

**Family & Children First Council of Huron County**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, February 15, 2023**

**Location: Huron County Board of Developmental Disabilities**

1. **South Norwalk Rd. Norwalk, OH**
2. Meeting called to order at: 9:02am

**Voting Members**:

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| X | Lenora Minor  Huron County DJFS | X | Kristen Cardone  Huron County MHAS | X | **Brad Cooley**, Norwalk  City Schools/**Jackie White**/Dan Bauman |
| X | Sarah Church,  City of Norwalk (Arrives at 9:12) |  | Mary Helton  Fisher-Titus Medical Center | X | Tim Hollinger  Huron County Public Health |
|  | Dianna Laughlin,  Parent Representative |  | Dr. Steve Burggraf  Family Life Counseling | X | Lauren Robinson  Firelands Counseling  & Recovery Services |
|  | Jeff Ritz  Willard City Schools | X | Carol Robinson  Early Intervention |  | Ashley Licht  Parent Representative |
| X | Kari Smith  HC Board of DD |  | Beverly Turczyk  Dept. of Youth Services | X | Harry Brady  Huron County Commissioner |
| X | Janice Warner,  CAC HER:/Head Start (Arrived at 9:12) | X | Julie Westcott  Parent Representative |  |  |

**Non-Voting Members**:

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|  | John/Bethany Chime,  Clear Minds Counseling | X | Lonny Rivera, North Point Educational SC |  | Sarah Simmons  Reach Our Youth |
| X | Mary Valentine,  Huron County CPS |  | Bethany Lewis,  Nord Center | X | Chris Mushett,  Huron County Juvenile Court |

**Staff:**

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| X | Niki Cross,  HCFCFC Director |  | Erin Whipple,  Wraparound Facilitator | X | Tracie Sebolt,  Service Coordinator |

1. Public Comment & Introductions
   1. Tracie Sebolt, new Service Coordinator with FCFC, worked for Erie Huron WIC program for many years prior to joining FCFC. Most recent job worked as Parish Support Coordinator for St. Mary’s. She stated she is excited to work more closely with families again and hopes to have a positive impact.
   2. Presenter: Nicole Klimas-Morrison, Ohio Guidestone
      * Nurturing Parenting program: designed for parents to work 1:1 with staff to help build relationships between parents and child. Helps with behaviors and parenting needs. Funded by Ohio Children’s Trust Fund – open to anyone in the county at no cost.
      * Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation: ages 0-6 years. 2 options – family consultation and classroom consultation. For family consultation, the staff spend 12 hours of time with family to assist with presenting problem and make needed referrals. No cost to the family. For classroom consultation, staff go into the classroom to help address problem behaviors and provide support for classroom. There is no wait list for consultation services at this time.
      * Also offer outpatient services for all age groups and these services are billed through insurance. Home-based/community-based services are available.
      * Services are available in many other counties, but available services are not the same from county to county.
      * Referral form shared with Council.
      * Nicole to email Lenora regarding possibly using office space at DJFS if needed.
      * OhioGuidestone is currently part of Early Intervention team through HCBDD.
      * Lonny would like Nicole to attend the next social worker meeting through NPESC.
2. **Approval of Minutes: December 6, 2023 (Motion #1)**

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| **Motion 1** | **To approve the December 6, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes as distributed on**  **February 10th, 2023.** | | |
| Motion Made By: | Brad Cooley | Seconded: | Kari Smith |

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| X | Kari Smith  HC Board of DD |  | Beverly Turczyk  Dept. of Youth Services | X | Harry Brady  Huron County Commissioner |
| X | Janice Warner,  CAC EHR/Head Start | X | Julie Westcott  Parent Representative |  |  |

1. Committee Updates
   1. Service Coordination Committee
      1. No official updates at this time. Will be sending updates to anyone who would like to be a part of the committee. The meeting will move to every other month moving forward.
   2. Executive/Finance Committee
      1. Director Evaluation
         1. Reviewed evaluation with Niki and will finalize and add to personnel record. The Council appreciates all Niki has done and the progress she has made in her time at FCFC.
      2. Executive Committee met last week. Reviewed financial reports and discussed pending annual contributions. Niki will resend invoices to all who have not contributed.
2. **Approval of Financial Report: November/December 2022 & January 20223 (Motion #2)**
   1. Kari shared she believes there is a formula error in the funding related to HCBDD.

