

**GREENE COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL  
FULL COUNCIL MEETING  
ESC, 360 E. Enon Road, Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387**

**MINUTES (MODIFIED 5.2.2022)  
FEBRUARY 7, 2022 (9:00 A.M.)**

**PRESENT:**

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Melissa Baughn	GC Family & Children First
Rebecca Cantrell	United Way of Greater Dayton Area
Deb Cordell	GC Family & Children First
Renee Crossman	GC Family & Children First
Susan Finster	GC Council on Aging, Kinship Liaison
Terry Graves-Strieter	GC Educational Service Center
Melissa Howell	GC Public Health Department
Brandon Huddleson	GC Board of County Commissioners
John LaRock	GC Board of Developmentally Disabled
Brent Lewis	GC Family & Children First
Heather Littrell	CORS Head Start, Early Childhood Services, Fairborn
Debbie Matheson	GC Family Violence Prevention Center
Greta Mayer (CHAIR)	Mental Health & Recovery Board
Lillian McCree	GC ESC (FCPL)
Paul Otten	Beavercreek Schools
Tom Otto (Vice Chair)	TCN Behavioral Health Care
Libby Powers	GC Family & Children First Visitation Center
Beth Rubin	GC Department of Job & Family Services
Anya Senetra	GC ESC - Mental Health Services
Delana Zapata	GC Board of Developmental Disabilities

Ms. Mayer called the meeting to order at 9:00AM. A round of introductions were made by all in attendance.

**REVIEW/APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 1, 2021 MEETING MINUTES (MS. MAYER)**

Ms. Mayer put forth a motion to accept the Minutes. Motion was made by Ms. Rubin, seconded by Ms. Howell. The motion passed without exception.

**REVIEW APPROVAL OF PROGRAM REPORT**

**Family Stability:**

Ms. Baughn reported we are currently offering services to 19 families, 3 children are in Youth Placement, with five (5) youths between the ages of ten (10) and eleven (11) in and out of emergency crisis. These 5 children have either been adopted or in placement, with 2 in the process of being put in placement this week and the other 3 still in the works. Within these 19 families three (3) have become homeless due to evictions. If we had known earlier about their crisis we would have been able to find housing for them before they became homeless. Family Stability has been extremely busy receiving numerous calls from schools and hospitals and there is a wait list, however all youth are receiving quality care and are being re-directed to other Children Services.

## Prevention

### Parenting Classes:

Ms. Baughn reported the Parenting Classes have expanded greatly since September, 2021. Ms. Bass, the instructor for these classes, is doing an amazing job, with 8 community classes, 7 in other agencies, and classes to start shortly at Her Story for their residents. We served 166 parents, helping a total of 286 children ranging in ages from 0 to 18 years old. Additionally, Ms. Bass is working with the local hospitals who are requesting classes for new parents, along with the Principle of Xenia High School offering instructional classes and materials to teachers and staff on how to better communicate with students. Ms. Bass hopes to launch Parenting programs in For-Profit Agencies who help with drug treatment programs as well.

### “Why Try”:

Ms. Baughn reported that Ms. Christiana Hilderbrand, the instructor for these youth classes, is in the process of finalizing this program. “Why Try” is a program that targets Jr. High and High School students with metaphors on thinking errors that teaches important life skills, such as how our decisions have consequences, or how to correctly deal with peer pressure, as well as the importance of obeying laws and rules. These metaphors are reinforced through relevant music, videos, learning activities, and journals, which keeps it alive and fun. It also teaches youth critical life skills in a way that they can understand and remember. For more information see this link: (<https://whytry.org/whytry-program/>)

Ms. Mayer put forth a motion to accept the Program Report. Motion was made by Ms. Graves-Strieter, seconded by Ms. Matheson. The motion passed without exception.

### **REVIEW/APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE AUDIT FINANCE COMMITTEE, INCLUDING FISCAL REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2021:**

Ms. Mayer highlighted the Audit Finance Committee’s Fiscal Report for January through December, 2021. Mr. Otto, who chaired this meeting, expounded that everything was covered very thoroughly and efficiently by Ms. Cordell.

