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Governing Board Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2026

ATTENDEES:

Farnsworth, Jennifer	Parent Representative
Garrett, Adryanne	Hopewell Health Centers
Gilliam, Megan	Parent Representative
Goddard, George	Washington County Behavioral Health Board
Hellinger, Craig	Parent Representative
Lane, Josh	Washington County Health Department
Miller, Kelly	Marietta Belpre Health Department
Neill, Tiffany	Washington County Board of Developmental Disabilities
Newton, Kyle	Warren Local Schools
Rauch, Dawn	Community Action Program of Wash./Morg. Co.'s
Schenkel, Geoff	City of Marietta
Shipley, Rachel	Project Head Start
Smith, Erin	Fort Frye Local Schools
Stewart, Alice	Washington County PCSA
Stewart, Jenna	Building Bridges to Careers
Warner, Heather	GoPacks
Davis, Cindy	FCF Council Director / HMG Contract Manager
Higgins, Jon	FCF Financial Officer / Office Manager

ABSENT:

Freimann, Flite	Washington County Dept. of Job & Family Services
Schilling, Charlie	Washington County Commissioner
VanCleave, David	Ohio Department of Youth Services
Warsinsky, Larkin	Southeastern Ohio Counseling Center

GUESTS:
Kat Curfman - CareSource
Rinda Scoggan – Integrated Services Behavioral Health
Katie Enderle – OhioRISE
Ashley Kuhl – OhioRISE
Alex Miller – Aetna/OhioRISE
Amanda Clark – City of Marietta

INTRODUCTIONS

PRESENTATION

Kurtus Nichols from Forever Dads shared with Council the services they can provide to fathers. The services include assistance with child support, establishing paternity, fostering healthy co-parenting, navigating relationships, fatherhood coaching, and employment services. Forever Dads also offers the Nurturing Fathers for Life (NFL) class, which helps fathers learn responsibility, work-life balance, self-awareness, and how to teach strong values to their children. Forever Dads is moving into the Family and Children First office, with Kurtus scheduled to move on September 24th.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 5, 2026 Governing Board Meeting Minutes were included in the emailing.

George Goddard made the motion to approve the August 5, 2026 minutes as emailed.
Craig Hellinger seconded the motion.
Motion Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

July and August Financial Reports were included in the meeting email. Jon Higgins also circulated the Fiscal Paperwork binder for Council review.

The Financial Reports include a Financial Report Summary for all accounts, Financial Officer Summary, and individual reports for each account. Expenditure reports include budget balances, monthly and year-to-date expenses, encumbrances, and available balances. Revenue reports include beginning balances, account changes, monthly and year-to-date revenue, and anticipated revenue. The Financial Officer Summary highlights significant items for the month and includes any Appropriations or Amended Certificates. Supporting fiscal paperwork includes detailed revenue and expense reports, resolutions, and amended certificates.

Tiffany Neill made the motion to approve the July financial reports as emailed.
George Goddard seconded the motion.
Motion carried.
Megan Gilliam abstained.

Kelly Miller made the motion to approve the August financial reports as emailed.
Craig Hellinger seconded the motion.
Motion carried.
Megan Gilliam abstained.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director's report was included in the emailing. Cindy reviewed points from the Director's report and the following handouts were included in the emailing; Washington County SFY26 Data Summary, Washington County 2026 EI Family Questionnaire Results, Medicaid Changes, Hopewell Triple P Program, October Lunch & Learn Flyer, and the Burnout Resilience Training Flyer.

COMMITTEE / WORKGROUP REPORTS

1. **Pooled Funds Group –** The group met on August 6 and the meeting minutes were included in the emailing.

2. **No Wrong Door Cross-Systems Training Team –** The Team met on August 17 and discussed the September Lunch & Learn and the October 1st Holiday Resources Lunch & Learn. The Burnout Resilience Training for Family Serves Professionals will be held October 15th. Register soon! No Wrong Door Community Resource Pocket Guides are available. If you would like copies, contact the FCF Office. Minutes were included in the emailing.

3. **No other Committees wished to report.**

OLD BUSINESS

1. **2026 Kids Summit Recap / Action Plan –** The Washington County Team attended the Kids Summit on September 2nd. Council members Heather Warner, Tiffany Neill, Kelly Miller, and Megan Gilliam participated as part of the team. The team was asked to develop an Action Plan during the Summit. However, the afternoon session was somewhat confusing, and the team was unable to finalize the plan. Following the Summit, Cindy drafted an Action Plan based on the team's discussions. A copy of the Action Plan was included in the email, with no recommended changes offered by Council. The Action Plan must be submitted by September 30th.

2. **No other Old Business was discussed.**

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Revised Shared Plan –** Following the development of the Kids Summit Action Plan, it was realized that the Council's Shared Plan for SFY 2026–2028 should be updated to align with the Action Plan. A drafted revision of the Shared Plan Priority of Children/Youth Placed Out of the Home Shared was shared. A pre/post survey is being developed to measure participants' increased knowledge and confidence related to

out-of-home placement and prevention. The survey will be distributed to community members soon. The Shared Plan can be updated at any time; however, any revisions will require Council approval.

