

# WAYNE COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL

## MEETING

February 6, 2023

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### Present:

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Esther Hawkins, Council Director  
Jaime Parsons, Viola Starzman Clinic, Chair 2023  
James Fox, Community Action Wayne Medina/Head Start, Vice Chair  
Sheryl Villegas, Catholic Charities, Chair 2021-22  
Richard Owens, Wayne Co. Dept. of Job and Family Services  
Tiffanie Kestner, The Counseling Center of Wayne-Holmes Cos.  
Ashley Hershberger (For Mayor Brenneman), City of Wooster  
Sara Reith, O'Huddle  
Nick Cascarelli, Wayne County Health Department  
Sue Smail, Wayne County Commissioner  
Amanda Terakedis (For Gabe Tudor), Wooster City Schools  
Gloria Questel (For Deanna Nichols-Stika), Wayne County Children Services Board  
Joanna Edwards, Mental Health and Recovery Board of Wayne-Holmes Cos.  
Aaron Bernstein, HMG EI  
Mark Woods, Anazao Community Partners

### Guests

Jamey McKenzie II, MCJAS  
Shayne Oehlhof, Wayne County Child Support  
Marnie Reber, Southeast Local Schools  
Allison Vizzo, Tri-County ESC  
Tami Spotts, Anazao Community Partners/ FCFC  
Travis Hutchinson, Sherriff  
Angela Wypasek, Wayne County Prosecutor's Office  
Naomi Eberly, Wayne County Public Library  
Stacey Tanner, Wayne Co. Job and Family Services  
Hanna Cowie, SST-9  
Beverly Theil, Community Advocate  
Jim Pyers, Mental Health and Recovery Board of Wayne-Holmes Cos.  
Haley Tracy Bursley, Wayne County Public Library  
Bobbi Douglass, One-Eighty  
Sherry Gibson, Coleman  
Kimberly Shelton, Catholic Charities

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### Call to Order

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The meeting was held at the Wayne County Public Library in Wooster. Jaime Parsons, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m.

Introductions and announcements were made.

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### Exceptions to Consent Agenda

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**Smail made the motion seconded by Owens to accept the consent Agenda as presented.**  
Motion approved unanimously.

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## Minutes

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**Fox made the motion seconded by Hershberger that the Minutes of the December, 2022 Meeting of the Council be approved as submitted.**

Motion approved unanimously.

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## Financial Reports

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Edwards reported that Rowland continues to work on the financials. Parsons noted that Rowland had reviewed the fiscal report in detail with Resource and Grants Management Committee the previous week and everything was as expected.

**Owens then made the motion seconded by Cascarelli that the Financial Report be approved as submitted.** Motion approved unanimously.

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## Old Business

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Cascarelli expressed gratitude for all the sacrifices made during the last two years of the pandemic. He stated that the efforts made had reduced spread and undoubtedly saved lives.

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## New Business

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Parsons thanked the MHRB for hosting FCFC for the last 37 years during so many transitions and announced that FCFC is in process of seeking a new Administrative Agent who will take over these duties on July 1. Parsons reviewed the purpose for which FCFC was created and stressed that our priority is to make sure that all Wayne County kids are taken care of and that there be no gaps in services.

**On April 3, 2023 we will be voting on the recommendation for new AA that will be coming from the Executive Committee and it is crucial that we have quorum. Please plan to attend or email Hawkins if sending a designee.**

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## Council Business

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### Family Engagement:

Hampton and Nolletti have both offered to help with getting to move Council to a new Administrative Agent. Hampton has been helping to scan documents so that we can decrease the paper that will need to be moved.

*Reduce the number of kids and time spent out of home:*

### Diversion Team:

Hawkins reported that our numbers remain at close to historic lows with 100 youth out of home on February 1. Our lowest number was 97 on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Asha House:

Hawkins reported Asha continues to do what it was designed for. We are transitioning youth, providing respite and emergency CSB placements when needed. When we have empty beds, we are allowing FCFCs in other counties to place youth who are transitioning home.

Parsons noted that Asha House is in need of bath towels and a few other items. If you are able to donate, please drop them off at the FCFC office. Nolletti is compiling a list of needs that will be shared.

CSB Residential Unit, FFPSA, Crisis Stabilization and CANS:

Questel and Villegas reported that CSB continues to partner with Catholic Charities to do the CANS assessments for youth in their custody and those in parents' custody with private insurance not covered by Medicaid/OhioRise.

Questel noted that CSB out of home numbers have decreased in large part thanks to Kinnect, a program that provides training and tools to help CSB make connections for kids. This has led to an increase in kinship placements and reduced the need for foster- residential.

Questel also shared that the Family Recovery Court has made an impact in reducing the amount of time kids spend out of home. CSB has established a unit to work specifically with these families.

