean Taddie, Latasha Brown, Shelby Thompson, Kimberly Miller, Amanda Soliven, Jennie Horner, Olyse Walter, Jenette Smith, Siera Marth-May, Katie Gatten, Christine Hanysh, Natasha Harris, Morgan Weaver, Melissa Swank, Terry Carter, Josh Tolliver, Michelle Johnson, Holly Christie,

**1. Call to Order & Introductions**

Dan Varn called the meeting to order and began introductions. A quorum was established.

**2. Approval of (Date), Meeting Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting (January 8, 2026) was made by Kevin K. and seconded by Wendy. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by voice vote.

**3. Financials**

Lori reported that for 2026, they haven't seen any additional revenue. The expenses have some hefty pay outs with the summer program and they made the last payout in Dec. Also, they got caught up on rent for the YFC \$3000. For the itemized expenses notice that the Catalyst and summer youth program is on there and July through dec rent. Other than that, normal payments; we should see an increase in Jan because of the closure of the auditor's office and the end of year processing so might see another increase in expenses. A motion to approve the financials was made by Joe and seconded by Michele. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by voice vote.

**Director's Report**

Michelle reported that in regards to services coordination there are currently 25 open spaces. They are excited to share that no youth are in need of placement. Michelle wanted to say thank you to Chap because they will host the 2<sup>nd</sup> toiletry workshop which is March 2<sup>nd</sup> from 430 to 630 and Emily from Columbus will be there to lead again. The Child fatality Review is later this month. Michelle stated that also in the packet are flyers for scholarship opportunity for former foster youth and another one is COSI.

**Ohio Rise:** Michelle Johnson said that they are still getting their waitlist down. Ohio Rise is still hiring. There are currently 7 managers and 6 coordinators. They are expanding their space so they will have more room. Ohio Rise is still meeting projections of 10 to 15 referrals per month; some lost Medicare coverage so they are working on getting that back.

**Prenatal 5 Committee Report:** No report this month

**4. RCYFC Shared plan** is due Monday. It needed to be approved for 2026 to 2028. They have outlined some of the activities that they have been doing and next steps. They have smaller numbers (123 supports to the

community) it is probably more than 123. It looks different for the progress updates; they got rid of the appendix so there is a new format to submit to the state. It is all electronic so will input into their system. Jenny said that there was a lot of momentum at the summit, and they felt like it was important to collect progress so we already did that and that is why we combined the forms. A motion to approve was made by Wendy and seconded by Lori. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by voice vote.

5. **2026 Proposed Schedule Meeting Options:** will move forward on the normal schedule.
6. **SFY 2027 RCYFC RFP Release Date:** There was a discussion on timeline. Dan asked if there is an opportunity to appoint but Michelle said that there is no point to release it since we don't know yet how or if it will be run. Darrell said that we need to do it in early March instead of today. No action today but will address in early March.
7. **Help Me Grow Outreach:** Christine introduced herself as the new contract manager for the eastern region. She explained that central coordination is responsible for conducting outreach and processing all of the referrals. They hold the contract for the eastern region so local and 11 counties. Their team is to support local programs and at no cost. They ensure that the communities know of the services which are early intervention and home visitation. If anyone ever needs health fairs, baby showers, they can support that. It is their job to ensure that they are connecting with the community. They have brochures and other materials. DCY has two resources with the Sparkler App (track child development) and the other one community resource director (like 211) through the HMG org website.
8. **NAMI-Richland County: no update**

#### **Updates/Announcements:**

YWCA-brought several flyers for their programs

Michele-applications are open for leadership unlimited and brought flyers

Anne- Catalyst All-Star Classic is coming up in Lexington.

Jenny-making rounds to have no placement out of home

Terry-211 is busy and currently making income tax appts for mod to low for AARP program (don't have to be a member or senior) if they need assistance let us know. Mansfield schedule is full but can schedule for Galion and Marion location. For older students and have a w2 we can help them as well.

Stevanie-wanted to thank Michelle and say she has done a great job!

Hannah- stated that Michelle was always great about including parent reps and helping the community!

Darrell- yesterday we had a ribbon cutting for the courthouse renovation without borrowing any money. Please stop by and look at the new renovations. They did a great job, a lot of work, and we only have a couple more to do in the courthouse like windows and air conditioning yet but it is almost complete.

Joe-all major programs are funded for next year; HeadStart will be fully funded; for weatherization are doing public announcement and taking applications (physically in mt Gilead and Galion) if they can't come in we have staff that will come out to the home if needed. We have a lot of resources to bring to the table.

Michelle will connect with RCCS for Picnic with Pop.

Jean said that they will be celebrating transit week and will have a day Tuesday February 17<sup>th</sup> that everyone can ride for free. There will be a press release that will be going out. and for those of you following story of offering They will be offering early morning and night service for certain sections of the county that will roll out of May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Richland county foundation has a grant deadline for summer youth program that is Feb 14<sup>th</sup>

Black history celebration is on sat at the library

Michelle wanted to remind everyone that the rise event is next week at the library as well.

Dan stated that Michelle Miller's last day will be Feb 27<sup>th</sup> and everyone thanked her. The next steps will be putting together a search committee, job description process, etc. and may have a special meeting to discuss next steps and trustees and will keep everyone in the loop with moving forward.

**Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made by Kevin K. and Wendy seconded. The motion was approved by voice vote.



~~Sherry Branham-Fonner, Council President~~

Dan Varn, Past President



Michelle Miller, Executive Director

Lori Bedson, Director  
RCJFS Administrative Agent