

Bridges Advisory Council Minutes
4020 East Fifth Avenue, Room M152
Columbus, Ohio 43235-4604
September 28, 2017
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Attendees: **Mark Mecum** (Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies), **Sam Jones** (COHHIO), **Meredith Hicks** (Lighthouse Youth Services), **Wendi Turner** (Ohio Family Care Association); **Veronica Burroughs** (Supreme Court of Ohio); **Jenny Gottfried** (The Village Network); **Mindy Hughes** (Lake County JFS), **Monica Gazerek** (Wood County JFS), **Sasha Bowers** (YouthMOVE Ohio), **Molly Moses** (Ohio Housing Finance Authority), **Michael Rogalski** (National Foster Youth Institute); **Holly Jones** (Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addition Services); **Honorable Jim D. Jones** (Judicial Workgroup on Bridges), **Danielle Green-Welch** (Cuyahoga County JFS), **Colleen Tucker** (ODJFS), **Kristin Gilbert** (ODJFS), **Geoffrey Hollenbach** (Lighthouse Youth Services), **Julie Pennington** (Montgomery CS),

Also present from ODJFS: Chynna Kelley, Sarah Levels, Jana Pearce

Introduction and general overview of the agenda:

Council members participated in an ice breaker called “Minute Mediations” while introducing themselves. Council members were encouraged to focus on the importance of the work that we do to provide services to youth and young adults.

Grantee Update:

ODJFS released a Request for Grant Applications in June of 2016 to select an entity or entities to provide Bridges services. The RFGA split the service area of the State of Ohio into 5 Regions, which are Central, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, and Southwest. These Regions may be familiar to ODJFS public and private partners as they are the same regions used for Partners for Ohio Families (PFOF). One entity sent in a grant application for each of the regions and happened to score highest in each region so they were awarded all five regions. That applicant is the Child and Family Health Collaborative of Ohio (aka The Collaborative).

A formal statewide announcement will be made once the grant agreement is finalized between ODJFS and The Collaborative.

Grantee Vision (Geoff H. and Mark M.)

- Mark explained that Governor Kasich was concerned that this would just extend a system that is not producing optimal results. He wanted a program that would have positive results and make an impact in the lives of our young people
- UHC will be utilized as a third-party administrator to perform functions such as processing vendor payments
- The Collaborative’s administration includes:
 - Geoff Hollenbach will serve as the statewide Program Manager
 - Mark Welty will serve as the Quality Assurance Administrator

- Mark Mecum will continue to lead the communication and advocacy efforts for the program
- Geoff Hollenbach explained that the vision is every young adult who is eligible and wants to participate will be part of the program. A youth centric model will allow the young adults to have choice in services and housing. Every region will have a regional coordinator who will oversee the services delivered, review outcomes, and manage unmet needs – to ensure that the services are there and that they are working. Unsure exactly how many youth will come into Bridges. Until that data is known, The Collaborative is unsure how much to expand the provider network but they will build that network as quickly as needed. There will be a robust series of training for the staff (SACWIS, trauma, best practices). In addition, The Collaborative will work with ODJFS on a marketing and awareness campaign that will blanket the state and focus on reaching the young adults by using venues that our young adults are touching such as social media.
- Bridges will know if they are meeting their objectives by developing metrics and systems designed to measure identified outcomes. For example, a young adult will be contacted by a Bridges provider within 2 days and every young adult will have an assessment completed within 15 days. This will be tracked as a measurable outcome.
- Colleen explained that benchmarks to monitor and evaluate are being pulled from already existing CFSR goals. These benchmarks will be realistic and achievable, and can be adjusted based on the program is seeing.
- **Question:**
 - What assessment are we using?
 - Bridges assessment, plan and review are new tools. The Assessment pulls SACWIS person data into the report followed by a series of engagement questions to identify the young adults. The assessment is not an actuarial tool but if one is needed, it is possible that this can be designed and developed in SACWIS in the future.
 - What will The Collaborative do if the demand is not there?
 - The Collaborative is working hard to have the network in place to be able to serve all the young adults. Estimating 1,500 young adults are eligible and they are expecting to serve at least half on day one.
 - The Collaborative is viewing the host home concept as a strategy to assist in providing housing.
 - Is there a plan or strategy to involve their families or natural support network?
 - The Assessment and bridges Plan pull in the permanent connections identified by the Young Adult. One of the objectives of Bridges is to assist the young adults in building permanent connections and they should be engaged regularly in identifying these supports.
 - What about young adults who do not have stable housing so they cannot properly engage in school or work?
 - The eligibility guidelines are federal language and not negotiable. Young adults will still be eligible for post emancipation services through their county with the goal of preparing young adults to be eligible for Bridges.
 - A young adult in the program will have a 60-day grace period before services may be terminated to reestablish eligibility with the help of the Bridges worker.

