Allen County Family and Children First Council

**Full Council Meeting Minutes**

Monday, February 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; Brandon Fischer*,* AC Public Health; Brett Roehm, City of Lima; Tammie Colon, MHRSB; Erin Hardesty, UWGL; Janet Buchanan & Phyllis Montrose, AC Head Start/WOCAP

**Absent:** AC Job & Family Services, Lima City Schools, ODYS

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

**Family Representatives**: Michelle King, *Tera Viola (v)*

**Community Members:** Kayla Monfort, Activate Allen County; Berlin Carroll & Jamie Hardwick & Lachelle James, AC Juvenile Court; Reba Wall, Allen Met Housing; Brad Perrott, ARC of Allen County; Jodi Wireman, Apollo Career Center; Beca Sheidler, Area Agency on Aging 3; *LeAnn Pryor* (v), Big Brothers Big Sisters; *Lisa Taylor & Merri Shearer* (v), CareSource MCO; Elisha Reineke, Children’s Developmental Center; *Mary Smicklas* (v), Crossroads Crisis Center; Leroy Eddy, Family Promise; Lisa Shafer, Mercy-SRMC; Elizabeth Osborne & *Stephanie Price* (v), OSU Lima; *Jessica Maag (v),* PASS; Phil Birkey, SAFY; Marcy Jett & Leah Wilburt & *Dave Zuber* (v), YWCA CCR&R

**Absent:** CASA/CVS, Coleman, Family Resource Center, Guiding Light, Health Partners NW Ohio, LMHS, Lima UMADAOP, Mercy-Help Me Grow, Shawnee Schools

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

**Guests**: Rhonda Peterson, Adriel; Yvette Harris, AmeriHealth Caritas; Olysse Elkins-Walter, Buckeye; *Candice Braxton (v),* Humana; Niki Sidle, NYAP BH; *Chris Stewart (v)*, ODRC; *Laural Kirchner* (v), WBGU/PBS

# Call to Order – B. Carroll, President, called the meeting to order (1:30PM). C. Enneking introduced Peyton Rose as the part-time Intersystems Service Coordinator.

# 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 January meeting. A motion to approve the minutes, as presented (Perrot/Eddy), passed by voice vote.

# Committee Reports

1. **Steering Committee**- Met February 3rd to set agenda for today’s meeting. Felecia Spaulding submitted her resignation as Parent Representative from Steering Committee and Council. A motion to accept the resignation (Eddy/Colon) was approved by voice vote. A motion was presented (Sheidler/Perrott) to approve Michelle King to serve as Parent Representative on Steering Committee; the motion was approved by voice vote.
2. **Personnel Committee**- C. Kupferberg commented on the hiring of the Intersystems Service Coordinator.
3. **Finance Committee**- B. Perrott presented the financials for December (revenue of $46,339 and expenditures of $47,341) and the 2024 Calendar Year ($91,044 net increase due to MSY grant funds and delay in hiring Service Coordinator). A motion to accept the financial reports, as presented (Sheidler/Eddy) passed by voice vote. Perrott reviewed the Hinkle Report Combined Statement; this report is required to be filed with the Auditor of State each year.
4. **Family Representation Committee**- C. Enneking reported that the recent survey results identified a gap in understanding about the role of Parent/Family Reps. Currently there are 3 active Reps who meet monthly with the Coordinator to identify community needs and provide input on Council activities. Michelle King shared her story about moving from an attendee at Council (as Parent Mentor for the Allen County Educational Services Center/ESC) to Parent Rep. She highlighted her family’s journey through multiple systems and noted that there was always someone to direct them through the next challenge. Agencies are encouraged to recommend individuals with lived experience to serve as a Parent/Family Rep. A flyer and application will be shared with all Council agencies soon.
5. **Intersystems** – C. Enneking reviewed service coordination activities for January; only 1 referral became active during the month. Year to date, 42 youth have been active with Intersystems and 15 (18 total closed cases) have successfully exited services. An update was provided on the two youth being supported by MSY grants in residential treatment; both are moving toward discharge. One youth will be moving to a step-down environment. The youth’s diagnosis will require years of clinical treatment, so the intensity of residential treatment is not needed, but she would benefit from a community-based (closer to home) and supervised setting for a short-time before returning home. NYAP/OhioRISE reported that 102 Allen County youth are active in care coordination (Tier 2 or 3).
6. **Coordinator Report** – C. Enneking highlighted activities from January. The hiring and on-boarding of the Intersystems Service Coordinator took precedence. The OFCF Shared Plan incentive grant was approved for $16,748.37; the planned pilot project with Unity and Elida Elementary Schools will provide service coordination for families with youth who have significant issues with absenteeism. The Early Childhood Coordinating Committee is finalizing the Resource Guide; it will be distributed as soon as possible.
7. **Early Intervention (EI) Service Coordination Grant –** R. Staley presented referral information for January. At the end of the month, 213 children (birth to 3 years) were active in EI services. Thirteen children exited services- 4 were eligible for Part B continuing services, 1 is not eligible for Part B, 3 children met goals so were no longer eligible, and 5 discontinued services. As for special populations, 5 children diagnosed NAS (1 new referral) and 0 child drug exposed at birth are in services. Staley mentioned a community partnership with the YWCA Childcare Resource & Referral office; a monthly playgroup/family support group for children birth to age 3 will start Feb. 28th. The EI team will be represented at the Early Childhood Advocacy Day in Columbus on March 12. The next Developmental Screening is scheduled for March 18 at Marimor School.

