

**JFS Planning Committee
May 23, 2023 @ 9 am
CCDJFS Community Room**

Members Present: Rachel Ketterman, Jack Hile, Roger Sikorszky, Kim Steele, Anna Marie Vaughn, James Ford, Tom Andrews, Chaney Nezbeth

Regular Guest: Megan Cowden / Courtney Amendola

Meeting Called to Order/ Quorum Established

Tom, waiting for quorum to be established, called the meeting to order at 9:05.

Approval of Minutes

Rachel motioned to approve minutes, James seconded, motion carries.

Adoption of Agenda

There are no additions, deletions, or corrections to the agenda. Chaney motioned to adopt; James seconded. Everyone in favor, motion carries.

Introduction of Guests

Courtney Amendola was introduced to members as she will be taking over the role of Public Assistance Administrator. She has been here 7 years and plans to be here for 30 more. Megan congratulated Courtney on her promotion.

Reports

a. Ohio Means Jobs – Jack Hile for Mary Ann.

Jack ran a report of visits from 1/1/2023 through 5/22/2023. He reported 946 onsite visits, and 369 virtual visits equaling a total of 1,315 visits. Note: this does not include Mahoning. Jack reports being busy at the East Palestine public library, but there is not much traffic for individuals seeking employment. However, Jack showed someone who was job seeking, Ohio Means Job and the services that they provide. OMJ will not be in East Palestine for June, and will pick back up in July, possibly. Jack reports their website being redone, and how informational it is. They are finalizing last minutes details and the new website launches July 1st, 2023. Rachel asked if more people were coming in face to face? Yes, we have majority ABAWD's, and the other majority are for unemployment.

b. CCDJFS TANF Program Reports – Megan / Courtney

Megan projected the TANF report via PowerPoint Presentation and went over it with members. Megan reported that there is no longer extra food assistance. That ended in March, which went over surprisingly smooth. The County population enrolled in Medicaid jumped up a little bit in March, going from 32,783 in February, to 33,034 in March. There was an Influx in applications. Eligibility for Medicaid is dependent upon approval or denial. There has been updates to State of Ohio Grand Plan dashboard, which is open to the public. Megan displayed Expenditures and

applications for the number of people on Medicaid. People who are coming off Medicaid with income staying the same, are no longer eligible. We only have January for Medicaid Payments due to the implementation of the New Enterprise system, there is a delay in updating the claims and payments until further notice.

For application timeliness, workers are always being monitored. Workers are also always being monitored for SNAP. Timeliness needs to be at a 95% or above. The state of Ohio set a benchmark of 90%, and if we don't do this there will be continuous improvement plans. Again, PCSA was new last time. Public Assistance working with Children Services in getting TANF funding for children who are involved with CPS. Non-emergency transportation is at 824 for unduplicated consumers. Area on Aging is longer providing transportation services.

Public Assistance is coming out of HEAP season, The Shoe Program is starting up again in July, and Summer Youth is up and running. Jack asked what diversion cash is. Megan used an example of someone who is on FMLA (Family and Medical Leave Act) and has a job to return to. Diversion Cash gives an individual the ability to pay their car insurance or pay their mortgage, so they don't fall behind on payments while they're off work. Megan displayed a PowerPoint slide of APS statistics. For Adult for Protective Services, self-neglect is the largest investigation type. Rachel only has 2 APS workers. One worker just recently left, so now it's down to one person for the whole county. Fortunately, APS is getting a new employee in the second week of June to lighten the load. We are excited for her to join our team. Our elderly population is struggling right now.

Old Business

Rachel still needs a community representative, so if you know anyone who will be a good addition to the committee send them our information!

