



**Ohio Children's Trust Fund
Board Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2022**

Board Members Present:

Representative Andrea White
Jeff Van Deusen (Director Matt Damschroder)
Doug Wolf
Megan Wanczyk
Dr. Angel Rhodes
Senator Kunze
Representative Janine Boyd
Melinda Haggerty
Jennifer Voit (Director Dr. Bruce Vanderhoff Designee)
Director Dr. Bruce Vanderhoff, ODH
Grace Kolliesuah (Director Lori Criss)
Holly Kastan
Kimberly Jordan
Sam Shafer

Board Members Absent:

Senator Tina Maharath
Dr. Kynetta McFarlane

Staff Present:

Lindsay Williams, Executive Director
Nicole Sillaman, Assistant Executive Director
Eric Gonzalez, Program Manager
Renee Whitfield, Program Manager
Diettra Engram, Program Manager
Jasmine Hall, Administrative Professional

Guests:

Bryan Stout, Legislative Liaison
Nikki Cooper, Legislative Liaison
Ben Allison, Senior Legislative Aide to Senator Kunze

Welcome & Roll Call

Chairman White called the Ohio Children's Trust Fund (OCTF) Board Meeting to order at 9:03 am on March 23, 2022, with a quorum.

Old Business

Minutes

Chairman White gave pause for review and asked for any questions or revisions to the February 23, 2022 Board meeting minutes. Doug Wolf motioned for the minutes to be approved. Dr. Angel Rhodes seconded the motion. Hearing no questions, revisions, or objections to the minutes as submitted, Chairman White stated the minutes were approved.

Program Committee Updates

Chairman White turned the meeting over to Megan Wanczyk to present Program Committee updates. Megan initiated the Program Committee discussion with a high-level overview, turning it over to Director Williams to remind the Board of the purpose of the Prevention Program Review, to provide highlights of the Prevention Programs submitted for review, and to discuss the Program Committee's recommendations.

Prevention Program Submissions

Director Williams presented the three programs submitted by the Southwest Ohio Regional Prevention Council:

- **Thrive Nights (Standalone)** – local family support events currently implemented by Pause for Parents, Play for Kids in Butler, Clermont, Hamilton and Warren counties (part of the Southwest Ohio Region). The program includes a catered meal, a game to build connection among caregivers and breakout sessions with Thrive Pointe therapists.
- **Mindful Possibilities' Trauma Informed Family Consultations (Standalone)** – provides families experiencing high levels of stress and difficulties with one-on-one phone consultations with Carol Hudgins Mitchell, the founder of Mindful Possibilities. The program is currently implemented in Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, and Warren Counties (part of the Southwest Ohio Region).
- **Kinship Connections (Standalone)** – comprehensive array of services for parents/caregivers including Triple P Level 4, 1:1 coaching, and peer support groups informed by the natural strengths program. Parents may receive any combination of services or any service standalone, as needed. The program is offered in Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton, and Warren Counties (part of the Southwest Ohio Region).

The Program Committee recommended the Board take no action on these programs at this time because all three programs were submitted as standalone programs with connections only to improving the five (5) protective factors but did not demonstrate effective evidence in child maltreatment prevention given no robust program evaluations have been conducted at this time on these programs as submitted to Program Committee for review. However, to avoid program disruption in the Southwest Ohio Region, Program Committee recommended that these programs be permissible through SFY 2023 under the Southwest Ohio Prevention Plan. Additional options were outlined and provided to the Board for their consideration.

Chairman White asked for any questions or comments on the Prevention Program Submissions. Representative Janine Boyd inquired as to a possible difference in funding. Megan Wanczyk clarified that there would be no difference in funding for the Southwest region through SFY 2023 if no action is taken. If the board did vote to approve the programs as presented, they would be approving the programs for state funding and any region would be able to implement the programs through the traditional prevention model. By taking no action and allowing the programming to continue through SFY 2023 in the Southwest region, there is an opportunity for the region to look at additional outcomes related to child abuse and neglect prevention, which might better position them to resubmit the programs for review in time for the SFY 24-25 Prevention Plan cycle.

Hearing no further questions or comments, Chairman White called for a motion to take no action on the three prevention programs as recommended by the Program Committee, but to allow the Southwest Ohio Region to continue funding these three programs for another year (SFY 2023). Kimberly Jordan motioned, and Representative Janine Boyd seconded the motion. The board approved the motion.

