

**Lorain County Children and Families First Council**  
**Budget and Finance**  
**Virtual Meeting**

**January 17, 2024**

In attendance: **Kristen Fox** (Lorain County Children Services); **Franco Gallo** (Educational Service Center of Lorain County); **Dan Haight** (The LCADA Way); **Barbara Tamas** (Lorain County Jobs and Family Services); **Chelsea Freeman-Yates** (Director - Lorain County Children and Families First Council)

Staff: **Jon Paul Filipkowski** (Lorain County Children and Families First Council)

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Budget Committee Meeting was held on January 17, 2024 at 10:30am via Zoom. It was presided over by Chelsea Freeman-Yates with Jon Paul Filipkowski taking meeting minutes.

**II. Approval of Minutes (October 2023)**

No notes

**III. Children and Families First Council Budget Overview**

- Financial Report July 1 – December 31  
Chelsea Freeman-Yates displayed the most recent financial reports for July through December 2023. Trend shows economic stability for Children and Families First Council over the course of the fiscal year.

**IV. Funding In**

- FCSS FS24  
Children and Families First Council is moving through FDCSS dollars quickly. The agency is compliant with all data in OASCIS. There may be an increase in funding in the next fiscal year. This was proposed last fiscal year but was not received.
- TANF FS24  
Children and Families First Council is currently billing \$30,000 per month to TANF. Funding may need to be increased an additional \$150,000
- MSY/CPS  
There is a large remaining balance in the contract due to MSY/CPS funding not being utilized in the first couple years of the contract
- Polled Funds  
Board of Developmental Disability funds will be \$40,000 for FS24. ARPA funds need to be completely used by 2025, so these funds will be utilized more regularly.

**V. Program Costs**

Children and Families First Council will now become partners with the 4C committee. The agencies have not combined any funding. Through this partnership Children and Families First Council will now have access to 4C Family Stability funding. Children and Families First Council will most likely contribute money to the fund in order to have direct access to funding for families engaged with the agency.

**VI. Current Contracts**

All current contracts were discussed with specific updates for the following contracts.

- Child Care Resource Center

Children and Families First Council has struggled with supply families parent mentoring through Child Care Resource Center. A parent mentor to remain on Children and Families First Council staff may be necessary in the future.

- Catholic Charities  
Contract is pending. Catholic Charities is concerned about specific contract language and wants to revert back to older contracts. Barbara Tamas mentioned that Jobs and Family Services had ended their contract with Catholic Charities for similar reasons.
- Lorain County Public Health  
Plan of Safe Care program rolled out on January 1.
- Individual Contracts  
Jeff Kretschmar will be conducting a community perception survey and work will begin in the next few months.
- Residential  
One youth returned home from out of state residential care.

**VII. FSY24 Ideas**

- Invest EI outreach dollars with purpose \$20,000  
Chelsea Freeman-Yates is continuing talks with the mayor of Lorain to have adaptive equipment added to playground for EI. A plaque or badge would be used to signify the purpose/partnership of the equipment. The playground proposed for the project is in a low-income neighborhood, but not one low enough for many of the available grants and funding from the City of Lorain. Several other grants are being explored at the time to raise more funds for the project. Dan Haight suggested that the Rotary Club may be able to help raise funds to provide insight into project management. Dan Haight agreed to reach out to his contact to see if this is a possibility. This investment needs to be approved by the full council before the project can move forward.
- Host Community Event  
Children and Families First Council is dedicated to incorporating youth voice in the practices of the agency. Chelsea Freeman-Yates is in the planning process of a youth summit in Lorain County.
- Hire  
A new Family Service Manage position has been created and candidates will be interviewed soon. There is no need for another Family Service Coordinator at the moment. The Administrative Assistant position has been created and Children and Families First Council is currently accepting applications. Children and Families First Council is also considering salary adjustments for all employees.
- Offices  
Office furniture has been purchased for all employees. This is a sign of stability for the agency because the agency has been reliant on the use of office furniture from other agencies throughout the years.

**VIII. Scheduled meetings for FSY24**

The next budget meeting will be April 10, 2024 at 8:30am. The subsequent meeting will be July 10, 2024 at 8:30am. There is a full council meeting scheduled for January 25, 2024.

**IX. Comments/tasks assigned**

No notes

**X. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 10:55am.