In Home Intensive:

Villegas reported that they continue to meet regarding OhioRise and all are finding it difficult to find behavioral specialists willing to go into homes. Wayne County no longer has MST but they are continuing to work with families.

FCSS/FCFC Service Coordination:

Spotts reported that she is currently working with 45 families and continues to collaborate with all the agencies who do coordination of services (WRAP, WISE, TIP). Between all programs they are receiving 5-7 new referrals per month and are working together to ensure that the strengths/expertise of the program is the best fit to meet the needs of the family.

Spotts is working with families in every school district and nearly every school building in the County.

WISE Wraparound:

Villegas reported that WISE Wraparound is currently serving 30 youth with dual diagnosis of MH and DD. While the numbers are down a bit, possibly as a result of OhioRise, they are working on reimagining how to best serve families in this new environment. Catholic Charities is currently offering in-home respite for youth with developmental disabilities as the result of a grant received by Wayne and Ashland Boards.

Lisa Kelly will continue to serve as Project Manager for WISE despite opening her own private practice.

Family Stabilization & Home Transition Coordination:

Woods reported that they currently have 8 youth in HTC. While the numbers are low, these are the highest need youth in the County with 5/8 currently in residential with 3 of the 5 at imminent risk of being disrupted from the placements with nowhere to safely go.

Woods noted that Sarah Doohan has taken the role of SC/Family Services Coordinator since Beth Falb's departure in December.

Early Intervention/HMG:

Bernstein reported that Wayne County continues to see record number of referrals. He noted that many families with young children are still sheltering in place and our systems should be planning for the coming influx of kids who are delayed by 1-3 years. Theil noted that more kids will be getting IEPs at an early age and parents need to understand that they may not need these programs once kids are caught up to same age peers.

HMG is working to bring back parent support groups similar to what they had prior to the pandemic. There was a discussion regarding the history of different parent support groups and Douglass noted that there is a group attempting to launch.

#### *Increase Youth Assets*

##### Wayne Resiliency Network:

Edwards reported that network is looking at a different date for the April meeting and may begin to move every other meeting to in person alternating meetings between that and an online option. They have been talking about personality, leadership styles and strategies about how to respond to stressors especially for school staff.

##### Youth Mentors:

Ohuddle-- Reith reports that they are serving 573 youth with 1:1 mentoring. This is well over the number of youth served by all surrounding counties combined. 170 kids are participating with kiosks and will be eligible to receive a tablet once they complete all. Locations of the kiosks include Books In Stock and Flex Yoga. They cover topics that include healthy meals and exercise.

Reith noted that they are working with an increased number of youth who have been expelled from school to link with service coordination and other programs.

Ohuddle's Golden Circle Gala will be held on February 25<sup>th</sup>.

Catholic Charities—Villegas reports that Strive Mentoring program, through the Juvenile Court is currently serving 13 kids with 10 adult mentors. They just held their first Mentor Appreciation event and continue to look for more mentors. If interested and able to give 4 hours per month, please contact Sheryl Villegas.

Anazao Community Partners—Woods noted that they currently have case managers imbedded in all the school districts but could use 6-7 more.

##### Public Libraries:

Bursley and Eberly reported that they have a middle school program in partnership with Circle Coalition on 4/27. This will include pizza, games and a free book. There is a wide variety of programs taking place at the branches and main library for National Craft Month in March. All types of crafts made by all ages/skill levels are welcome until 2/15—they would like to receive more submissions from kids.

##### OSU Extension:

Beckett was unable to attend but asked that it be announced that it is time to write the next SNAP grant application and they would be reaching out to all agency contacts for documentation to set up FY24.

##### Schools:

Wooster City—Terakedis reported that grant funded spots are available at The Littlest Generals. Families can enroll online. The new enrollment date is 8/1.

Southeast Local—Reber reported that they have set up small community libraries in Apple Creek, Fredericksburg and Holmesville. They are also partnering with Viola Startzman Clinic to facilitate referrals

##### Boys and Girls Club:

No report

#### Parks and Recreation:

Hershberger reported that the Wooster Recreation Dept is updating their comprehensive plan. They will be looking at the parks and reaching out to agencies for input. Pool passes will be available on April 4 and they will continue to work with agencies to help kids gain access. She also noted that the city is spotlighting one agency each month (Woo for You) and will send out information via FCFC to all partners.

#### Parenting:

Villegas reported that Catholic Charities has Triple P discussion groups through OCTF being offered monthly from March to May. Unfortunately, there is no childcare available. They are continuing to explore ways to get parents together. Free, online Triple P is also being offered.

#### Home visiting:

No report.

#### Pandemic Health Emergency Programs:

Owens reported that an estimated 400,000 will be losing Medicaid soon. He stressed that **everyone who has Medicaid must make sure JFS has their current contact information**. They will begin reviewing all cases in April. Higher Medicaid reimbursements will also be ending for practitioners.

