

**Lorain County Children and Family Council
Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: April 22, 2009 Time: 9:30 – 11:00 am

Meeting Location: 5th Floor of the County Administration Building

Voting Members In attendance: Karen McIlwaine, Charles Neff, Elaine Georgas, Kathryn Boylan, Terry Tomaszewski, Amber Fisher, Gary Crow, Mary Lou Golski, Tom Stuber, Tanas Wilcox, Vanessa Ballentine, Rebecca Visnyai, Angela Burke, Carla Brown (*for Ian Fraser*)

Community Members in attendance: Jeannie Weisbrod, Brenda Alexander, Catherine Gabe

LCCFC Staff: Melissa Stefano, Beverly Wilson, Cindy Spillman

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Ms. McIlwaine, Chairperson at 9:35 am.

II. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Golski made a motion, which was seconded, to approve the minutes from the 01/13/09 meeting as amended. The motion passed.

III. Financial Statements

Ms. Stefano provided a year to date financial summary (July – April, 2009). Allocation and expenditures were presented for Help Me Grow, Ohio Children’s Trust Fund Non Behavioral Health GRF Dollars and Administrative Grant.

IV. Committee Reports

a. Core Planning Committee

Ms. Stefano reported that the core planning committee continues to work on the service coordination plan and mechanism to identify service gaps. This committee approved the non behavioral health allocation to Spectrum Consulting Services for transportation. This committee will look at the newly reallocated FAST guidelines in SFY 2010.

b. Bi-Law Committee

Mr. Stuber reported that the bi-laws committee met. There was discussion about council’s governance as directed by ORC 121.37. Ms. Stefano reported there is an administrative agent agreement (since 1998) that requires revisions. This agreement and the revisions to ORC 121.37 may be of use for the bi laws committee.

c. Early Childhood Coordinating Committee

Ms. McIlwaine reported that ECCC has met and focused primarily on the transition agreements with the local education authorities. As the ECCC is formerly the Help Me Grow Committee, they will oversee the county compliance, standards and policy revisions. There is a subcommittee of the ECCC that will review the HMG proposals.

d. Executive Committee

Ms. McIlwaine reported that the Executive Committee meets monthly. They have recently approved the Ohio Children’s Trust Fund Providers, have an ongoing discussion about governance and approved the core planning committee’s recommendation for the non behavioral health GRF funding to Spectrum

V. Program Updates

a. Help Me Grow

Ms. Stefano reported on the proposed eligibility, transition curriculum and caseload changes to the HMG program for SFY 2010. She indicated that the RFP for 2010 was recently released. A satisfaction survey has been sent to HMG families. There will be a need to begin transitioning families off HMG as a result of state changes. Members discussed the impact of removing the maternal screening for depression as a requirement for HMG. Members also discussed the impact of limiting eligibility and transitioning families off HMG. Ms. Wilson reported on the literacy initiative. Ms. Boylan recommended that council provide a statement of concern to the state regarding the impact that the state's changes will have on our local families (DYS abstained from supporting this recommendation). Ms. Stefano will work with other councils to express this concern as this appears to be a common theme statewide. Members expressed concern as to who will pick up providing support to non-eligible families formerly receiving HMG services.

b. Non Behavioral Health GRF Funding

Ms. Stefano provided a brief update of the earmark of Non Behavioral Health GRF funding to Spectrum Consulting.

c. Ohio Children's Trust Fund

Ms. Stefano provided a brief update on the continuation of services and vendors through the Ohio Children's Trust Fund.

d. OCBF

Ms. Stefano reported that this is the standard allocation to support council's administrative functions

VI. Old Business

Ms. McIlwaine reported there was no old business.

VII. Listening Session

As part of the Drug Free Communities Support Grant – Communities That Care, Ms. Georgas and Ms. Gabe facilitated two listening sessions for members regarding their input on underage substance use, consequences and solutions.

VIII. Other Announcements

Mr. Neff reported that the proposal to move FAST funding from Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Boards will probably eliminate the investment in Strengthening Families Programs.

IX. Next Meeting

Ms. McIlwaine reported the next meeting will be announced.

X. Adjournment

Ms. McIlwaine adjourned the meeting at 11:15 am.

*Submitted by,
Elaine Georgas, Secretary*