

WAYNE COUNTY FAMILY & CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL

**Minutes**

Wayne County Public Library

## April 3, 2023, 9:35 AM

**In Attendance:**

Members: Ashley Hershberger- Mandated, City of Wooster Designee

Tiffanie Kestner- The Counseling Center- Non-Profit Representative

Mark Woods- Anazao Community Partners- Non-Profit Representative

Richard Owens- Mandated, WCJFS

Sue Smail- Mandated, Commissioner

Jaime Parsons- Non-Profit Representative, Chair 2023

Sandy Stebly- Mandated, ESC Designee

James Fox- Mandated (Head Start), Community Action Wayne Medina, Vice Chair 2023

Ken Kelly- Mandated, Wayne County Board of Developmental Disabilities Designee

Jennifer Chong- Mandated, Wayne County Board of Developmental Disabilities, EI Designee

Mike Gardener- Mandated, ODYS

Deanna Nichols-Stika- Mandated, WCCSB

Nick Cascarelli- Mandated, Health Department

Gabe Tudor- Mandated, Wooster City Public Schools

Joanna Edwards- Mandated, WHMHRB- AA 2023

Sheryl Villegas- Catholic Charities- Non-Profit Representative

Esther Hawkins- WCFCFC Director

Guests: Stacey Tanner- WCJFS

Angela Wypasek- Wayne County Prosecutor

Hayley Tracy Bursley, Wayne County Public Library

Naomi Eberly- Wayne County Public Library

Beverly Theil- Child Advocate

Hattie Tracy- Coleman

Sherry Gibson- Coleman

Rhiannon Whalen- Harris- OneEighty

Daphne Silchuk-Ashcraft- Orrville Public Library

Carrie Rowland- WHMHRB

Krista Fitzsimmons- WCBDD, HMG Home Visiting

Nate Franck- WC Child Support Enforcement Agency

**Call to Order**

Parsons called the meeting to order at 9:37. Introductions were made.

**Consent Agenda**

Parsons noted that because of the importance of the vote today, we would be striking consent agenda items 3 and 5 and doing a roll call vote to replace those. Cascarelli made the motion, seconded by Smail that the Consent Agenda be approved without items 3 and 5. There being no discussion or opposition, the motion carried.

**February 2023 Minutes** **and Committee Reports**

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

**Financial Reports** -- MHRB

Rowland presented the financials through the end of January, 2023. The balance is right about $530,000 after liabilities of $446 loaned by Wayne County Children Services Board and the Wayne Holmes Mental Health and Recovery Board to use for cash flow for Diversion. The section titled Equity Accounts is the distribution of the balance.

Parsons thanked Rowland for all her work on our Financials.

Cascarelli made the motion, seconded by Woods that the January, 2023 financials be accepted as presented. There being no discussion or opposition, the motion carried.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

**New Administrative Agent FY 24**

Parsons reported that the Wayne Holmes Mental Health and Recovery Board voted to discontinue as Administrative Agent for the next fiscal year. She thanked all who had worked to bring forward the recommendation for a new Administrative Agent who would continue to promote the priorities of Family and Children First Council. Many meetings were held and, after deliberation, Wayne County Children Services Board had agreed to serve.

**Cascarelli made the motion, seconded by Owens, to authorize the Executive Director and/or the Chairperson of the Wayne County FCFC to execute any and all agreements to facilitate the transfer of the Wayne County FCFC Administrative Agent from the Wayne Holmes Mental Health and Recovery Board to the Wayne County Children Services Board.**

Parsons opened the floor for comment.

Stika echoed her appreciation for the candid conversations about which agency would be able to serve in the best interest of Council. CSB has a lot of fiscal history with Council through Diversion and CSB will be able to provide a smooth transition. With Ohio FCFC moving of ODJFS last year, our local Council moving to CSB will be a good fit. She explained that Hawkins will move offices to the Kinney Building and will have the support of various staff to support different parts of the work.

Parsons thanked the Mental Health and Recovery Board for their 37 years as WCFCFC’s administrative agent.

Roll call vote was taken. Kelly for Ashley, Hershberger, Cascarelli, Chong for Bernstein, Owens, Fox, Gardner, Smail, Tudor, Stebly for Ritchie, Theil for Hampton, Fox for Reith, Woods, Kestner and Villegas voted in the affirmative. Stika and Edwards abstained. The vote being unanimous, the motion carried.

**Nominations for FY 24**

Parsons announced that it is time for elections for SFY 2024. We need 3 Non-Profit agencies and 3 Family Representatives to volunteer and email Hawkins. Per our bylaws, nominations for Vice-Chair are to take place at the April meeting of Council and she opened the floor. Owens nominated Cascarelli, who accepted.

Smail moved to close nominations, seconded by Stika. There being no opposition, or further discussion, the motion carried. Cascarelli abstained.

**Council Priorities: Updates**

**Family Engagement**

Hawkins reported that the Family Advisory Council is looking forward to getting back to normal this summer and fall. Work will begin shortly on planning events and community education.

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

Diversion Team— Hawkins reported that Diversion’s numbers remain at historic lows. We currently have 100 kids out of home. One of the primary reasons for these low numbers is the lack of beds in treatment facilities.

Stebly thanked the frontline workers who are working so hard to find available beds in treatment facilities for our youth who need that level of care.

Stika noted that staff are needing to call approximately 80 different facilities in order to secure a bed. She thanked Coleman for their help finding placements.

Gibson stated that identifying appropriate placement has been very difficult and they are working to wrap support in the community so that youth can stay home.

Asha Step-Down & Respite House

Hawkins reported that Asha currently has 6 youth approved for respite and one stepping down from residential to the community.

She noted that Asha has had a couple of issues with people who are not authorized to receive information about youth staying there, calling to ask for information. If you have Asha’s address or phone number posted publicly, please replace it with FCFC’s office number—330-264-2527.

CSB Res Unit, FFPSA, CANS, Crisis Stabilization Center, FDTC, Home Based Treatment, MRSS

Stika reported that CSB no longer has a designated residential unit because of the level of demand on those case workers. Youth in residential are now being served by case workers throughout the agency.

Stika reported that FFPSA services are continuing to grow and expand. They are focusing a lot of kinship supports and this year had more bed days in kinship homes than in traditional foster.

CANS are required by FFPSA/ QRTP. Stika thanked Catholic Charities for helping meeting those requirements and expressed gratitude for Anazao’s willingness to help with over flow.

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

FCSS/Service Coordination, WISE Wraparound and FSHTC (Family Stabilization & Home Transition Coordination)

Hawkins reported that Spotts will be retiring at the end of this FY and she is working with Woods at Anazao to continue providing Service Coordination following her retirement.

Woods reported that FSHTC is working with the same number of youth and the intensity continues to be extremely high. Families are less stable then they had been.

Villegas reported that WISE is serving 21 families which is a lower number than last year but more intensive. She thanked Coleman for their help in looking for supports to assist youth.

Early Intervention—Wayne DD/FCFC

Chong reported that EI currently has 135 enrolled with 25 referrals. They are continuing to do outreach and engaging with community partners and increasing opportunities for family/peer support.

**Increase Youth Assets:**

Wayne Resiliency Network

Edwards reported that the Network continues to meet on the first Wednesday of even months with April being the exception due to Spring Break. At the last meeting, SST 9 helped coordinate speakers from Akron Public Schools and Stark Mental Health Board to discuss how larger systems are dealing with critical incident events. They will be working on how to expand and coordinate a local response should that ever be needed.

Any who are interested in being added to the email list to receive notices of trainings around trauma and resilience, should email Edwards.

Youth Mentors-- OHuddle, Catholic Charities/Juvenile Court, Anazao

Villegas reported that Catholic Charities is contracted with the Juvenile Court to provide mentorship for youth involved with them. There are 9 volunteer mentors trained and doing activities with youth. If interested in volunteering, please contact Villegas.

Woods reported that over the summer, staff that work in the schools do summer mentorship and activities centered around wellness—cooking, sports, gardening etc. have been done in past years.

Fox, who serves on Ohuddle’s Board, reported that there are more than 600 volunteers serving the youth in six schools, mostly high school and junior high. They have more than 100 youth on the waitlist and are in need of more volunteers. Ohuddle will be doing a series of socialization activities over the summer.

Public Libraries—Wayne County and Orrville

Ashcraft reported that Orrville Library is returning to pre-pandemic normal with story time and other activities back. They purchased a van last year that is going out to do literacy programming and other activities. Their theme for this year is “All Together Now!” and have developed exciting programming around that theme. They have opened a Library of Things with games and sensory activities being the most popular items.

Bursley reported that Wayne County Libraries’ grant to provide a social worker onsite one morning each week has ended. She thanked Viola Startzman for their support of this project.

Summer reading has begun with activities in all locations. Reading Under the Lights will take place this year thanks to United Way. The Friends of the Library partnered with Ohuddle to provide 500 books for mentees.

Eberly reported that they are partnering with the Circle Coalition to bring Pizza and Books to the Wooster Library in April 24th from 4 to 6 pm. The first 100 junior high aged kids will receive a free book.

OSU Extension

Smail met with Becker last week and reported that they have a lot of programs including Car Teens, Steps to Home Ownership and Snap Ed, but need to increase awareness. A marketing campaign will be starting soon and materials would be shared.

Theil pointed out that everyone is familiar with 4H but few are aware that it is now including much more than raising livestock. They now have programs for STEAM and much more.

School initiatives, afterschool programs, art and music, sports, faith community, employment

Hershberger reported that they are putting together a slide show for the CSB Child Abuse Prevention Luncheon on April 20th from 11am to 1pm. She asked that we email pictures. Stika noted that tickets can still be purchased by contacting her.

Soccer is starting on April 17th. They have more than 1,000 Wayne County kids signed up and a few from surrounding counties as well. She mentioned that Theil and her husband had been part of starting that club 50 years ago.

Pool passes go on sale on April 17. Kids who live within Wooster City limits can get a season pass for $20.

A new community notice sign has been put up downtown. If anyone would like to post a flyer, please contact Hershberger.

Smail shared that the Boys and Girls Club is holding their annual dinner and auction on April 27th at Greystone. Although their numbers are rising, they are still not at pre-pandemic levels.

Fitsimmons reported that HMG Home Visiting at WCBDD is working with 52 families. Their numbers have remained steady.

Owens reported that Annual Career Expo is set for 10:00-2:00 on April 28 at Wayne College.   Employers represent diverse areas such as: the manufacturing industry, the ag industry, the health and service industry, the military, and law enforcement.  The Career Expo can help graduating youth (and/or their parents) prepare for and find employment opportunities.  Flyers will be sent following the meeting.

Parenting—Triple P, CSB, Home visiting

Villegas reported that on April 11 and May 11, they are holding Triple P events at the Library.

Stika noted that CSB has added parenting programs for those who do not qualify to participate in OCTF funded programs.

**Keep our families Substance Free:**

FDTC, Health Department, OneEighty, Coalitions, Hospitals

Cascarelli reported that the Heath Department is continuing to expand Project Dawn with Narcan now available at Wooster College and the Wayne County Career Center. There is no charge for schools who would like to have these available.

Issues with the availability of formula are being resolved. This month WIC expects a double shipment. Please call if appointment is needed.

The Travel Clinic is back. Any who are traveling out of the country should call for help in preparing for that trip.

We continue to have 50-60 new cases of Covid each day and hospitalizations of persons over 70 and those who are immunocompromised are rising. The Health Department recommends that people who test positive for Covid, remain home for 5 days and wear a mask for days 6-10.

The Child Fatality Review Board completed the 2022 review of cases. Most deaths were not preventable but there were a few that were manufacturer accidents. We also had death related to co-sleeping and Cascarelli reminded us that the Health Department has free Pack and Play (Cribs for Kids program) for those who qualify.

Cascarelli noted that this is Public Health Week and today’s theme is Community. He thanked all for their partnership and for the work they do to promote health.

Whalen shared that OneEighty is working with the Circle Coalition on community events. In addition to the Wooster Pizza and Books, they are also partnering with Orrville Public Library to host a similar event on April 20th. On May 11th they will have a Community Talk event with Prosecutor Angela Wypasek speaking to parents while youth engage in activities.

They are revamping the “Talk they’ll Listen” Campaign as “Talk, Your Kids Will Listen.” Part of this campaign will use data collected in the YASUS surveys last fall. With Prom and Gradation season coming up, we will be seeing more “parents who host” and other campaign signs.

Parsons shared that Viola Startzman has received a nicotine cessation grant as more than 80% of their clientele are users. There will be creative programming aimed at helping people quit.

Last week they delivered more than 500 Period Kits to schools. They have found that many young girls, especially those without a mother active in their lives are not getting their questions answered. VS is offering their Women’s Health Practitioner to provide programs at to agencies, libraries and schools and has been holding a weekly group at Boys and Girls Club. This is a much greater need than they were aware.

Today, VS will be delivering 1,000 Safe Sex kits to colleges due to the rise in STDs. If your agency needs any of these to provide those you work with, please contact Parsons.

Owens noted that Medicaid is returning to pre-pandemic practices with the ending of the Public Health Emergency. He encouraged front line staff to talk to their clients about updating their information with JFS. Prior to Covid, there were 20,000 in Wayne County with Medicaid; now there are 25,000. We don’t know what the return to pre-pandemic practices will do.

Parsons added that VS has two Navigators who can assist families who are without insurance due to this or other causes. These are non-commissioned and will not press families toward one policy over another.

Edwards shared that Partnership for a Drug Free Wayne County is returning to in-person meetings in October.

Youth Resiliency Capital funds are still available (75% State/25% local match). Please contact Edwards if you have a project that might be appropriate to access these funds. They have completed the Holmes Center for the Arts and a project with Rittman Schools.

Gibson noted that Coleman is opening an office in Wooster at 365 Riffle Road. They are planning an open house. Tracy noted that Coleman has a summer youth employment program in Wayne County.

Cascarelli reported that the Health Department is beginning work on the old Red Cross building. They expect to be able to move in this Fall. He thanked the commissioners for their support of this project.

Theil praised the collaboration and communication around the table. She noted that in Wayne County, Family and Children First Council is a gift to our families.

**Adjourn**

On that note, Parsons asked for a motion to adjourn. Smail made the motion, seconded by Fox. The motion was approved by acclamation at 10:47.

**Wayne County Family and Children First**

**Consent Agenda**

April 3, 2023

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

1. **Cascarelli made the motion, seconded by Fox that the minutes from the January, 2023 meeting be approved as submitted. There being no opposition or further discussion the motion carried.**
2. **Owens made the motion, seconded by Stika that Council Financials through January, 2023 be approved as recommended by Resource and Grants Management Committee. There being no opposition, or further discussion, the motion carried.**
3. **~~Cascarelli made the motion, seconded by Owens that Executive Committee approve the transfer of Administrative Agent from Wayne Holmes Mental Health and Recovery Board to Wayne County Children Services Board as the Administrative Agent for Council beginning on July 1, 2023. There being no opposition, or further discussion, the motion carried.~~**
4. **Fox made the motion, seconded by Smail that Executive Committee give the Executive Director the authority to sign agreements, contracts and MOUs for SFY24 in consultation with both current and future Administrative Agents. There being no opposition, or further discussion, the motion carried. Woods and Villegas abstained.**
5. **~~Cascarelli made the motion, seconded by Stika that a letter be sent, with thanks and regret, to the Wayne Holmes Mental Health and Recovery Board giving formal notice that we will be changing our relationship with them from that of Administrative Agent to partner on July 1, 2023. There being no opposition, or further discussion, the motion carried.~~**
6. **Owens made a motion, seconded by Stika that Executive Committee recommend to Council that FCFC and our Administrative Agent continue to administrator of the EI grant as it has been. There being no opposition or further discussion, the motion carried.**
7. **Owens made the motion, seconded by Cascarelli that Executive Committee recommend to Council that we subscribe to DocuSign with funding coming from Diversion partners. There being no opposition or further discussion, the motion carried.**
8. **Cascarelli made a motion, seconded by Fox that Executive Committee recommend to Council that they approve submission of the Ohio Capacity Building Fund Grant application. There being no opposition or further discussion, the motion carried.**

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

**Resource and Grants Management w/ Executive –** Met onMarch 28, 2023

**Prenatal to Five** –Met onMarch 15, 2023

**The following resolutions are before the Council for action on April 3, 2023**

**1. Approval of April 3, 2023 Consent Agenda**

**2. Approval of February 6, 2023 full Council minutes**

**3. Approval of January 2023 Financials**