

# Community Advisory Network (CAN) Meeting

Zoom Call

April 23, 2021

## 1. Highlights from the Continuous Quality Improvement Annual Report

Andrea Hall Miller with Lorain County Children Services (LCCS) discussed the continuous quality improvement annual report for children services. Lorain County was one out of 14 other counties in Ohio that were reviewed. They reviewed 11 cases from Lorain County in 2017 and 11 different cases in 2020.

Andrea showed a PowerPoint comparing the data from 2017 and 2020. The data shows that the agency improved in most areas in 2020 compared to 2017. Andrea mentioned a foster parent survey was sent out during the summer, 54 people responded via either phone or email. Andrea discussed the negative/positive feedback from the survey.

## 2. The Myths, The Truths and The Humanity of Teenagers in Foster Care

Julie Schoenlein from (LCCS) discussed foster care. In March of 2020 all in person training was stopped and shifted to virtual training the last year. Due to the pandemic the ways of recruiting had to change. Julie mentioned they sent out 29,000 mailers to families in Lorain County and a commercial was on streaming services to help reach the community about information about becoming a foster parent. Julie showed the commercial and the mailers that were provided to the community. Julie mentioned that there has been an increase of people wanting to be foster parents. The information session in April is the largest group ever. As of right now we have 85 homes and we are a foster to adopt agency.

Julie mentioned some highlighted events:

- Teen panel- Lived in experience: 4 youth that turned 18 in foster care talked about their experience being in foster care.
- Foster parent open house: Families discuss experience, every foster home is unique

### **3. Family First Act Updates**

Patti Jo discussed updates to the Family First Act. The Family First Act will be implemented in Ohio this October. Family First provides new funding for foster care prevention services that are trauma-informed and rated promising, supported, or well-supported in the Title IV-E Clearinghouse to qualify for federal reimbursement. Ohio is taking a phased approach to implementing prevention services. The first phase will include:

- Multisystemic Therapy
- Functional Family Therapy
- OhioSTART
- Parents as Teachers
- Healthy Families America

Ohio is starting to by assuring that 5 EPBs are available to prevent foster care. The next 5 to be offered mid 2021 will include:

- Seven Challenges
- High Fidelity Wrap Around
- Incredible Years
- Motivational Interviewing
- Triple P

In 2022, the following services will be added:

- Brief Strategic Family Therapy
- Child-Parent Psychotherapy
- Nurse-Family Partnership
- Parent-Child Interaction Therapy
- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

A discussion was held about where they thought Lorain County stood with some or all the evidences-based practices available. Patti Jo mentioned that Family First will be a continuous discussion.

### **4. Community of Hope**

Heather Distin from the MHARS board discussed the Community of Hope program. It's a relationship-based service that mentors young people aged 18-25 who have aged out of foster care and/or experienced trauma an been involved in any of the systems: mental health, substance use, juvenile court, children services and/or developmental disabilities.

Heather turned it over to Amber Donivaion executive director of Community of Hope. Amber explained that Community of Hope is non-profit organization with over 500 volunteers that mentor young people between the ages of 18-25. Its an open table concept, building relationships between the young adults and mentors. The program started in Cuyahoga County and is launching a two-year pilot program in Lorain County. Lorain County thus far has three young adults and 11-12 volunteers. Three-Four of those volunteers will meet with one young adult weekly for the first year. After the year is up, they will still meet but its up to the team to decided how often.

Amber showed the Community of Hope- stories of hope.

To refer Lorain County young adults (18-25) to the Community of Hope Program, the young adults need to be connected to the OHTP program and the referral form is on the Community of Hope website. Send a referral form to [ohtp@wingspancg.org](mailto:ohtp@wingspancg.org) , note on the referral form interested in the Community of Hope Program.

## **5. Announcements and Updates**

- Heather Distin from MHARS Board mentioned Lorain County Handle with Care is having its first large meeting April 29, 2021. Ohio Handle with Care is a trauma-informed, collaborative, cross-systems response to Adverse Childhood Experiences promoting resilience through positive relationships with school staff and first responders.
- Bethany Lewis from the Nord Center mentioned that they are having sexual assault prevention training. If you are interested to email at [blewis@nordcenter.org](mailto:blewis@nordcenter.org)
- Joy Box from Lorain County Public Health mentioned about vaccination clinics in Lorain County and if need help signing up you can go to our website or call. Joy mentioned that the health department is working with LCCS to make the transition of WIC easier for when children enter Foster/Kinship care.

Patti Jo sent out a poll to see how they would like future CAN meetings to be virtual or in person. As of now, they will do the June CAN meeting via Zoom and revisit the idea in August to see what people prefer for September meeting.

*Minutes taken by Melanie Hohmann, Confidential Data Analyst*