

GREENE COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
 FCF, 158 E. Main Street, Xenia

MINUTES
MARCH 7th, 2022 – 9:00AM

PRESENT:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Sandy Brubaker | GC Juvenile Court |
| Rebecca Cantrell | United Way of Greater Dayton |
| Deb Cordell | GC Family & Children First |
| Renee Crossman | GC Family & Children First |
| Terry Graves-Strieter | GC ESC |
| Melissa Howell (Pam Hamer Rep.) | GC Public Health Department |
| John LaRock | GC Board of Developmental Disabilities |
| Brent Lewis | GC Family & Children First - Director |
| Greta Mayer (CHAIR) | Mental Health & Recovery Board |
| Lana Penney | GC Children's Services |
| Tamra Pruitt | CareSource |
| Beth Rubin | GC Department of Job & Family Services |

Ms. Mayer called the meeting to order at 8:55am.

REVIEW / APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2022 MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Mayer put forth a motion to recommend acceptance of the Minutes. Motion was made by Ms. Graves-Strieter, and seconded by Mr. LaRock. This motion passed without exception.

REVIEW / APPROVAL OF FISCAL REPORTS

Family Stability: Ms. Cordell reported that for January 2022 the revenue is higher than budgeted due to the fact that we received GC Juvenile Court's payment from January through June for the amount of \$10,500. Additionally, we received from GC JFS revenue for November and December 2021, as well as MHRB's allocation for January 2022. We still have a part time position open in this program, therefore expenses will continue to be under until this position is filled.

Shared Youth Placement: Ms. Cordell reported the revenue is higher due to the fact that we received \$45,500.00 from MSY funding for placement for 90 days for one child, and those funds will be dispersed in February 2022. This morning two children that we have in placement received PASSS funding for 4-6 weeks. Ms. Baughn applied for MSY funding for these two children and if this is approved we will spend from MSY funding before local dollars.

Help Me Grow: Ms. Cordell received the invoices for October through December 2021 from the Health Department, which have been processed and submitted to Ohio DODD, along with the Program Management expenses. Additionally, we received January 2022's invoices so these will be processed and included in our next Steering Committee Meeting finance report. Regarding July through December 2021's target percentage this amount is at 43% of the 50% budgeted.

Ms. Hamer mentioned that the Health Department gave a 3% Bonus in March of 2022, in addition to the COLA, so this will help fill that gap. There will not be another Bonus given at the end of 2022.

F.C.S.S.: Ms. Cordell reported that the Grant from July 2021 through February 2022 incurred expenses are at 38% and 52% revenue. Previously this Grant was spent mostly in the summer months on camps, but this year it will be spent throughout the year not only on the child that is struggling, but for the siblings. We have seen that family members felt excluded as the focused attention was only on the child who needed help. Therefore, funds

will be allocated for activities for family members also, which has already proven to have a positive affect on the overall family dynamics.

Council Admin: Ms. Cordell reported expenses are lower due to allocations throughout the year. We appreciate everyone getting their Council Dues to us quickly. All have been received with the exception of 2 agencies, one of which usually pays later in the year. We will make some adjusts on the County/Council percentages which have been submitted and were accepted before the last Committee Meeting based on historical data changing the percentage. Since we have a cash balance in Council Admin we will be able to cover expenses going forward, and will keep the Council updated on these percentages on a quarterly basis in case adjustments need to be made.

Ms. Mayer put forth a motion to recommend acceptance of the Fiscal Reports. Motion was made by Ms. Rubin, and seconded by Ms. Brubaker. This motion passed without exception.

REVIEW / APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY PROGRAM REPORT

Mr. Lewis reported we have 20 families open that represent 30 children. These children have extremely high needs with some in multi-system youth services. Between FCF, JFS, and the Juvenile Court we utilized a State Wraparound program called Project ECHO, (Environmental influences on Child Health Outcomes) to address a difficult case. This platform offers opportunities where complex cases can be presented and recommendations from multidisciplinary experts are received in return. Mr. Lewis sat in on the ECHO call for this specific youth, however most of the recommendations were not for immediate assistance but rather long term related, such as various testing that could be done, books to read, etc. Regarding this particular youth he was kicked out of his residential placement, however ECHO recommended this youth to be placed in a Group Home, which would not be feasible as no Group Home would receive a youth with these particular struggles.

