

## Lorain County Children and Family Council

### Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Meeting Location: Lorain County Administration Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Commissioners' Meeting Room C, Elyria, Oh 44035

Time: 9:00-10:00 am

**Present:** **Tim Weitzel**, (Lorain County Domestic Relations Court), **Rick Soto**, (City of Lorain), **Michael Doud**, (Mental Health, Addiction and Recovery Services Board of Lorain County), **Mark Adams**, (Lorain County Public Health), **Barb Tamas**, (Chair, Lorain County Job and Family Services), **Melissa Chernock**, (Family Representative), **Barb Morgan**, (Parent Representative), **Jackie Boehnlein**, (Lorain County Community Action), **Franco Gallo**, (Lorain County Education Service Center), **Terrance Brooks**, (DYS), **Jeff Graham**, (Lorain City Schools), **Barb Morgan**, (Family Representative), **Susan Shepard**, (Family Representative), **Dan Haight**, (The LCADA Way), **Kristen Fox-Berki**, (Lorain County Children Services), **David Moore**, (Lorain County Commissioner)

**Staff:** Chelsea Freeman- Director

**Guest:** Attorney, Chris Pyanowski, Heather Knoble (Early Intervention Supervisor/DD), Karla Fitch (guest of family rep Susan Shepard)

**Guest Virtual:** Laura Mann, (Aetna/ OhioRise), Martha/ Tiffany, (Child Care Resource Center), Laura Mann, (Aetna/ OhioRise), Jay N (Oberlin City Schools), Carrie H (OhioRise/ CME), Amy C (Senior Outreach & Education Specialist/ Ohio Consumers Council)

#### Call To Order

Barb Tamas called the meeting to order at 9:00am

#### Welcome and Introductions

Barb welcomed everyone and introductions occurred around the table.

#### Approval of Minutes

Jackie motioned to approve. Franco second. Minutes approved. Motion Carried.

#### Early Intervention Report

Heather Knoble: Enrollment numbers are high and steady in recent months. Staffing is currently full and 80% of staff have been there over a year which is an accomplishment. Transition meeting conference in September was successful with many school districts present. Discussions held on how to make pre-school transitions more smooth.

#### Current Program Update

Only 9 youth on the waitlist which is great. They have been opening and closing cases well. Average over five cases a month. Plan of safe care program through Public Health is starting and cases should increase. Currently 65 open cases. Case Managers all have good caseloads. Staff have been moving through referrals well. Average length of cases is 9-12 months with 2 months being the shortest. Data collection is starting to pay off and can be shared. One in state facility placement. One in crisis placement. One in Akron Children's Hospital. One in Detention Home. The youth are all over the place with the goal of bringing them back in the county. Tim Weitzel asked what a good caseload would be in regards to numbers and Chelsea indicated under 20 would be ideal. All open cases are multi-system youth. CFFC is serving younger youth in an attempt to prevent multi-system involvement. Michael Doud of MHARS indicated that they appreciate the relationship with CFFC.

### **Old Business**

LCPH partnership with Plan of Safe Care Coordinators: Heather from public health will be at the meeting next month. Not much of an update yet.

Outreach- the Grind League was an event in Lorain that CFFC helped sponsor and were present. They used graphics on the basketball court. They started new mentoring program as well. Connecting for Kids Event and Youth Resilience Summit in Cleveland and Lorain Cares Collaboration with ESC is coming up. Outreach will continue to happen at any events.

By Law Updates All mandated members were provided with a printed copy of the by laws. These were reviewed in the meeting today but they needed to be sent to members 7 days prior to voting. This did not happen so they will be voted on in January 2024. There are 18 total members of Council once Tim Weitzel's position is added as DR Court Administrator.

Family Application created. Dan Haight advised that he could help turn this document into a fillable PDF. Motion was made by Kristen Fox and seconded by Dan Haight to implement the Family Application document. Motion Carried.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Finance, Budget, and Allocations**

Finance Committee met on October 11. Projected income is \$520,000. Remaining pooled funds are \$275,000. All of the money was maximized last year to create a reserve. Received a \$200,000 check from the county commissioners. Just involved LCCS for \$200,000 as well. Financial situation has drastically improved in recent years. Praise provided to Chelsea for her diligence to enhance relationships and partnerships. Works closely with ODJFS to help spend dollars for good causes in the community. Chelsea's leadership in this CFFC in Lorain County is unprecedented.

#### **Program, Data, and Evaluation**

Presented by Chelsea Freeman. Program Data and Evaluation Committee did not meet this quarter. Kristen and Chelsea wanted to get more people on the committee.

#### **Ad Hoc Committee- Early Intervention**

Chelsea reported that within the edited By Laws there will be an Early Childhood Committee and the AD Hoc/ Early Intervention will go within that committee. To be voted on at the January 2024 meeting.

## **New Business**

Chelsea reported about the Environmental Scan. Lots of information in this about the complexities of the county and where the council should be going. Looking to hire a family service manager and an additional family service coordinator. Effectively supervising all of these staff and cases is a challenge. Creation of goals and data points.

Vote for new officer positions for the new fiscal year beginning in January. Jackie made a motion that all positions should remain the same. Minutes reviewed and clarified by Chris P and discussed by full council; Motion: It was moved by Mark Adams, seconded by Franco Gallo, to approve Barb for Chair, Dan for Vice Chair, and Tim as Secretary. The board voted to approve these council members to remain in their current officer role for the upcoming year. Motion Carried.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Amy C provided a state update from the consumers council and will be sending out flyers on winter programs.

Chelsea mentioned the following dates for the remaining FSY24 meetings: January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Franco seconded by Rick to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 a.m. Motion carried.