



Eastern Ohio Regional Prevention Council Meeting Minutes

Date: October 31, 2019

Location: 63500 Byesville Road – Cambridge, Ohio

Present: *Appointed County Prevention Specialists* – Kathy King (Belmont), David Boyer (Muskingum), Candy Emmert (Muskingum), Jennifer Burns (Carroll), Kate Offenberger (Carroll), Robin Bowdish (Tuscarawas), *OCTF Staff* – Nicole Sillaman and Maguire Sanders *Ohio University Staff* – Linda Holmstrand and Aimee Collins

Welcome and Introductions: David Boyer, Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting at 9:23 a.m. and everyone provided a brief introduction.

Review/approval of minutes: Minutes from the August 2019 Council meetings were distributed. A motion (Burns/King) was made to approve minutes from August 2019 as written. PASSED

Coordinator Updates: Since the last meeting Leane Rohr, Coshocton County, submitted her resignation due to accepting employment in a county outside the region. Leane was the chair of the Needs Assessment workgroup and an original member of the Council. Currently, the Council has the following county commissioner appointed vacancies: Coshocton (2), Guernsey (1), Harrison (1), Jefferson (2), Monroe (2), Noble (2). There will be several more vacancies in March 2020 due to term limits. Carroll County has identified one replacement. Again discussed the difficulty in identifying those qualified to serve on the Council and then getting commitment to attend meetings. There are limited qualified prevention specialists and then if they serve on the Council their organizations are ineligible to apply for funding. During the quarter, Linda gave a brief presentation to the OCTF Board that focused on the demographics of the region, unique challenges present in a sparsely populated resource limited region, and the efforts made by the Council to identify vendors to provide services in the region. Linda also provided information about the Council and the LeadByExample awareness campaign at an evidence-based Darkness to Light training in Noble County. This was a wonderful opportunity to speak to a group of people interested in child abuse prevention and encourage appointment to the Council.

Mileage reimbursement is available for council members for travel to council meetings. Please contact Linda for instructions on seeking reimbursement.

OCTF Statewide Updates: Nicole shared that the OCTF Board has a statutory review committee that is looking at ways to address Council term limits, ways to become more flexible to mitigate conflict of interest, and other things that have been more restrictive than intended.

For SFY 21, the OCTF Board has approved \$3.8 million for services through the regional model. The renewal plan is straightforward with the Eastern allocation being \$228,000. This will be the last year of the 5 year prevention plan and Councils will indicate no changes (or changes) to strategies and assign amounts of funding desired for each strategy. If a Council changes strategies, four questions



documenting the need for the change must be documented. This is intended to be a straight forward process that will be due on February 1.

Nicole then discussed a competitive funding opportunity only open to the regional Councils. Applications are due February 1 and Councils do not have to apply. OCTF applied for \$500,000 and will distribute to those Councils applying for funding according to the grant application requirements. Every region could get something. To apply for the funding, Councils need to have providers already trained in the chosen evidence-based model. Nicole stated there are Triple-P providers in the region and Nurturing Parenting program training will be offered this year by OCTF that anyone could attend. This is a one year grant beginning July 1, 2020. This funding is not tied to the current prevention plan. Council would like Linda to write a proposal if partner organizations can be identified. Linda will share the grant information with the Council who can help identify organizations and contacts that might want to be included in the grant application.

OCTF is transitioning program managers and Maggie will be taking over the Eastern Region in January.

SFY 20 Prevention Plan Strategies, Vendors and Contracting Update, RFP Update, and Discussion

Linda distributed a Quarter 1 summary and shared a binder of quarterly reports submitted by each vendor. Copies of those reports are available to interested council members.

Strategy 1 – Caregiver/parent education to promote high quality care and education early in life

- The RFP closed September 18 yielding two responses. COAD was selected to provide Early Childhood STEP program in Belmont, Coshocton, Harrison, Jefferson, Monroe, and Noble counties to serve 75 parents/caregivers for \$66,262.66.
- Their contract has just been signed and they do not view a “late” start in the program year to meeting all deliverables. COAD maintains regular contact with Linda and she has asked for flyers to post on social media and to send to council members to fill up the programs.
- At this time there is \$12, 237.34 in unallocated funding for Strategy 1. The Council discussed offering this funding to COAD to serve an additional county(ies), issuing another RFP to do the evidence-based Darkness to Light trainings as these are low cost and the funding could possibly cover all counties, or do something entirely different. Motion (Burns/Emmert) to offer COAD an increase of up to \$12,237.34 to their current contract to provide Early Childhood STEP in an additional county or more. PASSED

Strategy 2 – Mentoring services

- Brightway Center have been slow to respond since getting their signed contract. They did not submit a quarterly report or an invoice. The person hired for Harrison County resigned. Jefferson did have a meeting in October and their coordinator reported 30 mentors and 15 mentees.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Central Ohio and Zanesville submitted invoices and quarterly reports. Both started their programs in October.
- Linda did program visits in Carroll and Tuscarawas counties – both initial meetings of mentors and mentees. The staff managed all of the “newness” being experienced by mentors and mentees.



Strategy 3 – Awareness Campaign

The paid advertising and website are doing well. Media buys through the end of this calendar year have been secured. Linda shared costs associated with bus shelters that would extend a public presence in each county for 12 months at a reasonable cost. Council supported this and gave input into reusable shopping bags, bookmarks, coloring pages, coffee cups, cup sleeves, church bulletin inserts. Jennifer suggested creating a QR code to go to website and print that on items. Linda will get that done and email council members for their preferences for items to distribute in their counties.

Linda encouraged council members to share campaign eblasts directly with others that may be interested in receiving them or let Linda know of email addresses to add to the distribution list. All are encouraged to “Like” the campaign on Facebook, share posts, and follow the campaign on Twitter. If anyone has trainings or other events they want advertised, let Linda know and she can put them on Facebook.

Prevention Plan SFY 2021- next steps. After discussing whether to continue the three strategies for an additional year or change them a motion (Offenberger/Bowdish) was made to continue the strategies for the fifth and final year of the prevention plan. PASSED.

Parent Leadership The plan is still to do 2-3 local focus groups Additional focus group guiding questions to add to those discussed at the last meeting include: when you hear the words child abuse and neglect prevention – what comes to mind?, are those prevention activities/programs available locally?,

Suggestions related to where/who to connect with to make these focus groups happen – possibly Head Start in Carroll County, Newsy Mom in Tuscarawas County, maybe do something in Bellaire or Powhattan to attract both Monroe and Belmont County parents. Tag the focus group onto an already existing gathering of Foster Parents that is held in June in Sugar Creek, Carlisle Inn.

Follow-up/expand upon the focus group information next year with a survey,

Outreach funding is to be used solely to use vendors. At this time no vendors have wanted help with recruitment of participants. COAD will likely want assistance recruiting parents and caregivers.

Council Wrap-Up and Dismissal David thanked everyone for showing up for meetings and sharing their insight and wisdom. The next Council meeting is January 23rd at 9:15 a.m. Meeting adjourned at 11:26 am.