Allen County Family and Children First Council

**Full Council Meeting Minutes**

Monday, March 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; Brandon Fischer*,* AC Public Health; Brett Roehm, City of Lima; Jill Ackerman, Lima City Schools; *Elizabeth Norris (v)*, ODYS; Erin Hardesty, UWGL; Janet Buchanan, AC Head Start/WOCAP

**Absent:** AC ESC, AC Job & Family Services, MHRSB

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

**Family Representatives**: Michelle King, Jennifer Slechter

**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; Beca Sheidler, Area Agency on Aging 3; Lisa Taylor & *Merri Shearer (V*)*,* CareSource MCO; Elisha Reineke, Children’s Developmental Center; Denise Nye,Coleman; Mary Smicklas, Crossroads Crisis Center; *Lisa Shafer (v)*, Mercy-SRMC; Elizabeth Osborne &Stephanie Price, OSU Lima; *Jessica Maag (v),* PASS; *Phil Birkey (v)*, SAFY; Michelle Knippen, Shawnee Schools; *Marcy Jett* & Dave Zuber, YWCA CCR&R

**Absent:** Apollo, Big Brothers Big Sisters, CASA/CVS, Family Promise, Family Resource Center, Guiding Light, Health Partners NW Ohio, LMHS, Lima UMADAOP, Mercy-Help Me Grow,

**Staff:**  Carole Enneking, Coordinator; Peyton Rose, Intersystems Service Coordinator;

**Guest:** Sierra Weltmer & Brittany Legge, ACBDD; Yvette Harris, AmeriHealth Caritas; Kassandra Mason, BrightView BH; Olysse Elkins-Walter, Buckeye; *Candice Braxton (v),* Humana; Niki Sidle & Jordan Smith, NYAP BH; *Danielle* *Greiner* (v), NYAP/OhioRISE; Amy Carles, Ohio Consumer’s Counsel; *Chris Stewart (v)*, ODRC Office of Reentry; *Destinee Bridges,* OhioKAN*; Laural Kirchener (v),* WBGU

# Call to Order – B. Carroll, President, called the meeting to order (1:30PM)

# 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 February meeting. A motion to approve the minutes, as presented (Newland/Ackerman), passed by voice vote.

# Committee Reports

1. **Steering Committee**- Met March 3 to set agenda for today’s meeting.
2. **Personnel Committee**- C. Kupferberg reported some personnel-related FCFC policies need to be updated.
3. **Finance Committee**- B. Perrott presented the financials for January (revenue of $13,100.69 and expenditures of $40,475.37). A motion to accept the financial reports, as presented (Fischer/Hardesty) passed by voice vote.
4. **Family Representation Committee**- M. King presented the names of the 2025 Family Reps (Michelle King, Jennifer Slechter, Tera Viola) for approval by Council. A motion to approve the family representatives (Wall/Hardwick) passed by voice vote.
5. **Intersystems** – P. Rose provided the service coordination report for February; 1 referral became active during the month. Five family referrals were received from Lima City Schools as part of the Shared Plan Incentive Grant. Year to date, 43 youth have been active with Intersystems and 21 (25 total closed cases) have successfully exited services. C. Enneking reviewed the finance reports from the Intersystems funds. Close to 40% of the FY2025 FCSS funds have been expended; it is typical for a majority of the funds to be used in the months of April, May, and June for summer supports. While 71% of FY25 MSY Other/PCSA funds have been expended, a balance of $46,335 remains.
6. **Coordinator Report** – C. Enneking highlighted activities from February, including the submission of the annual Hinkle Financial report and preparations for the bi-annual (2023-2024) audit. The Early Childhood Resource Guide has been updated and distributed to Council. Council is required to submit a new Shared Plan (3 year strategic plan) in August, so preparation has begun for that process.
7. **Early Intervention (EI) Service Coordination Grant –** R. Kohler presented referral information for February. Thirty-one referrals were received and a total of 215 eligible children. Five children are receiving services related to Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS). Of the thirteen children who exited services in the month, five of the six children who turned age 3 will continue in Part B Pre-school services, and 6 children exited prior to age 3 due to meeting all goals (1) or parents determining that services were no longer needed (5).

# Continuing Business:

* 1. **Partner Contributions**- B. Carroll thanked the 22 agencies that have made a 2025 contribution. To date, $21,560 has been received toward the $25,000 goal.
  2. **Shared Plan Topic-** Small group discussions were held to review four different scenarios for youth of transition age (14-21 years). A list of services/supports will be shared with Council.

1. **Community Presentation-** In celebration of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, Renee Kohler and ACBDD staff reviewed the past year’s activities including the impact of the ARPA grant. .
2. **Adjournment** – B. Carroll shared an AI generated poem based on “Seek to Do More” and then the meeting adjoined at 2:45p.m.

**Good of the Order:**

* Activate Allen County- Chad Welker has been hired as the Associate Director
* AC BDD- Developmental Screening scheduled for 3/18/25
* AC Children Services- April is Child Abuse Prevention Month
* Allen Met Housing- since the Shelter Plus Care Voucher is ending, those eligible in Allen County (16 families) will transfer to Section 8.
* ARC of Allen County- registration is open for this summer’s Camp Robin Rogers program, and the adult respite weekend camps. In celebration of DD Awareness Month, a dance was held at the Camp.
* AAA3- inviting organizations to send letters of support for State funding to expand 211 services to all counties
* Brightview BH- new representative in attendance
* Crossroads Crisis Center- plans underway for the annual fundraiser in May; hiring a case manager and staff for the new exchange center
* NYAP- expansion of clinical services is underway- separate from OhioRISE; offices are moving next week
* Ohio Consumer’s Counsel- reminder of utility scams; energy marketers will contacting customers 4/1/25-3/31/26; HEAP is open until 5/31/25
* Shawnee Schools- new representative in attendance
* YWCA- Dave Zuber will be leading a Dad’s Workshop (4 sessions) beginning 3/14/25; Family Support/Play meets monthly on the 3rd Friday (10:30AM-12PM) @ YWCA with assistance from HMG & EI

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Renee Kohler, Secretary Berlin Carroll, Council President

Carole Enneking, Recorder

**NEXT REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING: Monday, April 14, 2025 @ 1:30PM**

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