

WAYNE COUNTY FAMILY & CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL

**Minutes**

Wooster City Parks- Freedlander Chalet

## October 2, 2023, 9:35 AM

**In Attendance:**

Members: Ashley Hershberger- Mandated, City of Wooster Designee

Richard Owens- Mandated, Wayne County Department of Jobs & Family Services (WCJFS)

Ken Kelly (for Dave Ashley)- Mandated, Wayne County Board of Developmental Disabilities Designee

Patty Baumgartner- Mandated, Wayne County Board of Developmental Disabilities, EI Designee

Deanna Nichols-Stika- Mandated, Wayne County Children Services Board (WCCSB)

Nick Cascarelli- Mandated, Health Department

Joanna Edwards- Mandated, WHMHRB

Sheryl Villegas- Catholic Charities- Non-Profit Representative

Sara Reith- Ohuddle- Non-Profit Representative

Beverly Theil- Family Representative

Tiffanie Kestner- The Counseling Center of Wayne & Holmes Counties- Non-Profit Representative

James Fox- Mandated, Head Start, Community Action

Christine Nolletti- Family Representative

Esther Hawkins- Wayne County Family and Children First Council

Guests: Naomi Eberly- Wayne County Public Library

Kristina Hoskins- OneEighty

Krista Fitzsimmons- WCBDD, HMG Home Visiting

Sarah Doohan- Anazao Community Partners

Alisson Vizzo- Tri-County ESC

Darcy Becker- OSU Extention, SNAP-Ed

Lisa Conner- WCCSB

Stacey Tanner- WCJFS

 Elke King- COAD

 Marnie Willet- The Village Network

 Heather Olsen- Wooster City Schools

James McKenzie- MJAS

Nate Franck- CSEA

Kimberlee Sheller- Catholic Charities

Vivian Troyer- Service Coordination- Anazao Community Partners/FCFC

Kim Howard- WHMHRB

**Call to Order**

Fox called the meeting to order at 9:35. Introductions were made.

**Consent Agenda**

Reith made the motion, seconded by Owens that the Consent Agenda be approved. There being no discussion or opposition, the motion carried.

**August 2023 Minutes** **and Committee Reports**

Hershberger made the motion, seconded by Owens that the August, 2023 minutes and committee reports be approved as submitted. There being no discussion or opposition, the motion carried.

### September 2023 Financials

Conner reported that we received $268,357.10 in July and August and spent $213,204.23. Cascarelli made the motion, seconded by Reith, that the Financials be accepted as reported. There being no opposition, the motion carried.

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**

Fox shared and read a proposed change to the bylaws that updates Prenatal to Five Committee and changes its name to Wayne Early Childhood Coalition. Theil suggested that we change “guardian” to “custodian” and focus on coordination of referrals. Fox noted that per bylaws, there will be one more reading at the next December meeting prior to voting whether to approve. He asked that anyone who has suggestions or comments, email Hawkins.

**COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

**Shared Plan Data Update—**Hawkins—Action Required

Hawkins reported that the state released their Shared Plan report this past week. Hawkins noted that every county was required to include a goal regarding service coordination. Additionally, Wayne included reducing the number of kids in residential placement along with the amount of time they spend out of home. 3 other counties included a similar goal. Substance use prevention is another of our goals that is shared with 8 other counties. Our third goal is increasing youth assets which a goal of 20% of Ohio’s Councils.

**Family Engagement**

Hawkins noted that there is an opening for a Family Representative and asked that anyone who has a suggestion regarding who would be good to fill that position, contact her following the meeting.

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

Diversion Team: Hawkins reported that our numbers across all systems continue to be at historic lows with a total 105 average for this calendar year to date. We are averaging 22 in residential at point in time check which is down from last year’s average of 28.

We have been approved for our first state MSY funds this year with one more application still under review at the state.

Asha Step-Down & Respite House: Since July 1 we have had 6 kids able to stay in emergency respite for a combined total of 19 nights funded by MH Crisis dollars. This has saved local dollars and sped up the approval of funding so it also saves front line workers and diversion team members time.

Crisis Stabilization: Edwards reported that carry over has been approved for regional crisis funds.

CANS: Villegas reported that they conducted 5 CANS in the first quarter and have a new assessor starting training with Shelby Call.

