**Family & Children First Council of Huron County**

**Meeting Agenda**

**Wednesday, July 19, 2023**

**Location: Huron County DJFS**

**185 Shady Lane Drive, Norwalk, Ohio**

1. Meeting called to order at:

**Voting Members**:

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| X | Lenora Minor  Huron County DJFS |  | Kristen Cardone  Huron County MHAS |  | Brad Cooley, Norwalk  City Schools/Jackie White/Dan Bauman |
|  | Sarah Church,  City of Norwalk |  | Mary Helton  Fisher-Titus Medical Center | X | Tim Hollinger  Huron County Public Health |
|  | Sandy Burras,  Parent Representative |  | Dr. Steve Burggraf  Family Life Counseling |  | Lauren Robinson  Firelands Counseling  & Recovery Services |
|  | Jeff Ritz  Willard City Schools |  | Carol Robinson  Early Intervention | X | Katherine Yanez  Parent Representative |
| X | Kari Smith  HC Board of DD | X | Terance Brooks  Dept. of Youth Services | X | Harry Brady  Huron County Commissioner |
|  | Janice Warner,  CAC HER:/Head Start | X | Julie Westcott  Parent Representative | X | Lonny Rivera,  North Point Educational SC |

**Non-Voting Members**:

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|  | John/Bethany Chime,  Clear Minds Counseling |  | Abbie Bacon,  Nord Center | X | Chris Mushett,  Huron County Juvenile Court |
| X | Mary Valentine,  Huron County CPS |  | Sarah Simmons,  Reach Our Youth | X | Jennifer Phenicie,  Ohio Guidestone |

**Staff:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| X | Niki Cross,  HCFCFC Director |  | Erin Whipple,  Wraparound Facilitator | X | Tracie Sebolt,  Service Coordinator |

1. Public Comment & Introductions
   1. New Parent Representatives- Katherine Yanez & Sandy Burras

Katherine was in attendance and Niki introduced her. She and her husband are foster parents.

1. **Approval of Minutes: May 17, 2023 (Motion #1)**

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| **Motion 1** | **To approve the May 17, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes as distributed on July 18, 2023.** | | |
| Motion Made By: | Tim Hollinger | Seconded: | Harry Brady |

1. Committee Updates
   1. Service Coordination Committee
      1. No Updates
   2. Executive/Finance Committee

Lenora stated that they’ve discussed finances and are looking at more grants. She gave a reminder that the schools need to submit their $10,000 and council agencies need to submit their $3,000. Niki will send out letters that include invoices. Niki also pointed out that the report previously emailed only went through April, but the one in today’s packet goes through June.

1. **Approval of Financial Report: May-June 2023 (Motion #2)**

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| **Motion 4** | **To approve the May-June 2023 Financial Report as distributed on July 18, 2023.** | | |
| Motion Made By: | Kari Smith | Seconded: | Lonny Rivera |

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| X | Lenora Minor  Huron County DJFS |  | Kristen Cardone  Huron County MHAS |  | Brad Cooley, Norwalk  City Schools/Jackie White/Dan Bauman |
|  | Sarah Church,  City of Norwalk |  | Mary Helton  Fisher-Titus Medical Center | X | Tim Hollinger  Huron County Public Health |
|  | Sandy Burras,  Parent Representative |  | Dr. Steve Burggraf  Family Life Counseling |  | Lauren Robinson  Firelands Counseling  & Recovery Services |
|  | Jeff Ritz  Willard City Schools |  | Carol Robinson  Early Intervention | X | Katherine Yanez  Parent Representative |
| X | Kari Smith  HC Board of DD | X | Terance Brooks  Dept. of Youth Services | X | Harry Brady  Huron County Commissioner |
|  | Janice Warner,  CAC HER:/Head Start | X | Julie Westcott  Parent Representative | X | Lonny Rivera,  North Point Educational SC |

