



# Lorain County Children and Families First Council Full Council Meeting

January 23, 2025

## Attendees:

- Chelsea Freeman-Yates
- Barbara Tamas
- Dan Haight
- Rick Soto
- Franco Gallo
- Kristen Fox-Berki
- Mark Adams
- Jeffery Graham
- Tiffany Poole
- Emily Kirsch
- Shauna Matelski
- Isaac Young
- John Gall
- Melissa Mack
- Billie Olsen
- Valerie Gonzalez
- Yacylin Velazquez
- Jon Paul Filipkowski
- Tammy Taylor
- Guest – Bart Gonzalez
- Guest – Heather Knoble
- Guest – Kelly Burns
- Guest – Lee

## Opening:

- ❖ The Full Council Meeting of the Lorain County Children and Families First Council was called to order at 9:00 am on January 23, 2025, in Elyria by Barbara Tamas.

## Welcome and Introductions:

- ❖ Barbara Tamas welcomed everyone, and Introductions were made around the room.

## Approval of Minutes:

- ❖ Barbara Tamas asked for approval of the meeting minutes from the previous Full Council Meeting on October 24, 2024. Dan Haight motioned to approve, and Franco Gallo seconded.
- ❖ The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

## Open Issues:

- ❖ Early Intervention
  - Chelsea Freeman-Yates shared that the quarterly report needs to be approved by the state
  - Isaac Young shared that for the reporting period of July 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 that 432 referrals were made which was an increase of 11.6% from the last period of 387. The majority of referrals were made from family and caregivers with the second highest being from physicians. Of the 432 referrals, 305 of them were under the age of 2. During that period there were 634 total individualized family service plans completed.
  - Two (2) new staff positions have been opened. A part-time service coordinator has been added and an EI coordinator. There is currently one (1) vacancy. Most of the workers have just hit their two (2) years employment mark and one (1) had their three (3) year mark.
  - A lot of time was spent during the last period for Child Find and Outreach. This included the EI Carnival, trainings, Lorain County Fair, and several community events (Toss the Stigma, Lake Erie Crushers game and Trunk or Treat events).



# Lorain County Children and Families First Council Full Council Meeting

## January 23, 2025

- Motion to adopt the Early Intervention quarterly report was put forth by Barbara Tamas. Kristen Fox-Berki motioned to approve, and Rick Soto seconded. Quarterly report was accepted unanimously.
- ❖ Current Program Update
  - Data Committee information provided by Jon Paul Filipkowski via the pulldown screen.
    - Where are the families from:
      - Most of the families being serviced are from Lorain and Elyria
      - Rural areas need to have more outreach
      - No referrals were received from the Wellington area in 2024. We will be reaching out to Wellington schools and educating them on our services
      - Individuals in the southern part of Lorain County are going to Medina, Ashland and Huron County for service as it's easier for them
    - Who are clients are:
      - Our agency services a higher proportion of minority families compared to what is in the county
      - We are servicing 60% male and 40% female clients, and 3 non-binary
      - Clients on the wait list are 50% male and 50% female clients
        - ◆ Males tend to act out more and need extra support
        - ◆ Males tend to be more involved with juvenile justice
      - Most ages of clients are in the 12-to-16-year age bracket, but our goal is to see more in the 5-to-10-year age bracket
    - Referrals:
      - We had 75 referrals in 2024 (6 per month average)
      - More referrals are sent in after the holidays and halfway through the beginning of the school year
      - Most referrals are coming from child protective services, schools and juvenile justice (60%)
      - Average days on the wait list was about 123 days
        - ◆ This has recently gone down since hiring a new family service coordinator
        - ◆ We are also closing cases now in a timely manner after making sure the families are set up
      - We had 46 cases that were never opened
        - ◆ Reasons
          - Denial of service
          - OhioRise Family Voice and Choice
          - No contact
          - No longer residing in the county
          - Exceeds age requirement
  - Data Committee information provided by Chelsea Freeman-Yates via the pulldown screen.
    - Our wait list is at 28 and our goal is to be around 15
    - Outcome success
      - 63% of our cases are 100% success
      - 14% of our cases closed due to failure to engage



# Lorain County Children and Families First Council Full Council Meeting

January 23, 2025

- One (1) case was a relinquishment to LCCS
- Open case placement
  - 60% are in home with parents and some are safety planned with family and family friends
  - We are seeing an increase in homeless families
- Current caseloads
  - Working towards an average of 14 to 16 cases each
  - Chelsea has started taking on more cases
  - Jesse was in training and will be increasing his case load
  - Kristen is working with the Plan of Safe Care (working with moms to help maintain sobriety to keep their infant) so she does not have as many of the regular caseload
- ❖ Old Business
  - Shared Plan
    - FSY26-28 will be started and will be in conjunction with the work for the Kids Summit Work Group
    - Kids Summit state report was submitted
      - Kids Summit Initiatives
      - Lorain County No Wrong Door – trauma informed way to do warm handoffs in the county
      - Lorain County Kids Summit 10/06/25 – mimicking the state Kids Summit
        - ◆ Keynote speaker
        - ◆ Inviting state officials, local government
        - ◆ Child and family serving agencies will be represented
        - ◆ We will have open registration and “invitation only” for mayors, superintendents, agency officials
        - ◆ Venue has already been chosen
        - ◆ LCPH has an intern starting to help with the event
    - Lorain Cares Partnership
      - Agencies involved are LCCFC, LCCS, ESC, and MHARS
      - School swag bags were delivered to all public, private and charter schools throughout Lorain County
      - Working on Lorain County Lorain Cares Summit 05/13/25 – Professionals and providers will be invited
    - Ohio Start Program
      - Within LCCS
      - Mimics Plan of Safe Care, but more intensive
      - LCCFFC will be providing \$5,000
      - Possibly get Riveon involved
  - Outreach and Community Events
    - Connecting for Kids event will be March 2025
    - Planning for the LCCFFC annual event has started
      - Meeting scheduled with Mayor Brubaker (Elyria)
    - Youth Leadership Council



