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Governing Board Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2026

ATTENDEES:

Bohlen, Amanda	Ohio State University Extension
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
Shipley, Rachel	Project Head Start
Starcher, Stephanie	Fort Frye Local Schools
Warner, Heather	GoPacks
Warsinsky, Larkin	Southeastern Ohio Counseling Center
Werry, Tasha	Building Bridges to Careers
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
Newton, Kyle	Warren Local Schools
Rauch, Dawn	Community Action Program of Wash./Morg. Co.'s
Schenkel, Geoff	City of Marietta
Schilling, Charlie	Washington County Commissioner
Stewart, Alice	Washington County PCSA
VanCleave, David	Ohio Department of Youth Services

GUESTS:

Jessica Smith – OhioRISE

INTRODUCTIONS

PRESENTATION

Francis Witt, Outreach Specialist with the PAXIS Institute, presented to Council regarding upcoming training opportunities. She shared that the Appalachian Children Coalition has secured funding to offer PAX Tools trainings at no cost to participants. Witt provided an overview of PAX, explaining that the program focuses on practical, evidence-based strategies designed to improve interactions and outcomes across a variety of settings. Two training options are currently available: PAX Tools for Human Services and PAX Tools for Youth Development. The goal of these trainings is to equip participants with skills they can implement immediately in their work and daily interactions. Several free training sessions have already been scheduled, with the first session set to take place on April 21.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 18, 2026 Governing Board Meeting Minutes were included in the emailing.

Kelly Miller made the motion to approve the March 18, 2026 minutes as emailed.

Tiffany Neill seconded the motion.

Motion Carried

FINANCIAL REPORTS

March Financial Reports were included in the emailing. Jon Higgins passed around the Fiscal Paperwork binder for Council viewing. These reports were included in emailing.

Financial Reports include a Financial Report Summary for All Accounts, Financial Officer Summary and Reports for each account.

The Financial Officer Summary Report is a summary of items that stand out for the month with an explanation and include a summary of any Appropriations and Amended Certificates for the month.

Each report for expenditures includes the budget beginning balance; any changes in that account that would reflect with the resolutions; monthly expenses; year to date expenses; outstanding encumbrances and finally the ending available balance.

Each report for revenue includes beginning balance, any changes in that account that would reflect with amended certificates; monthly revenue; year to date revenue; and anticipated revenue to be received.

Other Fiscal Reports includes a detailed report of all expenses and revenue; copies of amended certificates and resolutions for that month.

Stephanie Starcher made the motion to approve the March 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: Feeling Overwhelmed Rack Card, Community Baby Bash Flyer, Screen Free Week handouts, Council Roster, 2025 State of ALICE in Washington County handout, Party in the Park for Prevention Flyer. Cindy reviewed the Early Intervention Service Coordination Quarterly Report and Service Coordination/Wraparound Quarterly Report.

COMMITTEE / WORKGROUP REPORTS

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

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Fatherhood Grant update** – Since the last Council meeting, George Goddard submitted the grant proposal for the Fatherhood Initiative. The workgroup has met a couple of times, with each partner developing their proposal. These proposals were submitted to George for coordination and inclusion in the final application. Cindy reviewed the Family & Children First proposal, and George also provided an overview of the components submitted by the other partner agencies. George is still wondering where his \$20 is.
2. **National Parent's Day Resolution** – Cindy developed a resolution recognizing National Parent's Day and was looking for Council's input and feedback.
3. **Council Opt-Out Information** – With the changes to the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) through House Bill 96, a provision was added allowing councils the option to opt out. Councils may elect to opt out if they can fulfill the required duties outlined in ORC 121.37. At this time, four counties have chosen to opt out. Cindy discussed issues and potential concerns related to the opt-out option that the state is seeing.
4. **No other Old Business was discussed.**

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Superintendent change** – Cindy attended a Building Bridges to Careers (BB2C) meeting, where Kyle Newton, Superintendent from Warren Local Schools shared that his district now has the largest population of students in Washington County. Per the Ohio Revised Code, the Superintendent of the city, exempted village, or local school district with the largest number of pupils residing in the county serves as a mandated member of Council. Marietta City Schools has historically held this position. Cindy reached out to both Kyle Newton and Mary Schaeffer to discuss this change. Kyle is now aware of his role but was unable to attend today’s meeting. Dr. Schaeffer contacted Cindy requesting if she could still attend meetings. Cindy assured her that Council would be happy to welcome her and any other Superintendents at any time.
2. **Early Intervention Allocation** – The Department of Children and Youth (DCY) released the SFY27 allocation for the Early Intervention Service Coordination Grant. For FY27, the Early Intervention Budget reflects a shortfall of \$62,269. This allocation is a reduction of \$5,263 for Family & Children First compared to FY26. The County Board of Developmental Disabilities funds did receive an increase of \$10,059 in their designated funds. The board agreed to allocate 25% of their funds to Family & Children First, which will return \$13,244 to help address the budget shortage. Over the past two years the Behavioral Health Board Title XX funds have been used to help offset some of the Early Intervention funding gap. However, these same Title XX funds also support Service Coordination/Wraparound services, which will leave overall budgets short. Cindy has reached out to the Department of Job and Family Services to see if TANF funding could potentially be used to help address the remaining EI shortfall.
3. **No Wrong Door Media Launch** – The No Wrong Door Cross-Systems Training Committee is sponsoring a media launch to recognize partners who are committed to working together to remove barriers and improve access to services for residents of Washington County, and inform the public. This launch will be **May 20 at 3:00 pm** following the Council Meeting. The Flyer was included in the emailing.
4. **No other new business was discussed.**

SHARED PLAN REPORTING BY MEMBERS

Heather Warner – A GoPacks board member shared the Family & Children First Shared Plan with the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio.

INFORMATION SHARING / PUBLIC COMMENT

George Goddard – Party in the Park for Prevention will be April 25th from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. A group has begun meeting to restart NAMI in Washington County. NAMI is an organization that provides education, support, and advocacy for individuals and families affected by mental health and addiction challenges. The Athens County NAMI group, which serves as a model for the state, reached out to Washington County to explore forming a regional collaboration.

Heather Warner - GoPacks – The Top Chef Challenge will be on April 24th from 5:30 pm – 9:00 pm with a combination of home and professional chefs.

Tiffany Neill – Tiffany wanted Council to review the Annual Report she sent out and discussed at the March Council meeting. If any questions, please let her know.

Adryanne Garrett – Warrior Care Clinic, located on the Warren school campus, is open from 7:30-3:00 they see both community and students.

Tasha Werry – BB2C has Internships available.

Kelly Miller – The Marietta/Belpre Health Department has updated its operating hours and is now open until 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and will close at 2:00 p.m. on Fridays. These adjusted hours are intended to allow individuals and families to stop by after work or school for services.

Rachel Shipley – Head Start is taking applications for the next school year.

Jessica Smith – OhioRISE– 128 youth are being served in Washington County.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Next meeting: May 20, 2026 @ 1:30 pm, 204 Davis Ave., EOC

Followed by the No Wrong Door Media Launch at 3:00pm

Prepared by:
Jon Higgins

Council Chair
Amanda Bohlen