

CAN Meeting

Lorain County Community College, Spitzer Conference Center Room 117

September 27, 2019, at 9:00am

Patti Jo opened the meeting at 9:04am by welcoming everyone and each table introduced themselves and what agency they were.

Kristen Fox-Berki thanked everyone for coming and stated that Lorain County Children Services has been reaccredited, through Council on Accreditation (COA) and wanted to thank everyone that sent in surveys and did interviews that helped with the reaccreditation of the agency. Kristen mentioned how excited she was about the kinship program and turned it over to Mary Lee Davis, 30 Days to Family Caseworker.

1. (PCSAO) Family of the Year Award Recipient

Public Children Services Association of Ohio's (PCSAO's) family of the year was awarded to Juanita Phifer, kinship caregiver, aunt and legal custodian of her 6 nieces and nephews. Her caseworker, Mary Lee Davis nominated her.

Mary Lee introduced Juanita and stated that they were in Columbus, Ohio yesterday 9/26/19 to receive the award. Juanita and her 6 kids attended the award ceremony.

Mary Lee read the nomination letter that she sent into PCSAO on behalf of Juanita.

Juanita spoke and said that she took in her nieces and nephews because she was brought up in the system and did not want them to have to go through that. She mentioned that she is not able to have children herself therefore she wanted to show them the love that they deserved.

Patti Jo talked about Columbus and how excited the kids were to be there, and how well behaved they were.

2. Ohio's Office on Child Welfare Transformation

Patti Jo introduced Kristi Burre and Kari Atkins, from the Office of Child Welfare Transformation.

Kristi spoke about her background before taking this new position with the State. She has been in this field for 20 years and worked for Franklin and Fairfield Counties.

Kristi discussed her new position. The main objective of the positions is the integration and partnership with others. The goals of the new position are:

- To do a better job at the state level so we can be the model for the counties to follow
- To do a better job with training new legislation with Family First Act
- To keep our priorities on children and family in general
- Looking at foster and adoptive care
- Transforming agencies throughout the state and how we can keep care going
- Integrating with other state agencies
- Reform Opportunities
- Not duplicating current projects
- Listen differently re: what the counties, kids, families need
- Strengthening Foster Care
- Kindship Care-make sure that children are not getting sent to residential and support the children
- Recruitment and retention
- Multisystem youth

Kristi closed by saying that there are a lot of big things happening right now and it's going to take time to get it where it needs to be. We will start with short term then work on long term. One hurdle is that things are different from one county to the other throughout the State of Ohio. We are having a two-day retreat with consultants out of D.C. (federal level) has been scheduled to define pieces more clearly.

Next a discussion was held on mandated reporters and how everyone's interpretation is different depending on what they are advocating for.

There was a discussion about Quality Residential Treatment Program (QRTP), some concerns that the programs that the court have are not up to QRTP standards. Does it make sense to keep it in operation? Kristi stated that we need to look at how it impacts things differently and to be proactive. We need more family-based settings and families need to be willing to take high risk kids. The kids do not need to be institutionalized. We need to do a phased approach, so the program can continue but may not receive full funding from the State, and then continue to evaluate the program over time.

Kristen asked Kristi to talk about multi-system youth. Kristi- Stated that we need to invest in multi-system youth, some Counties have pooled funds, to prevent children services from taking custody. Should LCCS be taking permanent custody because the child needs higher impatient care? We need to evaluate how they are operating across the state and how we can moderate that so parents don't have to lose custody of their children because they are not able to afford their care.

3. Family First Updates

Patti Jo provided a PowerPoint presentation on updates to the Family First Prevention Service Act.

- Kids deserve to grow up in families
- With the Family First Act, we have an opportunity to modernize the child welfare system and move toward a public health approach that strengthens families and proactively supports those at risk of abuse, neglect and separation from their family
- We can do that by using Family First to focus investments on solutions that would keep more children safe and keep families together
- Success will require that everyone with a stake in the child welfare system (including young people, birth and foster parents, child welfare professionals, policy makers and courts) should have a seat at the table

Patti Jo showed a video on Jerry Milner, D.S.W and his perspective on the Family First Act.

With Family First Act being created the agency must go through a process to receive funds. We are no longer able to receive them up front like before.

A bipartisan deal has been reached (not yet passed-anticipated to pass in November, retroactive to October 1, 2019).

- Phase in of the 50% “Well Supported” requirements for prevention services reimbursement
 - Back to the 50% requirements in 2024
- Transition funding to help states implement Family First
 - \$500 million spread out to all states (3% set aside for tribes) using the formula the State uses
 - For State cost associated with implementation, start up and improving foster care safety and quality
- Short term funding certainty for states with expiring waivers
 - As part of ProtectOhio, without this, we would experience an approximate \$1,000,000 reduction in Title IV-E if we had to revert to traditional claiming before being able to expand the Title IV-E Prevention Funding

Kristi went over the structure at the state level of the Leadership Advisory Committee. This is the breakdown of the different committees.

- Executive Committee
- Advisory Committee
- Steering Committee

Kristi discussed what each of these Committees are working on and how they are working together to accomplish the goals.

Patti Jo talked about the trauma informed care approach. The State's Family First leadership team endorsed using the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) concept of trauma and guidance for a trauma informed approach for QRTPs. LCCS has been researching trauma informed care variations but will likely adopt this as well. Patti Jo asked different agencies their approach to trauma informed care? Representatives for different agencies discussed what approach they are using and how it has been helping them.

There was a discussion about the programs on the clearinghouse. Are they ones that are going to be helpful? What other programs do we need to add? Are we missing programs that you hope will be on the list soon? Many more need to be reviewed. We will need more information.

Patti Jo asked about prevention service programming. We are happy that the agencies are hearing something. We need to grow awareness that is going to affect everyone.

Patti Jo concluded the meeting with saying there is a lot of work being done at the State and local levels. It is great to have different people on different levels and thanked everyone for coming, the meeting concluded at 10:58am.

Next meeting December 13,2019, at Lorain County Community College, Spitzer Conference Center Room 117 at 9:00am

Minutes taken by Melanie Hohmann, Confidential Data Analysts