

GCDJFS Family Services Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: 9/3/19 at 12:30 pm

Meeting location: Greene County Department of Job & Family Services

In attendance:

Beth Rubin, Director	Pam Hamer	Catherine Wolf
Leslie Bates	Susan Lopez	
Dustin Booher	Greta McKenzie	
Susan Finster	Rebecca Supinger	

The meeting was called to order by chairperson Catherine Wolf.

Review and Approval of Minutes

Copies of the minutes from the 6/4/19 meeting were distributed and reviewed. Pam Hamer moved to approve the minutes. Greta McKenzie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Membership Updates

Several members were renewed for terms beginning in July: Leslie Bates, Pam Hamer, Susan Lopez, Rebecca Supinger, and Catherine Wolf. An updated roster was distributed.

PRC Plan Biennial Renewal Review

The agency's Prevention, Retention, and Contingency (PRC) plan is due for biennial renewal in October. This is part of the agency's TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) allocation, which is also used for the administration of the OWF cash assistance program, the subsidized child care program, and the PRC program. While OWF and child care follow statewide rules, each county writes its own PRC plan (utilizing federal and state guidelines). Changes to the plan may be made at any time with the director's signature. Biennially, it must be reviewed, and the review must be approved by the Board of County Commissioners, which certifies that the county JFS has complied with Chapter 5108 of the Ohio Revised Code by either providing a 30-day public comment period or by having the county Family Services Planning Committee review the plan.

Draft updates to the plan were e-mailed to the committee prior to the meeting, and hard copies were distributed at the meeting. For this plan renewal, the new Kinship Caregiver Program (KCP) was added. KCP is an additional tool to help kinship families who agree to take in children but need some assistance with upfront stabilization costs such as cribs or caregiving costs such as child care. Stabilization services can be provided without regard to the kinship caregiver's income, but child caregiving costs would need to include their income and be tied to an allowable activity (employment or training). Attendees asked several questions and provided valuable feedback.

Susan Lopez moved to approve the review of the plan. Rebecca Supinger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agency Updates

The agency is awaiting the final county audit report. The state budget provided historic investments in child protective services that will help delay the need to seek additional local levy dollars to support the significant increase in placement costs. The agency is eager to see how Ohio's implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act impacts child welfare services and outcomes.

Updated Public Assistance statistics were distributed. There is some concern about a proposed federal rule change that would eliminate categorical eligibility in the SNAP program, which would require agencies to verify

resources (the lack of resources) before a family could obtain Food Assistance. Research shows that this practice is administratively cumbersome and expensive, providing little positive result for program integrity.

August was Child Support Awareness Month, and the agency issued a press release to highlight local statistics and encourage a positive image of the program. A staff training and recognition event was held at the end of the month.

New 2020 Children Services art contest calendars were distributed. The agency was again awarded a 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 Independent Living Program recently took six youth to Florida for the annual national independent living conference. This was an excellent opportunity for the youth to engage in important normalcy activities while learning key independent living skills to prepare them for the future. The youth who attended were selected based on good behavior and grades. Three staff accompanied the youth. Trunk or Treat will be held on October 30th – please see Beth for additional information on participating.

Updated unemployment figures as of July 2019 are 4.3% in Greene County (compared to 4.6% for Ohio and 4.0% for the US). Ohio Means Jobs Greene County will hold another job fair in conjunction with Montgomery County at the Nutter Center on September 25th. Historically, this event has attracted a large number of employers and job seekers.

The 2020 meeting calendar for the Family Services Planning Committee was distributed.

Partner Updates

A new round of CASA training begins in October.

Help Me Grow also received an increase in the state budget. They are currently interviewing to fill a vacancy. Greene County Public Health is in the planning stages for its centennial celebration next year.

OSU Extension has some recent turnover of SNAP-education staff. They are hosting the Xenia Chamber of Commerce after-hours next Thursday as a tailgate event.

The Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Family Resource Center finished its back-to-school project and is working on the holiday program. They have seen an increase in requests that previously went to Pass It On.

The Greene County Council on Aging is holding its next Medicare check-up event on October 23rd at the Xenia Community Center.

The meeting was adjourned.

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