Link: <https://wraparoundohio.org/project-echo/>

Mr. Lewis went on to say that Ms. Baughn received an increased number of referrals for Residential Placement for youth between the ages of 10 and 12 who have significant problems with aggression towards their families and self-harm. Most of these referrals came directly from Dayton Children's with PHP needs. It seems that Dayton Childrens is only working with youth who are suicidal as a lot of cases are being directed to us, though we do not currently have a Partial Hospitalization program in Greene County. In light of this we are needing to utilize Becket Springs for partial hospitalization in Butler County. This creates a transportation problem for working parents due to this program lasting for only half a day, plus the long distance in travel. With very limited local services available Mr. Lewis feels this is an area that the Steering Council should discuss in order to better serve families.

Ms. Brubaker mentioned that the Juvenile Court is also seeing an increase in youth with delinquency and aggressive behaviors developing, and it continues to be a challenge to find ways to service them.

Ms. Mayer asked if Becket Springs offers transportation for these youth, as adult clients from MHRB receive transportation from them? Mr. Lewis explained that at this time they do not.

He went on to report that this past month Ms. Baughn has been able to tour Northcutt, Hannah Neil, along with Ranch of Opportunity, in order to broaden options for residential care so as to meet the needs in the community. In the past this has been challenging as some of these residentials have had administrative changes, which hasn't been satisfactory. Therefore, by investigating other alternatives we hope to continue offering optimal care.

Most of the children in residential placement this past month have all been from adoptive families who are struggling to maintain their adoption. Additionally, we are utilizing PASSS (Post-Adoption Special Services Subsidy) funding to help with the cost of several of these youth in the hopes that they won't become permanent custody cases.

Ms. Rubin mentioned that the State will be taking over the PASS program in July of 2022, so those applications will no longer come through the County as the State will take care of all PASSS determinations. In time we will see how this transpires.

Mr. Lewis reported that March 4th, 2022 was the last day for Youth Recovery Program Family Solutions (YRP) at TCN. This was an individualized treatment program that has been functioning in Greene County for the past 20 years and is designed to stabilize severe mental health problems in youth ages 10 to 17. YRP offered an array of specialties addressing specific developmental needs, such as Anger Management, Coping Skills, Self-Hygiene, Creative Expression, Empathy and Compassion, Interpersonal Relationships in the Family & Community and much more. Therefore, having these services curtailed will leave a huge gap in our Community and in the lives of these youth and families.

Prevention

Mr. Lewis reported that Parenting Classes have expanded and are proving to be very beneficial. Ms. Bass has been offering classes at Greene Leaf for both the men and women, Christopher House, Women's Recovery Center and in the homeless shelters, along with four community classes. We have completed our first round of 2022 and the second round is about to begin. During the first round, FCF served 78 parents that represent 114 youth. Ms. Bass is committed to working with parents via ZOOM, in-person group classes, as well as one-on-one make-up classes, in order to ensure their success in completing these classes. She also continues to work on expanding Active Parenting Programs in the community with discussions for programs to launch at Her Story, as well as Bridges of Hope, and Emerge Center. Links: <https://www.herstoryhouse.com/> ; <http://skbridgesofhope.org/> ; <https://emergecenter.org/>

Additionally, Ms. Bass has reached out to the maternity departments in various hospitals offering Parenting Classes, which are not only beneficial to new parents, or those requesting additional parenting training, but at the same time it will help to remove the stigma that these classes are only offered as a punishment after a court hearing. We are seeing that as word circulates regarding these classes new parents are even coming to our office asking to register.

Ms. Mayer put forth a motion to recommend acceptance of the February Program Report. Motion was made by Ms. Rubin, and seconded by Ms. Graves-Strieter. This motion passed without exception.

COMMITTEE / PROGRAM REPORTS

EARLY INTERVENTION

Ms. Hamer reported they have a First-Time Parents' Home Visiting Program for low-income eligible families. For Early Intervention they have a collaboration with "Disconnect to Connect" Series coming shortly. Their referrals were 32 and on average for the month of February 2022.

OHIO START PROGRAM

Ms. Penney reported that the Ohio START training program is almost ready to roll out. They are still working on hiring a Family Peer Mentor, which is a lengthy process, and TCN's HR department is working on this as well. Ohio START was supposed to begin on March 1st, but due to the Peer Mentor position needing to be filled their new start date will be on April 1st, 2022.

Ms. Penney informed the Council that a presentation for Help Me Grow will be taking place in two weeks. This will be done virtually and presented by Chad and Sarah, Program Manager and Supervisor for Ohio START.