Housing Type Definitions

Many of these have been updated since this meeting. The changes will be shared during the November 30th meeting

- Kinship (Relative/Non-Relative)
 - Relative or Non-relative that is familiar with the young adult who is interested in providing housing for the young adult
- Host Home
 - Relative or Non-relative that is familiar with the young adult who wants to provide safe and stable housing, and provide daily guidance and instruction to help them achieve their goals and teach them the skills that they need to be successful.
 - Recommendations:
 - Be sure that the Bridges liaison is documenting that the host home provider is going above and beyond.
 - Distinguish between the roles of each host home including what constitutes providing additional guidance, coaching, and supervision.
 - Provide Host Home training
 - What about liability and inspection of the housing in regards to a host home? Bridges will be in the home once a month to review. The Collaborative will have general liability insurance. Any host home family should have home owners or renter's insurance.
 - Is the host home maintenance taxable income?
 - ODJFS and The Collaborative will need to follow up on this.
- Apartment
 - Costs would be split evenly with any roommates
 - Subsidized housing or low income, voucher, etc.
 - Does the program allow for significant others, boyfriend or girlfriend, and if that relationship becomes harmful, what is the plan to get the young adult out of that environment?
 - This concern will be addressed by the Bridges providers when working with young adults on appropriate housing arrangements.
 - Concern expressed for continuity if the young adult is terminated from Bridges and rent needs to be paid, there is a lag time to set up a vendor and request a check – In Cuyahoga, it could be a 8-12 week wait time to get vendor set up till a check is issued.
- College Room and Board
 - Housing will be provided during breaks.
- Supervised Independent Living
 - Housing programs with full-time or part-time supervision
- Group Home/Community Housing
 - Sober living or other community support housing for mental health or developmental disabilities.
- Emergency Housing
 - Temporary housing available needed on an emergency basis. This does not include a homeless shelter.
- Questions:
 - What about young adults who go home to parents?

- ODJFS will not pay a maintenance payment to support a young adult living with their removal parent, but will provide an administration payment so the participant can still receive case management supports.
 - How does housing or Bridges affect benefits?
 - The young adult in Bridges would be eligible for some benefits (i.e. Title XX daycare) but not others.
 - Welfare to work is currently waived in some Southwest counties, but not the urban counties. This was suggested as a future Advisory Council agenda item.
 - Can the young adult receive a stipend directly?
 - The Collaborative can provide the young adult with a stipend but also the vendor can be paid directly. It will depend on the participant's needs and ability to successfully take on that responsibility.

Standard Grievance Process

- Chynna provided council members with a chart that outlined a possible grievance process for young adults in Bridges
- ODJFS is working out the details of the grievance process with The Collaborative as their provider network is developed. The hope is that most grievances will be worked out internally with the provider agency before it comes to ODJFS to review.
- Recommendations:
 - Add a layer of attempting resolution with the regional coordinators, before the concern rises to Geoff (Statewide Coordinator) or ODJFS' level.
 - Use language to acknowledge that some concerns/issues may not be adversarial and actual assist the young adult in learning self-advocacy skills.
- A separate process will be used for discrimination and sexual harassment complaints due to federal and state requirements.

2018 Calendar Dates

- January 25, 2018
- March 22, 2018
- May 24, 2018
 - The group determined agreed to the above future meeting dates for 2018.
 - Meeting appointments will be sent via Outlook.
- Motion to approve the minutes from last meeting were approved.

Future Agenda Items: November 30, 2017 10am-2pm

- Discussion around housing infrastructure in areas of opportunity and transportation.
 - Ohio Trust Fund Authority has released an RFP for housing development with the needs of transition age young adults in mind. Please visit www.OhioHome.org to find the QAP 2018-2019 – if the development will serve transition age youth, the housing developer would receive certain number of tax credits.
- Look at data of available housing; how is the QAP doing; help The Collaborative trouble shoot and review demographic and geographic data; look at the housing needs assessment.
- Would like to hear more about the marketing and outreach; services available to young adults; and can non-custodial parents be supported