

**GREENE COUNTY FAMILY & CHILDREN FIRST
FULL COUNCIL
MINUTES
May 3, 2021**

PRESENT:

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Kim Bautz	GC Public Library
Theresa Busher	Social Security Administration
Tim Beasley	PCSAO-Ohio START
Deb Cordell	GC Family & Children First
Jennifer Murphy	Council On Rural Services - Head Start
Terry Graves-Strieter	GC Educational Service Center
Melissa Howell	GC Public Health Department
Brandon Huddleson	GC Board of County Commissioners
John LaRock	GC Board of Developmentally Disabled
Brent Lewis	GC Family & Children First
Debbie Matheson	Family Violence Prevention Center
Greta Mayer	GC Mental Health Recovery Board
Paul Otten	Beavercreek Schools
Libby Powers	GC Family & Children First Visitation Center
Kim Redd	Help Me Grow
Beth Rubin	GC Department of Job & Family Services
Delana Zapata	GC Board of Developmental Disabilities
Tom Otto	TCN Behavioral Health Care
Sandy Brubaker	GC Juvenile Court
Laura Halladay	GC OSU Extension
Tamra Pruitt	CareSource-Community Education
Pam Hamer	GC Public Health Department-HMG
Penny Madry-Johnson	GC Housing Program Inc
Lillian McCree	GC Educational Service Center
Brenda Smallwood	Greene Metropolitan Housing Authority
Beth Holten	IHN-Interfaith Hospitality Network
Lana Penney	GC Children Services

Ms. Matheson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. The meeting opened with introductions of all present.

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 1, 2021 MINUTES

Minutes from the February 1, 2021 Full Council Meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Howell, seconded by Ms. Rubin. The motion passed without exception.

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 2021 PROGRAM REPORT

Mr. Lewis reported that we currently have 21 families open for Service Coordination and 5 youth that we are monitoring in residential placement. One has a discharge planned for May 17th, but we have another youth awaiting placement. We continue to access the Multi-System Youth dollars from Medicaid. In calendar year 2020, we accessed \$314,342.00 which provided funding for 12 out-of-home placements. Availability of these funds prevent these placements from being paid for out of local dollars. We were the number five county for accessing these funds to-date. There is a significant amount of monitoring and providing reports back to Medicaid, but we remain dedicated to providing this service that saves a significant amount of local dollars. We currently have one part-time staff who works solely on the MSY process, including completing referrals, and monitoring and maintaining ongoing progress reports.

We continue to provide parenting classes both to local providers and to the community as a whole. We have returned to all treatment providers, with the exception of the Green Leaf Program at the jail. We are currently offering two online courses for the community.

A motion to approve the April 2021 Program Report was made by Ms. Mayer, seconded by Mr. LaRock. The motion passed without exception.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE FISCAL REPORT FOR MARCH OF 2021 AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AUDIT FINANCE COMMITTEE

Ms. Mayer reported that the Audit Finance Committee met this morning prior to the Full Council Meeting. The financial reports and February minutes were reviewed and approved. There were some one-time revenues and expenses due to an increase in Multi System Youth funding (these are not budgeted for, as they are pass-through as needed requests) and the fact that there continues to be a vacancy in the Administrative Assistant position. The formal reconciliation process will be delayed until the next meeting due to the vacancies within the agency impacting the reconciliation.

A motion was made by Ms. Rubin and seconded by Ms. Hamer to accept the Fiscal Report for March along with the recommendations of the Audit Finance Committee. The motion passed without exception.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

STEERING COMMITTEE-MS. MATHESON

Ms. Matheson advised the Steering Committee will meet following the Full Council meeting. Mr. Lewis reported that Ms. Penney from Children Services has joined the Steering Committee and will be reporting each meeting on the new initiative at Children Services, Ohio Start.

