

Meeting Date: April 18, 2024

Meeting Location: Lorain County Administration Building, 4th Floor Commissioner's Meeting Room A, Elyria, OH 44035

Time: 9:00 – 10:00am

Present: Dan Haight (The LCADA Way), Dr. Jeff Graham (Lorain City Schools), Barbara Tamas, (Chair, Lorain County Job and Family Services), Jon Filipkowski, (Family Service Manager), Rick Soto (City of Lorain), John Gall (Commissioners Office representing Commissioner Riddell), Susan Shepard, (Family Representative), Franco Gallo (Educational Service Center), Mark Adams, (Lorain County Public Health), Melissa Chernock, (Family Representative), Amber Fisher, (Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities).

Staff: Jon Paul Filipkowski

Call to Order:

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

Welcome and Introductions:

Barbara welcomed everyone and introductions occurred around the table.

Approval of Minutes:

Dan Haight motioned to approve.

Franco Gallo second.

Rick Soto noted an error on page 3, his name is misspelled. Correction noted.

Motion carried minutes adopted with the correction to Soto last name

Old Business:

Outreach and Community Events:

A list of events the Council has hosted and sponsored was reviewed they include:

- Connecting for Kids Event – sponsored in February
- Lorain Care Summit – sponsoring in May
- The Grind League Summer Camp – sponsoring this summer
- Lorain County Fair – sponsoring Children's Day and tabling in August
- EI Playground Grand Opening Event – hosting grand opening in late summer
- Youth Mental Health Summit – hosting Fall 2024

Family Representatives:

We are in need of a family rep to join council. The application was attached to the email invite.

Youth Leadership Council:

The Council has met. Nineteen youth have shown interest in being part of the youth leadership council, and 8 or 9 youth are actively participating. Hopefully, some of these youth will be able to attend a full council meeting in the future.

Youth voice and choice is a focus of the Ohio Children and Families First Councils this year, we are incorporating this into much of what our council does.

Committee reports:

Finance Committee last met on April 10th. The Council continues to maximize all funding streams. Funds are being used for proper uses. Regarding MSY funds, Ohio Rise has been using more and more of these funds, the State is not able to show how the MSY funds is being allocated when Ohio Rise usage is factored in, however, it does seem most MSY funds are still used locally. All pooled funding has been received for this fiscal year – Thank You!

OCBF application:

The application has been completed and signed by the required individuals. The State increased the OCBF funds to \$30,750.00. These funds are to be used for operational purposes and capacity building in the community. Examples of how these funds may be used include: mileage, stipends for family reps, subscriptions & publications, utilities, audit fees, travel expenses, and outreach expenses.

Approval of the OCBF application:

Mark Adams motioned to approve

Jeff Graham second

Motion carried the OCBF application FSY2025 has been reviewed and approved.

Program, Data and Evaluation Committee – no update this committee has not met this quarter.

Early Childhood Committee: Amber Fisher reports: This committee has transitioned from the Early Intervention Ad Hoc Committee. The committee met in February. At this meeting the committee did a deep dive into the EI referral data submitted by Neighborhood Alliance. This review provided a data driven understanding why children are referred but don't always end up enrolled in the EI program. Isaac is doing a great job! The committee will continue to look more closely at the tables of information Isaac shared to make meaningful conclusions. One agenda item for the next meeting is to talk about the broader purpose of the committee.

New Business:

The Service Coordination Mechanism and Dispute Resolution is due in Dec. 2024. Chelsea and Jon Paul have discussed and will continue to utilize what was in place and what is working. They will make changes to areas they feel are outdated and not working well. Service Coordinator and HFW training has been completed by all the service coordinators.

Meeting dates for FSY25: July 25, 2024; October 24, 2024; January 23, 2025; April 17, 2025

All meetings start at 9am

Board and Guest Comments:

Susan Shepherd shared that Child Find preschools and daycares help to identify disability issues. How often do parents know about a child's potential disability prior to ages 2 or 2 1/2 when children are entering preschool? This is important area to take a closer look at.

Dan Haight shared a health fair regarding women and children for providers is scheduled for May 17th at Lorain County Public Health. Several organizations are working collaboratively to provide a summit of resources centered around women and children. One goal is to educate providers about what is available in our county. Dan will send information to this group.

Kristen Fox Berki shared information about the upcoming Hero for a Day event scheduled for May 19th.

Adjournment:

Franco Gallo motioned to adjourn

Mark Adams second

Barbara Tamas adjourned the meeting at 9:37am