

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

Members Present: Tom Andrews, Rachel Ketterman, Mary Ann Kochalko, Chaney Nezbeth,
Marcy Patton, Tracy Smith, Kim Steele, Eloise Traina, Anna Marie Vaughn,
Cathy Webb

Regular Guest: Megan Cowden

Meeting Called to Order/ Quorum Established

Eloise called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. A quorum (8 members present) was established.

Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections to the minutes. Kim moved to accept the minutes. Tom seconded. Motion carried.

Adoption of Agenda

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda. Chaney moved to adopt the agenda. Tracy seconded. Motion carried.

Introduction of Guests

Megan Cowden, JFS Public Assistance Administrator, was present.

Reports

OhioMeansJobs Report

Mary Ann reported that OMJ's on-site traffic was down about 40% from the same timeframe in 2019. Enrollments are good with more funding and resources available for youth leaving high school. OMJ is going through its certification process. They are starting to see more people trickling in to start working again.

JFS Program Reports

Megan reviewed the JFS TANF program reports. Numbers are staying steady. There are only about 15-18 cases per month for people receiving OWF cash assistance. People are still receiving COVID-response Medicaid assistance. For PRC assistance, the Shoe Program runs through September 2022. Tom reported that Community Action also has rent/housing assistance with COVID funds available into 2023 and then another round of funding after that. They are currently spending about \$100,000.00 per month. Adult Protective stats continue to show that self-neglect is the largest category of abuse investigations.

Rachel will send Eloise the PRC Plans for Columbiana and Jefferson Counties per her request.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

Nominating Committee Discussion

Rachel presented the slate of officers for 2022 – Steve Ullom as Chairperson; Tom Snow as vice-Chair; and Rachel Ketterman as Secretary. There was no further discussion.

Election of Officers

Marcy moved to accept the new slate of officers. Chaney seconded. Motion carried. New officers will assume their duties at the May meeting.

Title XX Plan

Rachel reported that they made some major changes to the Plan in 2021 to utilize program funds they were not using before (Title XX TANF funds) - they transferred funds to some Title XX programs. The Plan is basically the same as last year's Plan. There must be notice of a public meeting – this will be put on the agency website. The Plan must then be submitted to the State in June, and the agency will receive the funds in September.

Rachel also reported that she will be taking the PRC Plan to Commissioners tomorrow (Weds., February 23rd) to revise the dates of the TANF Summer Program. CCDJFS will be packing summer activity bags along with family pool passes to Thompson Park Pool for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students from Southern Local, Wellsville, and East Liverpool Schools.

Members' Comments

Chaney reported that there will be a county-wide job fair on March 10th at the Way Station. OhioMeansJobs reps will be there to assist with resume writing, mock interviews, interview clothing, etc. They can also assist veterans and people transitioning from the penal system. Rachel told Chaney that the JFS PRC Plan could help with work clothing needs and gas vouchers.

Marcy reported that MHRS Board's mobile crisis response team is expanding and utilizing peer supporters. The Recovery House in Salem will be opening on March 1st. They will be holding a training on dealing with crises. They have received more funding for alcohol use disorder.

Anna Marie reported that she is submitting a grant today for their "Summer Create" program for 11th and 12th grade students to earn computer tech and machinist job shadowing opportunities and paid internships.

Rachel reported that JFS is hiring another new employee tomorrow – they will be fully staffed with caseworkers. Four (4) individuals were hired 2 weeks ago in the Public Assistance Department - they will be going through a very long training process.

Eloise reported that FRC had hoped to start their needle exchange program, but it was not accepted, so they are looking at other possibilities for harm reduction. They are still distributing NARCAN kits.

With no more business to discuss, the meeting adjourned @ 9:30 am.

The next JFS Planning Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 24, 2022, at 9 am @ JFS.