

The Criminal Justice and Mental Health Task Force Meeting Minutes

**May 21, 2018 @ 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
State Library of Ohio – Boardroom**

Justice Evelyn Stratton, retired, opened the meeting with introductions of the attendees and what agency they represent

Stepping Up updates – Several counties have joined Stepping Up and are currently focusing on crucial resources such as housing, crisis centers, drop-off centers and Ohio Benefit Bank. They have hired consultants to help with finding resources and have contacted counties that are not yet involved. They have visited different states to study the programs with the resources and have already been established. They are working with the jails to put inmates in contact with the Ohio Benefit Bank and working to help inmates obtain medications and other resources to keep them moving forward. Additionally the Adam-Amanda Mental Health Rehabilitation Center which will allow a person being released from a jail to have a 50-day stay to stabilize and help them be reintroduced into society with the proper skills to succeed. Stepping Up received 2.5 million to reimburse the jails for the medications given to inmates in need. The Core Teams are working on the Stepping Up Conference being held on October 22, 2018.

Michael Sheline introduced presenters from Star House. He gave an explanation of our relationship with Star House and how they work to support homeless youth. Presenters were Margaret DeLaurentis, MSW, LISWS, Jill Gorz, Star House Therapist, and Anne Bischoff, CEO of Star House.

In a panel presentation, Star House provided statistics which show that on any given day there are 2,000 youth who do not have a place to live. These youth are sleeping on other people's couches, in tents, or other places on the streets. Half of the youth living on the streets have been involved with Children's Services and do not have family support. Star House is currently working with Jewish Family Services with the youth aging out of foster care.

The ACE scores that have been done on these youth are 8.5 out of 10; Star House has helped 996 individual youth, 34,000 visits for these individual youth. One in 5 has been a victim of human trafficking and almost 100 percent of the homeless youth have attempted suicide at one point. Star House is a recognized model and licensed facility as a homeless youth shelter. Star House provides social connections, health care, therapy, art therapy programs, housing, and education. Star House assists between 50 to 99 homeless youth per day.

Dr. Daniel Segal has a book describing the brain and all of its functions. Kids' brains are different and not fully developed. Kids who have trauma live in the fight or flight mode every day, which changes their brain chemistry. These changes have a negative impact on how traumatized kids deal with relationships and problem-solving. They are not able to calm down in a situation that started out as something small. It's not about why you are acting that way but what is going on that is causing you to act out have this confrontational behavior. Bi-lateral stimulation is used to move the traumatic memories from the fight or flight part of your brain to the cortex so that they can process the traumatic incident in a different way. It also builds and strengthens the part of the brain needed

to process these situations without fear. Johan Harey also has a book, Lost eConnections, which is very helpful when working with the homeless youth.

Michelle Gillcrist introduced Jack Binder and Andrea Floro from LifeAct. LifeAct was founded 25 years ago by Tim Tredway who lost a son to suicide. LifeAct's mission is to prevent suicide through education and early identification. Andrea presented on LifeAct's Suicide Prevention Training for school age youth. To date they have educated over 200,000 students at no charge. Ninety percent of suicides are directly attributable to untreated mental illness. The objective is to educate, engage, and empower youth to be able to reach out for help or to help a friend who may be thinking of suicide. They pass out an index card and pen for the students to write down any questions or concerns regarding suicide or depression. The card also provides an opportunity for the student to give their name and number if they want further help. They also pass out cards to junior high school students that they can hand out to an adult if they need help. For high school students, the card has more detailed information and how to reach someone for assistance.

Michelle Gillcrist asked for sub-committee updates and explained we would be getting a new date out for the next meeting. Meeting came to a close at 1:15 p.m.