With no further questions Ms. Mayer put forth a motion to accept the highlights from the Audit Finance Committee meeting. Motion was made by Ms. Rubin, seconded by Ms. Howell. The motion passed without exception.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**STEERING COMMITTEE:** Ms. Mayer reported that the Steering Committee met in December, 2021 with discussions surrounding COVID cases, recommendations going forward, and what type of modifications are being put in place that will have an impact on the workforce. Also covered was the utilizing of funding for FCF programs from the State and Greene County, which is appreciated, along with their successful closure of the 2021 FCF Audit. The next Steering Committee Meeting will take place immediately following this Full Council Meeting.

**AUDIT/FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Mr. Otto offered congratulations on a successful audit.

**HELP ME GROW:** Mr. Lewis reported that with Ms. Hamer not being able to attend he received a brief update from her with a more detailed report forthcoming to be included in the Minutes. Currently HMG

is in the midst of a State 'Time of Receipt of Services Compliance', which is set up in order to ensure that ISP program begin within 30 days. Four Oaks has begun offering in-person services when there is a need. In-Person versus virtual programs has been an ongoing discussion in light of Client Feedback from Surveys, as there has been a drop in their numbers due to clients preferring face-to-face services in order to meet their needs. HMG is working with the health department to find a safe balance.

**Sent electronically -- Ms. Hamer's Help Me Grow January, 2022 Report:** The program began the Timely Receipt of Services (TRS) compliance cycle January 1. The compliance period runs from January 1- March 31<sup>st</sup>. TRS is where we monitor whether a new IFSP service began within 30 days of an IFSP being signed. Data for this compliance will be pulled by DODD in May with results given to the program sometime in June or July. The program needs to receive a 100% in order to receive full credit for the compliance. Referrals were a bit low in December (23) which is typical, January referrals went back up to 30. Several staff have either been out sick or worked less this month due to COVID, Program Manager included. In addition, the program has seen an increase in families rescheduling appoints due to illness as well. Hoping this will improve over the next month. Four Oaks EI services have started allowing in person visits to occur if the team, including the family, determine it is necessary for the child/family to make progress on their outcomes. Most of these requests are delivering services to families via hybrid model – some in-person and some virtual. The adaptation back to in person services begins at a great time since that was parent's number one concern on the recent parent survey. Staff were able to connect several of our families with community organizations for holiday assistance in December. We had one family who had no heat at all during the coldest part of December and Tara Robertson was able to support the family and find a resource who supplied the family with a couple of heaters.

#### **REVIEW/APPROVAL SFY 2023 OCBF GRANT APPLICATION:**

Mr. Lewis reported that Family and Children First Council received \$15,750.00 from the State Grant OCBF ("Operational Capacity Building Funds"), which FCF applies for each year. In this State Fiscal year 2023 application it shows who will be utilizing these funds and how they will be allocated. Additionally, it helps to ensure that FCF meets all the requirements, such as a yearly schedule that documents quarterly meetings, which representatives attend meetings, who are mandated members, attendance records, who is our Parent Advocates and Parent Representatives, etc. This application needs to be presented before the Full Council, and at our next FCF meeting more specifics will be offered concerning our Shared Plan that focuses on the next 3-years.

Ms. Mayer put forth a motion to recommend acceptance of the SFY 2023 OCBR Application. Motion was made by Mr. Huddleson, seconded by Ms. Cantrell. The motion passed without exception.

#### **COUNCIL DUE'S 2022**

Ms. Cordell reported that the Council Dues for 2022 has not changed for a number of years. These Dues, which amounts to between \$12-\$15,000, goes towards the Council Admin Budget and does not cover County programs. Ms. Crossman will distribute the Dues letters to those in attendance and will mail it to those not present. These dues are strictly on a voluntary basis.

Ms. Mayer put forth a motion to accept the Council Due's Budget for 2022. Motion was made by Ms. Howell, seconded by Mr. LaRock. The motion passed without exception.

