Allen County Family and Children First Council

**Full Council Meeting Minutes**

Monday, January 10, 2025

Blended Format: In-person and *Virtual (V)*

**Attendance:**

**Mandated Members**: Cory Noonan, Board of Commissioners; Renee Kohler, ACBDD; Sarah Newland, AC Children Services; Craig Kupferberg, AC ESC; Joe Patton, AC Job & Family Services; Brandon Fischer*,* AC Public Health; Rick Stolly, City of Lima; Jill Ackerman, Lima City Schools; Tammie Colon, MHRSB; Erin Hardesty, UWGL; Janet Buchanan & Phyllis Montrose, AC Head Start/WOCAP

**Absent:** ODYS

**Representatives of Mandated Members:** Brian Wischmeyer, LCS; Jen Baumgartner, ESC

**Family Representatives**: Michelle King, *Jen Slechter (v)*

**Community Members:** *Kayla Monfort* (v),Activate Allen County; Berlin Carroll & Jamie Hardwick, AC Juvenile Court; Brad Perrott, ARC of Allen County; Crystal Pyles, Apollo Career Center; Beca Sheidler, Area Agency on Aging 3; *Lisa Taylor & Merri Shearer* (v), CareSource MCO; *Zack Reneau (v),* CASA/CVS; Mary Smicklas, Crossroads Crisis Center; Christa Bauer, LMHS; Lisa Shafer & *Anisha Hale (v)*, Mercy-SRMC; Elizabeth Osborne &Stephanie Price, OSU Lima; *Jessica Maag (v),* PASS; Phil Birkey, SAFY; Marcy Jett & Leah Wilburt, YWCA CCR&R

**Absent:** Allen Met Housing, Children’s Developmental Center, Coleman, Family Promise, Guiding Light, Family Resource Center, Health Partners NW Ohio, Lima UMADAOP, Mercy-Help Me Grow, Shawnee Schools

**Staff:**  Carole Enneking, Coordinator; Rachael Staley, ACBDD Early Intervention Service Coordination Contract Manager

**Guests**: Yvette Harris, AmeriHealth Caritas; LeAnn Pryor & *Portia Smith (v)*, Big Brothers Big Sisters;Olysse Elkins-Walter, Buckeye; *Candice Braxton (v),* Humana; *Amy Carles* (v), Ohio Consumer’s Counsel; *Chris Stewart (v)*, ODRC; Jennie Horner, Ohio FCF

# Call to Order – B. Carroll, President, called the meeting to order (1:31PM).

# Roll Call & Agency Updates – B. Carroll invited those in attendance to introduce themselves and provide an update from their agency (see Good of Order). Those attending virtually noted in the chat.

# Minutes – B. Carroll asked for any additions or corrections to the minutes from the December meeting. A motion to approve the minutes, as presented (Ackerman/Hardesty), passed by voice vote.

# Committee Reports

1. **Steering Committee**- Met January 6th to set agenda for today’s meeting, on Jan. 9th met with Senator Susan Manchester, and a called meeting was held prior to Council today for a personnel issue. Steering also reviewed the Shared Plan Incentive Grant proposal prior to submission. Handle with Care preparation continues.
2. **Personnel Committee**- C. Kupferberg reported that an offer for the part-time Intersystems Service Coordinator position has been made to Peyton Rose; she should start later in January.
3. **Finance Committee**- B. Perrott presented the financials for November. Revenue and expenditures are on track with the budget- $56,692.54 revenue (partner contributions and MSY grant funds) and $37,322.43 expenses (payroll and MSY expenses). A motion to accept the financial reports, as presented (Colon/Fischer) passed by voice vote.
4. **Early Intervention (EI) Service Coordination Grant –** R. Staley presented referral information for December. At the end of December, 203 children (birth to 3 years) were active in EI services. Ten children exited from services- 3 were eligible for Part B continuing services, 1 is under review, 3 children met goals so were no longer eligible, and 3 discontinued services. As for special populations, 5 children diagnosed NAS and 1 child drug exposed at birth are in services. Staley celebrated the success of the 20 year partnership with Lima Community Church for Breakfast with Santa event in December; 53 families attended. A new monthly playgroup (parent support) for families with infants to age 3 will be offered through the YWCA Lima office.
5. **Family Representation Committee**- members met Jan. 3rd for input on the Council Self-Evaluation and proposed at-risk youth pilot project for the Shared Plan Incentive Grant.
6. **Intersystems** – C. Enneking reviewed service coordination activities for December; four referrals became active during the month. Year to date, 41 youth have been active with Intersystems and 15 (18 total closed cases) have successfully exited services. A new slide has been added to the report that lists the current fiscal year revenue and expenditures for Intersystems Service Coordination work. Enneking shared information about the needs & challenges as we prepare to return 2 youth from residential treatment (funded by MSY grants). These complex youth are involved with FCFC because the families have private insurance, so do not qualify for OhioRISE care coordination. NYAP reported that 103 Allen County youth are active in care coordination (Tier 2 or 3); this includes 16 new referrals in December.
7. **Coordinator Report** – C. Enneking that the revised Service Coordination Mechanism and Shared Plan Update Reports were submitted to the State Office. A proposal for the Shared Plan Incentive Grant was finalized and submitted. The proposal will identify 5 youth/families from Unity Elementary and Elida Elementary with school attendance issues and engage with Intersystems Service Coordination to identify unmet needs, build family relationships with providers, and increase school attendance. This pilot is a model to engage families before a crisis state so that services can be introduced to avoid escalation. In addition, last month was busy with review of applications and interviews for the Intersystem Service Coordination position.

