

# Community Advisory Network (CAN) Meeting

June 17, 2022

8:30 am Breakfast, 9 am -11 am meeting

Lorain County Community College – Spitzer Conference Center

## **1. Foster Parent/ Former Youth Lived Experience Panel Presentation**

Julie introduced two foster families and a youth that has transitioned out of foster care, Amy Daniels (Foster Family), Hollie Toth (Youth transitioned out of foster care) and Melissa Smith (Foster Family). A panel presentation was held with Julie asking real life questions and the ladies answered the questions. The following things were discussed:

- Fostering sibling groups
- Keeping sibling groups together
- Safe environment for the children
- Staying connected with bio parents
- Staying connected with all siblings
- Feeling safe as a foster child
- More training and background on foster families
- Involvement of workers

Julie mentioned that the panels are twice a year, spring and fall. This is a good experience for people going through licensing or wanting to become foster parents.

Kris mentioned that we are looking for programs for 12 years and older in foster care or coming into care, they cannot be home alone. Ideas for community programs for teenagers?

The state has developed a recruitment hub to help with wraparound services. Delisha Nelson from the Childcare Resource Center. The

Childcare Resource Center help serve five counties, Lorain, Erie, Huron, Sandusky, and Seneca Counties. The child resource center works in supporting each county in their individual needs. This will be a continues partnership through hub services.

## **2. What's New and Next?**

- Patti Jo mentioned that the children service hub is a new initiative from the State that came out of the most recent budget bill. The state has its own Forster parent recruitment website. It gets people connected as fully as possible. The state level is working differently to support local operations.
  
- Patti Jo discussed the 2021 referrals into the agency and what happened to them. Patti Jo mentioned the state has created a new statewide ombudsman office. Two separate offices, one office for families involved in children services and one office dedicated for the youth involved.
  
- Patti Jo shared 2022-2024 strategic plan. A brief discussion was held about the following:
  - Diversity, Inclusion, Family and Individual Rights (DIFIR)
  - Responding to Trauma/ Advance Trauma-Informed and Resilient Professionalism
  - Family First Act Implementation and Innovation
  
- Patti Jo discussed the annual report of 2021
  
- Andrea Hall discussed the 2021 referrals, who made them and what happened to them.

Patti Jo mentioned that all of this would be up on our website available for you and if you need any information to send us an email.

### **3. Your News and Announcements**

- LCADA mentioned a community event coming up July 30, 2022. Fliers were placed on tables
- LCADA mentioned Project Amp- a mentoring program for kids in need to talk to someone.

*Minutes taken by Melanie Hohmann, Confidential Data Analyst*