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| **Motion 2** | **To table approval of the November-December 2022 and January 2023 Financial Report to the March 15, 2023 meeting to allow time for corrections to be made.** | | |
| Motion Made By: | Tim Hollinger | Seconded: | Carol Robinson |

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| X | Kari Smith  HC Board of DD |  | Beverly Turczyk  Dept. of Youth Services | X | Harry Brady  Huron County Commissioner |
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1. Director’s Report
   1. Semi-Annual Report
      1. Will be updating the format moving forward to simplify and utilize more infographics. The final report will be provided at the end of the fiscal year.
      2. Highlights from the report:
         1. Increased referrals by 86% and continuing to grow.
         2. Ability to serve families because of access to pooled funds.
         3. When youth is discharged from residential, automatically enroll them into MRSS to assist them in acclimating back into the home and the community.
         4. Oasis is new universal online service coordination platform which will assist in data collection and tracking.
         5. DJFS is referring youth to OhioRise, allowing FCFC to focus more on school referrals and referrals from other areas in the community.
         6. Discussion regarding families that are struggling including issues such as not having enough food, sewer issues, etc. Recommendation is to call DJFS to assist and they can pull in any needed partners to address needs.
   2. Shared Plan Update
      1. Provide updates at least twice a year currently; moving forward will be providing progress report quarterly to the Council.
   3. Strengthening Families Program Update
      1. Awarded $60,000 in funding through Huron County MHAS to implement Strengthening Families program. This program will start on 2/28/23 and there are still spots available for families; plan to offer at least one more round of training during grant cycle. Currently have 18 trained facilitators.
         1. 14-week program. Breakout groups are for ages 6-11, 12-16 year olds, and parent group.
   4. Tutoring Program: Huron County Community Fund
      1. Niki would like FCFC to be able to offer tutoring services for youth involved with FCFC. FCFC staff would not directly provide tutoring services but would partner with NPESC to find ways to build upon what schools already have in place for tutoring. Goal is to create pool of tutors that they can reach out to, when needed, to assist youth involved with FCFC services.
      2. Niki would like to apply for a funding opportunity through Huron County Community Foundation in the amount of $20,000 to support this. Funding will allow FCFC to serve 20 youth at up to 20 hours per youth and also includes $4,000 for admin fees to cover staff time for overseeing the program.
   5. Parent Advocate Update
      1. Working with the state to get funds to cover a Parent Advocate for Huron County specifically.
   6. OCBF Application
      1. The Operational Capacity Building Fund provides admin funds from the state; in order to receive the Council is required to have all Council members active on Council including the required 3 parent reps. The Council is currently looking for an additional 2 parent reps to meet requirements.
   7. Member Contributions
      1. Niki will resend invoices to all member agencies that have not contributed funding yet.
      2. **Approval to apply for the Huron County Community Foundation Fund (Motion #3)**

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| **Motion 3** | **To approve the Director to apply for the Huron County Community Foundation Fund for the amount of $20,000 with intent to build a tutoring support/service under Huron County FCFC for use with Huron County FCFC involved youth.** | | |
| Motion Made By: | Harry Brady | Seconded: | Janice Warner |

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1. Old Business
2. New Business
   1. Agency Updates
      1. Firelands - DBT group for ages 12-15 year olds, youth skills group for ages 9-11 year olds utilizing DBT skills and will include parent component with parents in group at same time as youth. Do not have to be active clients of Firelands to participate in groups.
      2. Huron County Board of DD Early Intervention – have Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome is now qualifying item for early intervention services. They have 200 resource bags available to pass out to families to increase awareness of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome and provide parent education. If interested in any bags, please contact Carol Robinson.
      3. Norwalk City Schools – held a resource fair at Pleasant Elementary School a couple of weeks ago and had over 100 families attend. Plan to make annual event and may hold earlier in school year next year. Started Sources of Strength at League Elementary recently and is going well; will soon expand into other schools in district. Grant funding recently awarded will be utilized for another full-time school counselor in the district.
      4. Huron County Children's Services – April 12th at 9am will be annual Child Abuse Prevention walk. Meet at Suhr Park and walk down to St. Paul Social Hall where they will offer breakfast and have a speaker. Elder Abuse Awareness Day event will be held on June 14th.
      5. IVY – starting Parent Cafes at Ivy – 3 sessions a month with food and childcare. Parent Cafes are informal, allowing parents to talk to other parents and develop support.
      6. Huron County Board of Developmental Disabilities - HCBDD has a program in partnership with Maplehurst Elementary through which self-advocates go into the school to help build bridges and reinforce that with people with developmental disabilities are the same as everyone else. March 22nd at 6pm the annual Celebrity Basketball Game will be held at Norwalk High School. The admission is a donation of canned goods that go to Salvation Army. Additionally, the Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day event will be held on March 29th and will include a speaker and a proclamation by the Huron County Commissioners.
3. **Adjourn (Motion #4)-** 10:19AM

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| **Motion 4** | **To adjourn** | | |
| Motion Made By: | Lauren Robinson | Seconded: | Harry Brady |

**Next HCFCFC Meeting: March 15, 2023 @ 9:00 AM**

**Location: Huron County Board of DD**