

**INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION  
COUNTY TEAM MEETING**

**Hosted by**

**Deborah McBride Heppes, Chief Operating Officer**

**Onken Conference Center**

**9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

**Friday – December 1, 2023**

**Minutes**

**In Attendance:**

Leah Canton, Tim Davidian, Mary Dumas, Sarah Hadden, Deborah McBride Heppes, Karyn Meier, Angela Turk, Melissa Yadanza.

- ***Review and approval of minutes from the October 6, 2023 meeting***

A motion was made by Karyn Meier seconded by Angela Turk to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was unanimously carried.

**Community Family – Initiatives/Needs**

(Welcome Orange, Economic Security, Voices United for Change, Mental Health)

**WELCOME Orange** completed orientation training for 2023 for those interested in learning about and implementing the philosophy of WELCOME Orange in their daily work as a provider in Orange County. Topics included: Intro to WELCOME Orange, Stages of Change, Enhance Culture of Employees with Lived Experience (Peer Supports), Trauma Informed Care, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

**Economic Security:**

Warming Centers are open. See link for info:

<https://www.orangecountygov.com/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1926>

[Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#) (Food Stamps) benefits supplement low-income households in order to reduce hunger and malnutrition.

[Home Energy Assistance Program \(HEAP\)](#) assists households with meeting the costs of home fuel and heating needs.

**Voices United for Change (VU4C)** is up and running and looking for members who are parents of youth with lived experience or older youth with lived experience. Their goal is to promote awareness of Children and youth mental health needs and to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness.

**Mental Health:** Orange County Dept. of Mental Health continues to work to increase access to mental health treatment for children, youth, and their families by collaborating with school districts to develop school base satellite clinics. They are currently working on applications to develop these clinics with the Washingtonville and Highland Falls school districts.

Discussion ensued regarding Mental Health needs, Food Insecurities and Wellness throughout the County.

## **Social/Medical/Psychological – Initiatives/Needs**

(Health Department, Mental Health, Social Services, Orange County Agencies)

Angela Turk –shared information about a Home Based Crisis Stabilization Program and Clinical Interim Support Program for youth recently discharged from hospital or residential program and for youth at risk of out of home placement. This program is a state and County funded program run by Rehabilitative Support Services, Inc. Angela will send the flyer for distribution as the program can accept direct referrals.

## **Youth/School – Initiatives/Needs**

(Youth Bureau, Schools, Mental Health, Juvenile Justice)

### **Youth Bureau**

Melissa Yadanza – 97 Adopted Family Safe School Ambassadors (3-4 Schools). Youth Bureau organized, help fund, and participated in Train the Trainer opportunities for Safe School Ambassadors and Strengthening Families Programs to expand the offering of these programs throughout the Count. Youth Bureau released an RFP for Team Sports for nonprofits.

### **As per Rachel Wilson - Revisions as follows:**

100 families were helped through Adopt a Family.

The Youth Bureau delivered Safe School Ambassador Trainings in 6 schools this fall.

Strengthening Families was delivered to 9 families in the Monroe-Woodbury area.

Strengthening Families train the trainer was completed 11/7-11/9 to expand Orange County training team. The Orange County Youth Bureau released its RFP for Youth Team Sports for nonprofits.

### **Schools**

Sarah Hadden – students and families are struggling with food insecurities.

Discussion ensued regarding food distribution to the students and take-home food for the weekend.

Deborah McBride Heppes – explained the Amy Bull Crist Foundation.

### **Juvenile Justice**

Tim Davidian – High School fights are up – Probation is hoping to get back in the schools. Hoping to bring back pre-PINS in the schools. Tim shared information on the impact of Raise the Age and probation office's ability to respond. Probation works closely with Southwest Keys and DSS to address the needs of youth and families through prevention services to reduce court involvement. Youth with problematic sexual behavior pose a challenge due to lack of specific services for this issue. Angela mentioned that OC Dept of Mental Health has contracted with a therapist who can work with youth who cause sexual harm.

Sarah Hadden – explained how the school handles students and sexual incidents.

Angela Turk – shared that an RFP utilizing Opioid Settlement Funds will be released in 2024: to address the following priority areas:

- Improved access to quality services and support and improved transitions of care for those with substance use disorder.
- Prevention of substance use disorders and co-occurring disorders
- Housing opportunities that support treatment and recovery for individuals with a substance use or co-occurring disorder

## **Future Agenda Items**

## **Upcoming Events - Sharing**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

**“The Orange County Interagency Collaboration Team is a forum for family representatives, program leaders, and policy level administrators from local schools, courts, and governments to work together, maintain communication and linkages, and promote a creative, effective and efficient community services system which supports children and their families.”**

**Next Meeting**

**February 2, 2024**

**Hosted By**

**Deborah McBride Heppes, Chief Operating Officer**

**Onken Conference Center**

**9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**