

MHCO Program Planning Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2026

Present: Dr. Tony Cozart, Speed Hallman, Eddie Gaskins, Kim Lyda, Peggy Myers, Jerry Gantt, Brenda Dickerson-Daniel, Daniel Lebold, Chris Allabaugh, Kristyn Butts, Winter Watson, Gabriella Wheat

Absent: Devante Hicks, Mike Register, Ed Moore

Program Meeting Introduction and Opening Prayer

- Dr. Tony Cozart called the program meeting to order, noting it had been November since the last meeting.
- Dr. Tony Cozart opened with a word of prayer, thanking God for the beauty of the day and the home for children.
- The first item on the agenda was to approve the minutes from the November meeting.
- The motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Program Overview and Staffing Needs

- Kristyn Butts provided an overview of the two programs supporting residents: Direct Care (birth to high school graduation) and Independent Living (18 to 22 years old).
- The transitional living program residents are now separated from the independent living program due to residents in transitional living being minors and the program is a licensed program.
- The current need for staff includes three additional childcare worker couples, a residential advisor, and one more supervisor clinician.
- Kristyn Butts announced the promotion of Miss Winter Watson to Director of Residential Services.

Resident and Program Statistics

- Kristyn Butts reported that the campus is serving 56 residents in both programs combined.
- The campus has seven cottages on lower campus serving 45 residents, with 26 new admissions and 21 discharges in 2025.
- Starting February 17, the Bemis cottage for high school girls will be closed due to a shortage of childcare workers. A licensed cottage will retain its license if it is closed for no more than a year.
- The campus is actively communicating with Department of Social Services to fill open beds for older resident homes.

- During 2025 there were 147 referrals. It was not possible to serve all of the children referred, due to various reasons, some being the child needed a higher level of care or we did not have an opening for the child based on their gender/age.
- Currently there are 11 residents in the Independent Living Program (ILP); 6 young men, 5 young women. In 2025, we had 8 new admissions, 7 discharges, and 37 referrals. We receive a large number of referrals through Job Corps. The question was asked if we knew the % of ILP residents who came from Direct Care vs the % from young people coming off the street? Mrs. Butts said she could get that information but didn't have it in hand.

Education and Vocational Programs

- Kristyn Butts reported that our students currently have an overall average of 80% for last semester.
- We have challenged the education coordinator in tracking missing assignments to improve academic performance.
- The campus offers tutoring twice a week, with part-time staff and Title One funds supporting the program.
- Academic wellness is provided three days a week for children aged 18 months to three years. We currently have 4 children participating.
- Two residents completed programs through Vance-Granville Community College, earning welding certification and culinary arts certification.
- We had two residents complete Drivers Education and obtain their drivers licenses. The campus has a dedicated car for driver's education, and residents are completing driver's education through local schools.
- All ILP residents are working off campus. Some of our HS students are working on campus through KID\$Earn.

Incident Reports and Safety Training

- Kristyn Butts mentioned that most incident reports were due to illness and hospital visits.
- The security resource officer, David Adcock, will conduct situational awareness training for staff and children.

Relicensure

- The campus went through the process for relicensing, which was successful but with a plan of correction for staff medical exams, background checks, dental examinations, and fire drills.

Community Support Center and Partnerships

- Kristyn Butts provided an update on the Community Support Center, which houses six partner agencies and offers various programs.
- The center has served 595 individuals through referrals and financial assistance and hosted 98 group meetings and classes.

- The center is also offering Triple P positive parenting practices training for staff and community members.
- The center has been a hub for community engagement and support, benefiting both residents and the community.

Trauma-Informed Care Model Implementation

- Chris Allabaugh discussed the contract with Cornell University for implementing the trauma-informed care model.
- The implementation was paused in 2023 due to staff shortages and other constraints and was never resumed.
- Cornell provided a task list for a site visit in May 2024, but the agency did not complete the tasks, leading to the contract expiring.
- The agency is working with Cornell to restart implementation, with a new contract expected to be discussed in the next meeting.
- Chris Allabaugh emphasizes the importance of implementing the trauma-informed care model and the need for staff engagement.

Parent and Resident Survey Results

- Gabi Wheat presented survey results from parents and legal guardians, noting a low return rate of 36%.
- Parents were generally happy with the program and communication with staff, but some areas for improvement were identified.
- Resident survey results showed a high level of satisfaction with safety, respect, and care from staff.
- Residents expressed a desire for more interaction and activities, and suggested some improvements in communication and involvement in services.

PQI Report and Fire Drills

- Gabi Wheat discussed the PQI report, noting that the agency met most of its targets for 2025.
- The agency will continue collecting data and updating goals and targets after strategic planning.
- The agency is working on improving fire drill participation and response times, aiming for monthly drills.
- The importance of regular drills for new residents is emphasized to ensure they are well-prepared in case of emergencies.

Next Meeting Information

- The next meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2026

The meeting was adjourned at 3:51 pm with a motion and unanimous approval from the participants.

Submitted by:
Sara Becker
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