**Expand Capacity for Service Coordination/Wraparound:**

FCSS – Service Coordination—FCFC/Anazao: Troyer reported that she is working with 27 families ongoing, received 13 new referrals, some of which have moved to Catholic Charities, 2 went to Coleman (OHR/CME) and 2 families declined. Three of the youth she is working with are in need of residential level of care and the team is looking for placement, 3 of her youth are currently in residential treatment.

FCFC/Anazao Family Stabilization & Home Transition Coordination—Anazao: Doohan reported that there are currently 5 open cases, down from 9 with all 5 currently stable.

WISE Wraparound- Catholic Charities: Villegas reported that they are working with 25 families. There is no waitlist. WISE works with families of youth who are dually diagnosed- Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities.

Early Intervention: Baumgartner reported that they are serving 177 children between the ages of 0 to 3. They are partnering with WCDD to host Trunk or Treat at Ida Sue on 10/20 from 10-noon.

**Increase Youth Assets:**

Wayne Resiliency Network: Edwards reported that they will be meeting on Wednesday at the ESC to continue to work on/coordinate the Crisis Plans and how they can assist during a major event.

Youth Mentors

Ohuddle: Reith reported that they are serving 600 students. Each month every building has a “Service Coordination Lite” meeting in order to divide tasks among partners including Goodwill, Mental Health Providers, etc. They will be holding the Cocoa Express on 12/9 and are in need of holiday decorations including working lights.

Catholic Charities/Juvenile Court: Villegas shared that STRIVE currently has 7 volunteers that work with 10 court-involved youth and are engaging in activities such as escape room, camping, cooking classes, etc. They could use more volunteers. If anyone is willing to give 4 hours a month to help a youth, please contact her.

Public Libraries—Wayne County and Orrville: Eberly reported that the renovations have begun at the Wooster Library that will include a sensory room and updated children’s section. The construction is expected to last until March.

OSU Extension: Becker shared that SNAP-Ed is serving pre-school aged children, they are doing nutrition and budgeting classes at Melrose Elementary; agriculture and natural resources is only part of what FFA does—STEM, sales, career development, public speaking are also part of the program. We have several youths on the Jr. Fair Board actively involved in planning the Fair.

Youth from Wayne County have received scholarships for college, with 10 winning state trophies including 2 who earned clock trophies—the highest honor.

School Initiatives, Afterschool Programs, Art & Music, Sports, Faith Community, Employment:

Vizzo (ESC) shared that a documentary- Truth About Reading- that deals with Dyslexia would be shown at Shisler Center on 10/18 at 6pm. It is free but pre-registration is required.

Hershberger (Wooster City) shared that city-wide Trick Or Treat will be held on 10/28 from 4 to 8pm. Neighborhood days/times are posted on the city website. Clear Creek Park is putting in a playground with the help of COW students. Christmas Run is planning to reopen next year with a 2025 update being considered by city Council tonight. Swoop, a new company is offering transportation in the city through an online platform. This transportation is subsidized.

Fox (CAWM) noted that he is talking with Share Mobility to after school, on demand transportation.

Parenting:

Ohio Children’s’ Trust Fund-Catholic Charities: Villegas reported that they are offering Triple-P along with discussion groups for families of children 0-12 around 5 subjects.

Home Visiting:

Fitzsimmons reported that HMG-HV is working with 41 families and have 4 referrals being processed. They are working on planning baby showers for the end of this year.

**Keep our families Substance Free:**

Health Department: Cascarelli shared that drug overdoses and deaths are down in CY23 compared to pre-pandemic data. There have been 15 overdose deaths this calendar year. The newly established Overdose Fatality Review Board will consider these on November 1. 350 NARCAN kits were given out at the Fair. September was Recovery Month and more kits were distributed at different events during that time.

The Health Department is moving into the new building (former Red Cross) in November. Environmental office will remain at County Building.

 Mental health emergency room visits for adolescents are up. This could be because they are getting more help or more youth need this level of care.

Cascarelli reminded all to get their Flu shots and Covid boosters at doctor’s offices and pharmacies. The Health Department is focusing on uninsured and underinsured persons.

OneEighty and Coalitions: Hoskins (One-Eighty) reported that they have started offering primary medical care along with psychiatric services.

The Circle Coalition is holding their annual Harvest Bash on 10/28 from 5-8 at St. Mary’s.

