

# **Welfare Advisory/Family Services Planning Committee**

## **Meeting Minutes**

*January 13, 2009*

*11:30 a.m.*

*Sandusky County DJFS*

Cindy Bilby  
Holly Stacy  
Leah Harper  
Christie Harper

Janet Quaintance  
Laura Warren  
Gloria Graham  
Cheryl Cotter

Kay Reiter  
Debbie McGrath  
Marsha Bordner

### **WELCOME/GENERAL ISSUES – Ms. Cindy Bilby**

Ms. Bilby started the meeting and stated that the economy is bad and things are pretty serious. They have experienced cuts across the board a little under 5%. At a time when the need for these programs has increased the funding is being cut. For the first time in her history as Director she went to the Commissioner's and asked for \$100,000. The number of children Services investigations have gone down so this has helped save money also. Ms. Bordner inquired if there would be lay-offs. Ms. Bilby replied no that they try not to run close on the budgets. They have had to take a look at overtime and not filling a position when someone leaves. They were able to approve a 2% increase for the Union Contract but the workers deserve more. Ms. Reiter mentioned that it was ironic that at a time when you need the programs more there are budget cuts. She inquired if any changes would incur with the new President. Ms. Bilby stated that there is hope. The Governor has had a shift in focus and resources such as special interest groups. Ms. Reiter stated that the Governor has reached a point in his term in which he has to do stuff and more than likely will be taking a look at multi-levels of Government within the State. Ms. Reiter mentioned the Indiana Plan and perhaps they will look at consolidating school districts, townships, etc. Ms. Cotter stated that they Indiana Plan had a huge effect on schools – some students were on buses for hours to get to school and they had no local control. Ms. Bordner added that the situation is dire for State revenues. Ms. Reiter stated that word from Department of Development is that we don't have our acts together. However, Ms. Reiter stated that out of all the other regions this is the one that has the most projects going on. Ms. Bilby mentioned that it has been local control for a long time and there could be a ripple effect. She added that what Ms. Reiter responded to was gossip and had no evidence to back it up. Ms. Bilby added that the PRC School Clothing was great and the Job Store move was good also.

### **OWF/MEDICAID/FOOD STAMPS– Ms. Laura Warren**

Ms. Warren went over the handout titled OWF/CFCM Caseloads. She stated that the first column covers a comparison from 2007 to 2008 on cash. There has been an increase in cash applications. The second column compares OWF Time Limited and again there has been an increase. The third column shows OWF Returning Customers. This column actually decreased. The final column shows Covered Families and Children and shows an increase. At the bottom of the page there is a comparison of Sandusky County to 4 other counties. Ms. Warren also stated that Food Stamps has a new name – Food Assistance.

Ms. Reiter inquired if there was an average family size on the program. Ms. Warren and Ms. Harper stated that they would guess around 4. Ms. Quaintance stated that for PRC it is 2.3.

Ms. Warren discussed handout number 2 which is titled 2007-2008 Migrant Comparison. She stated that the numbers have held for the Food Assistance program. OWF numbers were higher and the number of applications taken is about the same.

### **FOOD STAMPS/CHILD CARE – Ms. Christie Harper**

Ms. Harper stated that Food Stamps did indeed have a new name – Food Assistance. There has been a change for FFY2009 for the review process. September was the last of the old review cycle. The numbers through September 2008 show a .69% error rate due to shelter costs. 4% was the goal and they ended up with 4.03% State Error rate. At this point it is unclear if they will get any incentives for this. Child Care numbers show a decrease per month but in increase in money spent total per child. The ELI numbers are not counted in these figures. Ms. Harper stated that in December a new program was created called E-Gateway. This is through the Ohio benefit Bank. They try to help individuals apply to as many programs as eligible for. There are two sites where individuals can go to apply – WSOS, Fremont and Fish and Loaves Food Pantry, Bellevue. The county has received 8 applications to date but expect this to go up during tax season. Ms. Stacy inquired about how the 2 places were chosen. Ms. Harper stated that they applied and it is a grant. Ms. Reiter inquired what they are doing to advertise this. Ms. Bilby stated the newspapers and Ms. Quaintance stated that they have flyers posted in the Job Store. Also, if they apply for HEAP at WSOS they will then be able to find out other resources that they are possible eligible for. Ms. Harper discussed the number of applications taken in comparison to 2007. October was up 71 applications, November was up 66 applications, December was up 126 applications and at the rate they have been going January will be over 600 applications. Ms. Bilby stated that with the increase the wait is longer.

