

Bridges Advisory Council Minutes

July 27, 2017

Council Members Present: **Evette Bethel** (Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO)), **Sasha Bowers** (YouthMOVE Ohio), **Tina Evans** (Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities), **Monica Gazarek** (Wood County JFS), **Kristin Gilbert**, (Ohio Department of Job and Family Services), **Stephanie Graubner Nelson** (Supreme Court of Ohio), **Craig Rickett** (Montgomery County JFS), **Mindy Hughes** (Lake County JFS), **Hon. Jim D. James** (Judicial Workgroup on Foster to 21), **Holly Jones** (Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services), **Sam Jones** (COHHIO), **Molly Moses** (Ohio Housing Finance Agency), **Dauntea Sledge** (ACTION Ohio), **Denise St. Clair** (Ohio Family Care Association), **Colleen Tucker** (Ohio Department of Job and Family Services), **Mary Wachtel** (Public Children Services Association of Ohio)

Also attending from ODJFS: Carla Carpenter, Betsy Bentsen, Sarah Levels, Jana Pearce

Introduction and general overview of the agenda

Council members participated in an ice breaker that used the cornerstones of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH): permanent connections, stable housing, education and employment, social and emotional health. Participants introduced themselves and then described what they envision in regards to one of the cornerstones.

Office of Families and Children Update

Deputy Director Carpenter addressed the approved budget for SFY18/19. Explained that all state agencies were asked to make budget cuts across the board due to an unanticipated shortfall. Bridges budget was impacted due to these cuts. The Office is working with the Office of Fiscal and Monitoring Services (OFMS) and ODJFS leadership to understand the options Bridges has moving forward. The commitment to Bridges has not changed and we are continuing to move forward with the same deadlines. There had been a proposal to potentially phase in participants, but that did not make it through the budget process, therefore there have not been any changes in the roll out plan.

There was additional funding for PCSAs, which was much needed. Funding for child care for kinship caregivers was added. She also reviewed the collaboration between the Transitional Living team and OFMS to work with counties on spending TANF IL funding to maximize spending.

Marketing and Recruitment Materials

- Education Videos are being developed for youth in custody and young adults who have already emancipated
 - Reviewed the concept, purpose and collaboration with the Supreme Court to get this project completed. The concepts were presented at the most recent Ohio Youth Advisory Board and received positive feedback and numerous volunteers from young people present.

- OhioMHAS has something similar on their site – trauma videos. Will look at these videos to get ideas.
- Website Development
 - This project has just started in collaboration with the Office of Communication and the Office of Information Systems. The council is interested in input from the advisory council and would like members to let Colleen know if they are interested in being part of a workgroup.
- Bridges one-page information sheets
 - There will be two sheets. One geared towards the target population and one towards the support population. Reviewed and received feedback to share with the Bridges team that are creating these.
 - Important to keep in mind that without the young people, we do not have a program. This message needs to be evident.
 - If the purpose of the youth focused one-pager is to drive interested individuals to seek out additional information, then there may not need to be as much information on the actual hand out.
 - Discussed utilizing social media and other marketing ideas.

IV-E and Definitions Rules

- 5101:2-50-04 (Bridges IV-E eligibility and reimbursability): The purpose of the rule is to relay the eligibility for IV-E and establish reimbursability rules. To convey who is IV-E eligible and if IV-E eligible, who is reimbursable. There were some questions about the signing of the Voluntary Participation Agreement (VPA) and how that ties in with eligibility. The last signature date on the VPA is what will trigger when the court hearings/findings for IV-E best interests and reasonable efforts will be due. The term custody in the IV-E rule caused some confusion: In terms of IV-E, 'Bridges care and placement' is considered a custody event. This is different than the child welfare use and understanding of the term custody.
- Definitions – There was a suggestion to clarify that emancipation is “on or after 18th birthday.”

Training Plan for Bridges Liaisons and Supervisors

- Four Day Training – Reviewed the outline that was part of the info packet for meeting attendees. Council members provided suggestions for resources for trainings that will be shared with IHS when staff are partnering with them.
- SACWIS Training – During the 4-day training there will be an overview of SACWIS, as many of the forms and tools are in SACWIS. However, there will be a lengthier SACWIS training that will be modeled after the private agency roll out that recently occurred. Implementation of functionality will occur over 3-4 build cycles and will commence in October of 2017.

Definition of Housing

- Reviewed the variances between the Child Welfare and Housing Provider systems
 - All systems have definitions for homelessness but no system has defined housing. The two systems look at housing from very different perspectives.
 - Liaisons will need to honor what each Bridges participant defines as housing for them.

- It was suggested that regional grantees are educated about the differences in housing definitions when making local connections with housing providers.
- Discussed having an information sheet for housing providers.
- ODJFS is aware of 16 counties in Ohio that have Family Unification Program (FUP) vouchers.
- Mindy Hughes mentioned that Lake County has an MOU regarding housing and would be willing to share it with the advisory council.
- Some housing authorities prioritize emancipated youth by assigning them 'priority points.'

Future Agenda Items

- Next meeting is September 28, 2017 10 am – 2 pm
 - Updates/previews of videos
 - Update on RFGA grantee selections
 - Budget update
 - Website/marketing materials