

**JFS Planning Committee**  
**May 24, 2022 @ 9 am**  
**CCDJFS Community Room**

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

Regular Guest: Megan Cowden

**Meeting Called to Order/ Quorum Established**

Steve called the meeting to order shortly after 9:00 am. A quorum (8 members present) was established.

**Approval of Minutes**

There was one correction to the minutes (Tom Andrews was mistakenly referred to as “Tom Snow” under New Business – Nominating Committee Discussion). **Terry will make note of the correction in the minutes.** Tom moved to accept the corrected minutes. Mary Ann seconded. Motion carried.

**Adoption of Agenda**

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

**Introduction of Guests**

Regular guest Megan Cowden was in attendance.

**Reports**

**OhioMeansJobs Report**

Mary Ann reported that OMJ has had nearly 6,000 visits so far this year with 1,700 of them coming to the Columbiana County office. They are focusing on serving uncommitted graduates assisting them in exploring and planning for their futures. They have added several new youth services providers to expand services to this population.

**JFS Program Reports**

Megan reviewed the JFS TANF program reports. Numbers are staying steady for SNAP, OWF, Medicaid, and Child Care. There were 15 cases in April for people receiving OWF cash assistance (with a work requirement). PRC expenditures for March were low (\$5,994). Megan reported that they are trying to distribute more gas vouchers due to the high cost of gasoline. People are finding assistance for rent and utilities through other agencies who still have an abundance of COVID funds. Adult Protective stats continue to show that self-neglect is the largest category of abuse investigations.

**Old Business**

**Summer Youth Employment Program Update**

Megan reported that the program is being offered to 14-18-year-olds who are TANF eligible. This year’s allocation is significantly lower than in past years (\$71,000 has been allocated to Columbiana County),

so they can only offer it to about 20 eligible youths. In past years, the funding was enough to serve 300-400 youths. They sent letters to their OWF recipients and held sign-ups yesterday approving 10 youths so far for the program. Another sign-up session will be held today. Chaney reported that The Way Station – East Liverpool hired 4 of the 10 approved. She is hoping to hire a few for the Columbiana location today. Rachel and Megan agreed that there does not seem to be the interest in the program as there was in the past perhaps due in part to the decrease in funding and a decrease in work ethic. Rachel expressed her appreciation to Megan for her department's work on the program. In past years, the JFS Business Office ran the program, but with the decrease in Business Office staff, she asked Megan and supervisor Courtney Amendola to take it over. They have done an excellent job.

## **New Business**

### **Title XX Plan**

Rachel reported that the Plan is basically the same as last year's. Title XX funds pay for Adult and Child Protective services, but funding has gone down. Tom asked if Rachel thought the funding would go back up – she does not think it will. Steve entertained a motion to support the Columbiana County Title XX Plan. Tom made the motion, and Marcy seconded. Motion carried. **Rachel passed around a Resolution of Support for the Title XX Plan for members to sign. She will take the plan and resolution to the Commissioners for approval and will submit the plan to the State by the deadline in June.**

### **Members' Comments**

Kim reported that KSU's Dean is leaving to teach. The Dean from the Tuscarawas campus will be taking over. They will be offering a Social Work degree in the fall.

Marcy reported that May is Mental Health Awareness Month. They have been focusing on their work with law enforcement and first responders on crisis intervention. They do continue to get a lot of funding from the State but must provide a lot of data to get the funding.

Anna Marie reported that they are working with the Summer Youth program. They have a proposal from MCTA which is going through the approval process.

Tom reported that CAA has received \$2.5 million in federal funds for rent or utility assistance. Another round of \$25 million will be going to the State – Tom is not sure how much of that will be allocated to Columbiana County CAA. **Tom reported that there is some assistance for mortgage payments in certain circumstances. People can call CAA's main number (330-424-7221) and choose the "community services" option to find out what funding is available and what the requirements are to receive the funding.**

Steve reported that they have seen a couple of trends at FCFC. One is that people who did not pay rent or utilities during COVID are now getting huge back-bills which they can't pay. Another is that some people have been living in a relative-owned home and now there is conflict on who gets the utility bill. **There will be a "Get Connected" training coming up where 15 agencies so far are scheduled to present information on the services they offer. Each agency will have 20 minutes to present their information. Agencies are invited to send their staff to this free training. They can call the ESC for more information.**

Roger reported that The Counseling Center has been busier than ever with people of all ages needing

services. **They will be participating in the Recovery Conference this Friday.** Their budget allocations will be coming out soon.

With no more business to discuss, Tracy moved to adjourn, and Eloise seconded. Meeting adjourned @ 9:40 am.

**The next JFS Planning Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 27, 2022, at 9 am @ JFS.**