

Richland County Youth and Family Council Meeting

March 7th, 2024

1:30 p.m.

Richland County Mental Health & Recovery Services Board/Microsoft TEAMS

The following members were:

Present: Hannah Crouch, Darrell Banks, Michele Giess, Nikki Harless, Kevin VanMeter, Joe Devany, Wendy Thompson

Absent: Lori Bedson, Dan Varn, Sherry Branham-Fonner, Lisa Benson, Kevin Kimmel, Stan Jefferson, Tiffany Ellenberger, Michelle Wood, Meghan Wheeler

Administrative Staff Present: Michelle Miller

Administrative Absent: Toby Borders

Present via Microsoft TEAMS: Sherry Gibson, Jessica Caughlan, Jodie Perry, Richelle Ettel, Shauna Shell

Guests: Anne Vermillion, Kaye Clark, Pamela Rogers, Patricia Dollisch, Jean Taddie, Travis Porter, Jackie Williams, Tionna Perdue, Jennifer Crum, Sherri Ramsey, Ashley Leadingham, Whitney Lindsay, Brenda Foley, Ben May, Aurelio Diaz

1. Call to Order & Introductions

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

2. Approval of January 4th, 2024 Meeting Minutes:

Michele G made a motion to approve the January 4th Meeting Minutes and Kevin VanMeter seconded. Passed by all with a voice vote.

3. Approval of February 1st, 2024 Meeting Minutes:

Nikki H made a motion to approve the February 1st meeting minutes and Darrell seconded. Passed by all with a voice vote.

4. Parent rep Vacancy

Sherri Ramsey, applicant for our 3rd parent representative vacancy was introduced. Sherri has a wealth of knowledge of different agencies around Richland County. She has been involved with Newhope, Heritage Christian Counseling, Silver lining, Ohio Rise and Family Life. A motion was made by Darrell Banks to accept Sherri Ramsey as our new parent representative to fill the vacancy and seconded by Nikki Harless.

5. Treasurer's Report

Michelle Miller asked if anyone had any questions regarding the financials. Financials were approved at the Finance committee meeting this past Monday March 4th. No further discussion.

6. State/FCFC/Director Report

Michelle Miller shared that Rico Woods has been hired to fill the Multisystem Youth Service Coordinator Vacancy. He started February 29th. Rico is a graduate of Mansfield Senior. He holds an associate degree

from NC state and a bachelor's degree from the University of Cincinnati. He will be providing support and resources to our youth that may be involved with different systems around Richland County. He will also be focused on continuing our upstream work to see how we may be able to help youth make positive decisions and have a successful childhood into adulthood.

Michelle shared that the Kinship Closet has really taken off. Many referrals have come from RCCS caseworkers. We have assisted 20 youth. Items purchased include: pack and plays, safety gates, diapers, wipes, twin sheet sets, blankets, pillows, hygiene items. We will continue to help support our kinship families as we can, and this initiative is funded by SFSC grant dollars.

7. OCBF (Operational Capacity Building Funds) application:

Michelle M asked for approval to submit the SFY25 OCBF application. The application is due to the State April 11th. County FCFC's receive this allocation with the intention to support the council. The OCBF helps with salary, fringe benefits, travel expenses, parental representation, administrative support, technical assistance, and trainings/development. Kevin VanMeter made a motion for approval to submit the OCBF application and it was seconded by Michele G.

8. Family and Youth Voice, State Incentive

Michelle Miller reminded council that the state was discussing different ways to help youth and family voice at the county level. The state has allocated \$500,000 to be split between all Ohio Counties. If each county applies for the funding, the amount per county will be about \$5,680. If not all counties apply for the funding, the amount per county will be more. The application survey and narrative is due March 15th. The council agreed that Michelle Miller should submit the application survey and narrative. Michelle M will submit the application this week and keep everyone updated with the progress of this incentive.

9. RCYFC work policies

Michelle Miller stated there were no changes to the policies other than a name change and they have not been updated in a couple years. Nikki Harless made a motion to approve the RCYFC work policies as written and Michele G seconded.

