

**JFS Planning Committee
February 28, 2023 @ 9 am
CCDJFS Community Room**

Members Present: Rachel Ketterman, Mary Ann Kochalko, Roger Sikorszky, Kim Steele, Eloise Traina, Steve Ullom, Anna Marie Vaughn, James Ford, Tracy Smith, Tom Andrews

Regular Guest: Megan Cowden

Meeting Called to Order/ Quorum Established

Steve called the meeting to order promptly at 9:00AM. A quorum (8 members present) was established. Steve thanked members for coming.

Approval of Minutes

Eloise motioned to approve minutes, Mary Ann seconded, minutes approved.

Adoption of Agenda

There are no additions or corrections to the agenda. Steve motioned to adopt agenda, Anna Marie seconded, motion carried.

Introduction of Guests

No new guests.

Reports

Ohio MeansJobs

Mary Ann reported that as of the end of January they had 5,904 visits, which was up more than one third from the same period last year. Most of the MCTA clients were dislocated workers. Their youth staff has been in touch with East Palestine regarding the train derailment. Comprehensive Case Management Employment Program will be changing its name, but the new name has not been established yet. Mary Ann reported that Ohio Means Job Center is in the process of developing a new website. Steve thanked Mary Ann.

CCDJFS TANF Program Reports – Megan

Megan projected the TANF report via PowerPoint Presentation and went over it with members. Megan reported that it is much of the same – we lost a couple day care providers. If you know anyone, express our need for childcare providers. The children numbers remain the same, so we need more providers. The population enrolled in Medicaid remained the same. During open enrollment we get a lot more applications. Eloise asked if the Medicaid numbers are going to decrease – Megan said it won't happen all at once. Case managers are looking specifically at this. At the state level, they are pushing case managers to make sure their client contact information is up to date, current addresses, and phone numbers– they could lose their benefits without it. Expect a lot of mail. Medicaid payments – ABD disabled population, CFC - family or mom with kids, Expansions - single adults who don't have children. Applications and timeliness- uptake in food and cash which is normal for the end of the year. Timeliness has been good. There were 18 applications for children services for the month of November, and 14 applications for the month of December. Rachel wanted that included in the report because some of the TANF funding goes there. Megan

and Rachel would like to see a lot more money going there. Still providing NET services – must be eligible for Medicaid. PRC expenditures for 2022 – still hitting utilities. Top 3 areas of PRC assistance in 2022 were the Shoe Program, diversion cash, and utilities. There are several programs available, and we are currently in HEAP season (Home Energy Assistance Program). Megan reported that we are now done with COVID response and are now starting to look at the summer youth program in May with a start up in June. We do not have the allocation for that. Assuming 10 – 12 kids. Last year we had trouble finding kids. Started out with 12- ended up with 9. The referrals and investigations for Adult Protective Services were about the same. There are 39 total current open/active cases, and 15 total guardianships as of 12/31/2022.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

Rachel presented the new slate of officers. Tom Andrews for Chair, Chaney, who is unable to be here, for vice chair, and Rachel for Secretary.

* Election of Officers – Steve motioned to approve new slate of officers. Anna Marie seconded; motion carried. Steve thanked Tom for accepting.

* Title XX Plan (Resolution of Support) – Rachel announced that it's that time of year to start talking about Title XX Plan. Once it passes, we need to sign a resolution. She plans on doing what was done with last years. One of the things we do is provide post adoption services -if we need to. Another one we offer is counseling services for children. Foster care services for children is marked, but it really doesn't get used. (A catch all for if we need it). Another area is home health care for Adult Protective Services; APS workers utilize when they have evaluations. Provisions also include independent living services for foster children over the age of 14, as well as fund contract after hours for children services – contract with commissioners fulfilled by the Sharri's department. Protective services for adults – this is how we pay for the program. The state gives funding to keep the program up and running. Included are salaries for children services and special services for youth – these are some of the areas where Title XX is used. Resolve to accept – public hearing in April – take the plan to the commissioners – then submit to the date – then it's complete. Steve asked about one of the provisions, children at risk of criminal activities, do we use it for diversion? Rachel said No, diversion is under TANF – where there are poverty level requirements. Contract Title XX and TANF are different.

Hold a vote to affirm our support of Title XX: Tracey motions to affirm, Eloise seconded, motion carries.

Consolidated Appropriations Act & How it Affects Benefits – Megan said it's the ACT that came out of 2020 and additional benefits after three years has ended. Beginning in April, people are coming off Medicaid because the health emergency has ended, and the state of Ohio is no longer offering these additional benefits. If you have clients – make sure they are checking their mail. Clients need to make sure JFS has current address and phone numbers. Some people who we haven't talked to in 3 years, today, February 28th, 2023 -will no longer be getting supplemental benefits. Phone calls

are already pouring in. In November an additional million dollars in food assistance was given out. Some families were receiving 258\$ of extra food assistance a month. Now that the supplemental benefits have ended food pantries will be filling up. Be mindful and direct people to call JFS. Megan reported that they will be focusing on staff mental health, because they are going to get a lot of angry clients. Megan announced that if you see anything or hear anything feel free to call me. Direct Line - (330) 420-6500.

Steve said he ran into JFS employee – and discussed SNAP changes for this month. They were going through specific examples of the services and qualifications. Individuals and families are going to be caused pain and hardship and it is going to be an adjustment period. Along with inflation, food is more expensive. There was an intent at the state level – to dramatically increase the assistance to pantries. That part didn't happen, which means there's going to be a lot of families struggling.

Members' Comments

Kimberly reported that Kent State is launching their new bachelor's program in social work. It was supposed to have started, but instead is being pushed back to the fall. It is being offered at Kent State University branch campuses, including Salem, Ashtabula, and East Liverpool. There have been many inquiries regarding the program. Of those enrolled, approximately 60%-70% already have bachelor's degrees, and the remainder of students are brand new.

Tom stated that he's sure members have watched the news regarding the East Palestine Train Derailment. The community is coming together for support and many resources going out to that community. Salvation Army is handling a lot of the distribution. Semi-trucks are coming from all over the place with supplies. Such outpour for a disaster and as horrible as it is, it is encouraging that our nation is focusing on this and offering support. Tom reported being down there on and off the last few weeks – his agency is giving out \$50.00 vouchers to families affected by the derailment. They decided to donate to fire and police to offer additional support.

Eloise reported that they are looking for someone to work with prevention departments in their schools.

Tracey had a lady bragging – women has been a Lisbon resident for years but still had an EP Driver's License – so she got \$1,000. It is sad to see people take advantage – and then to brag about it.

Steve reported upcoming trainings that are available – Bridges Out of Poverty is on March 31st, 2023, here in the community room at Job and Family Services. The cost of the book is \$30.00. The date for the fall Human Trafficking training has been finalized, and that is September 29th, 2023. There will be human trafficking experiences through three perspectives –Attorney, Human trafficking liaison, and a survivor.

The new chair – Tom – will conduct the next meeting. With no more business to discuss, the meeting adjourned.

The next JFS Planning Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at 9 am @ JFS