



Eastern Ohio Regional Prevention Council Meeting Minutes

Date: January 24, 2019

Location: 63500 Byesville Road – Cambridge, Ohio

Present: *Appointed County Prevention Specialists* – Jane Kalonick (Belmont), Jennifer Burns (Carroll), Kate Offenberger (Carroll), Nicole Caldwell (Guernsey), David Boyer (Muskingum), Candy Emmert (Muskingum), Robin Bowdish (Tuscarawas) *OCTF Staff* – Lindsay Williams and Nicole Sillaman, *Ohio University Staff* – Linda Holmstrand and Aimee Collins

Welcome: David Boyer, Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting at 9:31 a.m. A quorum (7 eligible voting prevention specialists) was not present at the meeting. Everyone introduced himself or herself.

Vendor Presentation by BBBS East Central Ohio: The presentation is postponed until another meeting as a result of poor weather conditions preventing the presenter from attending.

Review/approval of minutes: Minutes from the July 2018 and November 2018 Council meetings, and January 2019 prevention plan workgroup call were reviewed by the Council. They were not approved as a quorum was not present.

OCTF Statewide Updates: Nicole shared that the OCTF Board now has several new board members, which include the new state agency directors from JFS, OhioMHAS and ODH. New chair will likely be Senator Kunze. Legislative appointments from the House are also coming. OCTF will likely have a full board with 15 members in place by the February 21 Board meeting. OCTF staff has been meeting with new board members and Board committees are getting underway. OCTF has four FTE staff and has one vacant position. The hiring process entails the Board approving positions then ODJFS HR has to agree to positions. OCTF is optimistic and sees opportunities for children's initiatives in the state with the new governor.

The new OCTF website launched at end of December: www.octf.ohio.gov The site contains regional pages that include the council directory, prevention plan, needs assessment and service providers. In the future several things will be posted such as meeting minutes and agendas, dates of upcoming meetings, classes, and other opportunities like Facebook Live through COAD. The site provides the opportunity to see how a specific region's work ties into other regions and the state. OCTF can access analytics and can see the comments that people google search that then land on the page. If anything seems to be missing from the website, send an email to Nicole with content to add to the website. The website is an on-going piece of work and OCTF will always be adding new content. Once Eastern's awareness campaign is developed it will be included on the website. Lindsay discussed and demonstrated the website features.



Lindsay would like to see a nomination from all counties across the state for the Everyday Hero Awards. There will be a youth art contest again this year. Council members are encouraged to spread the word with their connections in school and youth organizations in community. This year, a variety of mediums may be submitted. There will be three place winners and cash prizes will go back to the youth's school/organization. Kids Bake for Kids Sake will also take place this year. Fliers/forms for the Everyday Hero Awards, Youth Art Contest and Kids Bake for Kids' Sake were distributed during meeting, and emailed to Council by Linda, and they are posted online.

Lindsay mentioned the new OCTF newsletter is a communication strategy to a variety of audiences. Dave Boyer and others suggested that OCTF consider attending annual conferences and meetings like PCSAO, JFS director's conferences, and/or district meetings to share the good work of the OCTF and make contacts.

Prevention Plan Strategies, Vendor Updates, and Prevention Plan Renewals for SFY 2020 Funding:

Linda provided several documents and tables to guide the discussion. She thanked the Prevention Plan workgroup for their time, thoughtful discussion, and guidance in drafting the prevention plan renewal and request for funding. Linda discussed the prevention plan workgroup process and the minutes from the workgroup call. David asked if there was anything additional that workgroup members want to share based on the call and members agreed minutes reflected the discussion.

Strategy 1 – Quality Early Childcare. The main goal to be accomplished through this prevention plan strategy is to build child care supply and increase providers' skill level. Linda provided documents related to past prevention plan strategy funding. COAD is on target to spend the money in their current agreement with OU/OCTF. Kelly Goedel (primarily assigned to implement the work under the OCTF/OU agreement) recently resigned her position at COAD and Maureen Boggs, director of the childcare division of COAD, will be retiring this spring. George Goddard, Kelly's supervisor, has fresh ideas for the work in the region. COAD submitted three ideas in their proposal to the Council for SFY 2020. The workgroup suggest not putting additional money toward Step up to Quality. COAD feels CDA is saturated in the Eastern region at this point, however, given turnover in this professional the need for CDA will reappear in a couple of years. In Muskingum County there are 12 staff from a new childcare center and the Carroll County CDA training has 7 participants from a new center that is going through the licensing process. Strengthening Families is being implemented with mixed results. COAD likes doing Facebook Live, however, the workgroup noted while the content is good we are not able to measure impact. One idea the workgroup had is to explore use of technology to get trainings closer to people/communities, such as to have people gather locally and have an interactive class with others elsewhere. The Council feels there is a great need for someone in the region to do outreach work, to explore options so that people who need childcare know what options are available. This worker could potentially seek out retirees or others to become licensed.

In-home aide providers are an option in Ohio, though at this point it not widely utilized with only 22 people registered across the state. This model is where someone comes into your home to provide childcare. It takes minimal qualifications with some required safety training, CPR, first aid, communicable disease, and background checks and a visit to the home of the person seeking care. We are uncertain how this fits with SUTQ and how this would work with county JFS. It is underutilized and



worth exploring. Parents could encourage their friends/family members to seek in-home aide provider status to provide care in their home.

Strengthening Families has not been overly well attended and it is difficult to gauge whether saturated or if everyone is pulled in who can be. There are not a lot of centers in the region. Nicole noted that in Southwest Region, they are teaching Strengthening Families, and doing consultation with families around protective factors toward their strategy for social-emotional competence. Teachers may see signs first and can work with parents to build protective capacities. They are collecting Devereau Early Childhood Assessments (DECA) for child-level social-emotional health outcomes.

