

JFS Planning Committee
September 25, 2018 9-11 am
JFS Community Room

Present: Tom Andrews, Pastor Brian Brown, Bert Cene, Eileen Dray-Bardon, James Ford, Marcy Patton, Vicki Ritterspach, Roger Sikorszky, Tracy Smith, Kim Steele, Eloise Traina, Stephen Vega, Anna Marie Vaughn, Cathy Webb, Luann Dunham, Rachel Ketterman

Meeting Called to Order/ Quorum Established

Tom Andrews welcomed members and called the meeting to order. A quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes

Eloise Traina made a motion to approve both the May meeting minutes. Bert Cene seconded. Motion carried.

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved as revised and presented.

Reports

OhioMeansJobs Report – Bert gave an update on the One-Stop traffic from July 1 to date. Mahoning County had 1,848 visits (a 2% decrease from the same period last year), and Columbiana County had 977 visits (a 10% increase). Many visits are online. They have seen more traffic due to the GM and Northside Hospital lay-offs. The Workforce Development Board has been very busy with the closing of Northside – 460 employees were laid off. Many have been placed in the Mercy Health System. They are also working with GM 2nd shift workers who have been laid off (about 1500 individuals). They have been serving them where they live (Trumbull and Columbiana Counties and in PA).

They are working on Phase 2 of their certification process at the OMJ Centers (due by June of 2019) and are taking a comprehensive look at the effectiveness of the One-Stops. The current focus is on Columbiana County – community partners may be receiving surveys to complete.

New legislation from the state and federal levels is adding more Performance Measures and Standards. Each performance measure must be negotiated independently. Their negotiations are set to begin this week on September 27.

MCTA is putting out an RFP for tutoring services in Columbiana and Mahoning Counties on October 1st. The RFP may be viewed on their website, www.wdbinc.org.

CCDJFS TANF Program Reports – Luann Dunham gave the TANF program reports (statistics that were available through August) for OWF work participation; food assistance and Medicaid; caseload and applicant reports; adult protective services; NET; child care; PRC program; and the Seek Work program.

The Medicaid reports are broken down showing in-county and out-of-county services provided. Luann reported that with the new system conversion, some of the reports are incomplete. She will provide updates to members as new statistics become available.

Old Business

Ohio Benefits Conversion Update – Luann reported that the computer system was down August 23-27 (Thursday, Friday, and Monday) and was back up on Tuesday, the 28th. About 800 cases did not convert and had to be manually converted. Most cases did not convert correctly and were reviewed and corrected by workers. Scheduling is an issue with the conversion – the system doubled and sometimes tripled appointments scheduled. They have had numerous conference calls with the State and ran a batch of cases last night which looked a little better. A Bridge line has been set up so counties can call in to the State with issues. Luann reported that when the October medical cards go out, this will be the last time they will be “fee for service” cards. October will be a challenge with 550 SNAP redeterminations and many more Medicaid redeterminations.

New Business

PRC Plan Changes/Way Station Project – Eileen Dray-Bardon reviewed changes to the CCDJFS Prevention, Retention, and Contingency (PRC) Plan. Changes will be made to accommodate a contract with the East Liverpool Way Station for the “Pathways to Independence” program, modeled after the “Getting Ahead” program. This will be a new TANF service in the PRC Plan. Incentives (Kmart cards and gas vouchers) will be offered to participants. Eileen read the Resolution of Support to members. James Ford made a motion to recommend that the County Commissioners approve the PRC Plan changes. Anna Marie Vaughn seconded. Motion carried. Members signed the Resolution, and Eileen will take it, the PRC Plan changes, and the Way Station contract to the Commissioners meeting tomorrow (September 26th). Vicki Ritterspach, Director of the Way Station, stated that they hope to serve 24 families who meet the TANF eligibility requirement through the “Pathways to Independence” program.

Eileen reported that there were August revisions to the PRC Plan to accommodate a contract with the County Sheriff to provide services in schools. She apologized to members that the changes were not brought to the committee due to time constraints with the contract. Marcy Patton questioned whether the liaisons would be trained on dealing with youth with mental health issues and on the available resources in the county. Eileen stated that they have been through training on the specific issues they will be dealing with.

2018 Summer Activity Project – Eileen reported that the Summer Activity Project provided summer activity bags, pool passes, and YMCA passes to 586 Wellsville and East Liverpool 6th, 7th, and 8th graders and their families. They had very good participation with the pool passes, and Mr. and Mrs. Swogger who run the pool in East Liverpool told Rachel that entire families came and really enjoyed the pool. Eileen passed around thank-you notes sent to CCDJFS by the Wellsville students.

2019 Summer Activity Project Brainstorming – Eileen asked members for suggestions on a TANF-funded summer activity project for 2019. Suggestions were:

- The same program expanded to all county schools – the pool passes were very successful
- A program to address Columbiana County's very high out-of-wedlock pregnancy rate
- A program to educate young people on proper cell phone/social media usage
- Character camps to incorporate activities with the pool passes – Vicki will send information on these camps to Eileen
- Use CARTS to transport kids to the WOW Science Center (TANF could be used for educational activities) or to the Nature Centers at Guilford Lake or Beaver Creek with a picnic afterward

Eileen reported that this year's summer program used TANF purposes 3 & 4 and no eligibility determination was needed. Marcy suggested if they do the program again next summer they could ask 4-H clubs to help pack the bags. Eileen stated that if they do the program next summer, they would like to propose the plan to the schools in January so there is more time to plan and assemble the bags.

Members will bring other suggestions if they have them to the November meeting.

Member Comments

Marcy sent information out regarding an Autism Interaction training co-sponsored by several agencies. The training is for law enforcement, first responders, and families.

Marcy introduced Jennifer Thorn who is the new Outreach & Media Relations worker for MHRS Board. She came from Family Recovery Center. Jennifer will be attending Planning Committee meetings as Marcy's representative. Members welcomed her.

Eloise reported that she will be retiring by the end of October and is very happy to have Steve Vega stepping in as the new FRC Director. Steve has experience in clinical service in Salem's Oxford House. Members congratulated Eloise and wished her well in her retirement and welcomed Steve to the Planning Committee.

Tracy Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bert seconded. Meeting adjourned shortly after 10 am.

The next JFS Planning Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 27, 2018, at 9 am in the JFS Community Room.