UNITED WAY

Ms. Cantrell reported that United Way's program, Penny Wars, has been postponed until June 2022. This is an initiative that helps to motivate and engage children in philanthropy impact and meeting the needs in their community. Ms. Cantrell reported they also have a new partner for Community Impact with Chase Bank who are invested in education for the youth in our communities. Strong Families continues to make progress with

community partners in order to offer career opportunities for individuals, families, and especially for single mothers.

Strong Families received 13 additional referrals from Bridges of Hope and Xenia Area of Church and Ministries, which is a good partnership as often families will reach out to their local churches when facing struggles.

Ms. Cantrell also reminded everyone regarding their platform, "MyFreeTaxes.Com" for those earning less than \$50,000 a year (Link: <http://mytaxes.com/>) to receive assistance preparing their taxes.

ROUND TABLE - OTHER ITEMS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR / DIRECTOR:

Mr. Lewis reported that United Way and Family & Children First participated together in an event at Central State University where the newly appointed President, Dr. Jack Thomas, announced there will be a free of cost scholarship program available for Seniors attending Xenia Schools, along with Dayton Public and Springfield City Schools. This event was very well organized with students being assigned to each participating organization for interaction with professionals in the community. With this new administration, the renewed engagement in community initiatives is good to see. They are actively involved in several committees and community initiatives and have expressed an interest in the future of partnering with United Way to bring Freedom Schools to Greene County.

Ms. Penney from Children's Services division stated that they are still in need of Case Workers and Support staff. With Seniors graduating from college they are receiving more applications and hope for these positions to be filled shortly. There are also new policies and rules coming out for 2022 from the state and JFS is working on implementing them. One particular policy pertains to procedures on how to place youth in Residential Care, depending on if they are in agency custody or not. This will be a challenge as children who will now need to meet very specific criteria along with the facility they are placed at, or funding will not be IV-E reimbursable and will have to come from local levy dollars.

Ms. Penney also mentioned that April is Child Abuse Awareness month. They are in the midst of judging artwork submitted by children for the annual calendar. Additionally, they have selected a Community Law Enforcement and Children Services staff person who will receive an award. This year they will not be hosting the normal Blue-Ribbon Breakfast, but rather are considering something on a smaller scale in order to acknowledge the children whose artwork was chosen and to give out awards. JFS will still be having their Pinwheel Partnership between various agencies, therefore, contact Ms. Penny for your pinwheels and poster.

Ms. Cordell from Family & Children First reported that though FCF just completed their every two-year audit, during the in-between years they still have to complete all audit paperwork, which has now been completed in February, 2022.

Ms. Cordell mentioned Family Stability is still looking to hire a part-time position, along with the Visitation Center needing personnel. They are still facing hiring challenges with interviewees going through the process of background check, being cleared, and given a start date, but then never showing up or working one day and quitting the next.

Ms. Rubin confirmed that JFS is also having the same problems. She mentioned a lot of time and money goes into the hiring process, yet they still have problems with candidates following through. Other agencies also voiced similar challenges they too are facing.

Ms. Cantrell from United Way mentioned the possibility of Ms. Delores Wright from Wilberforce's Psychology Department, may be of assistance regarding this. Her main interest is working with psychology and social work students, so maybe folks could network with her for referrals.

Ms. Graves-Streiter from ESC reported that Grace and the ECMH team (Early Childhood Mental Health) participated in a ZOOM "Readiness Summit", which was very enlightening. Dr. Bruce Perry was the main

Presenter, along with 4 people from the ESC, including Ms. McCree and the ECMH team. There were approximately 800 virtual attendees for the breakout session. ECMH continues to grow and they've received several Grants in order to hire Instructional Support Coordinators to help close the educational gaps in our districts, and to also hire more staff. This Grant funded through September 2024. (See attached Dayton Daily Newspaper Article, and Link: <https://preschoolpromise.esvbeta.com/2022ReadinessSummit.aspx>)

Ms. Hamer mentioned that the "Readiness Summit" was very informative. She highly recommends reading Dr. Perry's book as it gives valuable input on 'not what is going on with you, but rather what happened to you' so as to address challenging youth behavior more quickly. This book takes a different approach with their stories in order for them to be understood. (Book: "What Happened to You" is a collaborative effort by Oprah and renowned brain and trauma expert Dr. Bruce Perry -- Conversations on Trauma, Resilience and Healing. Link: <https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/53238858-what-happened-to-you>)

Ms. Graves-Streiter mentioned that ESC and representatives from the Greene County Development office were involved in the Economic Development Discussion between Central State, Wilberforce, and Wright State. They were able to make connections and are happy to see more involvement from the new leadership.