George Goddard made a motion to approve the revision to Council's Shared Plan for SFY 2026-2028.
Rachel Shipley seconded the motion.
Motion Carried.

2. **Fort Frye Designee Change –** Stephanie Starcher requested a change to the administrative designee for Fort Frye Local Schools. Erin Smith has been named as Stephanie's designee.

Josh Lane made the motion to approve Erin Smith as Stephanie Starcher's designee for Council.
Kelly Miller seconded.
Motion Carried.

3. **BB2C Designee Change –** Tasha Werry requested a change to the Building Bridges to Careers representative on Council. Jenna Stewart has been named as the new representative.

Heather Warner made the motion to approve the Jenna Stewart as the Council Representative for Building Bridges to Careers.
Craig Hellinger seconded.
Motion Carried.

4. **Marietta/Belpre Health Department MOU –** This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Marietta/Belpre Health Department to establish a general working agreement related to the Ohio Buckles Buckeyes (OBB) Child Safety Seat Education and Distribution Program. This MOU is the same as the previous MOU but with new dates for FY27.

Rachel Shipley made the motion to approve the MOU with Marietta/Belpre Health Department for FY27.
Heather Warner seconded the motion.
Motion Carried.
Kelly Miller abstained

5. **JFS PCSA 12% MOU –** This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlines the agreement between the Washington County Public Children Services Agency and Washington County Family and Children First regarding 12% of the SFY27 Multi-System Youth Allocation, which amounts to $15,299.89.

George Goddard made the motion to approve the MOU with the PCSA for SFY27.
Tiffany Neill seconded the motion.
Motion Carried.
Alice Stewart abstained.

6. **JFS Service Coordination/Wraparound Agreement –** This is the FFY27 Subgrant Agreement with the Washington County Department of Job and Family Services to provide Service Coordination / Wraparound program services to families in Washington County. This agreement will be in effect from October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027. This agreement is the same as last year and the allocation is again $60,000.00

   Craig Hellinger made the motion to approve the subgrant agreement with Washington County Department of Job and Family Services for FFY27.
   Josh Lane seconded the motion.
   Motion Carried.
   Alice Stewart abstained.

7. **DCY Home Visiting Amendment –** The Department Children and Youth (DCY) issued an amendment to the Grant Agreement for Help Me Grow Home Visiting. DCY can now begin submitting nurse home visiting claims to Medicaid. Since we receive a direct grant through DCY, this classifies us as a business associate, and the amendment will include a Business Associate Agreement (BAA) for this purpose. The agreement has also been amended to align with record retention requirements, updated model fee reimbursement amounts to reflect increased costs, and add a new section addressing support for parent groups, outreach, and education.

   Kelly Miller made the motion to approve the amendment to the Ohio Department of Children and Youth Grant Agreement for SFY26-27.
   George Goddard seconded.
   Motion Carried.

8. **Forever Dads MOU –** This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Forever Dads is to support the implementation of the Responsible Fatherhood Initiative (RFI) in Washington County. The partnership will provide fathers with access to services and resources focused on responsible parenting, economic stability, workforce support, and overall family well-being. The MOU also establishes a county-level service presence and referral coordination between Forever Dads and Washington County Family & Children First Council. As part of the agreement, Forever Dads will utilize office space at the Family & Children First Office and includes a cost-sharing arrangement for facility use. Forever Dads agrees to pay Washington County Commissioners a fee of $200 per month for the use of office space

Heather Warner made the motion to approve the MOU with Forever Dads.
Tiffany Neill seconded.
Motion Carried.

9. **Bed For Every Head MOU –** Titus Swan contacted Cindy to become a referral partner with the Bed for Every Head program. The program provides free beds and complete sleeping arrangements to children and families in need. Through the partnership, Washington County families identified as needing a safe and appropriate sleeping arrangement may be referred to the program for assistance. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will serve as the partnership for the program.

    George Goddard made the motion to approve the MOU with Bed For Every Head.
    Tiffany Neill seconded.
    Motion Carried.

10. **Visitation Center –** The Washington County Visitation Center is currently operated as a program of EVE, Inc. Due to the organization's current focus on its shelter services, funders have been seeking another entity to oversee the Visitation Center and serve as its fiscal agent. George Goddard approached Cindy about Family & Children First assuming these responsibilities. The Behavioral Health Board has committed funding to support the Center through the end of the year, and the Common Pleas Court Judge has also identified funding to contribute. A partnership is being developed to establish an agreement that will help stabilize the Center and allow it to continue providing a safe, structured, and neutral setting for parents and children to spend time together. The Family & Children First office will begin fiscal services for the Visitation Center as of October 1, 2026, with continued conversations around operations.

11. **No other new business was discussed.**

SHARED PLAN REPORTING BY MEMBERS

No Shared Plan reporting by members.