HELP ME GROW – MS. Hamer

Ms. Hamer reported that community partners are doing an excellent job with referrals. Referral numbers have stayed within the 35-45 range. Speech and autism seem to be behind in terms of referrals, so they are keeping an eye on that. We are in the process of working on the SFY 22 Grant and working to spend out the current grant. There is a new service coordinator starting tomorrow.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mr. Lewis reported that Ms. Graves-Strieter was presented with the United Way Volunteer of the Year award for Greene County last week.
- Ms. Rubin reported that May is National Foster Care Month and this year's theme is "Foster Care as a support to families, not a substitute for parents." They usually host a large event in appreciation of foster parents, but are unable to do so due to COVID. In the Public Assistance area, there was a statewide technical upgrade in the last week that caused the system to be down for four working days. During this time, workers could not access any information about Medicaid or SNAP for clients. This was a statewide issue.
- Ms. Mayer shared about 988, which is an alternative to calling 911. It is a national movement directed at providing support and services to individuals who are suicidal. Ms. Mayer is on the state planning group for this. There are a lot of unknowns at this point, but the go live date is going to be July of 2022. She hopes to have more details to provide at future meetings. As Boards across the state, they are advocating to increase capacity for emergency services, not replace existing services. 211 from United Way is also involved in this planning process. May is Mental Health month. There is a Mental Health toolkit available on the MHRB website that local partners can download and utilize. The website is www.mhrb.org.
- Ms. Howell reported that about 125,000 COVID vaccinations have been delivered in Greene County. That gives us about 35% of the population being vaccinated and 42% of the eligible population. The Health Department has delivered about 45,000 of those doses. Ms. Howell spoke on the Cicadas that are coming soon. She reported they are not dangerous, but more of a nuisance. They do not carry disease.
- Ms. Brubaker reported that this week is National Corrections Officers week. Magistrate Cynthia Thompson was awarded the Jume Amstad's Outstanding Volunteer and Advocacy Award for all of her work with the youth in Greene County. There are a lot of changes at Juvenile Court. Judge Amy Lewis is in place and Jennifer Marietta is the new Court Administrator, along with a new Chief Deputy. Mark Brown is the new Director of Security. Still looking for deputy clerks and a truancy interventionist. Rachel Biggs has moved to employment with Fairborn Schools.
- Ms. Penney reported that we just completed Child Abuse Prevention Month, which is April. Numerous community partners put out pinwheels to raise awareness. The large event that is held each year will not be held due to COVID, but winning artwork has been chosen from local 4th and 5th graders for next year's calendar. Ms. Penney reported on Ohio Start, which the presenter from the State of Ohio will talk about in more detail.
- Ms. Powers reported that May is Supervised Visitation Month, and this is the 20th year Anniversary of the Visitation Center being under the direction of Family and Children First in Greene County. We are open six days a week for face to face visits with children and their non-custodial parents.
- Mr. LaRock reported that they are watching the state budget process closely. The biggest item they are concerned with is wage increase for direct service workers. The Governor put a 5% increase in his budget each year to bring the pay for direct staff up, but they are watching to see what the Senate does. If they do not put it back into the budget, local agencies will be expected to fund it. The goal is to get these workers to \$15.00. We currently have a shortage in the number of workers in this area.

- Ms. Halladay reported that OSU Extension is slowly transitioning back to in person services. The office is open on a daily basis now and by June 1st the majority of all staff will be back in the office daily. 4H is moving forward with a plan to return to overnight camps and planning for a full Fair.
- Mr. Huddleson reported that things are going well at the county. We are waiting to hear what the rules are surrounding the Rescue Act Funds. Greene County will receive 33 million dollars over two years and are looking at how that can best be invested back into the community. Mr. Huddleson provided an update on the jail and the feedback the county has received on its size being too large, along with the rate of incarceration. Based on that feedback, the current capacity is 384 beds between both facilities. The issue will be on the ballot asking for funding to build a new 384 bed jail. There will be a focus on safety, treatment and flexibility.
- Ms. Zapata reported that there are new training resources that the Board is providing to the community. They just recently started an SSA round table. The first one is scheduled for May 18th, and will focus on planning for community living. She is not sure yet what the frequency will be, but they will be posted on their FB website. There is also a behavior awareness series going on currently. This is taking place the first Thursday of each month. Good collaboration has been established with other counties during COVID for these training series.
- Ms. Bautz reported that the library is beginning to plan for the summer reading club that will take place from June 1st through July 31st. There is also a program for birth through adulthood, with incentives in place. Additionally, there are virtual programs that will be going on each week during the summer, along with virtual story time continuing. They are looking to possibly take these activities outdoors.
- Ms. Graves-Strieter reported that the ESC is finishing out the school year and preparing for next year. They are also working on extended learning initiatives to help close the gaps for students who have gotten behind during COVID. Information about this is on each school district's websites. She reminded everyone that several districts have levies on the ballot tomorrow. There were two new initiatives at the ESC this past school year, Project Life for Super Seniors, and one for students who have developmental disabilities and stay in school sometimes until they are 22 years old. This program collaborated with Wright State in order to provide opportunities on campus for these youth. They also started the Total Communication program for pre-school students with hearing and speech deficits. There were five or six students in this program this year that were housed at Fairborn.
- Ms. Busher reported that the Social Security office is still closed and it is a national decision in order for them to reopen. Although most services are taking place on the phone, they are in dire need of appointments being made available, which starts with scheduling a phone call. Ms. Busher stated that if any organization would like updated training on SSI to reach out to her and she can make this happen.
- Ms. Redd thanked all those that have partnered with her in reaching potential clients. She is available to participate in more upcoming events and would really like to focus on reaching pregnant moms as early as possible in their pregnancy.
- Ms. Pruitt reported that CareSource offers Medicaid, which is for those with lower income, as well as those who don't meet income qualifications with Medicaid. She pointed out that during this time many people are going through layoffs and other employment changes, and they want to make sure that Greene County residents are aware of the resources that are available. Transportation is available, for those who meet Medicaid qualifications, for COVID vaccinations and for grocery shopping or food banks. They also offer a program named Life Services that connects clients to a life coach for up to two years in order to help them overcome whatever barriers they are facing in life at this time. As long as children are on CareSource, the parents are also eligible.