### **PRC/MIGRANT PRC/WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT – Ms. Janet Quaintance**

Ms. Quaintance discussed the PRC chapters.

#### **Chapter 1 – Employment Related Needs:**

- July – December: 38 households assisted/ \$7,109.88 expended
  - o \$187.10 average

#### **Chapter 2- Family Disaster Assistance:**

- July – December: 1 households assisted/ \$800.00 expended
  - o \$800.00 average

#### **Chapter 3- Family Reunification Services:**

- July – December: 9 households assisted/ \$9,717.56 expended
  - o \$1,079.73 average

### **Chapter 5- Housing/Shelter Expenses:**

- July – December:
  - o Past Due Rent/Mortgage: 20 households assisted/ \$28,881.02 expended
    - \$1,444.05 average
  - o First Rent/Security Deposit: 19 households assisted/ \$16,901.00 expended
    - \$ 889.53 average
  - o Heating Assistance: 28 households assisted/ \$15,292.69 expended
    - \$546.17 average
  - o School Clothing Program: 378 households assisted/ \$190,000.00 expended
    - \$502.65 average

### **Chapter 6- Migrant Work Allowance Program:**

- July – December: 89 households assisted/ \$26,700.00 expended
  - o \$300.00 average

Ms. Quaintance also discussed the Migrant Statistics. She stated the overall the numbers continue to go down due to poor crops/weather and the INS.

Ms. Quaintance shared the WIA Report which covered the July 1 2008 to June 20, 2009 time period. As of this date they have had 141 customers take the PESCO test, 724 customers take the Job Skills Tests, 2432 pre-screening tests taken for employers. They have 20 adult workers and 38 dislocated workers, 4 Career Advancement Accounts totaling \$14,156.75. They have approved 5 applications for Incumbent Worker Training. They approved 114 applications for PRC trainings. They had 2 Rapid Response requests totaling 353 employees. They have had no mass recruitments and 96 Job Orders and 86 Placements. Ms. Quaintance stated that places are still hiring just not at the rate in the past.

### **PEAK – Ms. Leah Harper**

Ms. Harper distributed copies of the 2008 PEAK Statistics. She stated that page 1 is a summary and 2007-2008 comparison. She took a moment to show the group what individuals are working on at PEAK. There has been some attitude at PEAK lately due to “true workers” being assigned and having to deal with the “regulars” who don’t want to work. She has seen an increase in individuals wearing pajama pants and having to be sent home. The attendance rate is up due to individuals truly needing the assistance/services. Ms. Reiter inquired if PEAK was impacted by the Whirlpool shutdown. Ms. Harper stated that they had not been affected by the shutdown. Ms. Reiter clarified that she meant by products increasing not by individuals attending PEAK. Ms. Reiter inquired if they advertised for the shredding job. Ms. Harper stated that at this point in time they have an abundance of shredding and it is a job that has to be monitored as a lot of the material is confidential.

### **FUTURE MEETING – Ms. Bilby**

Ms. Bilby stated that the next meeting will be on July 14, 2009.

### **TITLE XX COUNTY PROFILE – Mr. Fuller**

Mr. Fuller distributed copies of the Title XX County Profile and explained that this was a bi-annual plan. He discussed that each period the Department of Job and Family Services complete the profile as to how to spend the money. The numbers on the profile are for 2 years. Most of this money is spent in operations of Adoptions, Case Management, Foster Care, Referrals and Protective Services. The total amount on the profile \$2,277,404 is for 2 years and the amount has remained level. Mr. Fuller also explained that Federal and TANF money can transfer to Title XX. Mr. Fuller also explained that \$450,000 of regular Title XX grant money may be decreasing. Ms. Bilby also clarified that this is something that is done every other year. There were no questions for Mr. Fuller.

Ms. Reiter inquired as to what was the current unemployment rate. Ms. Quaintance stated that it was 8.1%. Ms. Reiter questioned how many people that number affected. Ms. Quaintance stated that she was unsure. Ms. Reiter questioned the number of employed workers in the county. Ms. Quaintance was not sure of this. Ms. Reiter stated that her office, EDC, works with Janet and her staff many times and they do a great job. During this difficult time they are dealt with many problems and unusual questions.

Ms. Quaintance announced that the Job Store and the Ohio State Treasurer's Office was holding a training on January 22 called "Surviving the Job Loss." This training will offer information on budgeting, resources, etc. If interested please contact the Job Store. Ms. Quaintance also distributed brochures on foreclosure assistance.