

# CAN Meeting

Lorain County Community College, Spitzer Conference Center Room 214

January 24, 2020 at 9:00am

Patti Jo welcomed everybody at 9:02am. She announced that since the last CAN meeting September 27, 2019, Lorain County Children Services named Kristen Fox-Berki as the new director.

Went through each table and everybody introduced themselves and their agency.

## 1. 2019 Children Services Data

Patti Jo presented the slide show of the preliminary 2019 data for Lorain County Children Services (LCCS). She asked how many people have made a referral? Those who have made a referral to children services, raised their hands. Out of 4,525 referrals received in 2019, 38% were screened in for child abuse or neglect. The total number of allegations is 1,918 for the 1,476 screened in reports because children can experience more than one type or abuse. Neglect has always been the number one allegation. The data is compared with up to three years of historical data, Patti Jo stated that there are no significant changes.

Many of the people that report are mandate reporters but people who are not mandate reporters, report child neglect or abuse as well. When the data is showed to mandate reporters, the data set is collapsed so not as many data sets are showed. Patti Jo asked if anything interesting here with who is reporting, do you see yourself?

Out of the 1,476 screened in reports, 2,133 separate children were identified as having an Alternative Response (AR) or Traditional Response (TR) designation. The data of the children are broken down into race, gender and age. 1,046 of these children were female and 1,087 were male. A lot of children five and under.

The history of the children that have been involved with child protection is a percentage of counties all over Ohio not just Lorain County. Out of the children that have been involved with child protection, 15% of alleged child victims had previous substantiated/indicated dispositions at some point in their lives.

Patti Jo asked if there were any other data sets for children that would be helpful for different agencies. There was a discussion had with the different kind of the data that would be helpful for the other agency to use when needing information about the children. Patti Jo stated that the state is always working on improving the ability for children services to pull out certain data.

She stated that we are looking at family systems even if children are living in different places or each independent child, we are able to look at child and family data separately. We do take into consideration the number of siblings and if they must move we try to keep them together as much as possible, about 75% siblings will stay together.

A discussion was had about the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) data dashboard. You are able to see the state of Ohio and scroll over different counties and see the statistics. Patti Jo stated that the numbers are close to what we have local statistics but no exact. This map is good at comparing the different counties in Ohio. Patti Jo asked if anybody new another state that had this same kind of map.

Patti Jo introduced Holly Dobias who was going to discuss a new program that we provide internally, it's called Ohio Accelerated Safety Analysis Protocol (ASAP). Holly described what the Ohio ASAP is, what cases are identified as high risk, the overview of the ASAP process, ASAP timelines, the goals of staffing and the Lorain County ASAP. Patti Jo stated that the ASAP program has been in Franklin and Hamilton counties for years, and Lorain County and five others just recently started it. The program is supposed to help prevent child fatality and death.

A break was taken at 9:42am and the meeting resumed at 10:01. Patti Jo asked if there was anything new the group wanted to discuss after networking during the break. Nothing new to discuss.

## **2. Family First Act (updates)**

Patti Jo discussed new update of the Family First Act that will be implemented nationwide by October 1, 2021. Lorain County was one of the hand full of counties that have agreed to be part of IV-E type of reimbursement. The biggest difference is, we used to get money upfront now we will have to prepay and then get reimbursed. Ohio has started to look up the first provisions of the Family First Act:

1. Treatment facilities needing to be Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRPT).

For a facility to meet QRPT standards it must have

- A trauma-informed treatment model
- 24-7 access to licensed nursing staff
- Facilitate family engagements and outreach
- Ensure the provision of aftercare support for at least six months after discharge
- Be nationally accredited

- Assess a child's strengths and need within 30 days of placement in their care

By 2024 all residential treatment facilities in Ohio will need to be QRPT.

## 2. Kinship and Adoption Navigator

Helene Stone from the Office of Aging discussed the kinship and adoption navigator program. LCCS has arrangements to work with other agencies to help the kinship program. Patti Jo stated that we are fortunate to have kinship support from other agencies, not a lot of other counties have this. The revamping of the licenses of adoption across the state so that it is consistent. The kinship/adoption navigator has made a lot of progress. Patti Jo stated that if anybody wants to attend our foster parent training, they are more than welcome too.

Patti Jo discussed the handout of how Ohio is thinking of going through the government cabinet. This document is not final. She pointed out that children in custody who are exiting residential treatment, including QRPTs, are achieving permanency with a caregiver (either through reunification, legal custody, or adoption) -this will be tabled for further discussion. There is a work group meeting to discuss these issues. Patti Jo asked if the group had any other thoughts on the way Ohio has started this process. If you have any thoughts or ideas that Ohio is adding to this, you can send us an email we do have a lot of our staff that are part of these committees. The Family First Act can change the face of child welfare across the country.

Patti Jo discussed the handout of the programs across the country by state. Ohio is one of the states that is not far enough to state what programs that are going to be used. D.C, Utah, and Arkansas have already submitted their programs to the Federal Government.

Patti Jo discussed the Financing Streams to Support Prevention Programs for Families handout. Its helpful to look at all different funding streams that support all the services. This hand out is a good visual of how a case flow.

Patti Jo stated that she will keep talking about the Family First Act updated at the following CAN meetings. A discussion about how systems can work together. Kristen mentioned about having a wider conversation about the Family First Act later this year and what each agency is doing. Hopefully we will get more guidance from the state on how to work on this as a community.

## 3. Your Announcements and Updates

- Bellefaire and Applewood have been issued a grant for youth aging out of foster care. The requirement for the youth to receive the grant is that they must have a mental health diagnosis's and between the ages of 16-25. The grant does accept outside referrals.

- Murry Ridge Center is offering a course about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and how to best work with those affected in order to reach his/her fullest potential. The spring course series are April 21,23,28,30 from 6-9 pm. No fee to attend.
- The Blessing House new operational manager is Elizabeth Patterson. Ground was purchased at Saint Vincent DePaul for the new facility. Hoping to break ground this year.
- The Nord center is offering preventive treatment for children who have not offended but may still need help. Everybody can participate. There is group or individual available.

The meeting concluded at 10:55am.

*Minutes taken by Melanie Hohmann, Confidential Data Analysts*