#### **OTHER ITEMS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR AND DIRECTOR**

Mr. Lewis had nothing further to report at this time.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Ms. Finster from GC Council on Aging** reported that they are busy with some in-person workshops though health precautions are in place. One is a 6-week workshop teaching how to bear chronic conditions and/or chronic pain. Each participant gets a book and CD. The Chronic Condition workshop starts February 17<sup>th</sup> and the Chronic Pain workshop starts in Bellbrook in March 2022. For more information see: (<https://www.gcco.org/events> -- **Healthy U: Chronic Disease Self-Management Workshop** at Lofino Plaza, Beavercreek, Thursdays from 10-12:30pm, (Feb 17 through March 24). **Healthy U: Chronic Pain Self-Management Workshop** at the Bellbrook Senior Center, Mondays from 1:30pm-4pm, (Mar 7, 13, 21, 28, Apr 4 & 11). Reservations are required for both.

**Ms. Rubin from GC Job and Family Services** reported that they are excited about the Ohio Start Program as they have a worker and supervisor in place. They are receiving State-Wide training on this program, and are working with their partners, TCN, on this. TCN is working on hiring a Family Peer Mentor who will be in the Children Services Division working alongside case workers. This will begin in the next couple of months.

They are also anticipating the end of the Public Health Emergency as there are many people who have remained on Medicaid that should no longer be eligible for Medicaid. The Public Health Emergency has been extended to mid-April, and they will keep the Council updated.

**Ms. Howell from GC Public Health Department** reported the good news that Omnicron numbers are coming down. The updated CDC procedures for individuals testing positive is to still isolate for 5 days, with 10 days of wearing a mask. The Health Department is only tracking outbreaks in nursing homes and schools. In regards to when this will become an endemic, it seems more like in summer as both number of cases and deaths would need to come down further and stay down.

**Mr. LaRock & Ms. Zapata from GC Board of Developmental Disabilities** reported that they have two (2) new board members, Sharon Bonagee who joined their team in December 2021, and Leslie Davis who joined in January 2022. They will be collaborating with Caesars Creek in order to make the trails more accessible for varying mobility disabilities, including wheelchairs, walkers, etc. Additionally, there will be 2 shelters available along with a bathroom facility. This is a collaborative effort between Warren County, Montgomery County and Greene County. In April 2022 they will be hosting an event in collaboration with Road Runners for these new mobility trails.

March is DD Awareness Month, and they will be supporting this endeavor in schools by offering PPE (personal protective equipment). Additionally, they are organizing Meet-&-Greet programs in schools throughout Greene County for 1<sup>st</sup> Graders, where they will be offering a book called, "Strictly No Elephant". This story is about a unique friendship and the value of belonging. They are in the planning stages to see if the school's want the books dropped off for each first-grade student, or for DD's staff and volunteers to read the book to the 1<sup>st</sup> Graders in their classroom. (See Link: <https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Strictly-No-Elephants/Lisa-Mantchev/9781481416474>)

DD's motto this year is "How Can We Help". With Four Oaks working on opening more in-person EI (Early Intervention) Services, DD is also organizing a program starting in February, 2022 to High Schoolers, Middle school students, and even younger students, by bringing them to their Four Oaks location for additional support. Ms. Zapata also reported they are actively involved in helping graduating

students find jobs or receive the support they need during this transition. Finally, they are reaching out to Greene County Day Care Centers in the hopes of filling in the gaps with added developmental disability services.

**Mr. Huddleson from GC Board of County Commissioners** reported that in spite of the new jail not being voted in at the last Ballot, the County Commissioners have taken a hard look at their Budget and have found a way to move forward with this desperate need. This new jail will be smaller than the original plan and the County Commissioners are in the process of contacting a designer and contractor to begin this project.