Regional Prevention Council Updates

Prevention Plan Sourcing Exemption Consideration

Director Williams reminded the Board that as the SFY 2023 Prevention Plan Guidance requires competitive procurement of grantees, many regions were exempted from the requirement during the February 23, 2022 Board meeting as regions justified in their Prevention Plan application how they identified prospective grantees and indicated whether or not grantees were identified through a competitive means or not. If not identified via a competitive means, grantees needed to explain why this was the case. Often, regional prevention councils identified that past competitive opportunities resulted in few subgrantee responses and inability to allocate all of the funding. This exemption would allow regions to sole source within the boundaries of their approved prevention plans, pending Board approval. Recognizing that Board meetings only convene quarterly, a discussion ensued pertaining to allowing the OCTF Board to provide a blanket exemption to the requirement subject to review and approval by the Executive Director between Board meetings.

Chairman White stated that it made sense but inquired to the accountability and reporting (i.e., paper trail, reporting, etc.). Director Williams stated that any exemptions would be reported to the Board and noted that it would be an extension of the procedure at the February Board Meeting. Melinda Haggerty asked if there would be a threshold to determine level of evidence to approve exemption requests. Director Williams noted in instances that the regions were not able to secure any subgrantees or unallocated funding for their opportunity releases, and then upon re-release of opportunity, the same result would occur to where reach-outs to grantees for soft bids can be made. Also, in certain regions, there are specific programs that only one or two subgrantees are able to carry out and may request an exemption. Other items will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Melinda Haggerty and Representative White requested that it would be helpful for the board to have a formalized process with the guidelines or criteria for the exemptions.

Eric Gonzalez added context that OCTF has provided justification for exemptions during the prevention plan submissions. Representative White wanted clarification if the state required the regions to competitively bid out grantees unless there was an exemption, to which Eric Gonzalez clarified that they are not, but this requirement is due to the OCTF clause within the Prevention Plan Guidance.

Chairman White asked for any questions or comments on the Prevention Plan Guidance Sourcing Exemption. Hearing no further questions or comments, Chairman White called for a motion to approve exemptions from the SFY 2023 Prevention Plan Guidance to competitively procure grantees if requested by a region and at the discretion of the OCTF Executive Director. Grace Kolliesuah motioned, and Kimberly Jordan seconded the motion. The board approved the motion.

SFY 2023 Regional Prevention Plan Resubmissions

Director Williams gave the Board an overview of the prevention plan guidance and noted the four regions that have resubmitted their prevention plans for approval to the Board. The Program Committee met on March 15th to review the resubmissions and make recommendations to the Board:

Director Williams shared high-level slides for each region with strategies, programs, and Program Committee recommendations:

- **Central:** Region's resubmitted Prevention Plan:
 - Removed services with CompDrug under Part I. Direct Services and replaced with Triple P (Teen, Stepping Stones, and Pathways) which was previously proposed in Part IV. Innovation.
 - Revised Part II. Concrete Supports to provide that families may receive up to \$1,000 rather than a set \$1,000.
 - Includes an updated plan for Part IV. Innovation with CompDrug to provide Plans of Safe Care templates in a few counties. This process will provide the county with a tangible resource. CompDrug will target counties with the highest rates of substance abuse to address the need. The region has \$248,320 for innovation and CompDrug is only requesting \$96,354. The remainder of the funds are being requested to fund additional Triple P services as well as funds to evaluate CompDrug's services.

The Program Committee recommends funding the revised Prevention Plan for Central Ohio, with the exception that the evaluation of CompDrug's services should not be funded and the region should reallocate evaluation service funds to additional Triple P services.

Kimberly Jordan wanted clarification on possible duplication of efforts in terms of documentation of Plans of Safe Care completed with providers as the Plan of Safe Care would be implemented prior to when a Children Services call is made. Director Williams confirmed that this is possible.

Melinda Haggerty requested further information from Program Committee on the decision to no longer fund CompDrug evaluation services. Director Williams shared that there was not a means to collect data to evaluate the development of the templates of the plans for safe care. Other data surrounding the prevention plans are collected through the OCTF data dashboards.

Jennifer Voit inquired regarding funding allocations, and if there was discussion on holding the funds to target other higher risk counties or, if going towards Triple P, if there's a way to pull funding back. Director Williams noted that each region was allocated a percentage of funding towards innovation; funding would be mixed between innovation and direct services. Nicole Sillaman stated that if the regions need to shift funding, they are able to request reallocation funding if program is successful.

- **Eastern:** Region's resubmitted Prevention Plan includes:
 - Clarification on Part IV Innovation proposal with the inclusion of Pro-Social Events. Region provided an explanation that "we are building partnerships with community partners that will provide diverse cultural, educational, and support activities that will be provided to youth and families. The events will directly correlate with the 6 Protective Factors" (OCTF notes 5 Protective Factors).

