

Richland County Youth and Family Council Meeting

December 7, 2023

1:30 p.m.

Richland County Mental Health & Recovery Services Board/Microsoft TEAMS

The following members were:

Present: Joe Devany, Sherry Branham-Fonner, Lori Bedson, Kevin Kimmel, Dan Varn, Nikki Harless, Julie Chaya, Meghan Wheeler, Stan Jefferson

Absent: Tiffany Ellenberger, Michelle Wood, Lisa Benson, Wendy Thompson, Michele Giess, Hannah Crouch

Administrative Staff Present: Michelle Miller, Toby Borders

Present via Microsoft TEAMS: Sherry Gibson, Kaye Clark, Jessica Caughlin, Jenette Karger, Melissa Swank, Richelle Ettel, Donna Hight, Wendy Thompson

Guests: Katie Gatten, Simone Ellerson, Anne Vermillion, Ashley Leadingham, Patricia Dollison, Joshua Tolliver, Randa Harrah, Nancy Hartman

1. Call to Order & Introductions

President Joe Devany called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and began introductions. A quorum was established with six voting members in attendance.

2. Approval of November 2, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Michelle M stated she needed to correct the spelling of a last name on the minutes. A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting (November 2, 2023) with the change noted was made by Kevin Kimmel and seconded by Sherry. The motion passed by a voice vote.

3. Treasurer's Report

Toby reviewed the Treasurer's report with members. Kevin asked if the unemployment expense is the last payment for unemployment; Toby replied yes. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Nikki Harless and seconded by Julie Chaya. The motion passed by a voice vote.

4. New Business

Michelle informed members the Council, in cooperation with JFS, made a donation to the Mansfield City Schools S.A.F.E program. The donation consisted of socks, birthday kits (cake mix, cake pan, frosting, candles, etc.) and hotel packs (paper plates, plastic cutlery, etc.). The S.A.F.E program collects these items to be shared with the students experiencing homelessness and/or living in transition.

State/FCFC Updates

Michelle provided members with statistics from the Ohio Family and Children First Council regarding services to youth during SFY 2023 – 2,000 youth received services; \$3.1 million was expended to provide the services.

5. Old Business

Imagination Library (Dolly Parton program)

Since the discussion about the Imagination Library during the last Council meeting, Julie Chaya and Michelle met with Commissioner Vero and Nancy Hartman (CHAP) to pursue the possibility of finding a local (Richland) program coordinator. According to Julie, during the meeting, Nancy agreed to assume this responsibility as CHAP had done in the past. Julie explained to members the Health Department, CHAP and

local pediatricians had participated in the Imagination Library program several years ago, with CHAP acting as the local coordinator. When Governor Dewine's office assumed responsibility for the program, the initiative was managed at a statewide level by Easter Seals. In the local configuration, CHAP will assume the role of coordinator/local manager (501(C)(3)) and fiscal agent and the Health Department will provide administrative assistance.

Kevin asked what the plan is to raise the \$57,000+ match funding needed to provide for all potential eligible children in the county. Julie responded the group will seek donations from private donors, agency donors and the Richland Foundation which was supportive previously.

At a later date, Julie, Nancy and Michelle will meet to discuss funding, pursuing donations. In the meantime, the Health Department has grant funding that can be used to begin implementation of the program.

Revision of By-Laws

Joe asked members if there was further discussion regarding the changes made to the by-laws. If not, he asked members to accept them as written knowing there will be changes due to potential state changes in regulations. Lori made the motion to approve the by-laws and Nikki seconded the motion. The motion was approved by voice vote.

6. Updates/Announcements/Guest Speakers

Michelle reminded members she has been working on a strategic plan and a focus of the plan is to ensure services are supportive of all youth in the county not just specific Council partners. With that in mind, she would like to see more mandated partners contribute to the locally pooled funds.

Simone Ellerson, Nationwide Children's Hospital

Simone Ellerson, Richland County representative for Nationwide Children's Hospital, presented information regarding the Triple P Program and services available to families. According to Simone, the Triple P Program is supported through funding from the Ohio Children's Trust Fund. Simone stated services to families may be as simple as a casual meeting during which families are provided with tip sheets to more intensive levels of service regarding direct counseling to assist in developing good routines, addressing high risk behaviors and building on the families' skills/strengths.

The Village Network

Representatives Joshua Tolliver and Randa Harrah from The Village Network shared information with Council members. Although more comprehensive services are available in Knox County, The Village Network has an office in Mansfield and wants to expand services. The Village Network operates a residential facility in Knox County as well as offers outpatient day treatment services. Counselors use a trauma informed model of care. Currently, in Knox County, school age children are transported from school to the counseling center to participate in counseling services. The Village Network would like to implement this model in Mansfield and is currently working with Clearfork Schools to implement a day treatment program.

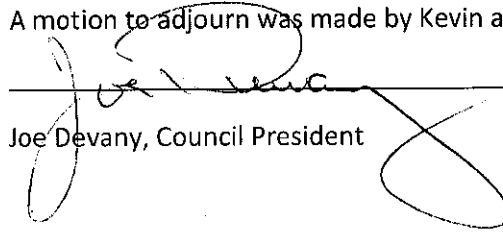
Sherry asked the representatives if they are aware Akron Children's Hospital provides day treatment services and suggested they might want to coordinate.

Katie informed Council members of upcoming holiday events at the Library – "making gingerbread houses" and photos for families.

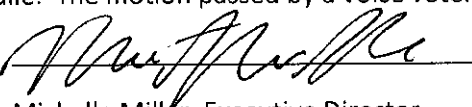
Ashley Leadingham shared about the upcoming event by Sluss Realty at Shady Lane Farm on Dec. 9th.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Kevin and seconded by Julie. The motion passed by a voice vote.



Joe Devany, Council President



Michelle Miller, Executive Director