The Commissioners are also in the process of signing a contract with Cincinnati Bell this week to partner with them in order to bring Broadband to all unserved and underserved households in the County. A press release is forthcoming. This is a ~~\$5.6 million dollar~~ \$9.6 Million Dollar project (modified 5.2.2022) that will offer good reliable internet for each household. (See Dayton Daily News Link: <https://www.daytondailynews.com/local/greene-county-approves-96-million-broadband-internet-expansion/Y6YAV67KMNBCJBVTDDW23JANQM/>), and Fairborn Daily Herald Link: (<https://www.fairborndailyherald.com/news/48839/county-to-bring-reliable-internet-to-thousands>)

**Mr. Otto from TCN Behavioral Health Care** was happy to report that they completed their CARF Accreditation, which is a National Organization focusing on quality and results. This organization reviewed their facility in order to ensure Client Care Perspective and Documentation Perspective are in accordance to guidelines. This was the largest audit and review they have ever had with five (5) surveyors, compared to three (3) in the past. One surveyor spent the full day with their Vocational and CSS Director. It was an intense review and out of 2550 standards TCN had only 8 recommendations, which is the lowest recommendations received for the past 23 years. What this means is that when folks are referred to TCN they are in good hands and all regulations and standards are up-to-date for their clinical work.

Mr. Otto informed the Committee that Dr. Whittaker is returning to TCN on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022, which will allow TCN to offer additional Primary Care hours, as well as additional MAT both in their Fairborn and Xenia locations.

Mr. Otto mentioned they have officially moved into their new location on 1825 Commerce Blvd, Fairborn, Ohio. He will inform the Committee when the Open House will take place. This facility is state-of-the-art and will be very beneficial to their clients, and the feedback they've received so far has been incredibly positive.

**Ms. Powers from GC Family & Children First Visitation Center** reported that in 2021 the VC serviced 230 children in spite of COVID restrictions, provided 2000 hours for visitation, and helped with 143 Parenting Exchanges. In order to make this happen they utilized 19 volunteers who offered 2006 hours of service.

**Ms. Littrell from CORS Head Start, Early Childhood Services in Fairborn** reported that they are currently fully enrolled for their Pre-School and Early Head Start classrooms, and are under enrolled at their Small World Classroom. Their two (2) Home Educators are at 50% of their caseload, and are open to receiving applications. They have staff openings for teachers, cooks, and Home Educators. (Please see supplemental CORS Head Start Flyers attached).

Ms. Littrell wanted to inform the Council that Ms. Stacey Foster, who previously attended these meetings, is now transitioning to Champaign County to be the Early Childhood Service Coordinator in Urbana.

**Ms. Graves-Strieter from GC ESC** reported they have multiple Grants currently in motion. They applied for an extended larger funding from ODE in order to support their District helping students with pandemic related issues. They have many collaborative efforts across Greene County, for which they are thankful. They are looking at building a career connection workforce capacity effort through their business advisory council. They will be working together with Ms. Howell on some public messaging via social media regarding the impact mental health has on children and students.

**Mr. Otten from Beaver Creek Schools** reported there has been a more hopeful shift in conversations within GC schools as the days are getting longer and it feels like summer is right around the corner. Mr. Otten gave a shout-out to Ms. Howell with Mental Health and Recovery Board for all that she has invested in the County Schools as they receive numerous questions from parents, which are then re-directed to Ms. Howell and her staff.

Beaver Creek Schools had a special guest speaker that resulted in a large outpouring of positive responses from parents, staff, teachers, and students. Mr. Chris Singleton, their guest speaker, was a professional athlete, and some years back there was a Church shooting in South Carolina and one of the individuals who was shot was Mr. Singleton's mother. His story is riveting and though the gymnasium was packed each student and those in attendance were emotionally engaged. Mr. Otten said he has been in education for 28 years and he's never seen such an overwhelming response across the board from a guest speaker. Mr. Otten highly recommends him at any community events, as he focuses on forgiveness and inclusivity.

**Anya Senetra ESC Mental Health Services** reported that in spite of COVID they were still able to offer the same quality services to roughly the same number of children during 2021 in comparison to the past years, which was no small feat in light of quarantines, etc. All their front-line staff have stayed the same for the past two years which offers continuity of care in the community. They will be able to fill a position for Juvenile Court internally and still need a position filled on the Children Services side.

