

DJFS Planning Committee Meeting
May 24, 2016 9-11 am
CCDJFS Community Room

Present: Kathie Chaffee, Lori Colian, Eileen Dray-Bardon, James Ford, Carol Harvey, Cindy Linger, Thomas Andrews, Audrey Null, Roger Sikorszky, Tracy Smith, Kim Steele, Cathy Webb, Brandy Virden

Establish a Quorum

Audrey Null opened the meeting and welcomed members. A quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes

Cindy Linger made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 23rd meeting. James Ford seconded. Motion carried.

Adoption of Agenda

There were no additions, deletions, or corrections to the agenda. It was adopted as presented.

Introductions of Guests

Audrey and members welcomed Tom Andrews, new Executive Director of the Community Action Agency. Members introduced themselves.

Eileen Dray-Bardon gave a brief history on the origin of the county JFS Planning Committee and its purpose. When the TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) Block Grant was adopted in Ohio, the county JFS Planning Committee replaced the original Welfare Advisory Board.

The committee is a broad representation of individuals and groups in the county who have an interest in assisting and serving county families. Some of the committee members are mandated by the State. Others are representatives of the community. All members of the committee are appointment by the County Board of Commissioners.

The primary purpose of the Planning Committee is to monitor the use of the TANF funds received by the county DJFS. The committee reviews the county PRC (Prevention, Retention, and Contingency) Plan and approves it. The committee's by-laws were adopted in 1998. **Terry will scan and send the by-laws to all members via e-mail. Eileen asked members to let her know if they would like to see any other DJFS reports at the quarterly meetings.**

Reports

Ohio Means Jobs Report

Neither Bert Cene nor Jack Hile from MCTA (Mahoning Columbiana Training Association) could attend today's meeting, so Eileen gave an update on the new federal Comprehensive Case Management Employment Program (CCMEP).

This new program combines both WIOA (Workforce and Innovation Opportunity Act) funds which come from the Department of Labor (DOL) and TANF funds. The 2 funds are not compatible.

The program targets youths in the WIOA Youth Employment Program and TANF youths ages 16-24. Currently, there are only 11 mandated youths in that population in Columbiana County.

Each county's Board of Commissioners had the responsibility of choosing either their county Workforce

Development Agency or their county JFS to be their county's lead agency for CCMEP. The Columbiana County Board of Commissioners chose MCTA.

Last week, the ODJFS (Ohio Dept. of Job and Family Services) Director announced that counties must revisit this, and the Development Board must send a letter of intent to the State that their county intends to participate in CCMEP. At last week's meeting, Eileen asked the Board to wait to submit the letter of intent. She is working to preserve the CCDJFS's TANF funds for their Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) which employs approximately 200+ TANF eligible youths and is a valuable asset to the youths and their families and to the employers in Columbiana County. CCDJFS has run SYEP very successfully for 5 years.

CCMEP would take away valuable funds from SYEP. CCMEP would use \$900,000 in WIOA/TANF funds to serve 11 eligible people plus approximately 75 other program volunteers (a total of about 86 people) compared to the 200+ served by SYEP.

Carol Harvey reported that employment under CCMEP is not even guaranteed to be for a paid job, and kids are not going to want to participate if they won't receive a paycheck. SYEP is a paid employment program and teaches the kids good work ethics and self-reliance. This year's Columbiana County SYEP allocation is \$504,575.00, but they will be receiving additional SYEP funds from other counties who do not wish to administer the program.

Carol reported that they currently have 72 participating worksites for the 2016 program. CCDJFS has had 5 application days for youths to apply for the program. They have taken 294 applications so far and have had to deny only 17 who did not meet the TANF eligibility requirements. 156 of those approved have completed interviews and have been placed at worksites. CCDJFS may hold another open application day if necessary.

Tom asked if the Planning Committee members could do anything to assist CCDJFS in keeping SYEP. Eileen stated that the committee, at times, will sign Resolutions of Support for CCDJFS programs.

CCDJFS Reports

Eileen presented the January – April reports via power point:

- **Work Participation Report** – in both the All-Family and Two-Parent categories, CCDJFS exceeded the State's required rate for the months January-March and is on track to do the same for April.
- **Food Assistance** recipients are averaging about 17,065 per month, and expenditures are averaging a little over \$2 million per month.
- **Medicaid** recipients are averaging 26,027 per month, and expenditures are averaging \$12.7 million per month.
- An average of 1,345 **initial applications** for assistance are being approved, and 967 are being denied.
- For **application processing timeliness**, 95% of Food Assistance applications, 83% of Medicaid applications, and 100% of OWF Cash Assistance applications are being processed in a timely manner.
- There are currently 53 open **Adult Protective Services** cases. Reports of elder abuse/neglect are averaging 29 per month and actual investigations are 20 per month. Self-neglect continues to be the largest investigation category (about 63% of total investigations).
- **Non-emergency Transportation (NET)** is averaging about 416 unduplicated consumers at an average cost of \$110,957.00 per month.

