

## Richland County Youth and Family Council Meeting

February 1, 2024

1:30 p.m.

### Richland County Mental Health & Recovery Services Board/Microsoft TEAMS

#### The following members were:

**Present:** Hannah Crouch, Darrell Banks, Lori Bedson, Dan Varn, Michele Giess

**Absent:** Nikki Harless, Sherry Branham-Fonner, Lisa Benson, Joe Devany, Kevin Kimmel, Stan Jefferson, Julie Chaya, Kevin VanMeter, Tiffany Ellenberger, Michelle Wood, Jodie Perry

**Administrative Staff Present:** Michelle Miller, Toby Borders

**Present via Microsoft TEAMS:** Jamie Klear, Meghan Wheeler, Richelle Ettel, Sherry Gibson, Jessica Caughlan

**Guests:** Deena Hamilton, Debra Weaver, Julie Litt, Anne Vermillion, Kaye Clark, Pamela Rogers, Patricia Dollisch, Katie Gatten, Melissa Swank, Danielle Timmons, Jean Taddie, Terry Carter

#### 1. Call to Order & Introductions

Michele Giess called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and began introductions. A quorum was not established as not enough voting members were present.

#### 2. Approval of December 7, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting (January 4, 2023) tabled as there was not a quorum.

#### 3. Treasurer's Report

Toby reviewed the Treasurer's Report through November 2023 as this was the last report approved by Finance due to the fact the Finance Committee meets after the Council meeting this month (February 5, 2024). This happens several times throughout the year. The Treasurer's Report for December will be submitted to the Finance Committee on February 5<sup>th</sup> then presented to the Council in March. Approval of the Treasurer's Report was tabled as there was not a quorum.

#### 4. State/FCFC/Director Report

Kinship Closet has started off great. 7 referrals so far. This initiative will not be accepting self-referrals. All referrals for this program will need to come from a Richland County Social Services agency or school. Our goal with this program is to help support keeping youth 0-21 with kin if safely possible. This project is using some of the funds allocated for this purpose from the Strong Families Safe Communities Grant.

High School Emergency based clothing voucher program is going well. We've been able to support 12 students. A clothing voucher for \$175 to use at Kohls is provided to the student to have adequate clothing. No self-referrals for this program. All referrals must come from school or another Richland County Social Services agency. This program is for 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade students only. As a reminder, students in kindergarten-8<sup>th</sup> can have referrals sent to The New Store.

The Department of Children and Youth may be starting to give stipends out to councils who would like to start a youth advisory committee. There is not much information yet on this initiative. FCFC Director will keep everyone informed on updates to this program.

The Department of Children and Youth at the state level is also discussing how to support the local levels when loved ones are going through the reentry process after incarceration. More information to come soon.

Michelle submitted the SFY25 Administrative Agent designation paperwork on January 9<sup>th</sup>. AA stays the same for SFY25: JFS.

We are still in need of a parent representative. Please share with your agencies to see if anyone may know of a parent that may be interested.

RFP was sent out this morning. The RFP is also on the Richland County Youth and Family Council Website.

RISE update. The January event went well. There were 25 people in attendance. Thank you to Juvenile Court for hosting. Wonderful feedback has been received. The next RISE event will be at RCCS on February 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am. Lunch is provided by Richland County Youth and Family Council.

## 5. EI Update

Julie provided an update on the Early Intervention grant covering 7/1/23-12/31/23. Julie informed members of the Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP) completed during this period there have been 54 initial, 19 annual and 161 reviews. There was 1 error by a new EISC where a plan missed the due date by 1 day.

## 6. Early Childhood Coordinating Committee

This discussion has been tabled until the next meeting, due to not having quorum.

## 7. Love on a Mission (Presentation by Deena Hamilton and Debra Weaver)

Founded in 2015 by Deena Hamilton. She shared her personal story of why she started. This is a safe place for LGBTQ children in the community. They have multiple youth programs and meetings for sharing.

Common teachings are:

- Zero Tolerance for Bullying
- Mindful Understanding
- Respectful of Others Differences
- Find Commonality in Being Different
- Self-Regulate
- Unconditional Love

Showed You Tube Video of Aaron & Austin Rhodes Coming Out.

## 7. Updates/Announcements

### ***Michele Giess, Leadership Unlimited***

Michele informed members of the open application period for the Class of 2025 Leadership Unlimited Program. A flyer was provided with more information. Michele encouraged anyone interested to reach out and ask questions. There are scholarships available if you need assistance with the costs.

### ***Jean Taddie, Richland County Transit***

Jean advised Council members 2/11-2/17 is Ohio Loves Transit Week in Richland County. There have been route adjustments and there are new schedules available. Please reach out if you need them for your agency.

### ***Melissa Swank, YWCA***

Melissa Provided a flyer on the Triple P Positive Parenting Program. You can do the sessions in the office or they may be able to do via zoom. Completed session on Bedtime Routines recently.

### ***Terry Carter, First Call 2-1-1***

Terry provided a flyer with direct dial numbers for 9 local counties. Also, there is now a Statewide 211 number and it will route you to the local office based on the zip code you enter.

Gay Pride Festival is planned for Saturday June 22. Tables and Sponsorships are still available.

***Birth Certificates***

The council discussed a need for funds to purchase birth certificates for children enrolling in school as required by Early Childhood.

***Jamie Klear, No One Eats Alone***

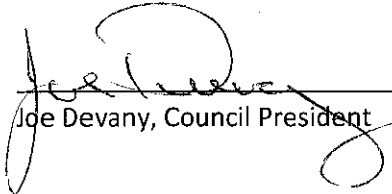
Handout provided, can be done on any day. Flyer has ideas to bring awareness.

***Katie Gatten, MRCPL***

Annual Black History Event Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be entertainment with a choir and dance group, among other activities.

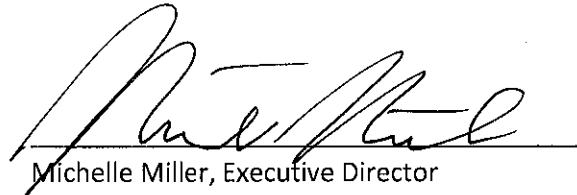
**8. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:28pm by Michele Giess.



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Joe Devany, Council President



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Michelle Miller, Executive Director