# Continuing Business:

* 1. **Shared Plan Topic- Early Intervention Service Coordination Grant Update-** R. Staley reviewed the Mid-Year Early Intervention Service Coordination Report. This report is mandated by DCY (Department of Children and Youth) to make sure that Councils are informed about services for young children with identified delays. A total of 166 referrals were made during the 6 month period by a variety of sources (highest number from family/caregivers, Children Services, Physicians and Social Services agencies). Once a referral is received, evaluation completed, and family commits to services, then the EI staff have 45 days to complete an IFSP (Individualized Family Service Plan) and set up services. For this period, 94 of the 155 were determined eligible. While the EI Service Coordinator salaries and cost for evaluations are covered by the EISC Grant, the Board of DD uses local levy funds to pay for costs (non-covered) of PT, OT, Speech and Developmental Specialists to meet the children’s needs.
  2. **Partner Contributions**- B. Carroll thanked the 19 agencies that have made a 2025 contribution; and 2 that have made a pledge. To date, $18,260 has been received toward the $25,000 goal.

1. **New Business:**
   1. **Parent & Youth Ambassador Input on Community Needs-** Marcy Jett reported that each PYA team is required to report monthly to DCY on community needs. Jett has received calls from families seeking funds for housing, housing resources, and specialized daycare needs. B. Sheidler mentioned that 211 receives many calls requesting help with utility payments and transportation, as well. The PYA program can help any family regardless of age or income. The State has expanded to allow for in-person contact with families; contact by calling 844-234-KIDS (5437) or email **Ambassadors@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov.**
2. **Adjournment** – B. Carroll shared an AI generated poem “The Hike” and then the meeting adjoined at 2:45p.m.

**Good of the Order:**

* AAA3- No Wrong Door event held in January had 90 in attendance (representing 40 agencies); planning the next training event for frontline workers in six months
* ACBDD- Playgroup starts Feb. 28; Developmental Screening planned for March 18; preparing for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in March
* Activate Allen County- Youth MH mini grants available as part of the Chili Lunch (March 20)
* Adriel- orientation upcoming for those interested in becoming foster parents
* Allen Met Housing- hired a public housing officer
* Apollo Career Center- Jodi Wireman, ASPIRE director, attended
* NYAP- Niki Sidle is clinical director for the behavioral health side of NYAP’s Lima office
* OSU Lima- Out of the Darkness MH walk (April 10) seeking agencies to promote their services; Calm Clinical Workshop (April 1), MH Scavenger Hunt @ Faurot Park (May)
* UWGL- Jefferson Award Applications are open until 2/18/25

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Renee Kohler, Secretary Berlin Carroll, Council President

Carole Enneking, Recorder

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

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