1. Director’s Report
   1. Annual Impact Report

Referrals- Since RISE started in July of 2022, they now get most of the CPS referrals. The schools are now our highest referral source. Niki pointed out the age breakdown of those served and that 2 of the youth were 19 or older. She also noted that there is a substantial increase in kids needing to go into residential treatment programs. She feels that the 2024 focus for the Service Coordination Committee should be: Why are so many of our Huron County youth needing residential treatment? What services can be utilized in our community? As a medium-sized county, we are spending as much on residential as large counties. Lenora stated that Huron County is doing a great job getting the MSY funding due to staff working well with MSY in their reporting, etc. Tim asked if we’re comparing counties properly “per capita.” He suggested that Niki arrange to meet with Paul at the Health Department to run the data. Lenora mentioned that the reality is that our kids are eligible for treatment. We may have a higher incidence of things like sexual abuse or drug use. We could look at how to help with those issues. She stated that MHAS is also trying to look at why these kids are being removed from home. She also stated that we need to advocate for Medicaid to cover the cost of residential programs. It shouldn’t be a county issue. Harry stated that the commissioners would love to see the kids stay in Huron County instead of having to be sent away, because they pay out a great deal of money each month to other counties for residential programs/ foster homes. Lenora shared that there are many extra costs involved in the family visiting the youth while in treatment, on top of the cost of treatment itself.

Programs- Strengthening Families Program now has 32 trained facilitators. Niki asked the agencies to notify her if they knew any organizations, churches, etc. willing to donate meals for the SFP- either to prepare and serve the meals or make a monetary donation toward catering.

OASCIS- newer computer software the state developed for the FCFC programs.

Online Referral System- Niki shared that we’ve been working with Job Router to develop an online referral system to streamline the referral process and ensure no referrals get missed. Lonny pointed out that the Huron County Economic Development Committee already has something similar in place. He suggested that Niki look into that first, since the schools and many businesses have already bought into that one.

Tutoring Support- Niki shared that we have funding for tutoring contracts with individuals willing to work with our youth.

Niki shared that we partnered with the Boys & Girls Club. They have been running the program at New London School. They are planning a ribbon cutting ceremony for their new location. Norwalk also started a program this summer at Pleasant Elementary.

Salary/ Admin Fees- Niki shared that a previous state grant, which funded 39% of the salaries has gone away. She needs to apply for other grants. The total salary cost (all benefits included) is $206,000. Niki emphasized that this is why it’s important to collect the council member contributions.

* 1. Ohio Department of Children & Youth

Lenora discussed that by 2025 FCFC, Children Services and Early Intervention will be operating under a different umbrella. This is to provide more resources and collaboration for counties. She also stated that one proven way to stop child abuse is to get people out of poverty. Niki mentioned that the state wants to modernize FCFC, taking more of an upstream approach and focusing on prevention.

1. Old Business
   1. Youth Mental Health Collaborative-update

Lenora stated that this Collaborative is a better fit under MHAS. Kristin Cardone wants to do a survey and then take over the meetings. We will go ahead with today’s meeting as planned though. She asked if everyone agreed with this decision. All said yes.

1. New Business
   1. Agency Updates

Renee- Family Health Services now officially has services at Western Reserve Schools.

Lonny- He will be having more Bridges Out of Poverty trainings. He is looking for Head Coordinator.

Chris- Courts have new personnel.

Parent Reps- Had an orientation recently and will have regular meetings.

Harry- Commissioners took over the deed on a building at CLI for a bus garage. They will be taking over the county transportation. They may be able to run emergency bus routes for schools when bus drivers call off sick.

Jen- Ohio Guidestone is increasing support to schools- especially Head Start.

Karli Varney- Children Services. Doing an internship for her Masters.

Mary- The Child Abuse Prevention Walk and Adult Protection Fair were successful. Around 200 people came to the Expo Building.

Niki- We will have a booth at the Huron County Fair. We’ll be doing rock painting with the kids. Our booth will be located in the Commercial Building. Lenora stated that JFS has an extra booth and offered it to anyone who needs it.

1. **Adjourn (Motion #3)**

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| **Motion 4** | **To adjourn** | | |
| Motion Made By: | Harry Brady | Seconded: | Tim Hollinger |
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**Next HCFCFC Meeting: September 20, 2023 @ 9:00 AM**

**Location: Huron County DJFS**