

Richland County Youth and Family Council Meeting

June 6, 2024

1:30 p.m.

Richland County Mental Health & Recovery Services Board/Microsoft TEAMS

The following members were:

Present: Nikki Harless, Hannah Crouch, Darrell Banks, Lori Bedson, Jodie Perry, Dan Varn, Sherry Branham-Fonner, Lisa Benson, Wendy Thompson, Michele Giess

Absent: Kevin VanMeter, Kevin Kimmel, Stan Jefferson, Joe Devany, Tiffany Ellenberger, Sherri Ramsey

Administrative Staff Present: Toby Borders, Michelle Miller, Rico Woods

Present via Microsoft TEAMS: Amanda Crowley, Meghan Wheeler, Jean Taddie, Richelle Ettel

Guests: Pam Milligan, Whitney Lindsay, Mark Burke, Herbert Ross, Patricia Dollisch, Scott Basilone, Jenette Smith

1. Call to Order & Introductions

In Joe's absence, President-Elect Dan Varn called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM and began introductions. A quorum was established with six voting members in attendance.

2. Approval of May 2, 2024, Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting (May 2, 2024) was made by Michele and seconded by Nikki. Michelle advised members there is a correction to the minutes with respect to the title of a (Chap employee). Alisha White is CHAP's new Referral and Enrollment Coordinator, not Coordinator/Family Worker. The motion was approved with the correction, passing by voice vote.

3. Treasurer's Report

Toby reviewed the April expense report and financial report with the members. Toby stated several corrections had been made to the reports based on the review by the Finance Committee. Toby advised members the Finance Committee approved compiling the wage and benefit amounts for Council staff into one total rather than separate entries. There were no questions.

Sherry made the motion to approve the Treasurer's reports and Nikki seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by voice vote.

4. Old Business

A) Executive Director/FCFC Updates

1) Finalizing SFY Funds

Michelle stated she is working with Toby to ensure all available funds have been expended as necessary.

2) Reminders/Upcoming Events

- a) Michelle reminded Council members of the upcoming Trauma-Informed Care event for child care providers. The event will take place at the NCSC Kehoe Center on June 6, 2024. Buffi Williams, Healing Hearts Counseling Center, will be facilitating the training for providers.
- b) Picnic with Pop will take place at the Gazebo in downtown Mansfield on June 8th. The event is a celebration of fatherhood.

- c) The Pre-Natal – 5 Stroller Social will take place in Marshall Park (Splash Pad) on June 18th. This event will be held rain or shine. Families will be invited to take a walk through the park, meeting at the Splash Pad. The committee will share information and resources with the families.

5. New Business

A) Executive Director Updates

1) Youth Advisory Workgroup (VOICE Incentive)

Michelle informed members the advisory workgroup met on June 5th to determine the parameters for the Youth Advisory Committee. Michelle stated there was lots of discussion and the workgroup will meet again in July to formalize the structure. The workgroup hopes to implement the committee in August.

2) Strong Families/Strong Communities Update

- a) 49 high school students have been assisted with the transition to college.
- b) 50 kinship families have been supported by the grant.
- c) There are currently 15 youth involved in service coordination.

3) Pre-Natal – 5 Committee

Wendy informed members the Pre-Natal – 5 Committee met at OSU Riegel Hall on May 20, 2024. The Committee will continue to meet on the third Monday of the month at 10:00 AM. Wendy stated the Committee is focusing on children birth to three and targeting its focus on poverty, high lead levels and drug exposure.

4) Council Officers

Michelle reminded members the new rotation of officers will be effective as of the July meeting. Michelle stated, based on the rotation approved in 2023, the President-Elect will be a family representative.

6. Updates/Announcements/Guest Speakers

Furniture Bank

Richland County Furniture Bank representative Pam Milligan presented to the Council members. Pam stated many individuals are in need of furniture/home furnishings to make their homes a comfortable place to be which, in turn, helps them to continue their recovery. Pam stated she will accept donations and will respond to referrals. She hopes to serve about 100 individuals/families each month (this is based on the number of referrals received in Akron). Pam added she would like to work with Children Services to identify the number of emancipated youths transitioning out of foster care on a monthly basis. Pam stated there are 130 Furniture Banks nationwide.

Hannah asked if the Furniture Bank will take donations or purchase items and where they will be stored. Pam stated she will take donations and purchase items and the items will be stored at the 775 Springmill Street location. Herbert asked if there is a process to donate items. Pam stated donations can be delivered to the location by appointment so anyone wishing to donate should contact her. Pam was asked if the furniture is delivered to families and responded yes. Pam added there is a processing fee for the delivery which can be paid by the family, the agency referring the family or the Furniture Bank.

Council Agency Updates

Darrell informed members the west elevator at the courthouse has been completed and the second elevator should be completed in two weeks. Darrell stated the court system worked diligently to assist individuals who couldn't walk upstairs, meeting in rooms on the lower level when necessary. Darrell added the courthouse now has air conditioning.

Jodie informed members there is work being done throughout the park system. Additionally, summer events are taking place throughout the city with the Summer Funfest happening at Liberty Park from 6:00 to 10:00 in the evenings. Volunteer groups are working on various projects such as recutting the baseball park, replanting the streambed, etc. Additionally, Coca Cola is resurfacing the basketball court. Jodie encouraged members to search the city website for a list of summer events for children and youth. Additionally, Jodie stated the city is in the process of planning for a new pool for the community.

Patricia informed members SNAP Ed/OSU will be offering cooking demos at the children's garden in South Park.

Hannah informed members she has overseen three international students this year. She stated the three students enjoyed their experiences in the community and felt welcomed by the community.

Michele reminded members an adult changing table is available through Newhope for use at public events.

Jamie Starkey informed members Urgent Care services are available at Catalyst and teen workshops focusing on sex education are being held each week. Additionally, Catalyst, in collaboration with Ashland University, will be offering lunch and learn events to address basic health skills.

Scott reintroduced himself to the members, adding he will assist the Mental Health and Recovery Board with its clinical programming and services.

Herbert Ross informed members Family Life is trying to keep youth connected to events through the summer. He asked members to keep him informed of any upcoming events.

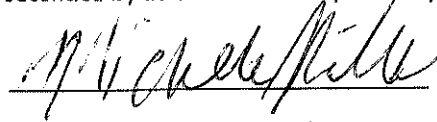
Michelle stated the next meeting will be held on July 11th since the first Thursday will be July 4th, a holiday.

Adjourn

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



Dan Varn, Council President



Michelle Miller, Executive Director