10. Early Childhood Coordinating Committee

Michelle Miller shared with the council the importance of re-establishing/creating the Early Childhood Committee and how keeping it established will help support the continued effort in moving upstream. Wendy Thompson shared the importance of reaching families sooner. She advised the council what she is observing at the OSU/NC state childcare center post pandemic. She stated Low social skills, young children are not able to play in a developmentally appropriate way for their age group, more children are in parallel play. Concerns with language. Several people are interested in being on this committee. Michelle M and Wendy will meet to get information together and get a meeting scheduled.

11. Youth Violence

The council had a discussion on youth violence. The alarming concern of youth-on-youth violence as well as youth/young adult suicides. Michelle M asked what agencies are doing to help with this ongoing challenge. What can we do as a full council to be supportive. Many agencies shared what they are seeing and/or doing to help combat youth violence. There was a concern that Mansfield doesn't have much for youth and young adults as far as prosocial activities to stay active in outside of school and summer. There was concern about summer coming up and what the stats may look like then. Concerns that there is no longer a city pool. Hannah Crouch shared that the pools went downhill and are in bad shape and just haven't been a priority to open back up so no work has been done to bring them back to life. No skating rink. NECIC shared about programs they offer. They offer an empowering youth program in an effort to keep youth off the streets.

They are looking for partners in this initiative. There is a life skills house offered by NECIC that show youth/young adults how to be independent in the household. NECIC is open to working alongside other partner agencies to battle the alarming youth violence rates. They offer a lunch and learn the 2nd Thursday of the month. Currently, NECIC works with ages 6-24.

Kaye with Ohio Rise stated they currently serve 200+ youth in our community. Ashley Leadingham with CHAP brought up the concern with lack of parenting education. She stated it's important we be mindful that there are young parents who just do not know any better, have never been taught "how to parent". Sometimes it can feel intimidating for young parents to work alongside "professionals". NAMI has a parent education group. Wendy T reminded the council that Trauma starts way before we are seeing the violence. We have to be intentional in what we are doing 0-5 to help set our youth up for success in later years. Michelle M discussed this is why moving upstream to help with some of these challenges is critical. We must reach out and support our youth in the early years and provide necessary resources.

12. DSANEO

Guest Brenda Foley, a Richland County mother joined our meeting to share more about a group she started in Richland County to help support and engage with other parents who have a child with down syndrome. Brenda shared her experience with finding out her child was born with down syndrome. The unknown of not knowing the dx until after birth. She shared that there are not any close programs to help other parents going through the same experience as her. Her email is: mrs.blfoley@gmail.com for anyone that would like more information regarding her support group. She is looking for sponsorships to keep her program going.

Would like to get a dads support group going as well.

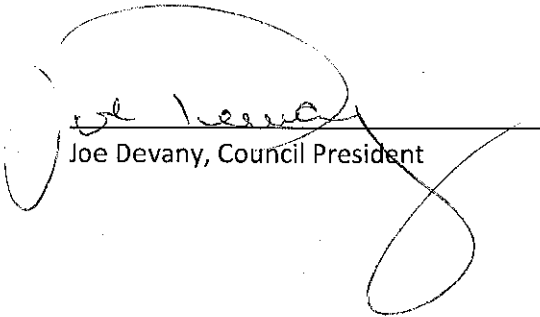
13. Updates/Announcements

Michele G reminded the council that March is Disabilities Awareness month. Michele will send a calendar of events to Michelle M, to share with Council. Richland Newhope had a successful bowling event. Joe D asked Michele how Sterkel Park was coming along. Michele stated that some sections should be open late summer/early Fall.

Jennifer Crum with Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center advised the Council that MOESC is looking to hire parent mentors. Applications can be found under employment on the MOESC website.

14. Adjourn

Joe D made a motion to adjourn meeting and seconded by Michele G.



Joe Devany, Council President



Michelle Miller, Executive Director