

WAYNE COUNTY FAMILY & CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL

**Minutes**

Wooster City Parks- Freedlander Chalet

## August 7, 2023, 9:35 AM

**In Attendance:**

Members: Ashley Hershberger- Mandated, City of Wooster Designee

Mark Woods- Anazao Community Partners- Non-Profit Representative

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

Sue Smail- Mandated, Commissioner

Jonathan Hofstetter- Mandated, Commissioner

Jaime Parsons- Non-Profit Representative, Chair 2023

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

Jennifer Chong- 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

Renee Jackwood- Family Representative

Michael Gardener- Mandated, Department of Youth Services

Judge Latecia Wiles- Mandated, Wayne County Juvenile Court

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

Esther Hawkins- Wayne County Family and Children First Council

Guests: Naomi Eberly- Wayne County Public Library

Rhiannon Whalen- Harris- OneEighty

Krista Fitzsimmons- WCBDD, HMG Home Visiting

Tami Spotts- FCFC/Anazao Service Coordination

Sarah Doohan- Anazao Community Partners

Alisson Vizzo- Tri-County ESC

Vivian Troyer- Anazao Community Partners

Judy Talcott- Goodwill Industries

Dianna Sharp- Catholic Charities

Kim Dannemiller- O’Huddle

Darcy Becker- OSU Extention, SNAP-Ed

Lisa Conner- WCCSB

Stacey Tanner- WCJFS

Jim Pyers- MHRB Board Member

**Call to Order**

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

**Consent Agenda**

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

**June 2023 Minutes** **and Committee Reports**

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

**Old Business**

Fox thanked Stika for a smooth transition of our office to Children Services and for support of Hawkins. He reported that financial reports will be available at our October meeting.

**New Business**

None

**COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

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

Hawkins reported that in 2017 we set the goal of decreasing the number of youth out of home by 15%. We have surpassed that goal decreasing by 15.55% since 2017 but, the average time spent out of home has barely moved. We are noting that youth are decreasing levels of care but remaining out of home.

Local service coordination and wraparound have increased by 14.6 percent since last year. We have surpassed our goal of 10% set in 2020 and increased by 16.5% over the two-year period. This does not include the numbers from OhioRise because it wasn’t available last year.

The data set of concern is the increased number of deaths caused by substance use/overdose. This number has nearly doubled since we began tracking it as part of the shared plan in 2015 when we had 19, to 2022 when we lost 37. However, over the course of 2022, 246 people were trained in Project Dawn.

The planning committee will be scheduling meeting in the Fall to work on a new plan. Please email our Chair, Mark Woods or me know if you would like to be on that committee.

Smail made the motion, seconded by Reith that the Shared Plan Updates be approved as presented. There being no further discussion or opposition, the motion carried.

**Family Engagement**

Theil announced that she is resigning as FCFC’s Family Representative due to perceived conflicts of interest since being appointed by the Commissioners to the Board of MHRB. She read her letter of resignation. Theil will continue to attend meetings and looks forward to the continued partnership with all of FCFC’s partner agencies.

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

Diversion Team: Hawkins reported that we are experiencing a Placement Crisis. Beds for our kids with highest needs are more and more difficult to find, and the number of traditional foster homes isn’t keeping up with demand. This is leading to CSBs throughout the state having to house youth in their lobbies. It is part of the reason for our decreasing numbers but so is the increased focus on kinship placements, and other efforts by child serving systems.

Stika shared that there is increased movement on placement crisis at the state level with the first multi-system meeting happening today. Reimbursement rates from Medicaid, kids lingering in hospitals long after they are stable and should be discharged and children sleeping in the lobbies of CSBs across the state are some of the biggest challenges. She asked that we share the article forwarded by Hawkins this week to anyone who might be interested in order to increase awareness of this crisis.

Asha Step-Down & Respite House: Hawkins shared that on July 17 a pickup truck lost its brakes on Oakhill and ended with its nose inside Asha’s basement. There was one youth in the house with staff and no one was injured. The youth spent a couple of days in a hotel and at Cherokee Rose’s apartment in Wooster while the house was inspected and deemed safe for return. Work will begin shortly to repair the damage.

Crisis Stabilization Center: Edwards announced that crisis dollars have not yet been released.

