

OHIO FAMILY & CHILDREN FIRST COORDINATORS ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINIJTES

MAY 17, 2019

Present: Gretchen Behimer (Clermont), Chad Hibbs (OFCF), Cindy Davis (Washington), Gerri Pegues, (Montgomery), Jennifer Coleman (Madison), Lydia Tolbert (Wood),

Kanda Benner (Morrow), Sue Giga (OFCFCA) Janice Houchins (Summit), Jane Whyde (Franklin), Margaret Demko (Hocking & Vinton), Sarah LaTourette (OFCF)

Gerri called the meeting to order at 10:00am. There were no changes to the agenda or minutes. Kanda made a motion to accept the March meeting minutes as presented and Jennifer seconded. Motion approved.

Kanda presented the Fiscal Report. The system can track two accounts (restricted and unrestricted) and can be linked to PNC. Kanda noted that the Quicken training was provided by her county's Chamber of Commerce.

Kanda reviewed expenses and revenues since the last meeting. April cash-on-hand totaled $25,034.09.

Jane provided some state updates. She distributed information about the current budget. She also distributed a sample letter developed by Advocates for Ohio's Future (AOF). HB166 has been taken out of the budget but is expected to return as a bill. AOF is not requesting any action from OFCFCA at this time, but Jane suggested we familiarize ourselves with the letter's content.

Jane discussed Early Intervention Service Coordination (EISC) funding. The amount available for EISC has decreased during the budget process from $11 million to $4 million. She noted that Franklin County referrals are increasing, but funding is not increasing commensurately, leading to capacity issues. As the group discussed the issue, it became clear that referral levels were not consistently increasing or decreasing across counties. Gretchen, for example, noted that at-risk referrals were much lower than they had been before the state moved to a single intake & referral model. Counties also differ in the extent to which the central coordination model is working. The process appears to be confusing and cumbersome in some counties. There was consensus that a meeting with Kim Houck and representatives from ODH and Bright Beginnings would be helpful. In addition, Jane will put out something on the list serve, to see what questions and concerns counties have. Jane indicated she will also send out a letter about this issue, drafted in Franklin County, that others may find helpful. Jane stressed the importance of involving consumers in this effort. Sarah stressed the importance of involving local county partners.

The group discussed multi-system youth. Relevant information, developed by OCALI, was distributed. Jane thanked Sarah for her work in this area when she was a state representative. The group discussed increases in funding for child protection and the impact of funding within a single system versus funding through FCFCs. Some thought there were advantages to having a separate pot of money, provided to FCFCs, specifically designed to keep children out of custody. The group discussed challenges to helping families retain custody. Challenges included a shortage of residential providers, cost, and residential providers refusing to admit children. Some thought residential providers wanted the parent to relinquish custody because once in CSB's custody payment was ensured. Chad reminded the group that residential providers were intrinsic to the Family First legislation. The group also discussed the complexities of funding placements and pressure to place because of liability.

Chad provided additional state updates. He reported that the OFCF Cabinet Council will be providing a report, on multi-system youth, to the General Assembly. The report is due by the end of the year. Regarding TANF funds for SFY19, July 15 is the last date to submit requests. ODJFS is required to approve by July 30. He reminded everyone that OhioMHAS closes their fiscal books for the last two weeks in June. Chad expects decisions about additional FCSS dollars to be made available by the beginning of June. He expects level funding over the next two years. Chad expects some changes in the GFMS system. Tammy will forward additional information. At this time, counties will be required to submit their most recently completed audit. There is some discussion about creating a direct link to the Auditor's Office in the future. Material required for FCSS funds, and other grants, must be submitted by September 30. Chad noted that Shared Plan questions will be addressed at the July regional meetings. The final update and new plan are due August 15.

The group discussed several association items. In the future, approved meeting minutes will be posted on the association's website. There was some discussion about changes in local FCFC coordinators/directors. In reference to the June State meeting, there was some discussion about changing the meeting location to accommodate the "Hidden in Plain Sight" presentation. After some discussion, it was decided to have the meeting in Jane's office building on Airport Drive. Sue will send out a message on the listserve. The meeting agenda will include a budget and committee updates. Sarah will introduce herself and provide state updates. Time will be reserved for sharing "What's Working".

There were some problems with the call-in phone system at the April meeting at the Future Ready building. There was also a suggestion to see if extensions could be placed at the ends of the table to ensure everyone can hear all speakers. Jane will check into it.

The group discussed inviting Deputy Directors to the association's state meetings. It was decided to invite the Deputy Directors. Sarah will provide contact information.

Gretchen suggested a podcast, "After Effect".

After a brief discussion, it was decided that advocacy platform statements could be folded into the work being done by the State and Local Relationships Committee.

Gerri provided an update about the 2019 Annual Meeting. Rooms will be reserved at the Embassy Suites hotel ($139 per night). Meeting sessions will be held in Jane's office building on Airport Drive. The meeting's theme will be, "Year of the Parent". Decorations, soliciting family photos, and county baskets (as door prizes) were discussed. The meeting dates are October 21 and October 22. Gerri will be working on the meeting's budget.

Kanda provided an update for the Professional Development Committee. There is a need for more mentors for new coordinators/directors. Grant Writing was discussed as a possible training topic. Kanda said the committee will be working closely with Aimee and Jennie (OFCF), so efforts are coordinated.

Sue left the meeting. The group discussed Sue's SFY2020 contract. There was some discussion about replacing the newsletter with a news feed and using the website to post some information. Gerri made a motion to discontinue the newsletter. Jane seconded and the motion passed without exception. After some additional discussion, Cindy made a motion to offer Sue a contract for $15,000. Professional Development will replace the newsletter in the contract's responsibilities. Lydia seconded. The motion passed without exception.

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

 Date:

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The next State meeting is on June 28, 2019 (10:00). The meeting will be at:

Future Ready

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