The Program Committee recommends approving the plan with the requirement that the selected vendor works with the regional coordinator and the OCTF to obtain approval on each presentation at least 2 weeks prior to scheduling a pro-social event.

- **Southeast:** Region's resubmitted Prevention Plan:

- Revised the region's Part IV Innovation to clarify its enhanced Parent Café project. The region identified the program as a Parent Café-informed model enhanced with facilitated information and discussion specific to the needs and challenges of caring for at-risk youth. The program includes a family meal and structured youth activities, similar to Parent Café. While the youth attend structured activities, the parents will receive facilitated programming in a large group setting and will break into small group discussions.

The Program Committee recommends approving the prevention plan with the requirement that all presentations must be submitted to the OCTF for review and approval at least 2 weeks prior to scheduling a series.

- **Southwest:** Region's resubmitted Prevention Plan:
 - Revised the region's Part I Direct Services' inclusion of Peer Support programs. The region removed Peer Supports from the Prevention Plan and included the three (3) programs included as peer supports, which have been reviewed by the Board today.
 - Revised the region's Part IV Innovation, including a plan to expand Thrive Nights through Pause to two new physical sites covering two additional counties and to train faith-based organizations in Thrive Nights in the two counties where Thrive Nights is not proposed by Pause.

The Program Committee recommends approving the resubmitted prevention plan with a requirement that funds be utilized to serve families and not just for planning for any new sites.

Chairman White requested further detail on an end of the year evaluation for effectiveness of programs before listing them for all regions, what would be the criteria or process used by OCTF or local level. Director Williams mentioned that OCTF monitors the data collected through the data dashboards to determine if impacts and outcomes related to child abuse and neglect prevention are achieved. Eric Gonzalez also mentioned the different buckets of funding (direct services or innovation) and how that ties into the prevention programs submissions, and how OCTF will need to clarify that with grantees and are reconsidering the restrictions on programs that can be funded going forward. Rep White indicated then what information would need to be collected during the year to help build the case for funding. Eric Gonzalez pointed out the Program Review form that has been used along with the data dashboards and surveys that are administered by the vendors.

Chairman White asked for any questions or comments on the SFY 2023 Regional Prevention Plan Resubmissions for Central, Eastern, Southeast, and Southwest as recommended with the specifications by the Program Committee. Hearing no further questions or comments, Chairman White called for a motion to approve the SFY 2023 Regional Prevention Plan Resubmissions for Central, Eastern, Southeast, and Southwest as recommended with the specifications by the Program Committee. Kimberly Jordan motioned, and Jennifer Voit seconded the motion. The board approved the motion.

OCTF Board Appointee Application – Taylor Tharp

The OCTF received the following application for an at-large member for the Central Ohio Regional Prevention Council for Taylor Tharp. Taylor Tharp, a Union County Drug Court Coordinator, is seeking an appointment to the Central Ohio Regional Prevention Council for her first term. The Regional Prevention Council approved this individual for Board consideration at their November 16, 2021 council meeting.

Chairman White asked for any questions or comments on the Central Ohio Regional Prevention Council Application of Taylor Tharp. Hearing no further questions or comments, Chairman White called for a motion to approve Taylor Tharp as an At-Large member to the Central Ohio Regional Prevention Council. Grace Kolliesuah motioned, and Megan Wanczyk seconded the motion. The board approved the motion.

Other Business

Director Williams reminded the Board that the April kickoff event will be held virtually on April 7, 2022, at 10:00 am. Mary Kreitz will be the keynote speaker with the theme of Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs). The link to register for the Event will be provided on the slides and on the agenda. Also, Eric Gonzalez has been promoted to Financial Program Manager, along with additional staff to include another Financial Program Manager (Denise Black) and FSPP Project Manager (Meka Rafiqq Gaines).

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Chairman White adjourned the March 23, 2022, OCTF Board meeting at 10:00 am. The next Board meeting will be held on May 18, 2022.

Handouts:

OCTF Board Meeting Agenda – March 23, 2022

OCTF PowerPoint Presentation – March 23, 2022

OCTF Board Draft Meeting Minutes – February 23, 2022

Prevention Program Submissions

- Thrive Nights
- Mindful Possibilities' Trauma Informed Family Consultations
- Kinship Connections

SFY 2023 Regional Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Plan Resubmissions

OCTF Board Appointee Application – Taylor Tharp

April Statewide Kickoff Event Registration

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