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned by acclamation at 10:20

**NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING: December 4, 2023; *Chalet at Freedlander Park, Wooster***

**Wayne County Family and Children First**

**Consent Agenda**

October 2, 2023

**The Executive Committee** met on August 28, 2023. The following actions were taken and stand approved:

1. **Cascarelli made the motion, seconded by Parsons that the expenses be approved for payment as presented. There being no further discussion or opposition. The motion carried. Woods abstained.**

**The Executive Committee** met on September 26, 2023. The following actions were taken and stand approved:

1. **Owens made the motion, seconded by Cascarelli that the minutes from the July 2023 meeting be approved as submitted. There being no opposition, the motion carried.**
2. **Owens made the motion, seconded by Cascarelli to approve SFY23 financials as presented. There being no opposition, motion carried.**
3. **Owens made the motion, seconded by Cascarelli to approve payment of September bills as presented. There being no opposition, motion carried. Woods abstained.**
4. **Owens made the motion, seconded by Cascarelli to approve the process for bill payment as recommended by Resource Grants. There being no opposition, motion carried.**
5. **Woods made the motion to approve the SFY24 year to date Council Financial Report as submitted. Smail seconded. There being no opposition, the motion carried.**
6. **Nolletti made the motion to approve the Vacation/Leave Policy for FCFC as presented. Owens seconded. There being no opposition, the motion carried.**
7. **Jackwood made the motion to approve the update to the Bylaws as proposed and submit to full Council for their consideration. Stika seconded.** **There being no opposition, the motion carried.**

**The following committees met in February and March. Minutes pending approval by committees:**

**Executive Committee—Met on August 28, 2023**

**Resource and Grants Management w/ Executive –** Met onSeptember 26, 2023

**Prenatal to Five** –Met onSeptember 20, 2023

**The following resolutions are before the Council for action on October 2, 2023**

**1. Approval of October 2, 2023 Consent Agenda**

**2. Approval of August 7, 2023 full Council minutes**

**3. Approval of July- September 2023 Financials**

**Proposed FCFC Policy for Paying Bills:**

The Wayne County Family and Children First Council Executive Committee recommends to full Council to authorize the Executive Director to pay all creditors in the following categories: Contracts, Diversion, Projects, and Administration within the approved budget. For any irregular bills, the Executive Director will seek approval of the Executive Committee prior to paying such a bill.

**Proposed Wayne County FCFC Policy for Staff Leave:**

Wayne County FCFC staff follows the personnel policy of our Administrative Agent in keeping with the requirements made in ORC 121.37(B) “A county council's administrative agent shall serve as the council's appointing authority for any employees of the council.”

However, because Council staff is supervised by the Executive Coordinating Committee, requests for planned leave (vacation, court, military, family and medical or maternity) and notifications of unplanned (sick or emergency) absences will be approved/declined by Council Chair with Administrative Agent copied. These requests must be done in writing by text or email.

**Proposed change to Bylaws**:

SECTION 9.4 WAYNE EARLY CHILDHOOD COALITION. The Wayne Early Childhood Coalition shall:

* Identify and coordinate a continuum of services that meet the social, medical, educational, and mental health needs of parents of children prenatal to age five in Wayne County.
* Identify gaps in services, overlap or duplication of services and any significant unmet service needs of families.
* Oversee the development of a comprehensive plan of prenatal to five services for Council consideration. Recommend expansion and funding of expansion to fill gaps to provide a continuum of services.
* Oversee the development and implementation of the Help Me Grow program.
* Serve as Advisory Committee for Head Start.
* Establish a system to coordinate referrals so that there is “No Wrong Door” for families to access appropriate services.
* Provide training for front-line staff serving children pre-natal to five years of age and their families.
* Provide training and linkage to training for parents and guardians of young children.
* Serve as the county Early Childhood Coordinating Committee established pursuant to the federal Early Intervention program operated under the “Education of the Handicapped Act Amendments of 1986”.

9.5.1 COMPOSITION The membership of the Prenatal to Five Committee shall consist of those identified in the “Education of the Handicapped Act amendments of 1986” (Families, Educators and Service Providers) and representation from all agencies serving young children to include: Head Start, Early Intervention- Help Me Grow, Home Visiting, Early Childhood Mental Health, Literacy, Childcare, Education, At-Risk children (Children Services, Homeless), Physical Health, Social Services and others with an interest in serving young children and their families.

The Wayne Early Childhood Coalition will have two co-chairs who will be appointed by the Council Chair. One of the co-chairs must be the parent or guardian of a child who has received prenatal to five services.