# Continuing Business:

* 1. **Recognition of 2024 Attendance-** Nine member agencies plus 1 Parent Representative had perfect attendance for the 9 Council meetings , 15 member agencies qualified as ‘good standing’ due to attendance at 6 or more meetings. Thanks were offered to all those who attend regularly.
	2. **Annual Reorganization**- C. Enneking offered a quick overview of the purpose and core functions of Council and the CY2025 officers and members of Steering Committee were introduced. The purpose of the Council Self-Evaluation Survey is to identify gaps in understanding about Council and work to fill those gaps.
	3. **Shared Plan Topic-** Jennie Horner, Ohio Family and Children First Regional Coordinator (and former Allen County FCFC Coordinator) visited to provide a review of State-level initiatives. She highlighted the Environmental Scan that provided a baseline of Councils across the state, the development of a Service Coordination Handbook for on-boarding service coordinators, the launch of the Ohio Automated Service Coordination Information System (OASCIS) to collect statewide youth data, the work of several strategic planning workgroups including State Office and Council Coordinators, and the Shared Plan Incentive. She also shared that the participation of so many systems at the Kids Summit elevated the work of Councils to State Departments. Horner also mentioned that Council Shared Plan reporting may be the best way for Ohio Family & Children First (and Department of Children & Youth) to understand each County’s needs and barriers, and the initiatives identified to improve family functioning. Horner also mentioned some upcoming potential changes to Ohio Revised Code (ORC) related to FCFC; school superintendents will be able to designate a staff member to attend as an alternate, and it will be allowable for parent representatives to be employed by a Council member agency. Council members were reminded to speak out during Council meetings about issues related to children & families; it is important to highlight concerns so that Council can begin to address collaboratively. Finally, Ohio FCF is working to gain access to OhioRISE data/outcomes. A template has been provided to Aetna especially for the Tier 1 youth who are not receiving care coordination through the CME (Care Management Entity= NYAP in Allen County).
1. **New Business:**
	1. **New Member Agency**- a motion to add Big Brothers Big Sisters of Western Ohio as a Council member (Sheiler/Hardesty) passed by voice vote. BBBS met membership requirements of a completed application and attendance at 3 Council meetings. Welcome!
	2. **Partner Contributions**- B. Carroll thanked the 16 agencies that have made a 2025 contribution; and 2 that have made a pledge. To date, $16,250 has been received toward the $25,000 goal.
2. **Community Presentation-** Jill Ackerman, Superintendent of Lima City Schools, shared an update on the after-school programs offered at West Middle School (grades 7&8), North Middle School (grades 5& 6), and Liberty Arts Magnet and Heritage Elementary schools. The provider is Open Doors Academy from the Cleveland area; in 2020, Senator Bob Cupp connected Open Doors with Lima City Schools. The program has expanded and is reporting improved grade point averages, school-day attendance, and test scores, plus reduced school day behaviors. Next steps are to secure funding, expand to additional Lima City buildings, and potentially expand to county districts. Council partners were invited to contact Open Doors Academy if they have a curriculum or project that could be included in the program.
3. **Adjournment** – Meeting adjoined at 2:45p.m.

**Good of the Order:**

* AAA3- No Wrong Door event is scheduled for Jan. 29th; registration is at full capacity of 100
* Big Brothers Big Sisters- hiring a school-age coordinator; Appreciation Dinner is planned for Feb. 14th
* FCFC has a webpage on the Allen County website: <https://allencountyohio.com/family-children-first/> The Service Coordination Referral Form, Service Coordination Mechanism, meeting dates and minutes are available.
* OSU Lima- Virtual Lunch & Learn programs are scheduled this winter; 14 juniors in the Social Work program are seeking field placements for Fall
* SAFY- preparing to launch Intensive Home Based Treatment (IHBT) services focused on highest needs youth

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 Renee Kohler, Secretary Berlin Carroll, Council President

Carole Enneking, Recorder

**NEXT REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING: Monday, Feb. 10, 2025 @ 1:30PM**

**at Allen County Job & Family Services Workforce Training Center, 951 Commerce Parkway**