- The **Child Care** program is serving an average of 800 children per month.
- The **PRC** program is averaging \$18,927.00 in expenditures per month. The largest categories of need include Rent/Deposit assistance; Subsidized Employment Program (SEP) Employer Incentives; and Utilities assistance.
- The **Seek Work/SEP Participation Report** showed 43 total participants and 5 program completions. Total cost for gas vouchers for the 4-month period was \$2,600; total cost for employee incentives was \$3,000; and total cost for employer subsidies was \$11,500.

Caring for Kids Update

Carol reported that the Annual Dinner was a big success – the Chinese raffle brought in \$1,470.

The current Caring for Kids account balance is approximately \$175,000. Carol has received \$290 in private donations. They continue to pay out birthday allowances for the kids in care (\$250 per child).

Old Business

Shared Services Update

Eileen reported that CCDJFS has been participating in the new Shared Services system since the end of February. The next phase will be document sharing across counties under a whole new document management system. Columbiana County will go live with this the 2nd week of June. This new system of managing documents is a very new concept but will be very efficient in managing the workload. There are also new ABD (Aged, Blind, and Disabled) Medicaid program changes coming.

CCMEP Update

This was discussed earlier under Reports.

Senior Services Levy Advisory Board Update

Eileen reported that CCDJFS will soon be hiring the Levy Administrator and 2 case managers. The Board has had to start from scratch in getting everything in place. **They are hoping to have services in place for elderly citizens by the end of the summer.**

New Business

PRC Plan Revisions

Eileen reviewed the Plan revisions with members:

- Page 4 – Under Family Preservation and Reunification Services, Family Mentoring and Homemaker Services were added. The competitive grant for the current Mentoring program will end but will continue with one family mentor to manage the caseload. This is for TANF eligible people with a minor child in the household. Homemaker services are currently being offered but will now be included in PRC services.
- Page 4 – Under Child Welfare Contingency Services, “coats” was changed to “clothing.”
- Page 5 – Under Kinship Care Services, gas vouchers were added to assist relatives raising kids (i.e. grandparents) to attend training for raising special needs kids. Legal services were also added to assist in establishing guardianships, placements, or custodial care. This population is growing all the time due to substance abuse issues and kids being taken from their parents. An increasing number of grandparents are raising their grandkids.

- Page 6 – A new program, Shoes for Children was added to provide shoe vouchers to school age children in grades K-12. CCDJFS will be meeting with Shoe Sensation in Salem in a few weeks to discuss a possible program – the agency is required to send out an RFP and will be requesting bids for the shoe voucher program.

Eileen asked the Committee to approve these recommended changes by signing the Resolution of Support. The motion was made by Kathie Chaffee and seconded by Tracy Smith to approve the recommended changes and to sign the Resolution. Motion carried. **Eileen will take the recommended changes and the Resolution to the Board of Commissioners. The PRC Plan Revisions will be effective July 1, 2016.**

Lori reported that Family and Children First Council (FCFC) has been getting phone calls from people with bed bug and head lice issues. She asked if the PRC funds for the head lice eradication program were for extermination services or just for supplies. Eileen reported that they were just for the supplies.

In the past, CCDJFS had a contract with the County Health Department, but it was a very expensive program. CCDJFS does have head lice eradication kits available at the agency, but the family has to be TANF eligible.

Lori reported that the increasing problems with bed bugs and head lice is starting to have a negative impact on schools and parents' jobs, and she is afraid that this problem is going to get bigger. Eileen reported that she had talked to the Health Department in the past about the bed bug problem, and they told her that having bed bugs is not considered a health risk. It is very expensive and difficult to treat (professional extermination services and heat treatments are necessary). Lori stated that the information she recently received from Columbus stated that bed bugs do carry disease. Chronic bed bug and head lice cases are revealing symptoms of bigger, more serious issues with families. Some homes have multiple families residing in them. **Eileen and Lori both agreed to continue to monitor the situation. Tom suggested that they begin to collect statistics.** According to the Columbiana Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA), **Ohio is one of the top 5 bed bug infested states in the nation.**

Members Comments

Kathie reported that MHRS Board will co-host a workshop on Wednesday, June 22nd, called "Columbiana County Caring for our Youth." The goal of the workshop is to help youths develop positive assets and reduce future risks by making better choices. Kathie will send the informational flyer to Terry to send to members. The workshop is free and includes lunch. CEUs will be available.

Eileen reported that **May is "Fraud Awareness Month,"** and she distributed green bags, pens, badge holders, and chip clips to members.

June 15, 2016 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Community partners and their staff are invited to join CCDJFS in wearing purple to work that day. The CCDJFS APS I-Team will hold an event in the grassy area across from the Government Services Building that day. There will be a Balloon Launch, and purple carnations will be distributed to those who attend.

The next JFS Planning Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 27, 2016, from 9-11 am in the CCDJFS Community Room.