

WAYNE COUNTY FAMILY & CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL

**Minutes**

Wooster City Parks- Freedlander Chalet

## December 4, 2023, 9:35 AM

**In Attendance:**

Members: Ashley Hershberger- Mandated, City of Wooster Designee

Stacey Tanner (for Rich Owens) -Mandated, Wayne County Department of Jobs & Family Services (WCJFS)

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

Vicky Hartzler- Mandated, WHMHRB

Sheryl Villegas- Catholic Charities- Non-Profit Representative

Sara Reith- O’Huddle- Non-Profit Representative

Beverly Theil- Family Representative

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

Esther Hawkins- Wayne County Family and Children First Council

Joel Chupp –Viola Startzman - Non-Profit Representative

Sue Smail – Wayne County Commissioner

Heather Olsen (For Gabe Tudor)- Mandated, Wooster City Schools

Renee Jackwood – FCFC Family Representative

Judge Latecia Wiles – Wayne County Juvenile Court

Kristin Kerr – (For James Fox) Mandated Head Start- CAW/M

Guests: Naomi Eberly- Wayne County Public Library

Krista Fitzsimmons- WCBDD, HMG Home Visiting

Allison Vizzo- Tri-County ESC

Marnie Willet- The Village Network

James McKenzie- MJAS

Nate Franck- CSEA

Vivian Troyer- Service Coordination- Anazao Community Partners/FCFC

Kim Howard- WHMHRB

Hanna Cowie – SST-9

Johnathan Hofstetter – Wayne County Commissioner

Ashley Poynter – Wayne County Children Services

Robert Bean – OneEighty

**Call to Order**

Cascarelli called the meeting to order at 9:38 am. Introductions were made.

**Consent Agenda**

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

**October 2023 Minutes** **and Committee Reports**

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

### December 2023 Financials

Hawkins reported that there are three bills over $60k along with normal monthly bills. The three higher placement invoices are from Children Services for $86,354.69, $74,122.17, and $61,467.17. for August, September, and October. These are funded through the MHRB grant. Smail made the motion, seconded by Reith that the financials be approved. There being no discussion or opposition, the motion carried. Stika abstained.

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**

Cascarelli read the Bylaws for the second time, as required for a vote by Council:

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 **and Home Visiting**
* 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 guardians.

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.

Tanner made the motion, seconded by Stika that the new bylaws be approved. There being no discussion or opposition, the motion carried.

**COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

**Family Engagement**

Hawkins noted that a new family representative will be needed with Ms. Theil leaving to serve on MHRB’s Board.

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

Diversion Team: Hawkins reported the number of out of home kids in November was 108. From September to November the number of youths in Treatment Foster Care has decreased from 25 to 23 kids and the number of youths in MH Residential Treatment fluxuated up from 22 to 24 before decreasing back to 22 in November. 105.6 is the average out of home at any given time in SFY. Last year was 114.3.

Asha Step-Down & Respite House: Hawkins stated that the house has been used more for respite care recently as there have been fewer emergency placements.

Crisis Stabilization: Stika updated on the placement crisis. The state PCSAO meeting was held this past week, with our new Department of Children and Youth Director Kara Wente. She has really moved forward with improvements; however, it may be 6-8 months before we see anything significant. PRTF care has been approved, with providers coming online at the beginning of the year. Hoping for 100 more beds in the first year. These are the top two issues we will see in Wayne County that Director Wente is working on.

CANS: Villegas reported that currently there are three staff members that can complete CANS. Will continue to meet about issues that arise.

FDTC: Wiles stated the name has changed to Recovery Court. The program is stable with a few recent graduates. Numbers are down due to not admitting new clients at the request of CSB. The program requires such an intense need, and caseworker numbers are still low. Hoping to start admitting again in January.

Home Based Treatment/MRSS: Kestner reported that IHBT/MRSS is in high demand. Two peer recovery specialists have been added.

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

FCSS – Service Coordination—FCFC/Anazao: Troyer reported that there are 11 new referrals with 29 ongoing families. Monitoring 2 in residential with 3 more being referred. Hawkins added that the average cost per family served with FCSS grant funds was $793.22 and noted that this is a high return on investment. Wayne County served 47 unique individuals through this grant last year.

WISE Wraparound: Villegas states they are currently serving 28 people with 6 new referrals. Looking to integrate people better into the community by going to Probate Court to learn more about the guardian process and to the fire department to learn how to better contact emergency response departments. Buckeye Ranch has a PRTF that opened in November.