Mr. LaRock from GC Developmental Disabilities reported that previously the State used to be their back-up for Developmental Centers, however this changed. During their last teleconference with the state Department Director, she indicated that due to staffing problems they will no longer be as accessible of a resource for them in a state of crisis. Greene County DODD is part of a Regional Council of Government that reaches down to Hamilton, Warren, Claremont, and Butler Counties, and together they initiated a Pilot Project where each County chipped in half a million dollars in order to set up 2 homes for adults in crisis. The goal is to have these locations available for those in crisis, especially when calls come in late at night and all other providers are full. This Pilot Program will be staffed regardless if beds are taken or not. Additionally, they have raised the entry level rates for Staff to \$20 an hour in order to have a better chance of attracting and retaining staff. They also brought in a mental health provider called Merakey who specializes in Dual Diagnosis (mental health and developmental disability). Those in placement will be cared for according to their specific needs, be it for 90 days, 120 days, etc. Merakey will not only work with the staff, but also will work with the family or provider to assist in the transition back to the home setting. This will enable individuals to remain in a local community environment instead of State Placement. Currently they have 5 individuals at State Developmental Centers from Greene County. In setting up this pilot project, they examined the cost of these placements and those 5 individuals alone cost approximately \$550,000.00. For these individuals, DODD has to pay 100% of the cost and does not receive a Medicaid match. The biggest challenge they are facing with the pilot program is licensure from the state because they do not view these longer-term placements as respite. Their goal is for this Pilot Project to begin in July 2022 and after 1 year reassess its progress. (Link: <https://www.merakey.org/>)

Ms. Rubin from GC Job & Family Services expressed her appreciation for what DD is proactively doing as they have similar situations with late night referrals and children needing placed. Children Services agencies across the state have been forced to keep children at the agency overnight, as suitable placements could not be immediately located. This has not occurred in Greene County up to this point, but there have been several situations that came close. JFS and their partners have brought these concerns to the state and are looking for advice and support.

Ms. Hamer, representing Ms. Howell for the Health Department, reported that COVID numbers are down and there is a no longer a mask mandate in place throughout Ohio, with many school districts also lifting this requirement. Additionally, there is a request put forth for Ohio to lift the requirements for schools to report on COVID cases.

Ms. Graves-Streiter from ESC mentioned this would be good news as these COVID reports are done weekly and are very time consuming. Yellow Springs is still enforcing mask mandates at this time. On an inspiring note, the children serviced at ESC are very happy about no masks as they are able to see their instructors' expressions,

smiles and encouraging words. There are also certain facial commands that can be given without verbalization, whereas when wearing a mask there were more verbal interactions which sometimes escalated issues.

Ms. Pruitt from CareSource mentioned Ohio Medicaid is continuing to provide \$100 gift cards to those receiving first-time vaccinations, and Greene County Health Department continues to offer vaccinations on Friday's. The gift cards will not be given out on site, but rather mailed to them through their insurance company.

CareSource has also partnered with "Positly", which is a safe zone App for Youth Mental Health. This platform is user friendly so they can search for counselors in their area, or receive additional support. (Link: <https://www.positly.com>)

CareSource also offers Respite services, and Ms. Pruitt will supply additional information regarding this, along with suggestions or resources for parents who struggle receiving transportation for their children going to and from Placements/Respite. (Link:<https://www.caresource.com/oh/plans/mycare/benefits-services/respice-care/>)

Ms. Graves-Streiter from ESC asked if CareSource could possibly become a partner as Ms. McCree is working on a program for foster care families and kinship care. They are specifically looking for support for grandparents who are taking care of their grandchildren. Ms. Pruitt will get back to her on this.

