

Richland County Youth and Family Council Meeting
October 5, 2023
1:30 p.m.
Richland County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board
and Microsoft Teams

The following members were:

Present: Nikki Harless, Hannah Crouch, Dan Varn, Meghan Wheeler, Lori Bedson, Joe Trolan, Kevin VanMeter, Joe Devany, Richelle Ettel

Absent: Kevin Kimmel, Michele Giess, Lisa Benson, Stan Jefferson, Darrell Banks

Administrative Present: Michelle Miller: Executive Director, Terri Kiser: Fiscal Director, Toby Borders: Fiscal Officer

Present via Microsoft Teams: Jenette Karger, Wendy Thompson, Melissa Swank, Donna Hight, Sherry Gibson, Siera Marth, Jessica Caughlin

Guests: Kelly Andress, Carol Coovert, Jean Taddie, Terry Carter, Ashley Leadingham, Whitney Lindsay, Anne Vermillion, Julie Litt, Steve Burggraf

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 at least six voting members in attendance.

2. Approval of September 7, 2023, Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of previous meeting September 7, 2023, was made by Joe Trolan and seconded by Lori Bedson. The motion passed by a voice vote.

3. Fiscal Report

Terri Kiser presented the SFY 2024 Budget, The SFY 24 Financials through August 2023 and the details for August 2023 transactions. A motion to approve the SFY 2024 Budget, The SFY 24 Financial through August 2023 and the details for August 2023 transactions was made by Joe Trolan and seconded by Julie Litt. The motion passed by a voice vote.

4. State Updates

Michelle Miller provided current updates. Youth and Family Council still needs a Service Coordinator and there is still an open position for a parent rep. Please make recommendations or referrals if you have any.

Michelle also wanted to discuss some basic parameters for the School Clothing program with a budget of \$10,000.

- High School students ages 14-18.
- No income guideline but must have a qualifying situation such as a parent/guardian losing a job, extenuating medical expenses, referral from guidance counselor or principal for other issues in the home environment.
- Provide a clothing voucher for \$175 that can be used at Burlington or Kohl's. Expiration date will be May 30, 2024. If a private school that only uses a certain vendor for uniforms, that vendor can be paid directly.

5. Contracts Update

Lori Bedson advised that new contracts with Children's Services for Direct Placements, CACY for Parenting classes, NECIC for Respite and NUHOP for Respite Camp were approved by the Board of Commissioner's Thursday, September 28, 2023, and are effective October 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

6. By-Laws

Joe Devany advised that due to scheduling issues the By-Law committee did not meet until yesterday. The draft of the recommended changes will be reviewed with the Bylaw Committee and finalization. The recommended By-Law revisions will be sent out to the full Council to review before the next meeting on November 2, 2023.

7. Agency Overview/TNS

Kelly Andress, Executive Director of Richland County Children's Auxiliary – The New Store, provided an overview of the agency and what they do. Through the partnership with RCJFS and RCYFC they provide 2,000 backpacks annually for the Back-to-School program. Crossroads Church provides the manpower to stuff the backpacks for this event. They also have Christmas Program that has grown to serve approximately 1,000 children in Richland County. Through Anthony's Program they send 12 kids to Hidden Hollow for Summer Camp. The Auxiliary also provides scholarships to pay fees for extracurricular activities that children would otherwise not be able to participate in. The newest venture is working with Mansfield City Schools to provide clothing in an accident closet for children to have clean clothes in the event of an accident occurring at school.

8. Updates/Announcements

Julie Litt presented the Early Intervention report. Richland Newhope has recently hired a new EI Service Coordinator for a total of 4. Richland Newhope is using State Providers for some services due to loss of staff. There have been 2 complaints received and the EI Contract Manager addressed the concerns with the EI provider agency. In August, multiple Outreach and Child Find events, such as the Richland County Fair, Clearfork Schools and Metropolitan Housing Community Event were attended, but no referrals were taken. There were 41 referrals in September. Based on the 4 areas of State Compliance the program is 100% compliant. Julie was happy to report that 46 children exited the program the average length of stay increasing to 413 days. The Early Intervention program has a mock accreditation in November with a full accreditation in December.

Jean Taddie from Richland County Regional Planning Commission provided an update on the grant they were seeking from ODOT to provide more workforce transportation for 2nd and 3rd shift employees. Richland County was ineligible as one of the criteria was related to air quality. Jean advised the due to the interest in the grant ODOT is looking to revamp the criteria and seek additional funds to provide more assistance in the future.

Terry Carter from First Call 211 advised 211 serves Richland, Huron, Wayne, Ashland and Holmes counties. They are currently going through the reaccreditation process. All branches of the MRCPL will be closed Friday, October 6, 2023, for staff training. 211 will still be available by phone.

Ashley Leadingham from CHAP provided an update on Help Me Grow home visiting. They hope to be off the wait list in November. The program is making a transition from a data model to a relationship model. No referrals will be accepted the last 2 weeks of October.

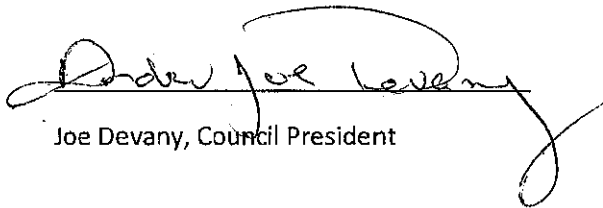
Steve Burggraf from Family Life Counseling advised they received positive audits for their programs in Mobile Response Stabilization Services, Intensive Home-Based Treatment (IHBT), and Impact for DYS Adolescent Sexual Abuse.

Joe Devany from Ohio Heartland Community Action advised Richland County needs Headstart teachers. They are looking to change the Headstart program to an Early Headstart so they may obtain more teachers due to less stringent education requirements.

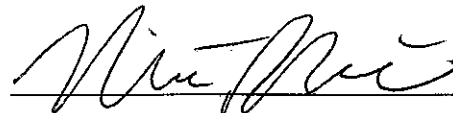
9. Adjourn

Lori Bedson made a motion to adjourn at 2:06 p.m. and Joe Trolan seconded. Motion passes by a voice vote.

President Joe Devany Adjourned the meeting.



Joe Devany, Council President



Michelle Miller, Executive Director