FCFC/Anazao Family Stabilization & Home Transition Coordination—Anazao: Troyer reports there are five cases with three in placement and two at home.

Early Intervention: Baumgartner reported there are 170-180 in the program. Still taking referrals with no wait list.

**Increase Youth Assets:**

Wayne Resiliency Network: Howard states the current focus is to look at the universal crisis response in schools. Looking at different models that can help cope with death and loss. WRN is meeting on 12/6.

O’Huddle: Reith reports there are 600 kids currently being served in 13 different schools. It is the 10-year anniversary of O’Huddle. A first ever mentee served with the Youth Service Award. She went in front of the Supreme Court in Columbus to accept the award. Expert T’s is providing each kid with spirit wear for Christmas. All students in O’Huddle will be with a mentor at the Cocoa Express Christmas Train event. 800 ball gowns have been donated for junior and senior girls to choose from for prom this year.

Catholic Charities: Villegas shared there are 10 mentees in the Strive Program. Always looking for more mentors.

Public Libraries—Wayne County and Orrville: Eberly reported that the new Rittman branch library is open as of today. Wooster library is getting updates inside and outside. Hope to be done by spring.

Sports: Hershberger (Wooster City) shared that Santa’s mailbox is downtown but will be taken down on Friday. The basketball program with Wayne and Holmes counties has 1084 kids enrolled with 203 volunteer coaches. AARP can be used for free tax aid in the community. Take appointments starting January 8th.

**Parenting:**

Triple P: Villegas states they have parenting education with Stepping Stones. Parent does not have to be a client at Catholic Charities to participate. The program can be done at other agencies.

CSB: Stika noted that CSB works with families using Triple P in their own home. Currently have two staff that work with parents on parent education household expectations.

Hep Me Grow Home Visiting: Fitzsimmons let all know there is a community baby shower from 11:00-1:00 at the Orrville Public Library today.

**Keep our families Substance Free:**

Health Department: Cascarelli shared there has been tracking of mental health indicators and Emergency Room visits for children. With comparing pre-pandemic to now, it is 3% higher than normal. There were 184 visits through October. Pre-pandemic overdose deaths are down 8% with 16 deaths through the end of October. This number is lower than normal, as pre-pandemic averaged 24 per year.

One-Eighty: Bean stated there are psychiatric services and mentoring in five districts. Hidden in plain sight training will be happening for parents.

MHRB: Hartzler let everyone know there is a Drug Free Community meeting this Friday. The hope is to get the meeting to get back to in person. Will use community and health assessments to get it back up and running.

Startzman: Chupp shared that a new psychiatric and mental health practitioner that specializes in kids will be starting at the clinic soon.

Health Department: Cascarelli is looking for a breast-feeding peer helper that is on WIC or is WIC eligible. Fruit and vegetable dollars have increased for kids and moms. Thanks to the Commissioners and the community for the new Health Department building.

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned by acclamation at 10:22 am.

**NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING: February 5; *Chalet at Freedlander Park, Wooster, 9:35am***

**Wayne County Family and Children First**

**Consent Agenda**

December 4, 2023

**The Executive Committee** met on October 30, 2023. The following actions were taken and stand approved:

1. **Owens made a motion that $350,000 be appropriated to cover Council expenses through the end of calendar year 2024. Seconded by Jackwood. There being no further discussion a roll call vote was taken: Stika: yes; Jackwood: yes; Owens: yes; Woods: yes. Motion carried.**

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

1. **Jackwood made the motion, seconded by Stika that the minutes from the September 2023 meeting be approved as submitted. There being no opposition, the motion carried.**
2. **Jackwood made the motion, seconded by Smail for Executive Director to use $125 for Wayne Early Childhood Coalition training CEUs. There being no opposition, motion carried.**
3. **Cascarelli made the motion to approve an increase for the audit to $5,166. Smail motioned, Tanner seconded. There being no opposition, motion carried.**

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

Executive Committee—Met on October 30 and November 28, 2023

Resource and Grants Management w/ Executive – Met on November 28, 2023

Prenatal to Five – Met on November 15, 2023

**The following resolutions are before the Council for action on December 5, 2023**

**1. Approval of December 5, 2023 Consent Agenda**

**2. Approval of October 2, 2023 full Council minutes**

**3. Approval of July through November 2023 Financials and payment of grant-funded Diversion invoices.**

**4. Approval of Bylaws change regarding Prenatal to Five Committee**