

**JFS Planning Committee
November 22, 2022 @ 9 am
CCDJFS Community Room**

Members Present: Tom Andrews, Rachel Ketterman, Mary Ann Kochalko, Chaney Nezbeth,
Eloise Traina, Steve Ullom, Rich Wymer

Regular Guest: Megan Cowden

Meeting Called to Order

Steve called the meeting to order shortly after 9:00 AM. A quorum (8 members present) **was not** established.

Approval of Minutes

The September minutes were reviewed but not formally approved due to the lack of a quorum.

Adoption of Agenda

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda – once again, no vote was taken to approve it.

Introduction of Guests

There were no new guests present.

Reports

OhioMeansJobs Report

Mary Ann reported that due to issues with their new case management/data tracking system, there was not much data for her to report. They have had 3,688 visits since July 1st. They are part of the Ohio Work Program, so hopefully will be getting more data soon. Their MIS Department hired a new Intake Eligibility Specialist to assist people with training, employment, etc. Jack Hile will be participating in the Opioid Grant drug court program.

TANF Report

Megan reviewed the TANF reports with members. SNAP, OWF, Child Care, and Medicaid numbers are staying steady. Medicaid ABD expenditures were up. Application timeliness rates were very good and staying steady. Third quarter NET consumers and miles driven were up slightly. September's PRC expenditures were up significantly due to the Shoe Program expenditures (\$90,971.70) and the start of the school year. Adult Protective Services referrals were up in September (36), but investigations were down (7) from the previous month. Self-neglect continues to be the main type of investigation (52% of all investigations). **Rachel asked Megan to investigate how much TANF money is spent in Children Services. Megan will talk to Business Office Administrator, Sheila Schauer, about including Children Services PRC expenditures in the PRC report.**

Annual Contract Monitoring Report

Rachel reviewed the annual report prepared by JFS Contract Monitor, Susan Hawkins. The report included the number of individuals served with each contract, cost of services, and the progress

toward the stated outcomes. These TANF-funded contracts provide many valuable services to large numbers of individuals throughout the county. **Steve commended Susan for her thoroughness in her contract monitoring duties and stated that she always does a great job. Rachel will be sure to let her know.**

Old Business

PRC Plan Revisions Update

Rachel reported that Children Services places a lot of kids with relatives. This has been expanded to include relatives residing outside of the county through the Kinship Caregiver program. These relative caregivers are now eligible to receive up to \$3,000.00 per year for childcare expenses.

New Business

New Terms of Membership

Six (6) members' terms will expire on December 31, 2022. **Cathy Webb, the community representative, would like to resign when her term expires, so we will need to replace her – a community rep is a mandated member per ORC rule. **NOTE: Pastor Brian Brown, Roger Sikorszky, Tracy Smith, Kim Steele, and Anna Marie Vaughn have all agreed to serve another 3-year term – our thanks and appreciation to them.**

Nominating Committee (for new vice-Chair)

Current vice-Chair, **Tom Andrews, will move up to Chairperson next year. Chaney Nezbeth volunteered to take over as vice-Chair. CCDJFS Director serves as Secretary. The new Slate of Officers will be voted on at the February 2023 meeting, and new officers will assume their duties at the May 2023 meeting.**

2023 Meeting Schedule

The schedule was emailed to members.

Members' Comments

Chaney reported that the Way Station is also involved in the drug court program. They are officially the only food pantry in the City of Columbiana now. The Oasis Food Pantry closed. Second Harvest has significantly increased their delivery charge to food pantries. Megan reported that JFS is still giving extra food assistance to clients. There is no known end date for this extra assistance – it will likely just end very abruptly when the federal government decides to end it.

Tom reported that **Community Action Agency is still offering rental and utility assistance.** They spent \$3.2 million in 2021. They received an additional \$450,000.00 for this program. There are federal requirements – the fraud piece will be interesting. Steve stated that FCFC has rental assistance also and has seen an **uptick in chronically homeless folks who are involved with all county assistance systems. A lot of them have been evicted from public housing, and Steve is unsure what to do with them. Tom told Steve to refer them to CAA since they can use some of their funds to help these people.** Unfortunately, they agreed that they will see more and more of this challenge. **CAA's Health Center has a new Mobile Health Unit coming in 2023. It will be used**

in Columbiana, East Palestine, Salem, and East Liverpool. They are looking for places (big parking lots) to park the unit in these areas. Chaney offered the Way Station's 2 parking lots in Columbiana and East Liverpool. Tom will email members more details on when the Mobile Unit services will begin once he gets more information.

Rich reported that Metropolitan Housing Authority received a Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV) grant to help people who are searching for housing. They have helped 50 so far and have 75 more people searching for housing. They received HUD approval to raise their rent to fair market value to stay competitive. Rich reported that they are seeing a lot of 18-gage steel metal siding and metal roofs in public housing construction for longer lasting endurance. They want to revamp their public housing playgrounds, but the cost is so high that they are trying to do a lot of the work themselves. He and some of his guys are planning to pour the cement themselves and add playground equipment a little at a time.

Eloise reported that Family Recovery Center hired a new Supervisor of Education. They are working more with middle school and high school kids to provide social and emotional assistance and education on vaping, suicide, and gambling issues. They received funds to cover gambling education. They offer opioid programs, and the State is looking at starting freestanding opioid clinics.

Steve reported that Family and Children First Council has used the WrapAround program successfully for years to assist families to function better. The State is now taking over the program and making it a Medicaid-eligible program for families to receive services. Under this new "Ohio Rise" program, there are 3 tiers of service. The behavioral health insurance provider was changed to Aetna. Families do not understand the 3 tiers of the new program and if they respond that they do not want the program, their behavioral healthcare insurance is automatically canceled. All Medicaid-eligible kids are automatically transferred to Ohio Rise, but if families decline the new program, they no longer have coverage. Therefore, families really don't have an option. It is hard for families to understand the layers and layers of bureaucracy.

With no more business to discuss, Steve adjourned the meeting shortly before 10 AM. Members wished each other a Happy Thanksgiving.

The next JFS Planning Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at 9 am @ JFS.