

JFS Planning Committee
May 28, 2024 @ 9 am
CCDJFS Community Room

Members Present: Mary Ann Kochalko, Kim Steele, Tom Andrews, Steve Ullom, Rodger Sikorszky, Pastor Brian Brown, Chaney Nezbeth, James Ford, Marie Williams, Jim Stitt

Guests: Courtney Amendola, Sheila Coontz

Meeting Called to Order/ Quorum Established

Tom called the meeting to order 9:05am after quorum was established and welcomed members.

Approval of Minutes

Chaney motioned to approve February minutes; Jim seconded. Motion carries.

Adoption of Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda. Jim motioned to adopt agenda, Brian seconded. Agenda adopted.

Introduction of Guests

Courtney Amendola and Sheila Coontz were present at the meeting in place of Rachel Ketterman and Colette Mascher.

Reports

a. Ohio Means Jobs –Mary Ann

Mary Ann reported on the new program for unemployment help. There have been 125 people seen for unemployment issues and it is going very well. The pilot offices are close enough together to provide area services. This started as there have been problems with the online system. This is helping with getting claims going and problems getting resolved faster. They believe this will be permanent. There is also a new program for reinstatement for Driver's License if lost from BMV. Details just came out on this; more information will follow. A special grant was asked for \$450,000 to supplement funding. They were told to assume there would be a funding cut but received a 1% increase.

b. CCDJFS TANF Program Reports –Courtney

Courtney presented a PowerPoint presentation of the TANF report. We have stabilized with the Medicaid unwinding. OWF is fluctuating depending on hours. You are required to work off benefits and due to the hourly rate, a lot of people will not follow though. Medicaid enrollment in Columbiana County has stayed very consistent, near 28,000. Applications for SNAP, Medicaid and TANF were shown, and timeliness has been at or above 95% in most cases. TANF timeliness fell below the 95% in January and March. NET Transportation has stayed about the same with the first quarter expenditures at \$225,349.38. PRC saw an increase in March mostly due to help with utilities. APS referrals were up in March with 17 current open cases. Courtney asked for any questions. Chaney asked what the Bedding program through PRC is? Courtney explained that PCSA must have an open case with a client then they are able to apply for assistance for beds.

Old Business

None.

New Business

a. Title XX (voting Required) – Sheila

Sheila presented the Title XX County Profile. She went over the funds available and the services that it provides. She asked for a vote and resolution.

Mary Ann motioned to approve the Title XX County Profile. Roger seconded. Steve abstained from the vote. Resolution passed.

b. Summer Youth Employment Program – Courtney

Courtney stated that the Summer Youth employment program is starting again this year. Ten participants are hired through the Way Station starting 6/1- 8/31. They range in ages 14-18. They will be working at three job sites, East Liverpool, East Palestine and Columbiana Way Stations. They will earn \$13 per hour, 20 hours per week. If funding is left, we will give incentives to those that complete the program. They will be tablets, school supplies, backpacks, water bottles, etc... There were more applicants this year on the first day. Within the first hour, all slots were pretty much full. We received less funding this year so we are using 10 participants instead of 12. If a participant quits or gets fired, they can be replaced with another applicant.

c. Shoe Voucher Program – Courtney

The shoe voucher program is very popular and successful. It begins June 1st and each PRC eligible child receives a \$125 shoe voucher to be used at Shoe Sensation or Shoe Dept. The store employees' size them and the child must be present. The voucher is only for the child listed on it. In the past, they had to be used by 8/31. This year it has been extended until November to process more applications.

Members' Comments

Pastor Brian had the Baccalaureate service and said it went well.

Steve reminded everyone of the Family Fun Day on 6/15 for children 12 and under at the fairgrounds. There is no eligibility requirement for this. At a recent FCFC meeting, it was decided that vouchers would be handed out to dads to attend the Columbiana County Fair with their children during this event.

Roger stated they are expanding employment services and are looking to do work on a room to be more inviting to the public. They have a Fidelity review in the next few weeks.

Tom stated that the health center is adding a pharmacy, new construction. You must be a patient to use the new pharmacy which is a 340B. This means they don't offer all medications but most. It gives discounts based on income and insurance. He gave an example of someone who needs insulin. Instead of \$500 cost, will be \$35. The state is approving construction drawings and hope for 6-8 weeks to get started. Bids will open at the first of June with Fall as the target date of completion.

With no further comments the meeting was adjourned.

The next JFS Planning Committee meeting will be held on September 24th, 2024, at 9 am @ JFS