

JFS Planning Committee
May 22, 2018 9-11 am
JFS Community Room

Present: Tom Andrews, Bert Cene, Deborah Wall for Bernie Bennett, Lori Colian, Eileen Dray-Bardon, James Ford, Marcy Patton, Vicki Ritterspach, Roger Sikorszky, Tracy Smith, Kim Steele, Eloise Traina, Cathy Webb, Luann Dunham, Rachel Ketterman

Meeting Called to Order/ Quorum Established

Tom Andrews welcomed members and called the meeting to order. A quorum was established. Deborah Wall was in attendance from Columbiana Metropolitan Housing Authority. Members welcomed her and introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes

James Ford made a motion to approve both the February TANF Round Table and regular meeting minutes. Eloise Traina seconded. Motion carried.

Adoption of Agenda

Roger Sikorszky made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Bert Cene seconded. Motion carried.

As a sidebar, Luann Dunham distributed Fraud Awareness promotional items to members. May is Fraud Awareness Month. These items will be distributed to customers during May, and fraud awareness signs will once again be displayed on CARTS buses. Eileen Dray-Bardon and Fraud and Benefit Recovery supervisor, Janeen Myers, will be attending the Commissioners' meeting tomorrow. County Prosecutor Bob Herron will be joining them. They will present the 2018 Fraud Plan. CCDJFS currently has 4 very large fraud cases which will be presented to the Prosecutor for consideration for criminal prosecution.

Reports

OhioMeansJobs Report – Bert gave an update on the One-Stop traffic from July 1, 2017 to date. Mahoning County had 8,056 visits, and Columbiana County had 3,389 visits. This was a decrease for both sites during the same period last year.

General Motors in Lordstown is down to one shift affecting close to 1,700-1,800 people. Support services and training are being provided to 1,500 displaced workers filing unemployment claims.

WIOA can now fund apprenticeships so they are in the process of determining how much funding they want to provide for training – some apprenticeships last 3-5 years.

They are in Phase 2 of the certification process at the OMJ Centers and are on track to meet the June 2019 deadline.

They sent out an RFP for providers for the youth jobs program. Two (2) providers were selected: Compass Family and Services in Mahoning County and The Counseling Center and Community Action Agency in Columbiana County.

County Plans for CCMEP were submitted. They will make some policy adjustments which are due back by June 6 or 7. They will be asking for extensions.

They completed an A-133 State Audit, and there were no findings. Next year they will go back to having independent, private auditors.

They are working with Butech and American Standard for on-the-job trainings. It has been difficult to find skilled individuals to fill jobs.

CCDJFS TANF Program Reports – Luann gave the TANF program reports (statistics through April) for OWF work participation; food assistance and Medicaid; caseload and applicant reports; adult protective services; NET; child care; PRC program; and the Seek Work program. The Medicaid reports are broken down differently showing in-county and out-of-county services provided.

Old Business

Ohio Benefits Conversion Update – Luann reported that the SNAP/Cash conversion has gone very well so far (much better than the Medicaid conversion). All staff have been trained. The “go live” date is Monday, July 16, for new applicants. The system will be down on Friday, July 13. All cases in the CRIS-E system will convert to the new system on August 28. An update will be sent to community partners as the conversion progresses. Pilot counties have reported that it takes about 4-6 weeks to get accustomed to the new system. Luann hopes to have a good update to share at the September meeting.

TANF Round Table Updates – Eileen reported that she and Rachel Ketterman are working with the Court on diversion and abstinence programs. Rachel reported that it has been difficult to find providers. CCDJFS entered into a small contract with Ozer Ministries for marriage counseling services, which fulfills TANF purpose #4 to preserve 2-parent families.

New Business

PRC Plan Changes – Eileen reported that revisions had to be made to the PRC Plan effective 5/9/2018. They added a “Healthy Summer Program” and marriage counseling services (as stated above). The “Healthy Summer Program” fulfills TANF purpose # 3 to promote abstinence from unhealthy behaviors. The program provides gym bags (filled with beach towels, water bottles, sunglasses, sunscreen, jump ropes, small “brain” games, and family pool passes to Thompson Park or the YWCA) to 576 junior high students who attend Wellsville and East Liverpool Schools. The facilities will invoice CCDJFS for families who use the pool passes, so it is uncertain what the final cost of the program will be. The bags will be packed today and tomorrow for delivery to the schools on Thursday so kids can have them before summer break begins. Eileen reported that they will be looking for more possible services to offer.

Member Comments

Eloise will be retiring in June or July. Eileen thanked her for her many years of service and support. Members have appreciated her dedication and her partnership.

Marcy Patton reported that the “Means Matter” suicide prevention event last week at the Rogers Flea Market was very well received. They gave out 550 gunlocks by 2 pm that afternoon along with other items. Last year, 71% of the suicides in Columbiana County were committed by firearms.

There is an Opioid Summit sponsored by county Chambers of Commerce on June 20th. Marcy distributed information. If members would be interested in having a resource table at the summit, they may contact Audrey Null of the Salem area Chamber of Commerce.

Working Partners will be sponsoring a Medical Marijuana seminar/training to discuss how to deal with the September 8th implementation of the new medical marijuana law. They are looking at possibly holding it in June. Marcy will keep members updated.

The Health Department will be holding a Psychological First Aid Training on June 26th.

Next week, there will be a Stepping Up Initiative meeting regarding individuals with mental illness and offering them treatment and help to keep them out of jail if their mental illness is the cause of their behavior. RSVPs are due today.

Tom reported that Sunday was “Big Truck Day,” and they had a great turnout. CSEA joined them with the Child Support Agency’s Fatherhood Initiative.

Tom announced that he will be attending a celebration event at the Community Resource Center (CRC) in East Liverpool on Thursday, the 24th, at noon. CRC has been in the community since 1967. The building, built in 1888, underwent a major weatherization project through Community Action Agency’s Weatherization Program (the biggest project that the CAA weatherization crew has ever done). Six (6) furnaces were replaced among other improvements. Columbia Gas and A&P provided funds to winterize the building. City and county officials will also be attending the event.

Community Legal Aid services will hopefully be coming back to Columbiana County. A survey was done and services are needed.

Eileen announced that there will be an Elder Abuse Awareness breakfast/mandated reporter training at St. George Catholic Church on Friday, June 15th, from 8-10 am. Terry will email Planning Committee members the invitation. RSVPs are due to Terry by June 8th.

The next JFS Planning Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 25, 2018, at 9 am in the JFS Community Room.