INFORMATION SHARING / PUBLIC COMMENT

George Goddard – The Youth Crisis Stabilization Unit project is finally done. The facility is a 20-bed, Class I residential facility and operated by The Village Network. The facility provides short-term crisis stabilization services, with stays generally ranging from 7–14 days. Partner agencies are encouraged to make referrals and utilize the available beds.

The Suicide Prevention Walk is scheduled for Saturday. The event is being coordinated with local agencies to promote suicide awareness and prevention. Information was also shared about upcoming community events, including the annual Recovery Walk, which brings together

agencies and community members and provides an opportunity for outreach and interaction with the public.

An update was provided regarding an upcoming levy. Information, including levy signs and resources, is available through the organization's website and social media. The levy is a straight renewal and does not request additional funding.

Heather Warner – GoPacks has expanded its work with Frontier Primary School and is working to provide additional opportunities for families in the area. Information was shared about upcoming activities and efforts to provide food and other resources to students and families.

An upcoming Pumpkin Palooza community event was announced for October 24. The event will include pumpkin-themed activities, educational components, concessions, cooking demonstrations, and a free cooking competition with multiple categories. Organizations interested in participating or providing children's activities were encouraged to reach out.

Information was shared about recent and upcoming Bridges Out of Poverty training opportunities. Training has been provided to local schools, with additional simulations being planned. The training is available to community partners and organizations and is intended to help staff better understand the challenges families experiencing poverty may face.

Tiffany Neill – September was recognized as Direct Support Professional Awareness Month. The Board recognizes approximately 325 direct support professionals in Washington County who work with individuals with developmental disabilities. The Board provides each professional with a thank-you card and a $25 gas card in recognition of their work.

An update was provided regarding the transition of school services to the Ohio Valley Educational Service Center. The partnership was described as going well, with appreciation expressed for the staff working within the Board's building.

The Board also shared information about Capital Systems funding that will support the development of two homes in Washington County for individuals with developmental disabilities. The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities will fund 90% of the project, with the remaining 10% funded by the Housing Authority. The homes will serve as permanent residences, although the possibility of incorporating respite services was also discussed.

Rachel Shipley – Head Start shared that its annual report was recently released, highlighting services provided to children and families during the previous year. An update was also provided on the new center in Belpre, which had recently completed its state licensing visit. An open house was scheduled for the following day, with the center expected to open once the final license is received.

Alex Miller – Information was shared regarding flex funds available to individuals receiving services with OhioRISE. Eligible individuals may have access to up to $1,500 to address

identified needs through items or services. Requests are identified by the child and family team, incorporated into the individual's plan, and reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Josh Lane – Drive-Thru Flu Clinic at Reno Business Complex on September 28th, one at the Health Department on October 21. Vision Screenings offered by the OOD Mobile Unit for no cost October 21 and November 18 at the Health Department. There will be a Heritage Community Clinic from Athens in Belpre providing free healthcare to uninsured and underinsured people.

Kelly Miller – It is Diaper Needs Awareness Week and the MBHD is having a diaper drive. Community members are being encouraged to donate diapers of all sizes, including unopened packages that may no longer be needed as children outgrow a size. Donations will be distributed to families experiencing diaper needs.

The upcoming flu vaccination clinic coming up is an opportunity to provide free vaccinations while also serving as an emergency preparedness exercise. Vaccinations will be available with no one turned away, and individuals should bring their insurance cards.

Erin Smith - Fort Frye Local Schools received an overall 5-star rating from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce on its state report card. Congratulations!

Jenna Stewart - Building Bridges to Careers Business Advisory Council meeting and an upcoming summit focused on the talent ecosystem is coming up. The Business Advisory Council meeting will include small-group rotations and student-led sessions to provide greater student voice and participation.

Kyle Newton – Community organizations are encouraged to participate in the Business Advisory Council and share information about programs or professional development opportunities with local school districts.

Jennifer Farnsworth - The Farm-to-Table project has provided meat to local food pantries and has resulted in significant donations to support families in the community. Appreciation was expressed to the organizations and individuals contributing to the effort.
The upcoming library levy is important to maintaining library services in the New Matamoras and Newport areas. The library provides access to resources, internet services, and other community supports. Community members were encouraged to learn more about the levy and share information with others.

Kat Curfman – CareSource Prevention program is available to schools for students in grades 7–12. Staff are available to train teachers to deliver the program directly to students or provide the program themselves. The program is offered at no cost to schools, and organizations interested in learning more were encouraged to make contact.

Rinda Scoggan – In-home behavioral health services are available to families in Washington County and surrounding counties by Integrated Services Behavioral Health through IHBT (Intensive Home Based Therapy). Services are designed to support families experiencing moderate to severe behavioral health needs and are provided in the home for up to 180 days. Services may be available to families with Medicaid or private insurance, depending on eligibility and circumstances. IHBT is a service of OhioRISE.

Katie Enderle – OhioRISE Washington County service numbers include 84 children identified as moderate and 50 identified as Intensive, for a total of 134 individuals.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Next meeting: October 21 @ 1:30 pm, 204 Davis Ave., EOC

Prepared by:
Jon Higgins

Council Chair
Alice Stewart