# Lorain County Children and Families First Council Full Council Meeting

January 23, 2025

- Meeting every Tuesday at 7PM via Zoom
- Still recruiting youth ages 12 to 18
- Request from LCPH for a smoking cessation social media campaign
- Working with the Urban League
- Service Coordination Mechanism and Dispute Resolution
  - Needs to be reviewed and approved
  - This is a guideline as to how we do our services
    - ◆ Motion to adopt the Service Coordination Mechanism and Dispute Resolution was put forth by Barbara Tamas. Billie Olsen motioned to approve, and Kristen Fox-Berki seconded. Service Coordination Mechanism and Dispute Resolution document was accepted unanimously.
- Truancy Work Group (This will also be reflected in our shared plan for the next biennium)
  - Lorain County Tool Kit
    - ◆ This is currently being worked on
  - K-3 Truancy Prevention Programming
    - ◆ Looking at currently
- Respite Work Group – 4C through MHARS board is leading
  - This will also be reflected in our shared plan
  - Just awarded \$16,748.37 for the shared plan initiative. This money will go to recruit and formalize a respite program in Lorain County between ISP and LCCFFC
  - Looking for community members to be on a list of respite providers, provide background checks, do mini home studies, and provide training
- Committee Reports
  - Finance meeting was held on 01/08/25
    - Working on the Hinkle Report which is due end of February
    - \$30,829.79 in Miscellaneous Funds
    - We have used about half of our FCSS funds with about \$38,000 remaining
    - OCBF balance is about \$27,000
    - TANF funds were awarded at \$370,000. Billing about \$42,000 per month.
    - MSY/CPS 13% balance is \$91,570
    - EI Admin is at \$52,000
    - EI Outreach is at \$21,000
    - Pooled Funding is a little over \$1,000,000
    - Awaiting \$40,000 from LCPH
    - The last payments from LCCS and Commissioners has been received
    - In contract with Children Care Resource Center, Catholic Charities, Neighborhood Alliance for Early Intervention, Plan of Safe Care contract with LCPH is pending and being worked on, Individual contracts with respite providers, Dr. Chandler-Holtz (psychological assessments), going into contract with Stark County
    - Family Support Specialist pilot program
      - ◆ Denise will take these cases
      - ◆ Mimics service coordination, but supports the family and not just the child
      - ◆ Getting \$5,000 for this program so it was not contracted out



# Lorain County Children and Families First Council Full Council Meeting

## January 23, 2025

- Looking at going into contract with the Urban League using youth leadership funds of about \$8,000
- The next meeting will be April 2, 2025 at 8:30 am via Zoom
- Program, Data and Evaluation
  - Did not meet this quarter
- Early Childhood Committee
  - Did not meet this quarter
- New Business
  - Family Support Specialist pilot program (see above)
    - Will evaluate how it goes and hope to get more money from the state
  - LCCFFC Mini Grant
    - Budgeting \$25,000
    - Grant would be marketed to providers, agency, non-profit agency
    - Applications would be submitted to align with our shared plan
    - Alignment with the plan would require a pre and post plan
    - This would be five (5) \$5,000 awards for Spring 2025 with award in late Summer
    - Looking at bolstering respite, truancy, prevention services
      - ◆ Motion to adopt the LCCFFC Mini Grant was put forth by Barbara Tamas. Jeffery Graham motioned to approve, and Mark Adams seconded. Implementing Mini Grant was accepted unanimously.
  - Vote and approval of Chair and Vice Chair
    - Motion to nominate Mark Adams to Chair for FS26 was accepted unanimously
    - Motion to nominate Dan Haight to Vice Chair for FS26 was accepted unanimously

### Board and Guest Comments:

- ❖ Dan Haight receiving center has been enclosed on the outside, looking at August 2025 opening
- ❖ Riveon will be moving towards primary care and opening in April and merged with holistic care

### Next Meeting:

- ❖ The next meetings are scheduled for April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 @ 9:00 am, July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 9:00 am, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 @ 9:00 am and January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 @ 9:00 am

### Comments/tasks assigned:

- ❖ None

### Adjournment:

- ❖ Dan Haight made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Rick Soto. Meeting adjourned at 9:59 am by Barbara Tamas

Minutes submitted by: Tammy Taylor