New Business

a. Summer Youth Employment Program – Megan / Courtney

We were approved TANF funding again this year for the Summer Youth Employment Program. It was not as much as we have received in previous years. Application days begin today from 1:00PM-4:00PM in the community room. Megan is hoping to get 20 applications approved based on the allocation. Megan reported that the start day is June 1st, 2023 with the work sites Community Resource Center, and The Weigh Station. Last year there was extra funding at the end. We're hoping that it succeeds this year and hope to continue to get this allocation to provide these services. To qualify for this program, you must be a youth in school. There will be 20-hour work weeks, which can be adjusted based on how many children the program gets. Some kids will work all the hours, and some kids have other obligations such sports. Based on different demographics of poverty, no one reached out further than Wellsville or East Liverpool, these kids must walk sometimes. Based on last year, our funding was limited. It was a little surprising how many kids didn't show up. Megan thought we would get new traffic.

b. Summer Youth Program - Rachel

Rachel reports having done this program for five to six years. The focus is on Wellsville, Southern, and East Liverpool schools, and going into the 5th, 6th, or 7th grade. JFS gives out fun and healthy

summer bag. This past year many bags were given, and each bag included a family pool pass up to five people, blue tooth speakers, educational games, beach towel, etc. Pamphlets that concentrated on vaping were also given to the children to spread awareness. This program usually cost \$80,000.00 a year. Everyone who use the pool passes really appreciate it. And the Thompson Park Pool really appreciates the community coming together again.

Members' Comments

Chaney commented that she is trying to meet the needs of residents in East Palestine, and any insight into what people really need would be appreciated. If there is a need for residents in East Palestine to get here for all our services, in a taxi type of way. We will do that. But just wondering if that is a need? Trying to eliminate excuses for people. If it is not needed do not want to do it.

Ann Marie commented about transportation and how we're finding more and more students who are not getting their driver's license. She wanted to check with members and compare if that's what others are hearing as well? It must be an issue for these students to not have a means of getting to work because they are otherwise employable. Jack mentioned that long ago there was typically one car per family and now there are multiple cars per family, making it easier to get around. There is not a rush for a driver's license. Jack state that his generation, driver's education was provided and paid for by the schools. Now it's not, and it is expensive. Adding children to insurance is very expensive now a days too. If students wait until they reach 18 years of age you don't have to pay for the driving classes, you can just take the test. Ann Marie asked why members thought they got rid of that option for the students? Megan responded and said there was most likely a push to privatize, like all things. Tom stated that there may be grants available for drivers' education. If there is that opportunity, it would be great to shoot for.

Roger commented that The Columbiana County Counseling Center is planning on having a Family Fun Day on June 4th, 2023. Head Start will have a table there. There will be a lot of children ranging from ages 1-5. If anyone from Job and Family Services wants to participate, they are more than welcome. It's just a fun day for family. Roger and his team will be sending out further information about it; if any other organization wants to be a part of it, please let us know. Tom will see if more people can come.

Tom reported that they have been renovating an old building in Calcutta / East Liverpool on St. Clair Avenue, which used to be the old Famers Bank. Head start is calling it their 'supercenter'. It will have 10 classrooms. There will be an open house on June 8th from 1:00pm to 3:00pm and Tom will send a flyer out. Tom and his team just want to share with the community on what we do, as it is transformational. Even the history on this building is amazing. We are very proud of this project. Come down and take a tour!

Community Action Agency is adding Uber to CARTS. Tom stated that it will start at the end of the month, and there will be two vans. One for Columbiana, and one for Salem going through Washingtonville. Participants can call the number or download the app. People can also use easy pass. Unfortunately, it is not going to be able to go to Mahoning County, but it can go back and forth through the northern areas. It must be in Columbiana County, and we will cross other bridges as they come. It is required to follow as the grants allows. Chaney commented that a lot of Salem people don't have means of transportation, but they need diapers, and other things for their

children and themselves. Chaney is extremely thankful because this is a big need. It is unfortunate because we have what they need, but they don't have a way to get to us. Chaney requested that Tom please share the flyer with her. Chaney can fund those people to get to her. Send the flyer to Colette, and she will send it out to members.

Tom reported opening a new Health Center in Salem at the end of June. We have the facility right next to Rite Aid in the doctor's complex. There will be OBGYNs practicing starting at the end of June and there will be health assessments on Mondays and Wednesdays. This Health Center is trying to get more of a population. We are hoping for this to build and grow. They can take Medicaid and Medicare. They hope to serve more people.

Come back in September for the next meeting. Biannual review for PRC update, need signatures for this from Planning Committee Members.

Jack motions to adjourn, Kim seconded. Meeting adjourned.

The next JFS Planning Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at 9 am @ JFS