Ms. Rubin from GC JFS reported that over the last couple years with all the extra programs and funds available to families one avenue that has been under-utilized is their PRC program. This program is available for families with minor children who are at or below the 200% Federal Poverty level, and who have urgent needs. The only requirement is that those requesting assistance need to have some type of employment. JFS can assist them with car repairs, rent, utilities, and some home repairs. These funds are available for use and referrals from agencies are accepted. (See attached flyer & Link: <https://jfs.ohio.gov/OWF/prc/county/GreeneCountyPRC.pdf>)

Ms. Mayer from MHRB reported that they are meeting together with many local agencies regarding "Disconnect to Connect" -- a Youth Mental Health Series. Material to be covered will be on the positive and negative effects regarding social media, as well as youth coming out of isolation and being more involved with peers and those in their community. The Surgeon General released a Mental Health Report concerning the growing number of youths with depression and anxiety symptoms. Starting in March, 2022 and lasting throughout the summer months, the MHRB will be focusing on behavioral challenges from early childhood all the way through young adults. These personal stories from this Series will be published in the Greene County Dailies, as well as other News media outlets Summer. (See flyer & Link: <https://www.xacc.com/news-releases/general-news/2442-disconnect-to-connect.html>)

MHRB also hired 2 new individuals who started today; Mr. Adam Kemp and Mr. John Lawson:

Mr. Adam Kemp will be their new Assistant Director of Community Integrations. His responsibilities are focused on how to integrate Mental Health throughout all the other entities. He will be reporting to Ms. Rachel O'Diam, Director for Treatment & Prevention Services with her focus on Youth In Crisis Preventative Programs. Mr. Adam Kemp was formally a Beavercreek Police Officer, has his Master's Degree, and was teaching at Wright State. He was also involved as a CIT Officer in MHRB's 2006 Crisis Intervention Team on How to Respond to Mental Health Issues.

Mr. John Lawson will be the new Assistant Director of Care Transition. Mr. Lawson is a licensed Social Worker, has experience in both addiction and mental health, and is coming from Kettering Health System, and also worked at CareSource. He will be working with individuals coming in and out of care via incarceration who need support during this transition period.

Ms. Mayer also reported that a simpler Annual Funding Process Application will be coming out either today or tomorrow. Additionally, this Friday, March 11th, is the Virtual Greene County System Leadership Team Meeting.

Ms. Mayer also reported that last month they hosted the virtual "Behavioral Health Equity" event, which had good feedback from young adults. Therefore, on Saturday, March 26th, in Springfield, they will be hosting an In-

Person event, "Weighing In On The Black Experience". It is open to the community where discussions will center around solutions concerning issues of racism within our mental health and addiction systems. The facilitators for this event are HPIO (Health Policy Institute of Ohio) and Awakenings to assist this process. (See attached flyer)

Ms. Brubaker from GC Juvenile Court also shared they have concerns and are facing challenges regarding where to place youth with mental health or harmful behavioral issues as the Detention Center does not currently have a mental health therapist. They have been advertising for this position and currently have a possible candidate. They did hire a new full-time fiscal specialist.

The GC Juvenile Court system, along with law enforcement and school districts, teamed up for a community meeting on "Threat Assessment". They discussed how to continue conversations in light of school shootings and also went over assessment programs that some may or may not have in place. The Juvenile Court has some assessments that can be provided for serious concerns and threats, though normally the schools handle it first. (Link: <https://dayton247now.com/news/local/greene-county-collaboration-hopes-to-address-school-shooting-threats>)

Ms. Brubaker also reported that they were awarded a Diversion Grant for youth who are truant in Xenia and Fairborn schools. They are partnering with Sylvan Learning Centers in order to refer those youth for tutoring services. Additionally, there has been talk of partnering with Dayton Children's, but there is nothing final at that point. (See Diversion Program Flyer).

On April 21st, 2022 the GCJC is also hosting an art show in conjunction with the GC Library for children grades 7 through 12. This is a national program called "Our World through the eyes of Children". Schools will submit entries to the Library, and prizes will be awarded for students recognized. This event is open to the Public. These artworks will remain at Xenia Community Public Library until May 5th, after which they will be displayed at various places throughout Greene County on a rotating basis. (See Flyer and Link: <https://greenelibrary.info/blogs/post/student-art-contest-with-gcjc/>)

Mr. Lewis mentioned that regarding tutoring, Mr. Karl Colón, the Executive Director of the GC Library, reported that they are offering twice a week in-person tutoring at seven community libraries in Greene County as they received the ARPA Funding (American Rescue Plan Act). This program will continue until 2025. Retired teachers and military will be among the tutors, and their hope is to bridge the learning gap that has developed due to the pandemic. (See flyer and Link: <https://greenelibrary.info/levelup/>)

With no further business Ms. Mayer adjourned the meeting at 10:10am.

The next Steering Council Meeting will be on:

Monday, April 4th, 2022, starting at 9:00am, at FCF, 158 E. Main Street, Xenia.

Respectfully submitted.



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



Approved Date: