

GCDJFS Family Services Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: 6/4/19 at 12:30 pm

Meeting location: Greene County Department of Job & Family Services

In attendance:

Beth Rubin, Director
Leslie Bates
Dustin Booher
Mary Ann Campbell

Karl Colon
Pam Hamer
John LaRock
Susan Lopez

Greta McKenzie
Rebecca Supinger
Catherine Wolf

The meeting was called to order by Beth Rubin.

Review and Approval of Minutes

Copies of the minutes from the 3/5/19 meeting were distributed and reviewed. Catherine Wolf moved to approve the minutes. Susan Lopez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Membership Updates

Several members submitted membership renewal applications, which should be finalized shortly. Trent Hamilton and Cherise Schell have opted not to renew at this time and are thanked for their service and participation. They will be missed.

Volunteers for officers for the next cycle were solicited. Mary Ann Campbell moved to nominate Catherine Wolf and Susan Lopez as the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson respectively for the two-year term commencing 7/1/19. Pam Hamer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agency Updates

The agency is awaiting the final county audit report. Fiscal staff have been visiting other counties to gather best practices in preparation for the end of the ProtectOhio waiver for federal IV-E funding. The agency is awaiting the final state budget. Staffing vacancies are routine. A staff appreciation luncheon will be held on July 19th at 11:30 in the media room, and committee members are welcome to attend.

In April, Beth and Mary Ann held the biennial public hearing for the county's Title XX Plan. There were no participants. As in the past, the plan states that the funding will be used for the Adult Protective Services and Protective Children Services programs. It was submitted to the state in May.

The biennial review of the agency's Prevention, Retention, and Contingency (PRC) Plan will be due in October and reviewed at the next committee meeting in September.

As a result of the recent tornadoes and the Governor's state of emergency declaration, there are temporary disaster assistance funds available to low-income families (TANF/PRC) and senior/disabled adults (non-TANF) to help with damage sustained by the storms. For more information and the application process, contact Amanda Sparks. The program ends June 10th.

Families who receive SNAP (food assistance) benefits and lost their food in the storms can request a replacement of their benefits. Greene County is participating in an outreach program with Montgomery County to connect affected households with replacement paperwork at key locations in the communities.

Updated Public Assistance statistics were distributed. May was Fraud Awareness Month. NET Medicaid transportation contracts with CATS and XARSC are being extended for another year. The agency received a small

increase in home repair dollars for seniors from the Area Agency on Aging. The agency is participating in a workgroup to help develop the future of the Medicaid work requirement program for the expansion group of recipients.

In Child Support, the state has selected a new vendor for the Child Support Payment Central debit card. Balances will not transfer from the old card to the new card, so obligors will use up existing funds on the old card and access all future funds on the new card. The agency's paternity specialist, Paula Pierson, is retiring at the end of August after a long and successful career with Greene County.

April was Child Abuse Prevention Month, and the Blue Ribbon Breakfast was well-attended. In May, the agency held a Foster Parent Appreciation dinner. Children Services has gone live with the EDMS project that replaces paper case files with electronic documents. The agency has reapplied for the Wendy's Wonderful Kids grant through the Dave Thomas Foundation. This grant allows the agency an additional caseworker who is dedicated to child-focused adoption recruitment. The agency has finalized numerous adoptions recently.

Updated unemployment figures as of April 2019 are 2.8% in Greene County (compared to 3.3% for Ohio and 3.3% for the US).

Partner Updates

The CASA program has posted a vacancy for a volunteer specialist, open through Friday.

Greene County Board of Development Disabilities is watching the state budget process and anticipating a potential increase in minimum reimbursement to direct service professionals. There continues to be a great need for direct service providers.

The Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Family Resource Center has been collecting donations for those affected by the tornadoes.

OSU Extension is in full 4-H season, with camp scheduled for next week. Local clubs have been collecting donations for those affected by the tornadoes. OSU Extension is piloting a new program called Project Greene Teacher, a school gardening series for educators which helps people implement school gardens. Training is scheduled for 6/18 – 6/20, and reservations are still open.

The Beavercreek branch of the Greene County Public Library has been responding to the community's needs following the tornadoes. First Lady DeWine has adopted the Dolly Parton Imagination Library as her first statewide initiative, and Greene County is eager to see this good work spread throughout Ohio. Currently 68% of Greene County children under the age of 5 are in the program.

Help Me Grow has been very busy with record numbers of referrals in recent months. New rules go into effect July 1st. The Family Fun Fest (formerly the Daddy & Me Carnival) was held in May.

Early Intervention is preparing for program changes and serving many customers after-hours.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 9/3/19 at 12:30pm at the Greene Co. Dept. of Job & Family Services.