



# **MEDINA COUNTY FAMILY FIRST COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF September 26, 2017**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

1. Andregg, Carol ..... Family Representative
2. Benza, Amy ..... Cornerstone Community Wellness Center
3. Cooke, Kristin ..... Community Action Wayne/Medina
4. Fifner, Joanna ..... OSU Extension
5. Kasten-Krause, Melanie ..... SHC / The ARC
6. Kipfstuhl, Michelle ..... Catholic Charities
7. Koran, William ..... Medina County ESC
8. Kubena-Yatsko, Debbie ..... Medina Metro Housing
9. Miller, Tony ..... Juvenile Court
10. Ngozi, Hasani ..... Ohio Department of Youth Services
11. Parzych, Cheryl ..... United Way of Medina County
12. Robinson, Karla ..... Project: LEARN of Medina
13. Safran, Robert ..... City of Brunswick
14. Shema, Timothy ..... Domestic Relations Court
15. Simon, Betsy ..... Family Representative
16. Tahajod, Sharon ..... Family Representative
17. Toth, Laura ..... Office for Older Adults, Chair-Elect
18. Welch, Heidi ..... Medina United Methodist Church
19. Wurgler, Rhonda ..... Children's Center of Medina County

### **GUESTS PRESENT**

1. Chambers, Nathan ..... Battered Women's Shelter
2. Cornett, Cynthia ..... PAC
3. Finnerty, Annie ..... MCBDD
4. Paliswat, Brittany ..... Battered Women's Shelter
5. Riekbrod, Christy ..... Medina Health Ministry

### **STAFF PRESENT**

1. Barnett, Jane ..... Council Coordinator

#### **1. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions – Laura Toth, Chair Elect**

Laura Toth called the meeting to order at 9:16 a.m. and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made.

#### **2. Approval of Council Minutes – August 22, 2017**

William Koran made a motion to approve the minutes from August 22, 2017, Melanie Kasten-Krause seconded. The motion passed. Amy Benza, Tony Miller, Tim Shema, Carol Andregg abstained.

#### **3. Action Item(s)**

##### **a) FY2018 Operational Capacity Building Grant**

Cheryl Parzych made a motion to approve the re-submission of the FY18 Operational Capacity Building Grant.

##### **b) Shared Plan**

Carol Andregg made a motion to approve the updated Shared Plan for FY17-19. Sharon Tahajod seconded. The motion passed.

#### 4. **STATE MANDATES**

##### a) **Early Intervention**

Laura Toth shared that Early Intervention and Central Coordination were discussed in detail at the Admin Committee meeting last week. Annie Finnerty from MCBDD shared that last week Medina received 15 referrals. To avoid missing referrals, continue to use the Cleveland Site Center at (1800-755-GROW) and contact Early Intervention at 330-764-8530. (If no answer, contact MCBDD at 330-725-7751 for Early Intervention and 330-723-9615 for Help Me Grow Home Visiting (Catholic Charities)).

##### b) **Youth Service Coordination**

Jane Barnett shared information from the Regional Coordinator's Family Children First Council Meeting she attended on Friday, 9/22. The Service Coordination Mechanism needs to be updated by April 14. Within that process, counties need to inform the state if they want to participate in using the Fidelity EHR (electronic database). By using the electronic system, the counties and states will be better able to identify gaps in services. Training for that system will start in November. Counties will also need to identify an assessment tool to be used in service coordination. "CANS" assessment tool will be included in Fidelity EHR. Also counties are not required to use Wrap Around Service but are being encouraged to do so because the process is evidence based vs. Service Coordination which is strength based. Finally the Service Mechanism needs to identify how the county makes referrals from the EI program once the child turns age 3.

##### c) **Shared Plan**

Motion to approve plan FY17-18 in action items (above).

#### 5. **Cross Cutting Topic –**

Cross Cutting Topic – Kristin Cooke, Community Action

Kristin passed out brochures available through Community Action and gave an overview of two main programs.

##### **Housing and Economic Assistance with programs**

- Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP)
- Home Maintenance and Repair (HMR) (aids families that are impacted with health and safety issues)
- Utility Assistance Programs (help improve energy efficiency in home)
- Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)
- Emergency Home Energy Assistance Program (E-HEAP)
- PIPP Plus
- Fuel fund Programs
- Gas Cards
- Getting Ahead
- Ohio Benefit Bank – Taxes
- Prescription Assistance
- Car Repair
- Spring Plant Program

##### **Child & Family Development**

- Head Start – serves eligible pregnant women, infants, toddlers and preschoolers through age 5 and their families. These programs not only help the children, they help families set goals for themselves and children. Home service programs are available; Head Start is now switching to 6 ½ hour day from only 3 hours.
- Safety Programs
- Dads Support Groups and Moms Support Groups

Contact: 330-723-2229 or email @ [info@cawm.org](mailto:info@cawm.org) for more information or to schedule an assessment.

6. **LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **Administrative**

Laura Toth shared that the Admin meeting was hosted at MCBDD in order for the committee to see the the Service Coordinators new space. The committee talked about Central Coordination. It was recommended that referrals call 1800-755-GROW and EI or Catholic Charities until we are confident that Central Coordination is working.

b) **Adult Advisory Consortium**

Kubena-Yatsko shared that the last meeting, the committee identified gaps in services in Medina County. At the next meeting, November 6 we will review what the Living Well Medina County Survey Identified as gaps and incorporate both into a plan. Identified issues include grandparents raising grandchildren and bedbugs.

c) **Bylaws**

Laura Toth shared that quorum has been an issue. Changing the bylaws is needed in order to meet quorum. Incorporating a proxy or allowing agencies vs members within the organization may be an option if that is an allowable course of action which can be addressed when bylaws meets next.

d) **Family Advisory**

Sharon Tahojod shared that Family Advisory will next meet in October. At November's meeting, members will be asked if they would like to donate to the Special Needs Fund.

e) **Membership**

Sharon Tahojod shared applications for membership are being accepted through September 30. Notices have been placed on the Family First website as well as posted in the Medina County Gazette. The ballot will be finished by the October meeting and finished for the election in November.

f) **Planning**

n/a

g) **Public Relations**

Laura Toth shared that the admin committee talked about how we could get the word out to the community about the changes and the Central Coordination.

h) **Youth Advisory Consortium**

Rhonda Wurgler shared that Melissa Romaine from Ohio Guidestone presented at the last meeting. Next meeting we will have a presentation from Head Start and held at Community Action in Medina.

i) **Trauma Informed Care**

Rhonda Wurgler shared that TIC is in the process of developing next steps and what we want to accomplish with the committee. The next meeting which will be located at Community Action in Medina.

7. **Public Comments**

**Suicide Prevention Videos**

Christy Riekbrod from Medina Health Ministry shared that the Video contest to Stomp Out Suicide begins September 30 – December 1, 2017.

For details go to [www.alternativepaths.org](http://www.alternativepaths.org) under Services and Suicide Prevention

**MCBDD:**

Annie Finnerty, from MCBDD, shared that Annette Davis-Kramp resigned as superintendent at last night's MCBDD's meeting. Jon Bluebond will be Interim Superintendent.

**Homeless Count January 23, 2018:**

Debbie Kubena-Yatsko shared that additional help will be needed outside the Housing Authority to conduct the annual homeless count. In the near future (after reviewing the HUD requirements) Debbie will be sending out information and will be recruiting for anyone interested in participating.

8. **Adjournment**

Carol Andregg made a motion to adjourn. Debbie Kubena-Yatsko seconded. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Jane Barnett