

Community Advisory Network (CAN) Meeting

Zoom Call

September 24, 2021

Patti Jo welcomed all and mentioned that September is Kinship Care Awareness Month. Kinship is a grandparent, aunts, uncles, other relatives, and close family friends who take care of children when their parents are unable to because of challenging family situations. Patti Jo mentioned Helene Stone and her staff at Office for Aging for their work in kinship care in Lorain County. Kinship care expands beyond children services, into the community of Lorain County. Children services has formed a whole unit around kinship care in partnership with Office of Aging and developed one of the models that Ohio is using.

1. Upcoming new initiative and opportunities

- Patti Jo mentioned that Ohio has started a new kinship navigation program called OhioKan. It's a new statewide program designed to help kinship and adoptive families navigate and connect with all available resources, locally and statewide. The state will be split into different regions and each region will have a navigator; this program will ensure that there is support throughout the state.
- Patti Jo mentioned that the need for foster families have amplified different advertising medias. Advertisement for foster families has been in newspapers, commercial in cobblestone movie theaters, streaming broadcast and broadcast through spectrum cable, and bell pack (envelope of coupons that you receive in the mail). Patti Jo mentioned that since different medias of advertisement, the recruiter has seen a steadily increase in the last month.

- Patti Jo mentioned the ODJFS Community of Support Grant. This grant funded, state initiative will help us assess local needs, establish best practices, and prepare for any necessary budget considerations for implementation and/or sustainability. Our local work on this initiative will also inform planning and next steps for state policy and practice. Lorain County can choose to focus local efforts on any (or all) of the following service areas:
 - Comprehensive Addiction and Recover Act (CARA) plans of safe care;
 - Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) level of care assessments; and,
 - Community-based aftercare planning for children discharged from residential treatment settings.

Patti Jo mentioned that children services will be focusing on the CARA plans of safe care when applying for this grant. Letters of request of support from certain groups in our community have been submitted. The grant is \$10,000 to start the planning section and an additional \$50,000 to help support. Let Patti Jo know if you would like to be involved with helping or staying informed to help think through this process. The following commented that they would like to help or be a part of.

- Joanna Gioia-OhioGuidestone
- Heather Knoble- Lorain County DD/HMG- Early Intervention

2. Get updated on Ohio's readiness for entering the Family First Act (October1)

- Patti Jo mentioned that system changes are coming down to local communities from the state. October 1,2021 is the day Family First Act is implemented in Ohio. One of the big changes that will be seen on October 1, 2021 is Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) youth placed in congregate care as of September 30, 2021, will be able to stay at that facility, youth placed in congregate care on or after October 1, 2021, the facility will have to be an approved QRTP. Patti Jo

shared her screen to show a flow chart of the process of that will be used for children in QRTPS. Lorain County was fortunate enough to be a pilot county for some of these programs. The facilities that Lorain County use are QRTP or going through accreditation. Family First is to reduce the number of children in congregate care, to make sure the right child is at the right facility for the right amount of time.

- Patti Jo mentioned Lorain County Children Services has been working on their strategic plan, once it is approved by the board, the strategic plan will be shared at upcoming CAN meeting. One of the strategic plans is Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. A discussion was held around how clients are screened in and a racial equity lens.

3. Announcements

- Patti Jo mentioned that Lorain County received a nice comment from the state regarding safe sleep. The QCI team was asked to do a brief meeting on safe sleep and education. Patti Jo shared her screen to show the pamphlets that are handed out to families with children 12 months and younger. A discussion was held on safe sleep and education.
- Community of Hope is looking for volunteers and young people between the ages of 18-25 who have been impacted by trauma in Lorain County. On the website you are able to refer a child or an application for volunteering. In Lorain County they have launched four groups, three of the youth came from children services and one from mental health system. If interested you can apply at their website.
- Rebecca Jones would like to present at the next CAN meeting regarding mobile response