There was much discussion about challenges with childcare funding in Ohio. Public funds tied to licensure is scaring off providers. Centers may choose to only serve private pay families in the future due to the licensure requirements that are difficult to meet for SUTQ. Kinship care providers need childcare but make too much money to get assistance for child care. When Council started down the childcare strategy path, it was to increase the skill level for unlicensed people who are already providing child care. The ongoing need for the region at this time is to have additional safe child care provider options for families.

The COAD contract structured this year includes funding for completion of 15 hour modules of CDA rather than completion of 120 hours. This directly ties into increasing skill level of childcare providers in increments because it is known that CDA credentialing is not the goal for everyone.

Linda and council members discussed the budget justification and strategy prioritization renewal form and what the workgroup proposes for funding by strategy. \$185,000 was proposed by the workgroup, however, the Council is now requesting \$240,000 under essential to confer one outreach worker and two trainers/consultants to work directly in childcare settings with staff to implement the Strengthening Families Framework. This funding request of an outreach worker is to get providers to move over to licensed, to recruit new providers, and match families with safe childcare options. \$240,000 for essential and \$25,000 in high priority funding for additional services. This strategy has solidly hit all counties in the region over the past 1 ½ years.

Strategy 2 – Mentoring in Youth. Linda provided mentoring updates. She visited both BBBS providers in the last month and observed kids engaged with their mentors and the programming. Coshocton has had some trouble getting matches in place and are diligently working to make CAMP work in the community. They see mentoring as a fit with their work. In the many conversations Linda has had with them they are implementing with fidelity to the model and understand the importance of doing so. All three programs are interested in funding to provide services in the next year. No mentoring will be provided in five counties this year: Harrison, Jefferson, Belmont, Monroe and Noble. BBBS ECO could expand into Harrison for next year by serving a school that has children from Carroll and Harrison counties. After the contract negotiations fell through last fall with another provider to serve Belmont, Jefferson, and Harrison families, BBBS did look into providing services to Harrison families but the school had already determined programming for the year.

Linda provided updates regarding the mentoring planning and/or implementing RFP released in December. One application was submitted to plan/implement in Guernsey, Monroe, Noble, and Monroe. The application was reviewed by committee and discussed today. There were some very good sections in the application but also sections that lacked clarity including the model to implement,



timeframe, and funding request. The spouse of a current council member is also the named director/president on the application. Nicole Sillaman indicated that under Ethics Law the relationship of the Director and Council member would prohibit the funding of this application. Further discussion included questions about how there were not also ethics issues with COAD receiving Eastern's regional funding when the COAD director served on the OCTF Board and the funding in another region of Nationwide Children's Hospital as a provider and also as a coordinating entity. Nicole indicated these instances were reviewed by the Ethics Commission and funding awards were allowed. The mentoring applicant would need to seek an Ethics Commission ruling on their current application. Lindsay noted that OCTF staff has been having conversations with their legal counsel to pursue a way to work out these challenges and the suggestion is to take Council's voting authority away and put them into advisory authority.

Based on the recommendation of the proposal review committee, the Council agreed to deny the funding application as there were many elements that were not reasonable. Members feel it is worthwhile for Linda to discuss the reasons for denial with the applicant and to assess interest in the CAMP model and whether there could be another fiscal agent. Lindsay suggested that the applicant reach out to the Ethics Commission to get a letter. Council members cited frustration with the extra step and that the applicant would likely not reapply. Council asked Linda to continue to seek providers for mentoring. Council recommends a budget request of \$270,000 in essential funding for mentoring.

Regional Model Discussion: Lindsay asked the Council what would help make it work? This is a difficult question to answer but in a region where there are so few providers conflict of interest has eliminated service providers from being able to apply for funding and reduced the pool of interested persons wanting to be on council for fear of conflicts. Taking mentoring as an example, we have had four organizations interested (or actually apply) in providing this service but cannot because staff serve on council or a relative serves on council. We are only serving 5 of 10 counties largely because of conflicts of interest.

There is a need to educate county commissioners about appointments or to make a change to revised code to make the councils advisory. If advisory- the council would still make decisions/recommendations to OCTF.

The regional model has brought some improvements compared to past but there are many challenges with it in the Eastern region. Concerns regarding the focus on evidence-based when there are so few service providers. Concern - what happens when this first round of Council appointments are done, there just aren't that many people willing to serve. Council suggested that OCTF get rural input on the OCTF board.

Strategy 3 – Awareness Campaign. Linda shared that the Southeast region selected the same vendor for the awareness campaign and we will be moving forward with this campaign development with the Southeast Council. Since there has been a time delay since the RFP was issued a recommendation was made by those in attendance today to move forward to the next-highest scoring vendor in the event that Origo is no longer interested/able to do the work. Linda will contact everyone to seek participants on a combined committee that will guide the work of the vendor. The group recommends requesting \$40,000 in essential funding for continues implementation of the campaign.



Ohio Children's Trust Fund

Ohio's Prevent Child Abuse America Chapter

Dave reviewed the discussion from today for the SFY 2020 budget request including: Essential Funding request of \$240,000 for strategy 1, \$270,000 for strategy 2, \$40,000 for strategy 3, \$5,000 for outreach, \$5,000 for parent leadership and \$25,000 for High Priority funding for Strategy 1.

In the interest of time, the quarterly reports from vendors were distributed but not discussed.

Council Wrap-Up and Dismissal David and Linda thanked everyone for attending and participating in the meeting. The next Council meeting is April 25th at 9 a.m. A suggestion was made to see if a different location, that included food, would make it easier for others to attend.

Meeting concluded at 12:36 p.m.