The Trauma Grant has given them an opportunity to work with NCTSN (National Child Traumatic Stress Network) and partner with Family Violence Prevention Center in order to work on getting training up and running for trauma care of children and families. They will also be partnering with Yale University so ESC's staff along with Ms. Matheson's staff from Family Violence Prevention Center will be able to partake of these 5-year training courses that will bring more short-term effective trauma treatment into Greene County.

Like TCN they will be going through their CARF auditing and accreditation standards in May 2022. It will be their 6<sup>th</sup> time doing this.

They also had the opportunity to expand through various network Grants. One is CFTSI (Child & Family Traumatic Stress Intervention), and the other is ARC, which is short term services for high school students involved in the Juvenile Court System. They are also working on building the continuum of care and hopefully will be able to avert kids from intensive care and serve them more rapidly.

**Ms. McCree ESC (FCPL)** reported that Family Engagement instructors have noticed that parents seem to be struggling with school-aged children and the need for them to organically engage with their family, thus lending opportunities to offer effective parenting instructions. The biggest project Ms. McCree is engaged in since November 2021 is called "CARES ESC". This Project is a continuation and expansion of Ohio's Safe Schools Healthy Students (SSHS) mission in order to establish a dedicated Family Engagement role. She is working with 8 partnerships across the State of Ohio. Their purpose is focused on Foster Care and Kinship Care.

ESC will be hosting a 3-1/2 hour "Inspiring Action Summit" on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022 supporting educational stability for Youth in Foster Care. Caregivers, Educators, Foster Care providers, and Schools are all encouraged to attend in order to discover tools that advocate Youth in Foster Care, as well as build strategies to buffer the impact of trauma and encouraging resiliency in childcare. The Family and Community Partnership liaisons are tasked with accomplishing connecting schools, families and youth to community resources and local systems of care, as well as providing professional development to enhance the capacity of local school districts to deliver effective Family Engagement. They will have amazing speakers at the Summit, along with a guest speaker who was formerly in foster care sharing their personal experiences. This initiative is called "Looking Through A Child's Eye". \*Inspiring Action Virtual Summit-- See attached flyer and Link as follows:

[https://www.escco.org/Downloads/Educational%20Stability%20Summit%20for%20Foster%20Youth\\_Spring%202022%20v2.pdf](https://www.escco.org/Downloads/Educational%20Stability%20Summit%20for%20Foster%20Youth_Spring%202022%20v2.pdf)

**Ms. Cantrell from United Way of Greater Dayton Area** reported that on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 they met with Strong Family assistant partners and received 8 new family referrals from different departments in Xenia. United Ways continues to have conversations with other non-profit organizations, one being DRMA, (Dayton Regional Manufacturers Association), in order to look into grant opportunities for families to receive fellowship and friendship opportunities. United Way had a positive meeting with GC Emerge and Trades Initiatives regarding their program with homelessness prevention for families with the hopes of receiving referrals from this organization. Additionally, Ms. Cantrell met with Family Promise Collision for Homelessness resulting in good discussions with many organizations deciding to join their Strong Family's initiatives, their next meeting is on February 11<sup>th</sup>. One discussion point that came to the forefront is how some families don't qualify for programs when they should. Being able to identify these gaps and make referrals within their committee was a good outcome.

In regards to Freedom Schools, Ms. Cantrell is in the process of expanding this program to Greene County. She wrote 2 Grants for this program, one is the Ohio State Bar Foundation, which they were awarded, and the second is called the ODE for summer camps, which is still in the works.

Prosperi-Key, which is the digital platform to help families stretch their ~~buffet~~ budget (modified 5.2.2022) is going National! This initially was a test initiative between United Way Connecticut, Dayton, and Butler, so for this to go National is a big deal for United Way!

As it's Tax Season United Way has on their Website called "My Free Taxes.Com", which is a free tax filing platform. The only requirement is that Tax Filers need to meet the under \$50,000 a year income, and then they can file on line for free as well as receive on-line support.