Supplemental SNAP will be ending this month. This does not affect the base SNAP benefit—it is only the supplemental funds provided during the health emergency. This has the potential to impact local food banks and grocery stores. Wayne County families have been receiving an additional \$900,000 each month since this program was implemented. There will be economic impact in addition to the impact on individual families.

Parsons noted that Viola Startzman has just brought on two new navigators who can help people connect to health insurance. They are available to go to agencies and into the community. These navigators do not receive any incentive to help people sign up with any company and are impartial helpers.

#### *Keep our Families Substance Free*

#### One-Eighty and Community Coalitions:

Douglas reported that Wayne County currently has 4 coalitions (Turning Point, Circle, SALT and Chippewa Cares). Kristina Hoskins is the new coalitions coordinator. They attended a conference about substance use, teen dating violence etc. with 6 kids.

They are doing a CHIPS training about how to not serve underage people.

One-Eighty is about to open transitional housing that will be named for Judy Worthum-Wood. They continue to run multiple levels of men's and women's housing that supports persons following treatment. Data shows that pairing housing with treatment leads to better outcomes.

The federal government is pushing treatment to be reduced to 30 days. Especially with this development, supportive housing is needed.

#### Health Department:

Cascarelli reported that they are in process of beginning an Overdose Fatality Review Board. This is not mandated but must be appointed by the Commissioners if a County would like to have one. This Board will review premature deaths due to overdose and will be looking for trends as well as ways to prevent further deaths.

Wayne County has lost nearly 70 people to overdose in the last couple of years. Pre-pandemic, our average number of deaths due to overdose was 25 each year.

It was noted that there will be Homelessness call to action program at Central Presbyterian Church on Thursday at 7pm.

Project Dawn is online and a simple process through the Health Department website that will provide two doses of Narcan upon completion. The College of Wooster is pairing Narcan with AED devices. There are approximately 80 doses available on campus.

Cascarelli also noted that a survey from ODH was sent out this week by FCFC. ODH will be providing the Wayne County data to us and all are encouraged to complete the survey via the link sent out. All responses are due by 2/9. He requested that the survey be shared with staff. Parsons noted that this data will help us get rural health grants.

In January Wayne County saw an increase in adolescent ED visits for mental health.

Viola Startzman:

Parsons reported that kids' health needs are not being met. VS is able to provide via telehealth—our kids should not be in pain. They will take care of kids in emergency situations regardless of insurance or paperwork.

VS is continuing to do dental outreach and are exceeding capacity with two teams visiting schools each week so are exploring expansion.

A women's health practitioner is now placed at One-Eighty to address a women's health concerns including birth control and STDs.

For the Good of the Order:

Smail reported that Wayne county will be receiving about \$20,000 per year from the One Ohio Opiate fund. There is another pot of money that will need to be applied for and it is being explored.

Smail noted that the Governor's budget proposal was sent out this week and it is very generous in its support of children. We are encouraged to reach out to Landis and Wiggam to ask for their support.

Smail shared that although Wayne County is one of the few places that could support itself in a food crisis, we are losing farmland at a fast pace and are at risk of losing "rural county status" if it doesn't stop happening.

Theil pointed out that we are still losing 400 people every day to covid and new variants are still developing. These new variants appear to be less deadly but vaccinations are still needed to prevent deaths.

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## Next Meeting

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The next Council meeting will be February 6, 2023; 9:35 at the Wayne County Public Library in Wooster

Parsons adjourned the meeting at 11:06.

Submitted by,

Jaime Parsons, Chair

**Wayne County Family and Children First  
Consent Agenda  
December 5, 2022**

The Executive Committee met on November 29, 2022. The following actions were taken and stand approved:

1. **Cascarelli made the motion, seconded by Smail that the minutes of the September 27, 2022 meeting be approved as presented. Motion carried.**
2. **Owens made the motion, seconded by Cascarelli that Council Financials through September, 2022 be approved as recommended by Resource and Grants Management Committee. There being no opposition, or further discussion, the motion carried.**
3. **Owens made a motion seconded by Smail that Executive Committee accept the recommendation of Resource and Grants Management Committee that Executive Committee request funds from the Wayne Holmes Mental Health and Recovery Board to contract through Community Action of Wayne and Medina to hire administrative support for Council. Motion Carried.**
4. **Owens made a motion seconded by Cascarelli that letters and invoices be sent to members suggesting an increase in contributions and that a solicitation letter be sent out to community members by the end of the calendar year. Motion carried.**

The following committees met in October and November. Minutes pending approval by committees:

Resource and Grants Management w/ Executive – Met on November 29, 2022  
Prenatal to Five – Met on November 6, 2022

The following resolutions are before the Council for action on December 5, 2022

1. Approval of December 5, 2022 Consent Agenda
2. Approval of October 3, 2022 full Council minutes
3. Approval of September 2022 Financials