CANS: Villegas reported that a contract is in process with FCFC/Diversion to continue to provide CANS assessments to meet FFPSA requirements and for youth who have private insurance to meet Diversion’s requirements. This will guarantee that we have both consistency and dependability with the results. Catholic Charities is hiring a new case manager to work with Call on these assessments.

Home Based Treatment and MRSS: Kestner shared that The Counseling Center certified for Intensive Home Based Treatment. MRSS grant was flat funded but they are seeking other grant dollars to increase hours.

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

FCSS – Service Coordination—FCFC/Anazao

Hawkins announced that this is Spotts’ last Council meeting before retirement. **We will have a celebration of her many years of service from 4-6 on August 28 at Anazao**. She asked that all bring stories to share.

Spotts expressed her gratitude for the many years of collaboration and service. She has been in the role of FCFC Service Coordinator since 1985 and has seen multiple generations of families come for help. Spotts shared that she is confident that Troyer will continue with the same tradition of team building and service.

*End of SFY23 FCSS Service Coordination Report:*

Spotts shared that the needs of youth in service coordination haven’t changed that much from year to year. Mental Health, Special Education are the primary needs with Poverty not being a deciding factor as we might have thought.

Thirty-Seven new families and 16 ongoing families with 93 total children were served; 23 are currently open using FCSS grant dollars. There were 17 families transferred to other SC/Wrap programs, 4 youth required residential placement and continue to be monitored by the SC team. 13 youth have had one or more hospitalizations this SFY. Eleven SOSCOP cases were/are being monitored.

Most youth (30) are between the ages of 14 and 18; 21 school buildings were served, including LEAP and Educational Alternatives.

FCFC/Anazao Family Stabilization & Home Transition Coordination—Anazao: Woods reported that there are currently 6 open cases, down from 9 with 4 currently stable. Youth continue to have long waits for placement including out of state.

WISE Wraparound- Catholic Charities: Villegas reported that they continue to serve youth with dual diagnosis (MH and DD) and have had a change in leadership with Lisa Hostettler taking the lead after Lisa Kelly resigned to open her own practice. They have one coordinator (Call) with a second being added shortly. With OhioRise taking on the highest tier, Catholic Charities is doing more in-home work. They currently serve both Wayne and Holmes Counties with this program and do not have an age limit.

Early Intervention: Chong shared that EI currently has 167 open with 33 more in process. They have added new staff, including therapists.

Home Visiting

Fitzsimmons (WCDD) reported that they are serving 45 families with another 5 in process. Numbers are down a bit because of staff changes but new people are being trained and will soon be able to have full caseloads.

Fox (CAWM) shared that they are exploring moving some of the home-based programming to center-based in response to feedback from families.

**Increase Youth Assets:**

Wayne Resiliency Network: Edwards reported that the Network has three new projects- Suicide prevention in collaboration with the Suicide Prevention Coalition; Technology Training and Crisis Planning in schools based on the Stark County model.

The MHRB plans to order hygiene kits to distribute with a QR code that directs the person to access Naloxone. Please let her know if you would like some to distribute.

Youth Mentors

Ohuddle: Reith reported that they are serving 601 students and will be launching in Norwayne shortly expecting to serve about 20 youth there. She expressed gratitude that the priorities and gaps identified in FCFC meetings help inform Ohuddle’s priority of individualized asset development. They are entering their 10th year. Reith shared that one of their mentors was driving their mentee to college.

Catholic Charities/Juvenile Court: Villegas shared that they currently have 11 volunteers that work with 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.

Anazao: Woods reported that they are on a different part of the “mentor continuum” from the other programs. At Anazao, they have a paid case manager who engages with court-involved youth doing activities that other programs are doing with the youth they serve. Sara Doohan is leading this effort.

Judge Wiles expressed her appreciation for the programs assisting court-involved youth and is very thankful for the partnerships that make these kinds of programs work so well.

Public Libraries—Wayne County and Orrville: Eberly reported that the summer reading program has just ended with 2838 registered (21% increase over last year—back to pre-pandemic levels). Kids were able to earn a new book for every 4 books they read. It was a great success!

OSU Extension: Becker shared that SNAP has served more than 900 youth in the past 6 months but numbers will drop unless more families sign kids up for free and reduced school lunch. So far, only Cornerstone Elementary qualifies for the in school program. She encouraged partners to get the word out to families that they should apply. There was discussion about the cause of the reduction in applications since the pandemic with one factor being the voluntary completion of the application at Wooster City Schools. There was discussion about the effects on partners who rely on this data set to qualify for grants, etc.