See Link: <https://unitedwayinc.org/myrefund/>

Lastly, it's Black History Month, and Ms. Cantrell wanted to share that the Schuster Center has an exhibit that features some notable African Americans. United Way's CEO was selected as one of the exhibits,

and you can see his painting on Daytonlive.com. (Link: <https://www.whio.com/news/local/schuster-center-exhibit-honors-important-local-african-american-figures/7XZZMUyRC5A4TDZFOOguQYRX6I/>) AND (<https://www.mhanational.org/black-pioneers-mental-health>)

**Ms. Matheson from GC Family Violence Prevention Center** reported that they received their Accreditation letter last week and are set for the next four (4) years. Today is Teen Dating Awareness day and the color being 'Orange Day'. Ms. Matheson shared that in Greene County they brought together the collaboration of GC Juvenile Justice system into the GC Consortium on Domestic and Social Violence, which specifically addresses Domestic Violence Dating issues. In their January 2022 meeting they participated in creating a new subcommittee specifically addressing teen dating violence issues.

April is Child Abuse Awareness Month and they will be having their 5K Child Abuse Prevention and Elimination (C.A.P.E.) Walk or Run on April 9<sup>th</sup>, check in begins at 7:30am and the race starts at 9:00am. For many years Beavercreek High School has been the starting spot for this event, and once again for 2022 this is where they race will begin. (For more information see "Superhero C.A.P.E 5k Walk/Run" Link: <https://runsignup.com/Race/OH/Dayton/SuperheroCAPE5kWalkRun>)

Ms. Matheson report they have been working diligently at the Center to become "Pet friendly". For several years they have been required to take in emotional support animals as this is important to survivors know that their pets are safe. GC Family Violence Prevention Center received \$46,000 from Red Rover Grant and they are in the process of transforming the downstairs shower space that is no longer in use since 2014 as the County installed bathrooms in each bedroom. The rehabbing on this space will take place the beginning of March and will be completed in about 4-6 weeks. After completion they will be able to offer survivors a limit of 2 pets at a time per family.

**Ms. Mayer from Mental Health and Recovery Board** reported they are working with Health Policy Institute of Ohio in order to address ~~Urban Health Equity~~ Behavioral Health Equity modified 5.2.2022 in Clark, Greene and Madison county. They had a community event focused on the Black Community on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 in Yellow Springs and will be hosting a Virtual Round-table Focus Group on Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 starting at 6pm. This will cover behavioral health and care and concerns in order to identify problem areas and strategies for solutions. There is a catch-up session on Friday February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022. (See Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/behavioral-health-equity-virtual-round-table-tickets-240133344297>)

ARPA, American Rescue Plan Act, mitigation dollars earmarked for our communities will be released at the end of the month once guidelines are received.

Regarding Virtual Public Meetings, these were previously initiated on an emergency basis and will expire at the end of the fiscal year. However, once House Bill 51 from The Ohio Open Meetings Act is approved by Governor DeWine public meetings will once again be permitted in-person or by teleconference and video conference. Additionally, Public Officials who attend virtually will count towards the quorum and be permitted to vote. (See Link: <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/return-virtual-open-meetings>)

**Ms. Pruitt from CareSource** was not present but sent information via email concerning a Mental Health App that is geared towards teens that she wanted the Full Council to receive. (See attached article from Dayton Daily News).



With no further business Ms. Mayer put forth the motion to adjourn the Full Council Meeting. Motion was made by Ms. Cantrell, and seconded by Ms. Rubin. The motion passed without exception.

Ms. Mayer informed everyone that **the next Full Council Meeting will be on:**  
**Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, at 9:00am, at Greene County ESC, Yellow Springs, Ohio**

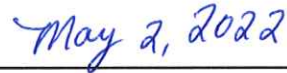
**Meeting was adjourned at 10:03am.**

Respectfully submitted.



---

**Renee Crossman, Admin. Support  
Greene County Family and Children First Council**



---

**Approved Date:**