- Ms. Madry-Johnson reported that all three of their Emergency Shelters for families are full, having a current census of 42. They are recruiting for a receptionist at the main office. They also have added an emergency services worker and a HEAP intake specialist at the Dayton Avenue office.
- Mr. Otten reported that this is Teacher Appreciation week this week. Beavercreek has a levy on the ballot, along with Bellbrook-Sugarcreek, Fairborn and Xenia. Beavercreek is doing their best to have an end of the year activity, with adjustments to ensure safety. They will hold Prom this Saturday in the stadium. Graduation will be held for two days in order to ensure social distancing. Some school districts will be holding their own vaccination clinic for students 16 and over. More information on that will be coming out as early as this afternoon. Mr. Otten expressed his appreciation to Ms. Howell and the Health Department for all their assistance during this challenging school year.
- Ms. McCree reported that the CARES ESC project was originally supposed to end in November, but was extended until June of 2022. This project addresses the vulnerable population and the families that were disproportionately affected by COVID. They are looking at increasing educational achievement and family engagement. Ms. McCree has been focusing on youth in foster care and those placed with Kinship Caregivers. She has been attending a support group that has been very supportive to these families, especially to those grandparents who are re-engaging with the school system. If you are aware of any of these families that can use additional help or support, please connect them with Ms. McCree.
- Ms. Murphy reported Head Start has been at half enrollment all year, but the plan is to be back at full enrollment by next school year. For the past couple of years, there has not been a center in Jamestown, but there will be one open in the Fall. They are accepting applications for next program year and are holding an Open House this Friday from 10am-2pm at the Xenia location.
- Ms. Pulver reported that the Drug Free Coalition is starting to move forward on the Healing Communities Study. Later this afternoon there is a meeting to discuss the possibility of a Quick Response Team in the community, along with Narcan expansion and MAT in recovery housing.
- Mr. Otto reported that TCN has added an additional Doctor in the Medicated Assisted Treatment program. They also recently hired a PA for expansion of their Primary Care. They also added Dr. Ackawaga who returned to the team after three years at the VA. TCN is on track to become a part of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, which will allow them to be more accessible to about 3000 additional consumers. Mr. Otto reported the sad news that Dr. Flores passed away this past week. It has been a very difficult time at TCN as she was with the organization for over 20 years.
- Ms. Holten reported that they currently have five families at the Snyder House of Hope and one family in overflow housing. They are struggling with identifying landlords that will accept Section 8 vouchers and asked if anyone is aware of landlords who will work with them or Greene Met to please let her know. Later in the Summer they are going to be changing their name from Interfaith Hospitality Network to Family Promise, which will align them with their national organization. They will still operate the Snyder House of Hope, but hope to expand to additional programming beyond emergency housing. This will take place some time in August.
- Ms. Smallwood reported that currently all waiting lists are open and they need additional landlords who will work with Greene Met. There are currently 1053 on the Housing Choice Section 8 Voucher waiting list and 857 on the Public Housing wait list. Village Greene, in Yellow Springs has 68 applicants. For this month they will be issuing 50 vouchers.
- Ms. Matheson reported that they are planning a Glow Run for May 15th in conjunction with United Way. They are in the process of pursuing an outreach center on a lot they purchased up the street from them. Updates will be forthcoming as they move forward on this project. In June they will be working with the Council on Aging to address elder abuse in the community.

OHIO START PRESENTATION - TIM BEASLEY

Mr. Beasley reported that the START program is in 52 counties in Ohio. The primary focus of the START program is to work with families open to the Child Welfare Agency where substance abuse is a primary issue. A dyad is formed within the child welfare agency, which consists of the caseworker and a peer mentor. The peer mentor has a shared living experience in which they have had a substance use disorder and have also had an open child welfare case in the past. They partner with the caseworker and work with the family towards recovery. What really makes the START program different is the dyad and the intensive contact with the family, as well as the partnership with local mental health providers, in order to create a team that treats the family holistically and focuses on the entire family. Mr. Beasley plans to return in August for a longer presentation.

OTHER ITEMS AT DISCRETION OF CHAIR AND DIRECTOR

There were no other items of discussion.

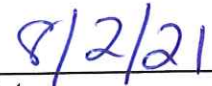
The next meeting is Monday, August 2, 2021, @ Greene County ESC at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned @ 10:15 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,


Brent Lewis, Director

APPROVED:


Date