

Great Lakes Regional Prevention Council

Presentation to Health & Human Services Committee,
Wednesday May 2, 2018

Creation of Regional Councils

- Previously, Ohio Children's Trust Fund (OCTF) provided funding to individual counties.
- Ohio State Legislature adopted regional model in to enhance decentralized planning.
- OCTF created 8 Regional Councils.
- Ours is the Great Lakes Regional Prevention Council (GLRPC), including Cuyahoga, Lake, Geauga, and Ashtabula Counties.

Prevention Models

- There are three levels of prevention, primary, secondary, and tertiary.
- Primary prevention involves reaching the general public with information about child abuse and neglect, how to prevent it, and where to get help.
- Secondary prevention includes services to families who are at elevated risk for abuse and/or neglect but have no history of abuse and/or neglect.
- Tertiary prevention includes services to families with current abuse/neglect or known history to prevent further abuse or neglect.
- The work of the OCTF and the Regional Councils focuses on primary and secondary prevention.

Composition of Regional Councils

- Each Regional Council consists of 2 members from each County, appointed by the County government.
- Since we only have 4 counties, ours is the smallest Regional Council.
- Additional prospective members may apply for and be approved by the OCTF.
- Dale Miller and Robin Martin were Cuyahoga County's original appointees.
- The Prevention Council chose Dale Miller as chairperson, giving Cuyahoga County an additional appointment. Jennifer Croessmann was appointed.
- LeVine Ross applied to become an additional member and was approved by the OCTF, giving Cuyahoga County four representatives on the Council.

Regional Prevention Council Process

- First step was to obtain a Co-ordinating Entity, which handles the staffing and logistics for the Regional Council.
- OCTF handled selection of the Co-ordinating Entity. UH was selected.
- Next step was development of a Regional Prevention Plan and funding application.
- Key elements of the Plan are the strategies and the logic model.
- Resiliency and Enhancing Social Support Networks were chosen as strategies.

Funding and Issuing RFP

- The GLRPC was funded for \$815,000 to provide services for April 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.
- The GLRPC then issued an RFP for agencies wishing to provide services.
- Providing services outside Cuyahoga County provide more difficult, so we also did some informal recruitment of applicants.
- Because of the complexity of the initial start-up process, time was extended through June 30, 2019 for provision of services under the initial contracts.

Selection of Contractors

- The GLRPC chose the following contractors:

UH Mom Power

Applewood

Family Pride

YMCA of Greater Cleveland

Catholic Charities

Bright Beginnings

Educational Services Center/FAST Program

Negotiating Contracts

- After selecting vendors, UH negotiates the contracts.
- Negotiation process is complex, sometimes taking multiple months.
- Major issue is measurement and accountability. UH and the GLRPC want to insure that effective services are actually provided; vendors want to insure that the evaluation standards are not so high that they get little reimbursement for services provided.
- The first seven of the contractors are providing services. ESC/FAST is still in negotiations over the evaluation criteria.

Providing Services

- Most of the contracts involve providing parenting and social networking services to families at high risk of abuse and neglect.
- However, there are a variety of service models.
- YMCA is running Parent Cafes, which offer informal networking, informational resources, and social skill building.
- Catholic Charities is running Getting Ahead, a resiliency-based program for getting out of poverty.
- Bright Beginnings is running their early childhood health and parenting program.
- ESC/FAST will run their school-based parent-child development program.

Public Awareness Campaign

- Earlier this year, the GLRPC amended our Prevention Plan to include public awareness as a third strategy.
- Goals of public awareness are general awareness of the problem, recognizing the need to get help in oneself and others, and knowing where to go for help.
- This adds a primary prevention component, which enables us to reach way beyond relatively small number of families we reach with at-risk services.
- The GLRPC chose Flourish as the vendor for the public awareness work.

State Fiscal Year 2019 Funding Process

- We are currently preparing for the State FY 2019 (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019) funding cycle.
- We sent out an RFP prior to receiving notice of funding to help get contracts started on time.
- We sent our funding application to the OCTF and are waiting for word on our funding level.
- We will make decisions in May and June on additional funding for current providers, funding new providers, and funding the awareness campaign.

Challenges with Regional Prevention Model

- The State's Regional Prevention Model has serious challenges, which make it very difficult to operate, despite outstanding service and collaboration by our Council.
- Reinventing the wheel on strategy in each of eight regions. The regions may not be that different in what works and what doesn't.
- Cumbersome process. Contracts are reviewed at both the regional and state level.
- Having people in eight different regions who are not experts on contracting and procurement run separate procurement processes.
- Contract negotiation is laborious given the accountability models attempting to be implemented.
- Time will tell whether this is a workable model, but our Council has come close to an optimal result so far, given the challenges.