Becker reported that kids are being humiliated in the cafeteria because of debt. Suggestions were made including joining the superintendent’s monthly meeting and reaching out to School Boards.

Becker reported that 4-H leadership is working on mentoring other youth who might not be 4-H involved and this program is having good success.

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

Goodwill: Talcott reported that Goodwill has case management in all of the schools, funded by WCJFS. 82% of all involved seniors graduated this year. They also have a program funded by United Way that helps parents get job or gain skills to get a better job.

MHRB: Edwards shared that there are youth resiliency projects underway that were initiated by Wood. With new funding available for future projects.

Wooster City: Hershberger reported that Wooster City has sign-ups for WCS and St. Mary’s soccer. The association offers scholarships. Freedlander pool is now closed, Christmas Run pool is expected to be closed until 2025- pending approval from City Council.

Parenting:

Ohio Children’s’ Trust Fund-Catholic Charities: Villegas reported that there is new leadership at Ohio Children’s’ Trust Fund and at Catholic Charities for the OCTF project. Diana Sharp was introduced and reported that they will be working across county lines serving the families of children 0-3 by providing Triple-P.

**Keep our families Substance Free:**

FDTC: Judge Wiles reported that Family Dependency Treatment Court is now “Recovery Court” and continues to work with parents to regain custody of their children by addressing substance use. There are currently 16-17 participants which is higher than a lot of other county programs. Community partners are welcome to observe. Members of the team attended a national conference in Houston that was very helpful. She is working on bringing on two new Magistrates.

Health Department: Cascarelli shared that drug overdoses and deaths are down in CY23 from last year. Mental health emergency room visits for adolescents are up. Covid is still in the community and along with RSV is a threat to elderly and health compromised people. Theil asked when the next Covid vaccine would be available and Cascarelli responded that he didn’t have a timeline for that.

In January Commissioners approved an Overdose Fatality Review Board that will be meeting soon to organize, then will begin reviewing deaths in order to evaluate the circumstances that led to it and put things in place to prevent future deaths.

OneEighty and Coalitions: Whalen reported that they have contracted with Mike Vimont to do the YASUS this year but schools are making the survey “opt-in” which will likely lead to fewer respondents.

Break the Cycle event is on August 28 and Overdose Awareness day is August 31st. They are planning to tables at libraries, Goodwill and other places around the county to distribute Detera bags and other materials. They are thankful for partnerships and hope MHRB will also be involved. Any who would like to participate, contact Rhiannon Whalen.

**Adjourn**

Fox thanked all who had attended and asked for a motion to adjourn. Cascarelli made the motion, seconded by Owens. Motion passed by acclamation ending the meeting at 10:55am.

NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING: October 2, 2023— *Chalet at Freedlander Park, Wooster*

**Wayne County Family and Children First**

**Consent Agenda**

August 7, 2023

**The Executive Committee** met on July 25, 2023. The following actions were taken and stand approved:

1. **Owens made the motion, seconded by Cascarelli that the minutes from the May 2023 meeting be approved as submitted. There being no opposition, the motion carried.**
2. **Parsons made the motion, seconded by Cascarelli that Executive meet in August to approve the July expenditures as we investigate options for routine approvals of Council bills by Executive Director. There being no opposition, motion carried.**
3. **Owens moved to accept the recommendation made by Resource and Grants Management to approve the administrative budget as presented and the program budget as pending. Parsons seconded. There being no opposition, the motion carried.**
4. **Cascarelli made the motion to approve the Shared Plan Update as submitted and to send it to full Council for their approval. Owens seconded. There being no opposition, the motion carried.**
5. **Owens made the motion, seconded by Parsons that the Executive Director enter into an agreement with Catholic Charities on behalf of Council to provide CANS assessments for QRTP and for youth who have private insurance. There being no opposition, the motion carried. Woods abstained.**

**The following committees met in May and June. Minutes pending approval by committees:**

**Resource and Grants Management w/ Executive –** Met onJuly 25, 2023

**Prenatal to Five** –Met onJuly 19, 2023

**The following resolutions are before the Council for action on August 7, 2023**

**1. Approval of August 7, 2023 Consent Agenda**

**2. Approval of June 5, 2023 full Council minutes**